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Topics of the Day

OCTOBER 17th will pass into history as the day on which commercial messages were first sent by wireless telegraphy over stretches of water. In January 1901, Mr. Marconi sent messages between the Isle of Wight and the coast of Cornwall, a distance of 183 miles. To-day, he is doing the same work over a distance approximately ten times as great. The American station at Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, was erected in 1902, and experiments have been proceeding off and on ever since. It was a matter of patience and determination, and Mr. Marconi is to be congratulated on the success which he has attained.

It has required a little more than six years to complete the experiments which have made possible wireless telegraphy over stretches of water. In January 1901, Mr. Marconi sent messages between the Isle of Wight and the coast of Cornwall, a distance of 183 miles. To-day, he is doing the same work over a distance approximately ten times as great. The American station at Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, was erected in 1902, and experiments have been proceeding off and on ever since. It was a matter of patience and determination, and Mr. Marconi is to be congratulated on the success which he has attained.

Canada has always shown great faith in Mr. Marconi, and the Hon. W. S. Fielding deserves special mention in this connection. Mr. Fielding was the more interested because he is the territorial representative of Nova Scotia in the Dominion Cabinet.

That this great accomplishment has been perfected by an Italian scientist on British territory, again draws attention to the cosmopolitan character of modern scientific research. The electrical inventors of Great Britain and the United States will not begrudge Mr. Marconi full honours for his faithful service and masterly achievement. True, what he has accomplished is based upon the investigations and experiments of scores of other scientists, since all such performances are necessarily cumulative. True, others will be needed to follow in his steps and extend the work in many directions. Nevertheless, Mr. Marconi justly and fairly wears the laurel wreath of victory.

The Canadian Northern announce that by next spring their short line between Montreal and Quebec will be in working order, that Toronto and Sudbury will then be connected and that their trains will be running into Ottawa. The Canadian Northern system is being very rapidly extended in Eastern Canada, more rapidly than most people realise.

Last Saturday, Mr. MacKenzie, Mr. Mann, Mr. Lash and Mr. Hanna, of the Canadian Northern were in New York and it was reported about the rotunda of the Hotel Manhattan that Mr. J. J. Hill had made an offer of \$75,000,000 for the entire MacKenzie & Mann system in addition to taking over all bonded indebtedness and other liabilities. It was there estimated that this would give these gentlemen a profit approximating \$50,000,000. It will be remembered that the main part of the Western

system of the Canadian Northern once belonged to the Minneapolis Railway King and was sold by him to Messrs. MacKenzie & Mann. It would be a strange turn of affairs, if he were now to take over the enlarged system. The story cannot at present be confirmed, and if confirmation were asked for, the report would probably be denied.

Once more the Kaleidoscope of Quebec politics has turned and Mr. Prevost and Mr. Tessier are replaced in the Gouin cabinet by Mr. C. R. Devlin and Mr. L. A. Taschereau. The Hon. W. A. Weir is transferred from public works to the treasury. Mr. Devlin has been a member of the House of Commons and Mr. Taschereau is one of the younger members of the Legislature. The Hon. Jules Tessier goes on the Bench and the Hon. Jean Prevost retires to private life.

Bishop Lofthouse of Keewatin has again declared his faith in the Hudson's Bay route before the Hamilton Canadian Club. The route via Fort Churchill would be nine hundred miles shorter for wheat going from Winnipeg to Liverpool than the route via Montreal. The steamers navigating these northern waters would need to be specially constructed and placed in charge of experienced navigators.

Captain Bernier has returned after another year in the northern waters, and his report may add something to our information on the subject. He wintered last season in Lancaster Sound.

The Ontario Government has decided to prepare a new set of school readers and has entrusted the work to Dr. D. J. Goggin and a committee of associates. The appointment is

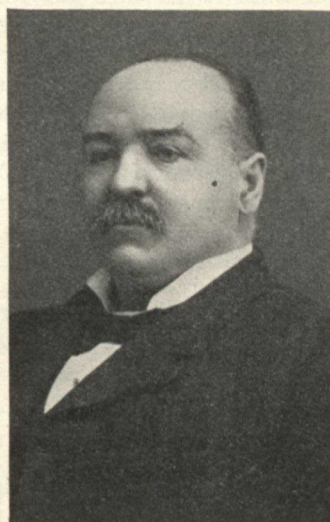
an excellent one and the new books will probably be the best ever produced in the country. Dr. Goggin is an enthusiastic patriot and will no doubt see that national sentiment and national literature are given due recognition.

It is said that the Government is considering the advisability of supplying the new readers free to all schools. There is plenty of time for such consideration as the new books will not be ready for a year at least. Manitoba now supplies readers free, as do several of the larger Ontario cities. The practice is quite common in the United States.

Deputy-Postmaster-General Coulter, who worked so hard to place British and United States periodicals on an equal footing in this country, announces that the first six months of the new arrangements show satisfactory results. The amount of periodical literature coming in from the South has greatly decreased, most of what reaches here coming in by express. The cheap stuff has almost entirely disappeared from the mails, and only the high-class periodicals have survived the increased rate. He declares that the Canadian post-office has been relieved of a great burden.



Chevalier Marconi.



Captain Bernier.