

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

DURING the past year in Canada the loss of life on the lakes and around the coast has been simply appalling. Too great care cannot be exercised in guarding against these dangers. A stricter inspection of vessels should take place, and we are glad that the New Year brings in the rule that no vessel registered in Canada over 100 tons register tonnage shall be allowed to clear at the Custom House for any port in Canada, Newfoundland, or United States, unless the master of such vessel shall have a valid certificate of competency or service, and in the case of vessels of over 200 tons register, clearing as above, the mate is also required to have a certificate of either description. Such certificates must be produced at the Custom House when the vessel clears.

SOME time ago we urged that the subject of life insurance ought to be thoroughly investigated by the Canadian Government, and that some law ought to be introduced whereby policy-holders, whose premiums have lapsed, should be protected by law from total loss. As far as mutual insurance is concerned we are glad to notice that the government intends to introduce a bill during the coming session, placing all Canadian mutual benefit associations under the control of a superintendent of insurance. It is probable all United States institutions of similar character will be entirely excluded from transacting business in the Dominion.

THE Trades' Congress at Toronto last week was carried on with commendable feeling by the delegates. The Resolutions were of the usual class, and were passed in favour of limiting the day's labor to nine hours; a resolution to request the Dominion government to pass a factory act this session and make it applicable to workshops and all tenement houses where any kind of manufacturing work is carried on; to petition the Dominion Government to pass an act for the protection of life and property on inland waters, and to that end that the hulls of sailing vessels, as well as those of steamboats, pass a proper inspection; also, to petition Parliament demanding manhood suffrage.

COL. A. T. Williams writes from England that there is every prospect of a large emigration to Canada next summer and that the speeches of the Marquis of Lorne on Canada are having a very marked and widespread effect. Canada is large enough for many more millions yet, and large-hearted enough to embrace many thousands of London's homeless poor.

A TERRIBLE railway calamity on the Grand Trunk Railway opens the year with the killing of twenty-seven passengers. A freight train ran into a local passenger train. The conductor of the freight train is to blame for running in without orders. He is at present under arrest, waiting the result of the inquest. It is one of the worst accidents yet chronicled on our Canadian Railways, and shews the necessity for a law compelling companies, where the traffic is large, to have double lines on the roads.

IN spite of much that is hopeful in Canada, the business failures that took place in 1883 are not pleasant reading. There were in that period 1384 failures, with liabilities amounting to nearly \$16,000,000. The failures are divided as follows:

Among the various Provinces, Ontario, 567; liabilities \$6,400,000. New Brunswick, 48; liabilities \$747,000. Nova Scotia; liabilities \$1,068,000. Newfoundland, 5; liabilities \$48,000. Prince Edward Island 5; liabilities \$40,000. Manitoba, 232; liabilities \$2,869,000. We hope that with the exercise of greater care on the part of the merchants, the Dominion will next year shew a much decreased list of failures.

FAILURE promises to follow the attempt of Lord Lorne to acclimate in Scotland the moose deer of Canada. Of the pair which were sent from Canada several weeks ago one is already dead and the other does not appear likely to live long. The bracing air of Canada cannot be found in Scotland, and evidently the moose find the Scotch climate as harmful as some of the English emigrants find the Canadian winters.

THE thirty-one gold medals won by the Canadian fishery exhibits are now in Canada, and will soon be in the hands of the lucky recipients. It is pleasing to note that the exhibition was a great financial success. The surplus in the hands of the commissioners amounts to nearly \$50,000.

THE friends of the higher education for women will learn with pleasure that twenty women have taken the B. A. degree in the University of London last year, nineteen of them in the first division. Four have taken the B. S. degree, making eight women in possession of that honour.

TROUBLES await the re-opening of the English Parliament. Noisier than ever will be the Home Rule members, and there are signs that the present government will be almost overwhelmed by the growing force of Radicalism. It is rumoured that Lord Hartington and Earl Granville will retire from the government and lead a combination of Whigs, Liberals, and Liberal Conservatives. There is no doubt but that the Radicals are at present the predominant and popular party in the government, and they have gained that position simply by their work. Hitherto, these men were considered to be doctrinaires but that idea now conflicts with facts. Messrs. Fawcett, Courtney, Mundella, Lefevre, Chamberlain, and Sir Charles Dilke, have all made their mark as some of the ablest administrators; and all these men are radicals of the practical type, for all have been chastened by the salutary teacher—experience. The one secret of their success is that the men have had faith in great progress, have dared to attempt what others have thought to be unattainable, and have been successful in their endeavours.

THE English *Journal of Education* offered lately a prize for the best list of the ten greatest living Englishmen of letters, with the best work of each. The number of competitors was over 500, and the results of this literary voting are: Tennyson, 501; Ruskin, 462; M. Arnold, 453; Browning, 448; Froude, 391; Swinburne, 262; E. A. Freeman, 241; Herbert Spencer, 235; Newman, 192; John Morley, 137. Mr. Gladstone stands thirteen on the list. Among the novelists W. Black and Shorthouse (author of "John Inglesant"), come first, each gaining 50 votes, and just distancing Blackmore. The two last brackets in the list are strange triplets—W. Besant, E. Dowden, W. H. Mallock (11), and T. Hardy, Sir John Lubbock, G. A. Sala (10).

TROUBLES in Egypt do not take up all the time and attention of diplomatists, for we find Lord Dufferin interesting himself in the preservation of

the monuments of Cairo. These monuments are of great value in tracing out the purest forms of Arab art from the earliest times. There are in Cairo 315 large mosques, 191 chapels, 294 sacred tombs, 200 *sebils* or fountains, 35 mosque schools, and 18 hospices. There are, besides, in the extra-mural cemeteries to Kalt Bey and Kerafeb, and the tombs of the Caliphs and of the Mamelukes.

HARRIET MARTINEAU has been honoured by the Bostonians who have just erected a statue to her memory. The talented woman has always been respected in the States on account of her sympathy with the Abolitionists, and for her strenuous efforts in endeavouring to promote amicable feeling between England and America at a time when much ill-feeling existed.

IT is the Pope's turn now. The Rome correspondent of the *Post* says that the Pope's Secretary, Monsignor Boccali, opened a letter from America addressed to "Leo XIII," containing fenian threats against the Pope should he continue to support England against the National cause in Ireland. The fast and loose policy of the Vatican was sure to irritate the fenians, and the Pope now learns the real value of the friends he has so long backed, and led to their present unenviable position. The fenians threaten the Pope with dynamite.

THE recent turn of events in Egypt has had a remarkable effect on the disposition of Suez Canal shares. Many shares were forced upon the market, and England came off victorious with 20,000 shares added to her list. As 176,602 shares are already held (to which must now be added the extra 20,000), England owns just one half the original share capital. Thus gradually has she acquired the upper-hand in this great French undertaking.

HER MAJESTY'S government have definitely decided to resume control of Basutoland in compliance with the request of a large majority of the Basutos. A Resident High Commissioner is to be appointed, and native mounted police are to be organized at once.

THE question concerning the tendency to brain troubles of the present generation has been lately well threshed out in the London press. The complexity of modern civilization, and the strain upon children at school are noted as chief causes; but the question has been capped by one writer, who affirms that the sole (he should have said *head*) cause is simply because we have left off wearing night-caps.

IT is now regarded as almost certain that Cetewayo will be reinstated at Ulundi. A report is current at Durban that barracks are to be erected at Ulundi, and that all communications from Cetewayo will pass through the hands of the British Commissioner. This is interpreted as placing the control of Zululand in the hands of the latter.

A SPECIAL London cable says Lord Granville, the British Secretary for Foreign Affairs, has renewed representations to M. Ferry, the French Foreign Minister, in regard to the destruction of the British trading post in Madagascar by the bombardment by the French vessels there. He has warned M. Ferry that the English Government holds a long list of claims for damages to the property of English subjects. The French will probably find this Madagascar affair a very expensive one before they get clear of it.