

## CURRENT EVENTS.

Geographers who have examined the records of Captain Amundsen's expedition are convinced that he came within a quarter of a mile of the South Pole.

General Booth, head of the Salvation Army, died in England on the twentieth of August. His son was appointed to succeed him.

The Turkish Government has granted important reforms in Albania, including the building of schools and colleges, the development of roads and railways, the encouragement of commerce and industry, and an improved form of local government. It is expected that like concessions will be granted to all the other provinces of European Turkey.

Sir William Willcocks, whose plans for the reclamation of Mesopotamia are to be carried out by the Turkish Government, finds that the work done there thousands of years ago was the work of engineers of the greatest genius. The restoration of the dams and canals of the ancients is the plan which he proposes. The neglect of these brought about the ruin of the land. He has changed his opinion in respect to the site of the Garden of Eden, which he still believes had a definite location in the fruitful land of Babylonia; and he now believes it was the region below Bagdad, at the junction of the Tigris and Euphrates.

British Tropical America is as yet only a name; but it may soon be a Confederation to take its place with the other Overseas Dominions of the British Empire. It would include the British West Indies, British Honduras and British Guiana; its people numbering two millions, and its total area one hundred and twelve thousand square miles. Such an outcome is now regarded as more probable and more desirable than their annexation to the Dominion of Canada.

The report that a race of light haired people has been found in our Arctic regions is confirmed. They were but one of several unknown tribes found by the explorers, Stefansson and Anderson, who were sent out by the American Museum of Natural History and the Geological Survey of Canada. Some of the people they visited had never before seen either a white man or an Indian.

The Canadian Government is calling for tenders for the construction of the final section of the Hudson Bay Railway, and the whole line will soon be under contract.

The results of the visit of the Canadian Premier to England are, of course, not yet known in full; but it is certain that Canada will hereafter take a more important place in the councils of the Empire. Some acceptable plan for Canadian co-operation in the defence of the Empire will be another outcome of the visit, as it was its chief object; and, incidentally, the cordial reception of the Premier as Canada's representative has aroused a deeper interest in the Dominion which will be to our advantage in many ways, especially in attracting British and French capital for the development of our resources.

Unfavorable weather has had a very serious effect upon the crops in different parts of the Dominion. Though the yield may be equal to that of an average year, it will be much less than was predicted.

It is said that the British Government is opposed to

the incorporation of Thibet as a part of the Chinese Republic. There will probably be an agreement by which Thibet will remain under the suzerainty of China, but practically independent, as it has been in the past. As Russia may make a similar demand in respect to Mongolia, and possibly Japan may make like claims for Manchuria, and as internal dissensions in the future prospects of the Chinese Republic are not encouraging. The old jealousy between the northern and southern sections is threatening another civil war; and Sun, the former provisional president, who is a southerner, hopes to make the dread of a Japanese invasion the excuse for removing the seat of government to Nanking or Wuchang. Meanwhile President Yuan is virtually dictator of North China; and, if the South does not secede, he may soon be monarch of the whole country.

The United States Congress, disregarding the British protest, has passed the Panama Canal Bill, giving free passage to United States vessels engaged in the coasting trade—that is, running from one United States port to another. There are many public speakers and writers in the United States who hold that this is a violation of the treaty with Great Britain, and such is the general opinion in England and elsewhere. The British Government has not withdrawn its protest, and may demand that the matter be referred to the Hague Tribunal. Few on this side of the Atlantic would be surprised if the United States Senate should refuse to submit to arbitration. There is, however, a possibility that the special privilege granted to coasting vessels will be withdrawn at the next session of congress, thus placing all vessels on equal terms in the use of the canal, as provided by the treaty.

It has been suggested that the other nations of the world that are interested in an isthmian canal should leave the United States to manage the Panama Canal in its own way, and build another.

A revolution in Nicaragua has assumed such threatening proportions that United States troops have been landed to protect foreign interests.

In Mexico, in Morocco and in Tripoli fighting still continues, and there is very little change in the situation so far as known to the outer world. In the Balkan regions there have been serious disturbances, and the end is not yet.

Roberto Imperiali, inventor of the new explosive called imperialite, which was supposed to be safe to handle, was blown to pieces while experimenting at his factory near Brescia, in Italy.

In Russia, every flyer is considered a spy if he flies within sixteen miles of a fortress.

A new concrete foundation has been laid under Winchester cathedral, and it was laid by one man. He was a diver, who had to work under water; and he worked six hours a day for six years. The beautiful building, which was in danger of falling because its foundation was laid in a bed of peat, is now considered safe.

The Canadian Pacific Railway is now using an automatic telegraph, by means of which an operator in one place can print the message in another place many miles distant. On some of the railways in the United States, the telephone is supplanting the telegraph.