

agreed that Thibet shall be wholly independent of China and that its government shall be supervised by representatives of the Indian Empire, which will place it in the same position as Afghanistan. The Dalai Lama, who fled to India for refuge from the Chinese, will now probably return to Thibet to rule the country under British protection.

The Russian system of local self-government, which after fifty years trial has proved so acceptable to the people of Russia in Europe, is to be extended to all parts of the Empire.

A sudden call to arms for the defence of South Africa, on Sunday, the eleventh of January, met with a quick response, and sixty thousand men were enrolled before the day was over. The danger was in the movements of certain labour leaders, some of whom had gone to South Africa for the purpose of raising an insurrection. Some of the leaders were deported. It was noticeable that the Hindu agitators who were seeking for better treatment for their own people as British subjects ceased their efforts when the labour trouble arose and quietly supported the government.

In some parts of Switzerland and Germany, churches are heated by electricity, and a similar heating system has recently been placed in a church in Norway.

Last year a steamer commanded by an Englishman and having Norwegian and Russian scientists on board, made a voyage from the north part of Norway to the mouth of the Yenisei, carrying profitable cargoes both ways. The eastward trip was made in twenty-two days and the return in ten days. The Yenisei is a navigable river and one of the great natural highways of Asia. This proof that its waters may be reached by steamers from the ports of Europe, though only for a month or two every year, is of much importance.

The reindeer herds established five years ago by Dr. Grenfell in Newfoundland and Labrador, have proved a great success.

A flash light to warn automobiles of a dangerous crossing is in use in England, and the idea commends itself for general use.

Among travellers' tales, in need of confirmation is the story that an English explorer has discovered on the upper waters of the Amazon, the ruins of three great cities which were abandoned thousands of years ago, the inhabitants of which had wonderful skill in architecture and used dishes and weapons made of an alloy of gold and silver. Ancient ruins have been long known to exist at places along the eastern slopes of the Andes and the newer story is not incredible.

The Belgian Government has ceded to Great Britain a strip of land in the Congo region, thus making it possible for the proposed Cape to Congo railway to traverse British territory throughout its entire length.

A treaty is being negotiated between Great Britain and the United States for the protection of migratory birds which pass from the United States to Canada and back at different seasons of the year. The treaty will also apply to birds that migrate from the British West Indies to the United States.

Letters have been received from Stefansson, confirming the report that the Karluk had been carried off in a storm. Nothing has yet been heard of the missing vessel.

Dr. Douglas Mawson has returned to Australia after two years work in the Antarctic regions. His expedition has been very successful and he and his companions have brought back large collections of biological and mineral specimens.

The war in Hayti continues, or there is another war in progress to determine which of the revolutionists shall rule. Zamor, who had defeated the former President, was elected by Congress to succeed him, but he finds it difficult to subdue the army of his rival, Theodore, the original leader of the revolt.

SCHOOL AND COLLEGE.

Toronto maintains special classes for backward children but besides these, the Toronto Mail and Empire pleads for a properly equipped provincial training school for mental defectives, of whom between 250 to 300 are officially reported as attending the public schools in that city.

Professor E. Brydone-Jack, professor of civil engineering, University Manitoba, has been elected member of the British Institute of Civil Engineers.

The Sydney, N. S., trade and labour council is urging the furnishing of free school books to the children in the city schools.

The school house at North Head, Grand Manan, was burned to the ground on the evening of Friday, February 13, and all the furniture and equipment of the four departments were destroyed. It is supposed that the fire caught from an over-heated stove. The loss is variously stated. The insurance was only partial.

The Regina Ministerial Association are urging upon the provincial government, that in addition to the Lord's Prayer, certain selections from the Bible, and hymns acceptable to all religious bodies be prescribed as part of the regular school exercises. The Premier promised prompt consideration of the request.

Mr. Vere Karsdale Mason, of Falkland Ridge, N. S., has been appointed Nova Scotia's Rhodes Scholar for 1914. Mr. Mason, who is a senior at Acadia University, will enter at Oxford next autumn.

The Hartland, N. B., Superior School has received from the Department of Agriculture, a prize of \$15 for the best kept school garden in Carleton County, for the year 1913.

Sir Henry Mill Pellatt, and Mr. J. H. Plummer, two prominent Canadians, have donated generous gifts to King's College. The former has endowed a chair in the University to be known as the Sir Henry Pellatt Chair of Philosophy. The endowment is \$1500 a year. Mr. Plummer, who is president of the Dominion Steel Company, has given a fellowship worth \$500 a year.

The distinguished botanist, Dr. W. Whitman Bailey, brother of Dr. L. W. Bailey of Fredericton, died recently at Providence, R. I. He was Professor Emeritus of Brown University, and well known through his contributions of papers upon nature subjects to well known periodicals.