

crossed the lines to do honor to the chief magistrate of the neighboring republic.

A militia order directs that henceforth swords are to be used only on parade by the Canadian cavalry forces, and that our mounted troops hereafter, no matter what they are called, shall consider the rifle as their principal weapon.

A battalion of the Royal Garrison Artillery has been sent from England to Halifax, and the special battalion of the Royal Canadian regiment which was on duty there during the war has been disbanded.

The people of the Yukon territory are to have a representative in the Dominion Parliament. This, with the establishment of municipal self-government in Dawson, is in strong contrast with the state of affairs in the adjoining United States territory of Alaska, where crime and disorder prevail under the arbitrary form of territorial government.

Newfoundland has agreed to a further postponement of the settlement of the French shore question.

A beautiful valley, never before seen by man, is said to have been lately discovered in the interior of Newfoundland. Stranger still than the existence of such an unknown region is the story that a river which runs through it disappears in a cave, larger than the Mammoth Cave in Kentucky, and finds a subterranean outlet to the sea. It is not necessary to believe all this at once, though it is not wholly incredible, as the interior of Newfoundland is little known.

A new river has been discovered in Labrador, by an exploring party which left Boston last July and has just returned. Its mouth is near Nain, one of the Moravian mission stations on the Labrador coast. It drains a chain of seven lakes, the largest of which is forty miles in length, with many cascades pouring over its mountainous shores.

A British aeronaut, Stanley Spencer, has accomplished a remarkable flight over London in an airship of his own invention. It is estimated that his ship travelled about thirty miles, which is three times as far as the longest trip made by the Brazilian aeronaut, Santos-Dumont. The new airship is supported by hydrogen gas, and propelled by a petroleum motor. The trip was made without accident, but there was great danger of an explosion.

At a gathering of Russian nobles and other persons of influence, held in Moscow early in last month, it was secretly determined to petition the Czar to establish representative government in Russia. There are local elective assemblies in Russia at present, somewhat similar to our town and county councils; but the general government of the country, both legislative and administrative, is in control of the emperor and his councillors; that is, the government is an absolute monarchy. If representative government is granted, the people, through their representatives, will make the laws, and the emperor and his advisers will execute them, as in Germany; or the people will make laws and ap-

point an executive to carry them out, as in the United States; or they may go further and form a responsible government, as in Canada and other parts of the British Empire, in which the whole policy of the government is at all times subject to the approval of the people's representatives in parliament.

The prolonged strike in the Pennsylvania coal regions has so increased the price of anthracite coal that Welsh coal is now being shipped to this country.

A credible explanation of the blowing up of the United States battleship "Maine" in Havana harbor, which was made the occasion of war with Spain, is now published. Since the death by suicide of a naval officer who was an electrician on the "Maine," it is said that his acquaintances have always believed he knew the cause of the explosion, and that it was due to defective electric wiring.

The president of the new republic of Cuba has requested that the United States troops remaining in Cuba be withdrawn. The United States authorities will probably comply with this request.

The United States is sending additional forces to the isthmus of Panama, where its military officers have already to some extent interfered in the civil war in Colombia, their orders being to preserve free communication across the isthmus at any cost. The revolutionists have lately gained some successes in North Colombia, while the Colombian government still holds the mountain regions to the south, in which the capital, Bogota, is situated. The real matter at issue between the parties is the struggle for supremacy between the conservatives, who are principally of pure Spanish descent, and the liberals, who represent the newer families of mixed white and Indian blood. Together they form only about fifteen per cent of the population, the great mass of the people being descendants of the aborigines.

In Venezuela, where, for the present, the liberals are in control, the government forces have suffered a defeat. The whole country is disturbed, and organized government is practically suspended. Either the United States or some other power will probably have to interfere and restore order.

In Hayti, a revolutionary vessel has been sunk by a German cruiser, and it is to be hoped that this is the beginning of an intervention that will lead to better government. At the end of next year, Hayti will have completed a century of political independence. In all that time, it is said, no president has been legally elected; no government has been secure; life has never been safe from military execution; taxation has been organized plunder. It is very rich in natural resources; and, under a settled government, should be the richest country in the West Indies.

Prof. Macoun has returned to Ottawa from a botanical survey of the Yukon territory. Expecting to find there Arctic plants, he came across none