

News Summary.

The Grand Opera House, Kingston, Ont., was completely destroyed by fire on Tuesday. Total loss, \$25,000.

A protest has been filed against the return of Hon. John Dryden, Minister of Agriculture, as member for South Ontario.

Lieuts. Keating and Gate, British officers, and twelve native soldiers were massacred in October last while parleying with tribesmen of the Niger territory.

A fatal shooting accident occurred near Waterville, Me., Sunday morning, when Dell Durgin was fired upon by Fred Oates, who mistook his grey coat for a deer's body.

As the result of a fire in the premises of McIlroy & Co., merchant tailors, Toronto, Wednesday night, one woman is dead, another dying at the hospital, and several others badly injured.

Senator Hale on Tuesday introduced a joint resolution authorizing the secretary of the navy to erect a monument in Havana to the memory of the sailors and marines who lost their lives by the explosion of the Maine.

A fight occurred among Chinese miners in a cabin near the Cold Springs mines, British Columbia, resulting in the death of three Chinamen. The murderer, after beheading two companions with an axe, hanged himself in a barn.

Charles F. Williams, the Boston agent of the Portland Steamship Company, stated on Tuesday that an attempt would be made by the company to locate the wreck of the steamer Portland if any clew to her whereabouts can be found.

A St. Stephen despatch says: The new pits sunk at the nickel beds show a large surface of ore, and the reports of the latest assays are so favorable that there seems little doubt of the mines being worked by the company of capitalists now in control. The percentage of sulphur is exceedingly high, exceeding, it is said, that needed to make the ore workable for its sulphur alone, and the absence of arsenic is a marked feature in its favor.

Hon. Mr. Davies while in Washington will endeavor to secure the adjustment of a claim made by the Dominion government against the United States for compensation for the damage done the cruiser Le Canadienne by being run down by the United States warship Vandal in the St. Lawrence, opposite Quebec, last fall. A claim has been made for \$10,000.

An important decision has been reached by the minister of customs which will effect every officer of the customs service who handles public money. The system of private security or bondsmen for the proper performance of duty by an officer will be abolished from 1st January, and every collector, sub-collector, landing waiter or special officer who receives money for the government will be compelled to take out a policy with a guarantee company.

The Acadia Recorder, of Dec. 6, says: At the luncheon in honor of Congressman White at Government House this afternoon were Lieut. General Lord William Seymour, Hon. Geo. H. White, Mr. Justice Townshend, Hon. G. H. Murray, Hon. C. E. Church, Hon. J. W. Longley, the Mayor of Halifax, the Recorder of Halifax, Rev. J. F. Robinson, the A. D. C. Hon. Mr. White's visit to Halifax was on the invitation of Rev. J. F. Robinson, pastor of the Cornwallis St. church.

Robertson Nicolls writes in the British Weekly of a startling case of affairs in the literary world. He says: "I have evidence in my possession which shows that organized conspiracies exist to destroy the reputation of certain books and authors, cliques of which certain journalists are at the head." Owing to the high standing of Dr. Nicolls, this statement has produced a great sensation in literary circles in London. The Academy reprints the accusation under the title "Breakers Ahead."

The Witness, of Halifax, says: General Lord Seymour has expressed his readiness to co-operate with the civic authorities to put down the immoral places in South Brunswick street etc. The General deserves the thanks of the public for his offer of co-operation. But the civic authorities ought certainly to feel rebuked that such an offer should be required or should be considered necessary. Let those whose duty is to deal with this nuisance waken up and prove their fitness to cope with a recognized evil.

At a recent meeting of prominent citizens, including the chancellors of the various universities of the city, a committee was appointed to take steps looking to the establishment of a national provincial reference library. The idea is to have the legislative library contribute some books, then to take the Toronto reference library and that of the Canadian Institute and hand these over to a joint commission of citizens of high character and culture to be appointed by the Ontario government and the city of Toronto; the funds to be pro-

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vided by a grant from the Ontario government and the City Council of Toronto. It is also proposed to establish a system of travelling libraries or collections of books to be sent to different parts of the country, where good reading matter is now very scarce.

Germany offers a remarkable object-lesson to the world in the way she manages her forests. In that country about 11,000,000 acres of forest lands are owned by the State, and the yearly revenue is not less than \$20,000,000. About 20,000,000 acres of forest lands are owned by private individuals, and their profits are almost as large. During the last fifty years these revenues have been constantly on the increase.—Ex.

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