

corps is to be sent to South Africa, both of which rumors may prove to be part of the same story.

A special commissioner has been sent to South Africa to devise a scheme of responsible government for the Transvaal.

King Edward has changed the name of Lagos Territory to Southern Nigeria.

Japan has adopted the principle of the government ownership of railways, and its parliament has appropriated money to buy out the private owners. It will take five years or more to carry the plan into effect.

The opening of the new railway from Berber, on the Nile, to the shores of the Red Sea, at the new port called Port Sudan, makes it possible to cover the distance in ten hours, where it required ten days to accomplish the journey by camel caravan. The new railway provides a new route to India, in case of the closing of the Suez canal.

Perhaps the most important political event of the past month has been the reconciliation between Austria and Hungary. A new Hungarian parliament will be elected on the basis of universal suffrage, and all pending disputes between the Austrian Emperor and his Hungarian subjects will be left to its decision.

President Roosevelt's recent suggestion of the need of a progressive tax on inheritances to check the dangerous accumulation of wealth in the hands of individuals has been received with great astonishment in the United States, among those who do not know that such a tax has been levied in Great Britain for years. The fact that there are wealthy men, any one of whom could re-build San Francisco at his own expense, and still remain rich, is more astounding than the President's suggestion.

At the present rate of progress, it will require forty years to finish the Panama canal if the sea level is adopted. If the lock system is adhered to, the work can be done much sooner, but the results may be less satisfactory.

The report that extensive beds of anthracite have been found near Albany River, is the latest and brightest story of the great mineral wealth of the region south of Hudson Bay. Rich silver mines have been found in the Cobalt region; but if, as it now appears, coal and iron are found near together there, their presence is of more value in the future development of the country.

Currie, the discoverer of radium, has been killed by an accident in the streets of Paris. Since his great discovery, the old idea of the indestructibility of atoms has been abandoned. The atom is now regarded as composed of electrons, which may be given off, with the setting free of enormous energy; and it is calculated that if the action extends throughout the earth, the emission by every atom of an electron once in a thousand million years would be sufficient to account for the earth's internal heat.

The first Russian parliament will be opened by the Emperor Nicholas in person on the tenth of May. It is expected that he will then announce a general amnesty for political prisoners.

Sugar cane has been successfully cultivated, under government auspices, in the lowlands of Afghanistan.

The Olympic games, in which athletes from all over the world are to compete, were begun in Greece on St. George's Day. The King and Queen of England were present as guests of the Queen's brother, King George.

The Dominion Parliament has invited King Edward and Queen Alexandra to visit Canada during the present year. It is hoped that their Majesties will come at the time of the opening of the new bridge across the St. Lawrence at Quebec. Great changes have taken place in His Majesty's North American dominions since he, as Prince of Wales, in 1860, opened the Victoria Bridge at Montreal. Then Canada included but a part of the present provinces of Quebec and Ontario. Now three oceans mark its boundaries, and half the continent is embraced in its area; while its great commercial highway crosses regions then unknown.

We are accustomed to the use of French as well as English in the official life of Canada. It was a novelty; however, for the new lieutenant-governor of Nova Scotia to receive and reply to an address in Gaelic. His appearing in plain clothes at public functions is also another thing in his favor.

A new treaty between Great Britain and China provides for the recognition of China's protectorate over Tibet, and for the opening of certain Tibetan markets to Indian trade. Great Britain will not interfere with the interior affairs of Tibet, unless other powers do so. China will erect telegraph lines and will give preference to the British in the matter of railway concessions; and will pay a large part of the expenses of the British expedition to Lhasa in 1903-4.

School and College.

F. R. Branscombe, the energetic and popular principal of the Hopewell Cape, N. B., School, and his advanced pupils, gave the Comedy—"Between the Acts" to a large and appreciative audience in the Public Hall on Thursday evening April 12th. The proceeds which amounted to \$35 will be used to procure maps for the school.

Mr. Cyrus H. Acheson, formerly of Charlotte County, is now Inspector of Schools at Johannesburg, Africa. In a brief note he states that his family are all well and enjoying African life very much. He says the big questions in Africa just now are Chinese labor and native unrest.—*St. Andrews, N. B., Beacon.*

At a concert, followed by a social, held in the school house at Carleton, Annapolis County, the sum of \$24.00 was realized. It is the intention of the teacher Mr. M. C. Foster, who is a Guelph nature student, to use the proceeds for school garden purposes. Nearly a third of an acre of the school premises which is now practically waste land will be ploughed, fertilized and fenced, thereby laying the foundation of a permanent school garden.

The inspectors of schools in New Brunswick, so far as we have been able to learn, have appointed May 11 as Arbor day.