

There are three government schools in the Province of Quebec for teaching the best way of making maple sugar. The annual output of maple sugar and syrup in that Province alone is more than a million dollars.

Reports from Switzerland say that a republican party of considerable power has been formed in Germany. The overthrow of the Kaiser by his own people may yet put an end to the war, if these reports are true.

The Russian explorer, Vilkitskii, who left Vladivostok last year to sail around the north of Siberia, arrived safely at Archangel before that port was closed by the ice. Vilkitskii is the Russian naval officer who discovered Nicholas II Land in 1913. The northeast passage, as the voyage around Siberia is called, was made once before when the Norwegian navigator, Nordenskjold, accomplished it, thirty-six years ago, by sailing in the opposite direction, but he was obliged to spend a winter in the Arctic ice before he reached the Pacific.

The French have seized the Greek island of Corfu, because of the location there of an Austro-German submarine base. A second base was located in the narrow channel between that island and the Albanian coast, and most of the submarine raids in the Mediterranean had been directed from these two bases. Corfu is now being used as a place of refuge for Siberian soldiers. The German authorities protest that this occupation of Corfu, and the landing of the armies of the Allies at Saloniki and on some of the islands of the Aegean, are violations of Greek neutrality which neutral nations should condemn as much as they condemn the German invasion of Belgium. It may be remembered that the independence of the Kingdom of Greece, when first established, was not to be absolute and unconditioned, but was to be guaranteed by Britain, France and Russia. Apart from that protection, in theory as well as in fact, Greece today would not be independent.

Continued fighting in the trenches in France and Flanders has made little apparent change in the situation. The Russians have made advances in Galicia, and the Italians have held their ground on the Austrian frontier. In Mesopotamia, the British, now commanded by Sir Percy Lake, have been held back by weather conditions, and have not yet succeeded in relieving the garrison at Kut-el-Amara. In the Caucasus region the Russian have been more successful, and it is believed that they have captured the important city of Erzerum, which would be the greatest loss that the Turks have yet sustained.

The last of the German armies in the Cameroons has been driven into Spanish territory, where the troops are said to have been disarmed and interned. In East Africa the reports tell of British gains.

The coronation of Yuan Shih-kai as Emperor of China has been deferred, because of the rebellion in the southern provinces; but the latest reports seem to show that the rebels have met with a serious defeat.

In Mexico, the State of Oaxaca has declared its independence of the control government until such time as order is restored in the republic. Carranza has abandoned Mexico City as the capital of the country, and has made Queretaro his present headquarters, the provisional capital.

SCHOOL AND COLLEGE.

The short course in nature-study and agriculture for New Brunswick teachers, held in Sussex, January 3-7, was attended by 107 students, all that could be accommodated. 350 applications were received. The course was under the direction of R. P. Steeves, director of Elementary Agricultural Education, who was assisted by six instructors. Evening addresses were given by the Chief Superintendent of Education, by Professor S. B. McCready of Prince of Wales College, Charlottetown, and others.

The report of the committee for New Brunswick of the Strathcona Trust Fund was made public in January. Eight hundred and fifty dollars was distributed in cash prizes for the encouragement of physical and military drill in the schools. In the fourteen cadet corps, the Normal School corps, instructed by Captain A. Stirling McFarlane, took first place. Five new cadet corps were organized during the year. Owing to the war, no cadet instructors' courses nor cadets' camps were conducted.

Mr. Groom, of St. Stephen, has taken the place in the Welshpool, Charlotte County, schools, left vacant by the resignation of Mr. Eagles.

Miss Lucy Inch is filling the vacancy on the Marysville school staff caused by Miss Gunter's resignation.

Miss Hewson is teaching Grades IV, V and VI in the Port Elgin school, in place of Miss Nason who resigned last term.

Miss Jennie M. Haslam, late principal of the school at Alma, Albert County, has taken charge of a school at Herschel, Sask.

Mr. R. B. Masterton, formerly of New Brunswick, is now principal of the High School in Creston, B. C.

The young people of St. Andre, district No. 17, Madawaska County, recently gave a very successful concert under the direction of the teacher, Miss Anna V. Poirier. The sum of thirty-one dollars was cleared and will be used to buy maps, black-boards and a Union Jack for the school.

Courses in Household Science and Handicraft are to be held at the Woodstock and Sussex Agricultural Schools during February and March. The first course will be held at Woodstock, February 1st to 11th, and the second from February 15th to 25th. The Sussex courses will be held from February 29th to March 10th and from March 14th to March 24th. Miss Hazel Winter, supervisor of Women's Institutes, is in charge of the courses, which are open to any member of the Women's Institute in New Brunswick. Classes will be held in handicraft; composition and nutritive value of foods; practical cooking; personal hygiene and home care of sick, and needlework and knitting. The teachers for the courses are: Handicraft, Miss Elaine Borden, graduate in Arts and Crafts, Sackville, N. B.; Nursing and Sewing, Mrs. Laura J. Winter, Trained Nurse, Fredericton, N. B.; Cooking, Miss Ada Saunders, graduate Household Science, Florenceville, N. B.

Cuthbert Ackman Simpson, son of Rev. Canon Simpson, of St. Peter's, Charlottetown, has been selected as the Rhodes' scholar from P. E. Island. He graduated in