

The last battalion of United States soldiers has been removed from Cuba. The insurgents in San Domingo continue to make trouble, and in the course of their depredations recently fired on a steamship while she was discharging cargo. This provoked a reply from a United States cruiser, which shelled the camp of the insurgents and landed a force of marines to drive them back.

Dr. Jameson, who was perilously near the scaffold on account of his leadership in the raid on Johannesburg, in 1896, has recently become prime minister of Cape Colony. Time makes marvelous changes in the affairs of men.

A curious effect of the Ismalia Canal in Egypt has been the making of a desert of certain lands formerly fertile. The canal has not only raised the general level of the subsoil water, but it has brought to the surface more or less injurious salts of soda.

By a recently invented process in Germany the casein in skim milk is being utilized in the manufacture of a substance called galalith. This resembles horn or celluloid and is made into combs, knife and fork handles and such articles. It can be made to imitate marble, or in black is a good representation of ebony. It is light, entirely odorless and will not ignite so readily as celluloid.

The federal assembly of Porto Rico, by a vote of 60 to 15, has demanded that the island be admitted to statehood or be granted independence. Here is a new difficulty for our neighbors.

During the past year the number of ships equipped with the Marconi system of wireless telegraph has been increased from 25 to 54, and efforts are now being made to increase the number of land stations. Arrangements have been made for several stations on the St. Lawrence for the sake of safety in navigation.

One of the youngest and most promising of South and Central African industries is cotton growing, and its cultivation is being tried also in Rhodesia. It is possible that within a few years the industry will be in serious rivalry with the American plantations. Within the several colonies of Great Britain can be produced all that is required for the well-being and comfort of the vast population of the Empire.

The United States Senate has ratified the treaty with Panama, and the building of the great canal will be at once pushed forward.

### Manual Training.

Another recruit is added to the ranks of countries which have made manual training a part of their educational system. This time it is the "ancient colony," Newfoundland, and our members may be proud to know that the honor of opening the first manual training department in the island will fall

to one of their number. Mr. Clifford W. Fairn, assistant instructor in the Truro school, has been appointed teacher by the Methodist Board of Education, and is now in St. John's organizing for the opening of a school in that city at an early date.

It is somewhat appropriate that the teacher should have been chosen from the Truro school, for the manual training movement in Newfoundland received great impetus from the visit of a prominent citizen of St. John's to the MacDonald school in Truro in the spring of 1901. The commission sent to Canada from Newfoundland by the Anglican Board of Education last year also visited Truro, and in consequence of the commission's report, a teacher of St. John's, Mr. J. Samson, of Bishop Field College, was selected to be trained as a teacher of manual training. By the courtesy of the Nova Scotia Department of Education, Mr. Samson is at present in Truro, taking the course of training at the Provincial Normal School. After completing his course he will return to St. John's to organize manual training for the Anglican Board of Education. May there be a healthy rivalry between the two schools, which will result in the very best being done for the pupils and the subject.

In addition to his other duties, Mr. Fairn conducted a successful evening class in architectural drawing in the Truro Y. M. C. A. Mr. and Mrs. Fairn made many friends in Truro, whose good wishes will follow them to their new home.

The manual training departments at the MacDonald consolidated school at Middleton are being fitted. Mr. Reginald W. Bent, a graduate of the 1903-4 course in the Normal School, Truro, has been appointed instructor in mechanic science.

Mr. Alden W. Falconer, also a graduate of the 1903-4 course, just concluded, has been appointed by the Truro school board in Mr. Fairn's place.

An envoy from China, who has been spending the last two years in the United States enquiring into educational matters, is now in England upon the same business. He will take back some organizers of manual training among his other contributions from western ideas, as he has been greatly impressed with our methods of "practical" education, especially the kindergarten and manual training system. "May his shadow never grow less" in this good cause of education and (consequent) emancipation of the teeming millions of his fellow countrymen.

Those manual training teachers who think it rather difficult to teach grade VI pupils, would have that impression removed were they to visit the manual training department presided over by Mr. Leonard Goucher at the Deaf and Dumb Institution, Halifax. Mr. Goucher has to deal with children of all ages, and in all stages of educational development. The deaf mutes must be communicated with by finger spelling, signs or blackboard writing. Their knowledge of arithmetic is very meagre, and their language very imperfect, except in the case