

Accurate measurements, as a result of thirty years' work, have given us the exact polar and equatorial diameters of the earth. These are, if the figures in the public press may be trusted, for the former, 7,899 miles, and 7,926 for the latter.

The census of British South Africa, including Cape Colony, the Transvaal, Natal, Rhodesia, the Orange River Colony, Basutoland and Bechuanaland, gives a white population of a little more than one million, and a colored population of five millions.

The Colonial Office has transmitted a despatch to the Governor-general expressing the regret of His Majesty's government at the action of a British consul in Brazil, who compelled the master of a Nova Scotia vessel to remove the Canadian flag which his vessel was flying when in port. The consul explains that he was unaware of the admiralty warrant of February, 1892, recognizing the red ensign with the Canadian coat-of-arms in the fly as the flag of the Canadian merchant marine.

The great battle of Liao Yang, from which the Russians withdrew without the loss of any large body of troops, has been followed by another and greater battle that was equally undecisive. On this occasion, the Russians for the first time took the aggressive part; but, after ten days' fighting, with a loss on both sides of some 80,000 men, the combat ceased because both armies were exhausted, rather than because either had gained any decided advantage. A third, and perhaps still greater battle, is expected, near the same place, where the two armies have been for days entrenched a few hundred yards apart.

Nearly ten thousand people were killed in railway accidents in the United States last year, according to the report of the Interstate Commerce Commission. Add to this the number killed in Canada, and we have an appalling record, a shameful record, of deaths largely due to insufficient construction and equipment, and to the carelessness of employees, the latter due, in a majority of cases, to compulsory overwork. In the last three months of 1903, nearly five hundred were killed on the United States railways, including passengers and employees; while in England not one passenger was killed in the whole twelve months.

The sailing of the Baltic fleet for the Far East has brought very serious danger of war with Britain, through the strange action of the Russians in firing upon a British fishing fleet in the North Sea. One of the fishing vessels was sunk, two men killed, and many wounded. The Russian admiral claims that his fleet was attacked by two torpedo boats, and that he tried to spare the fishing boats and ceased firing as soon as the torpedo boats were out of sight. The question of fact will be referred to a court of inquiry at The Hague. In the meantime, the Russian ships are proceeding on their way to the seat of war in the Far East, which they expect to reach in two months' time.

The Japanese by a series of fierce assaults during late October, secured possession of several commanding positions, with the apparent hope of a final assault and capture of the fortress on the anniversary of the Mikado's birthday (3rd November), which by a curious coincidence was also the anniversary of the accession to the Russian throne of the Emperor Nicholas. The final assault has not yet been made, but the end is near.

The dominion elections took place November 3, resulting in the liberal government being sustained by a majority of over 60. One of the surprises of the election was the defeat of the opposition leader, Hon. R. L. Borden.

TEACHERS' CONVENTIONS.

GLOUCESTER COUNTY INSTITUTE.

This institute met at the Grammar School, Bathurst, October 27 and 28. About 40 teachers were present. Principal P. Girdwood of the Bathurst Village Superior School presided, and delivered an address of welcome followed by an excellent paper on nature study in rural schools by Principal E. L. O'Brien of Tracadie. Inspector J. F. Doucet delivered an interesting address on the aims and conduct of the teachers' institute. Mr. T. B. Kidner, director of manual training, created a very favorable impression by his address on manual training. Miss Cormier read a bright paper on the teaching of Canadian history. Two well conducted model lessons were given, one by Sister Mary Stephen on number in the first grade, and the second by Principal R. D. Hanson on addition of fractions. The institute was one of the best ever held in the county. Chief Sup't Dr. Inch was present, and contributed much to its success, in addition to his address at the public educational meeting. The papers and lessons were discussed with much earnestness.

A resolution was adopted condemning corrupt practices at elections and urging teachers to impress on the minds of their pupils the duties and responsibilities of citizenship.—*St. John Sun.*

VICTORIA COUNTY, N. B., INSTITUTE.

The Victoria County teachers held their annual session at Andover, N. B., on the 13th and 14th of October. Twenty-three teachers were present, who were hospitably and pleasantly entertained by the people of Andover. A very successful educational meeting was held on the evening of the 13th, with speeches, readings and music. Mr. Brittain's address and his lesson before the institute on the following morning on Nature Study were greatly enjoyed by those who heard him. The following papers were read and profitably discussed: Discipline by Misses Edgecombe and Goodine; primary reading by Mrs. Glenn; the art of questioning, by Mr. McAdam. The institute will meet next year at