

Africa. This disease, like many other tropical diseases, is caused by the bite of an insect; but Prof. Koch has found in the injection of a certain drug a cure that seldom fails. Three permanent stations for the treatment of the sleeping sickness have been established in Central Africa.

After carefully weighing the evidence with respect to the occurrence of the wolf in New Brunswick, Prof. Ganong reaches the conclusion that it became extinct not long after 1864; and it seems to have disappeared from Maine about twenty years ago.

The transformation of Rio de Janeiro, which has been going on for the last four years under government direction, is making it one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

The building of great battleships continues. Great Britain has just added to her fleet the "Superb," another of the "Dreadnought" class, and will build others; while Germany will build immediately a number of ships of the same class. Among the latest additions to the British fleet is the destroyer "Mohawk," with a speed of forty miles an hour.

Abyssinia is to have a constitutional form of government. The emperor has appointed five ministers of state, to preside over the departments of justice, finance, commerce, war and foreign affairs.

The legislature of Finland has passed a law forbidding the manufacture, sale, use or possession of intoxicating liquor in any form, including wine and beer. It is expected that the act will be vetoed by the Czar.

The third parliament of Russia is now in session. Under the new electoral law, it is less radical in its composition than either of the former dumas; and there is every prospect that it will work with the government to make Russia in fact what it now is in name, no longer an autocracy, but a constitutional monarchy.

It is proposed to connect British Columbia with Australia by wireless telegraph, and the British government is now moving in the matter. Stations will be erected at Vancouver Island, Fanning Island, Samoa, Fiji, Ellis Island, New Zealand and somewhere on the coast of Australia. This is an important link in the round-the-world wireless telegraph planned by the British government.

By a new process, the waste pulp from the manufacture of beet sugar can be combined with coal dust, making an excellent fuel.

A new meteorological instrument has been invented in Spain. Working upon the principle of the wireless telegraph, it tells of the approach of thunder storms while they are still hundreds of miles away.

I have always thought of Christmas time as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time. I believe that it has done me good, and will do me good; and I say, God bless it!—*Charles Dickens.*

Teachers' Conventions.

KENT COUNTY INSTITUTE.

The Kent County, N. B., Teachers' Institute met in the grammar school, Richibucto, on Thursday and Friday, October 24th and 25th, A. E. Pearson, president. After the president's address, Mr. W. H. McLean, principal of the Harcourt superior school, read a paper on manual training, followed by one on pensions prepared by H. H. Stuart. Mr. B. R. Armstrong presented the pension scheme of the Canadian Annuity Company, which was endorsed by a resolution of the Institute. A largely attended public meeting was held in the Temperance Hall on Thursday evening, at which addresses were given by local speakers, and a fine programme of musical selections carried out.

The first on the programme, Friday, was an excellent lesson given by L. R. Hetherington on the effects of the inclination of the earth's axis on climate, etc., followed by a discussion. An address on a first year's course in music, by J. A. Edmunds, was greatly appreciated. The officers elected were: President, J. A. Edmunds; vice-president, Miss J. Leger; secretary-treasurer, C. M. McCann; executive committee: A. E. Pearson and Miss M. C. McInerney.

KINGS COUNTY, N. B., INSTITUTE.

The Teachers' Institute of Kings County and a part of Queens County was held in the new consolidated school at Hampton on the 7th and 8th November. Over eighty teachers were in attendance, and the meeting was a very profitable one. Many attended the opening of the new school building on the afternoon of the 7th, and the Institute held an evening session instead of a public meeting. There were papers by Miss Tillie McLelland on Decimals and the Metric System; by Miss Hattie L. McMurray on the reading of numbers, from Miss Lulu Murray on English Literature, and an address by Mr. T. B. Kidner on Educational Handicraft. These brought out useful discussions, in which Dr. Inch, Inspector Steeves and others took part. Mr. Kidner said that seven and a half years ago there were only two poorly equipped schools for manual training in the maritime provinces; now there are more than seventy departments in good working order.

During the second day's session a paper on writing was read by Miss Winifred Stockall, and one on domestic science by Miss Mabel Martin. The latter brought out a very interesting discussion, in which the hygienic conditions prevailing in some schoolrooms were unsparingly exposed. Inspector Steeves referred to schoolrooms that had not been scrubbed for more than a year. Dr. Inch remarked that it is his purpose to see what can be done to improve conditions by stringent regulations in regard to the duties of trustees. Mr. Kidner thought that the principles of hygienic cleanliness and simple cookery should be taught even in the most un-