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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

English advices state that a further rise in the price of coal has taken place, that the Belgian coal masters cannot supply their contracts, owing to want of labor, and a threatened strike.

A disastrous explosion has occurred in a coal mine at Morley, by which *forty* lives were lost. Another mine has been accidentally flooded at Wrexham, by which it is rendered useless for the present.

A firm in Birmingham has contracted with the Prussian Government to supply 150,000 rifles of an improved pattern. That don't look like peace.

Eighteen coal masters are about closing their works, pending a reduction of wages.

The London newspapers mention that in the course of a month or two, there will be placed a line of very large and powerful steam tugs at both entrances of the Straits of Magellan, for the purpose of towing sailing vessels bound to and from the west coast of South America through the Straits, thus doing away with the difficult and oftentimes dangerous voyage round Cape Horn. It is believed that the services of this new steam tug company, will meet with the patronage that the venture deserves, and that, in future, the disasters to the vessels making the passage round the Horn will be few and far between, as the cost of towing a vessel through the straits, will, it is estimated, be not more than £200 to £250.

The price of finished iron has been reduced two pounds sterling per ton.

Gambetta's speeches at Grenoble and other cities has gained him much influence, and it is probable that he will be put forward as a candidate for the Presidency of the French Republic.

It is reported that President Thiers intends, at the next session of the Assembly, to urge Conservative deputies to support a proposition for the definite establishment, by proclamation, of a permanent Republic based on strictly Conservative principles. It is said that Casimir Perier is now using his influence with the Right Centre of the Assembly to bring it to accept the President's views.

There has recently been laid before the French Geological Society a project for cutting a canal across the Isthmus of Panama. The plan originated with a French engineer M. Levy, who has lately been occupied on the survey of the Nicaragua canal. Fourteen routes have been proposed through New Granada, but none actually decided upon. Mr. Levy favors an inter oceanic canal, beginning at the Atlantic side at the mouth of the San Juan river, which takes its rise in Lake Nicaragua. It is asserted that the river and lake can be used as a canal at a trifling outlay, while the distance from the western part of the lake to the Pacific is a few miles only. Such a canal if properly constructed, would revolutionize the commerce of the Pacific, and raise its termini from paltry villages to great commercial cities.

The *Escorial* at Madrid, the palace of the Spanish kings, built by Philip II of Armada memory in the form of a gridiron, on which its patron St. Lawrence was roasted (pleasant people in his days.) has been on fire, as far as architectural beauty is concerned, the loss would not be great if it had been subjected to the actual scorching of its traditional prototypes. But as it has a valuable library, and some of the most interesting records of European nationalities, its loss in a literary point of view, would be irreparable. Luckily the fire was extinguished after doing some small amount of damage.

MADRID, Oct. 4.—Information reached Madrid at a late hour last night, that the fire in the *Escorial* had been extinguished. Two of the towers and a portion of the roofing have been destroyed. The amount of damage is estimated at three millions of reals. All the sacred objects which it was thought would perish in the conflagration are reported safe.

Spaniards do not seem to be the most orderly or obedient subjects to reign over,

Last evening while his Majesty King Amadeus was walking in the Plaza del Orient, two men who were concealed behind the statues, throw several large stones at him, crying out at the same time, "Vivo

lo Republica." The desperadoes took flight immediately after committing the act. They were pursued by a number of policemen, but succeeded in making their escape. The King was not hurt. The occurrence causes great excitement in Madrid."

In the Cortes, the President decided that under the rules of the House a debate on the motion to amend the address to the King, by inserting a paragraph, asking for the abolition of slavery was out of order.

After the shop keepers manifestation yesterday, which temporarily subsided on the promise of the Alcalde that the tax on show bills would be reconsidered, crowds again collected on the streets, hissed the members of the City Government, who were trying to allay the excitement, and assailed the police with clubs and stones. The civil force being unable to suppress the disorder, and the rioters becoming more violent, a battalion of National Guards was called and cleared the streets. Several persons were injured but none were killed. Order was restored and the city to day has been quiet.

The Congress by a vote of 161 against 57, has refused to consider the amendment offered by a Republican member to address the King asking for the emancipation of the slaves.

A general strike of working men is expected in Belgium, the *Internationals* having succeeded in stirring up the phlegmatic Flemings.

A telegraphic despatch from India states that a Russian force is marching on Khiva, the next step will bring them into collision with our subjects, allies or dependents in India. Will Mr. Gladstone's friend John Bright & Co. attempt to settle the little difference by arbitration, or send a peace mission to St Petersburg, as they did in 1854?

A cheque for £100, from Mr. Thomas Brassy, England, has been received by Mr. Gzowski, with the object of doubling the Brassey prize in the Canadian Rifle Association prizes.

The celebrated W. H. Seward late United States Secretary of State, died at Auburn New York, on the 19th inst.