

existing forests and the planting of new forests where they will do the most good. It is not only the lumber trade that is threatened by the present awful waste of timber. Our climate, our agriculture, our water powers are all in danger. There is nothing speculative in connection with the science of forestry. We have but to take advantage of our own experience and the striking lessons afforded by countries in which the forests are jealously preserved. No country in the whole world has such possibilities in this connection as Canada.

Canada and the Silver Market. The announcements regarding the prospective repatriation of United States silver coin circulating in Canada and its replacement by Canadian coin have been received in London with evident interest. Messrs. Samuel Montagu & Co., in their weekly circular recently refer to the step as both expedient patriotic, and they continue:

"The process is bound to be rather a slow one, but it is not without interest in the silver market, for allowing 40 per cent. of the silver coin current in Canada to be alien, and the total amount required for circulation to be the same proportion as in the Latin union, it will be necessary on the basis of the present price for the Canadian Government to purchase large quantities of silver to provide the first coins."

Regarding the fall in the price of silver below 2s an ounce, the opinion is expressed that a revival of trade in the Far East, will soon lead to an upward movement. Looking further ahead too, it is thought that with silver remaining the actual currency of the East, the white metal will be more and more required as China is developed, so that no drastic remedies are required in the present situation.

Civic Government in Des Moines. The City Hall, the official organ of the League of American Municipalities, has issued a special number in connection with the convention to be held in Montreal this month. The paper recently discussed the Des Moines system of municipal government by an elective commission. Candidates for the mayoralty or membership of the board of five including the mayor, are nominated by any twenty-five voters and every voter in the city has a vote for the mayor and for each of the other four members. The board appoints all the officials and is responsible for the whole civic administration. The system has been in operation twelve months and gives great satisfaction. In the first election there were seventeen candidates for the mayoralty and fifty-four for the four commissionerships. Des Moines has a population of about 100,000.

More Earthquakes. Disastrous earthquakes are reported in Japan; and elsewhere, seismic disturbances, no less violent, although doing no damage to human life or property, have taken place this week. From a human point of view the importance of an earthquake depends, not only upon its extent, but its locality. The most extensive shocks probably occur under the ocean or in places otherwise remote from centres of population. The last two or three years have formed the most remarkable period in historic times for the number and extent of earthquakes that have taken place in it. In Japan these phenomena are of almost constant occurrence.

Increased Rate on Code Messages. The Western Union and Postal Telegraph Companies announce a substantial increase in their rates for code messages. After September 1, cipher messages will be charged at the rate of five letters to the word instead of ten letters as at present, unless the dispatch is made up of dictionary words. The increase is not to apply to cables. In the ordinary course of things the chief result will be the early adoption of new codes composed of words to be found in a dictionary. The supply of words is practically inexhaustible and there are plenty available which will be as full of mystery to the average operator as anything yet devised for code purposes.

Advance China. Mr. William Martin, United States Consul-General at Hankow, says that the modernization of China is proceeding much more rapidly than the world at large has any idea. A modern army has been organized, a modern navy is a certainty of the near future, and all branches of Western learning are now being taught in the schools.

According to some people the modernization of China means the growth of the Yellow Peril, but this idea seems to indicate a curious lack of faith, in the beneficence of the modern civilization of the Western world. Modernization ought to stand for something more than modern methods of fighting, it ought to stand for something in the way of restraining influences and nobler ambitions.

German Navy. The entire German fleet has sailed from Kiel for its summer manœuvres in the Baltic and the North Sea. The evolutions will be watched with much interest by the British Admiralty and the people of the United Kingdom generally. An attack is to be made on Lubeck harbour and an attempt made to land a strong force, the shore being defended by an army corps. We hope Prince Henry, of Prussia, who is in command, will not make any mistake and try to land at Yarmouth before arrangements are made to give His Imperial Highness a suitable reception!

Lord Strathcona. Winnipeg is preparing to give a cordial reception to Lord Strathcona. It could do no less, seeing that he has done more than any other man living to make Winnipeg and the whole Canadian Northwest what they are to-day. It was wisely and considerably decided to unite all the bodies anxious to do honour to the distinguished visitor, rather than overwhelm him with feasts and functions, to which he is no stranger. Lord Strathcona has arrived by the Mauretania at New York.

Suffragettes Overdoing It. The militant suffragettes have no mercy on Premier Asquith; they have been picketing his residence on Downing Street, so that the Premier had to go in and out by the back door. This, we think, is a tactical blunder. The ladies are in danger of impressing the right honourable gentleman with the idea that if he admits them into Parliament, he will be destroying the one haven of refuge, which he now has, where the wicked suffragettes cease from troubling and the weary ministers have a rest.