The Weekly Mail.

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RUSSIA AND THE [illegible]

[illegible]

Lord [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] "Now to bringing about negotiations for peace and he British Government has consented to do so."

The *Adver-tiser's* announcement that the British Government has consented on solicitation of the Porte to approach the Czar with a view to bringing about negotiations for peace, is officially confirmed.

The *Post*, in its leading article, says the duty which England has undertaken, is not embarrassed by any bases for the settlement of the war, and involves nothing more than to test the willingness of Russia to enter into negotiations, the terms of peace being a matter for subsequent consideration.

LONDON, Dec. 30.—In English military circles war is considered almost inevitable. Arrangements are completed and regiments allotted for an army of 80,000 men, and steps are already being taken toward the formation of a nucleus for a reserve army. Profound uneasiness prevails here, and there is great depression in trade and finance.

A remarkable article appeared in the *Pall Mall Gazette* last evening which will agitate the people and press of Europe, it is entitled "Prospects Abroad," and runs as follows :—

"The outlook abroad is not improved, and news contained in to-day's papers is calculated to increase the uneasiness which has long afflicted the soberest minds. Nothing now remains to counterbalance the prevalent anxiety. It is most unusual to hold Cabinet councils during Christmas week. That held yesterday was hastily summoned. Why it was called is best answered by reference to the news of the morning. From St. Petersburg, Vienna, and other quarters come reports of the most disquieting nature regarding the armed attitude of Russia, but the armament is not in Russia alone, as we shall soon show."

It then refers to Germany's armament, and concludes :—

"Surely it cannot be denied that there is scarcely a nation in Europe, great or small, that is not concerned in these dark and anxious troubles, or which, at any moment, may not find itself deeply interested. That England is in this condition is a matter of absolute certainty, yet every day sermons are addressed to the Government forbidding them to see or say they see any danger threatening them with the wrath of God and of mankind. If they dare to make the least provision against perils clearly before their eyes. But unless all Europe lies under an infatuation and only the friends of Russia in England are wise, it would be mere imbecility on the part of the Government if like no other European Ministry they take no thought for the armament of the nation. It may be that the signs and tokens of to-day belie the condition of affairs. It may be that yesterday's Cabinet meeting had good and bad news before it, but unless there really is a break in the sky it would be the merest folly for a rich nation like this, with so many interests to protect, to make no preparation for the storm."

The *Times* [illegible] put with the safety and honour of the country. It is believed here a very large majority will vote with him in this view of the case. The Opposition make considerable noise, but they really possess but little power.

The *New Times* of St. Petersburg reproduces various reports current in foreign newspapers that England intends to occupy certain points in the East, among others Gallipoli, Constantinople, and Batoum. The *New Times* considers the occupation of Constantinople or Batoum would be equivalent to a declaration of war.

The semi-official *Agence Russe* says a report that England has notified the Powers of her intention to occupy certain stations in the East is incorrect. The English Government has simply expressed to the Russian Cabinet its apprehensions that Russian occupation of Constantinople, though merely provisional, would so excite English public opinion that the Government would be compelled to take certain precautionary measures. The *Agence Russe* adds that the British Government has not specified what those measures would be, but they cannot be those cited by the *New Times*, as it would be impossible to take such measure without a declaration of war. Relative to the reports concerning English mediation, the *Agence Russe* points out that according to international law mediation is only possible when solicited by both belligerents. Russia, though always ready to listen to any overtures which the Porte might address to her direct, has never done anything to show she had any intention of accepting mediation.

The *Observer* says :—

"We believe the Government, up to a recent date, intended immediately upon the reassembling of Parliament to introduce a series of resolutions defining certain general principles in regard to the attitude of England on the Eastern question and the Russo-Turkish war, and specifying the mode in which those principles were to be applied. If Parliament approved the resolutions, the Government meant to occupy Gallipoli, not as an act of hostility, but to obtain vantage ground, with a view to peace negotiations. How far this programme may still be fulfilled of course depends upon the next fortnight's events."

The *Post* officially says :—

"We are sorry there is little prospect of England's offer of mediation being accepted at St. Petersburg."

A Paris correspondent says :—

"The construction first placed on the mission [illegible] Chief Rear Admiral [illegible] under repair have been ordered to be ready for sea by Jan. 16th.

LONDON, Jan. 1.—A Vienna correspondent states the Russian commanders have been instructed to receive any Turkish overtures for a truce.

A Constantinople despatch states Fuad Pasha, defending Ikhtiman defile, has been reinforced, and it is believed the defile is impregnable.

An Erzeroum telegram says a junction between Generals Melikoffs and Tergukassoff, south of Erzeroum, is believed imminent.

From Belgrade it is reported General Belimar-Kovitch has left the garrison of Pirot, and is marching to the defile of Czarskybrod. The Servian corps at Kursumlje marches to Prischtina. The Turks in Bosnia intend crossing the Drina into Servia.

A Paris despatch says an establishment there making a large number of locomotives for Russia declined a contract for iron bridges over the Danube. The same concern is founding heavy guns for an unknown purchaser.

A Vienna special says the peace party at Constantinople is gaining ground.

A paris despatch asserts the Porte has decided to accept an armistice.

It is reported that Sophia is isolated from Adrianople and Nisch.

It is stated the Servians lost 700 killed at the taking of Pirot.

LONDON, Dec. 31.—A Bucharest special says all communication between Roumania and Bulgaria is cut off by the destruction of the bridges across the Danube river.

A St. Petersburg special says Russia will probably consent to an armistice on the basis of the rectification of the Armenian frontier, the free passage of the Dardanelles, a guarantee of good administration in Belgrade, and the independence of Roumania.

A special from Bucharest states that the reinforcements ordered for the Russian army exceed 250,000 men. The army of the Baltic, numbering 90,000 men is also being formed. Russia has bought 200,000 rifles in Berlin.

A *Times* correspondent at the headquarters of the Russian Rustchuk army, says the snow is over two feet deep. All operations are suspended. Two soldiers and many beasts have perished. The transport service to the bridges crossing the Danube at Sistova and Petroshani is interrupted. There are no sledges here to replace the waggons rendered useless by the snow. The Quartermaster's Department has declared it cannot supply food for the cavalry here. One regiment of Cossacks is about to start for Roumania to obtain provender. All accounts agree as to the severity with which the winter has set in, and the best authorities concur in the opinion that the Russian bridges across the Danube must all go in a few days, when communication will be completely cut off until the river is frozen solid enough to permit crossing. The opinion is also expressed by experienced observers that if the winter is of ordinary rigour field operations will be impossible.

The London correspondent of the Manchester *Guardian* says :

"There is no idea of the acquisition of Egypt, which would be an abandonment of the policy opposing the partition of Turkey. It is believed should Russia reject mediation, Lord Beaconsfield is prepared to appeal to the country on the question of declaring war for the defence of British interests."

A Bucharest despatch says the bridges crossing the Danube at Simnitz are taken up to prevent destruction. It is hoped the bridge at Petroshani, reported carried away, can be repaired. Nine hundred horses perished in the vicinity of Sistova during the recent storm. The total loss by drought of animals must be numbered by thousands. Details concerning the sufferings of Turkish prisoners from Plevna on their way to Roumania state those who fell by the wayside were left to freeze, as there was no means of carrying them, and a halt would only increase the victims. No provision was made in Bulgarian villages for the proper sustenance of captives.

A Bogot despatch says after an exceedingly difficult passage over the snow-covered [illegible] arriving from various quarters and generally accepted as accurate. The reply as reiterated is substantially that if the Turks desire an armistice they must apply directly to the Russian Commander-in-Chief. The general expression is strong against Russia's action. The wish is expressed that at the meeting to-day a decision will be come to not to submit. There will probably be a cheerful concurrence in any course the Government decides to take in the matter. The result of the Cabinet meeting is looked for with great interest.

The Earl of Carnarvon to-day received a deputation of South African merchants, who expressed the wish that reinforcements be sent to the Cape for fear the colonists might be outnumbered, or in the event of European complications be left to their own resources. The Earl admitted the situation at the Cape was such as to cause serious anxiety. In regard to the probability of England becoming involved in a European war, he said he did not think, in spite of the fall of Plevna, there had been any material change in the situation since Lord Derby's reassuring speech in November. The attitude of the Government, therefore, remained the same—watchful of all real British interests, friendly towards other nations, and neutral towards the belligerents. Although the Government were not prepared to bolster up Turkish interests, as such they were resolved to have a voice in the settlement of this question, whenever it came on for settlement. England had not, as supposed, offered to mediate, but had merely conveyed overtures of peace from one belligerent to another. The Earl declared he wholly disagreed from the idea that Russia's answer to those overtures was any affront or insult to England. Such an idea seemed unreasonable and unfounded. He thought at the present moment there was a serious risk on each side. On one hand he hoped we should not lash ourselves into nervous apprehension concerning British honour and interests, as our honour had never been impeached throughout these transactions, and although our interests were undoubtedly large, we should carefully discriminate between real and secondary interests. On the other hand he hoped sincerely Russia would remember that many questions now arising are not for settlement between the belligerents alone, questions it was very important, England, as a member of the European family, should have a distinct voice. Lord Carnarvon did not feel any difficulty in reconciling these two views, and reminded his hearers of the way in which England drifted into the Crimean war. He thought few people looked back on that war with satisfaction, and was confident nobody in England was insane enough to desire its repetition. He pointed out that the commercial community, both in England and Russia, was interested in the maintenance of peace and hoped the British Government would never do anything to encourage alarm or admit diplomacy had become so exhausted as to be incapable of affording a peaceful solution.

An *Independence Belge's* despatch from Paris intimates that Turkey will probably propose an armistice on the basis of the belligerents retaining the positions they now occupy.

A Constantinople special says the idea of direct negotiations with Russia meets with increasing favour at the Porte. The reason why this step has not yet been taken is the impossibility of ascertaining Russia's conditions of peace.

A Hundred Thousand Dollar Robbery in New York.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—An ingenious robbery was perpetrated to-day occasioning the loss of, perhaps, $100,000 to the Young estate. A man called at the offices of J. H. Young, at 49 Nassau street, about noon, and asked to see a directory. He then went out, Young went to lunch, and the stranger returned and said to the book-keeper that a man in a carriage at the door desired to see him. The bookkeeper went down stairs after locking the door, and the stranger forced Young's door and stole fifty Alabama bonds of a thousand, and a package of securities, including certificates of stock in the name of J. H. Young, which had been in the safe. Young thought his loss would amounted to about $100,000. Detectives have been placed on the case, but up to a late hour to-night no trace of thief or property had been found. The stranger is described as a sandy-bearded young man, aged 25, and 5 feet 6 or 7 inches in height. A reward has been offered for the return of the bonds.

Hamilton.

HAMILTON, Dec. 29.—The *Spectator* says :—"During the last four days, negotiations have been going on between Mr. Broughton, General Manager of the Great Western railway and the Directors of the Brantford, Norfolk, and Port Burwell railway, pending the settlement of the debts of the latter railway. The settlement is on a composition deed, which has been executed by the creditors of the company, this being a preparatory step to the handing over of the road to the Great Western railway. Difficulties arose one after the other during the four days that the negotiations were going on, the last of which was not overcome until eleven o'clock this morning, when a trust fund was finally formed with the object of satisfying the claims of the creditors so far as it will extend. This afternoon, at one o'clock, Mr. Broughton, accompanied by Messrs. Watts, Wilkes, Imlach, and four other Directors of the Brantford, Norfolk, and Port Burwell railway, and the solicitor of the road, left by special train from Brantford, to make final arrangements in regard to the business which has been transacted. Now that the Great Western Company have got the Brantford, Norfolk, and Port Burwell railway in their hands, the iron bridge lately broken town will be rebuilt, and direct communication between Tilsonburg, Hamilton, and Toronto will be restored without a break at Brantford."

For Brazil.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 1.—The steamship chartered by contractors for the Madeira and Mamore railway around the Falls of Madeira river, sails to-morrow for Brazil, carrying 1,100 tons of railway material and a full corps of engineers and labourers. This is the first work of the kind on foreign soil built exclusively of American materials, and by American labour.

TERRIBLE ACCIDENT.

Seven Men Killed by an Explosion of Nitro-Glycerine.

[illegible] nitro-glycerine works, Henckley being superintendent. These three were blown to atoms, no piece larger than two pounds being discovered. The other four were railway employees, and were in the cab of the engine when the explosion came. Their blackened and mangled remains were there with flesh stripped from their faces and limbs and their bones broken. Ishpmeing, three miles away, plainly felt the shock, and the damage in Neagaunee was probably $2,500, and some persons there are reported to be seriously injured by the concussion.

ST. CATHARINES.

A Bridegroom Deserts His Bride at the Bridge.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

ST. CATHARINES, Jan. 2.—A few months ago a stranger came to this city and bought out the shop of Mr. Palmer, gunsmith, on James street, and started business there; but after a short time removed to a store adjoining Mr. D. C. McGuire's liquor store, on St. Paul street. After doing a good business there for a short time, he took a friend into partnership and they carried on business successfully until about a week ago. During this time he formed the acquaintance of a couple of young ladies in this city and kept their company. Of course, as is too often the case, the young ladies placed all confidence in their lovers, and finally one of the men "popped the question," and was accepted. They were married by some Protestant clergyman in the city, and made all due preparations for their wedding tour, the father of the bride supplying his daughter with funds to the amount of $10, for her own special use. Everything in readiness they left for the American side, and on reaching the domains of Uncle Sam, they put up at one of the best hotels at Suspension Bridge, N.Y., where they remained for a day, evidently enjoying themselves. On the morning of the second day they arose and went to breakfast, after which they went into the parlour, and the bridegroom, pretending to have run short of funds and knowing that the young wife had $10, asked her for the loan of $9.50, which she gave him, thus leaving her with 50 cents. He went out, and when dinner time arrived he was not to be found. On making enquiries it was discovered that he had taken a train for the east, leaving his board bill unpaid, and brought his deceived daughter once more under the parental roof. About the same time the partner of her husband also left the country, leaving a number of debts behind. They were very suspicious looking characters, and it is surmised they had something to do with a robbery that took place in the city about three weeks ago. Should they ever return, it is to be hoped the injured wife will take the necessary steps to bring the fugitive husband to justice, and have him severely punished for so cruelly deceiving her. This should be a warning to some of our young ladies when keeping company with young men of whose antecedents they know nothing, to enquire into their former character and reputation before accepting the proposal of marriage.

Manitoba.

WINNIPEG, Man., Dec. 31.—The grievances of the deputation of Fort Frances Indians are now healed. Nixon sent them forty-four bags of flour instead of eighty; and wild Montana cattle in place of work oxen.

The Royal Commission on the charges against Provencher is still sitting.

The *Free Press* warns the Government of the necessity of appointing as agents men not only honest but understanding the Indian character. It complains that the half-breed population, though described by Lord Dufferin as natural interpreters between the white and red races, have altogether been overlooked hitherto.

Meeting of Grangers.

NAPANEE, Dec. 27.—A large meeting of Grangers was held here to-day, consisting of members and delegates from the division Granges in this vicinity. Mr. Chapman, grain merchant of Toronto, was present and delivered a lengthy address in regard to the future prospects and the best course to pursue for the benefit of the society, after which a vote of thanks was moved and seconded to Mr. Chapman for the able manner in which he assisted in conducting the grain and shipping business of the company during the past season.

Murder and Suicide.

FARMVILLE, Va., Dec. 27.—To-day Col. Wm. Randolph Berkeley, an eminent lawyer, was seated in his office conversing with Alfred Moth, Cashier of the English and American Bank, when a knock was heard at the door, and Col. Berkeley got up to answer it. On opening the door a shot was fired from without, and the Colonel fell back with a ball in his temple. Immediately afterwards Captain Wm. H. Kennedy entered the office and stepping behind Colonel Berkeley's desk placed a pistol to his own head and shot himself. It is stated that Kennedy had made three previous attempts on his own life, and for a long time had been in a moody and despondent condition. He intimated he had some grievance against the Colonel. Col. Berkeley died instantly. He leaves a large family. He was a member of the law firm of Berkeley & Berkeley, of Richmond. Kennedy still lives, but there is no hope of his recovery.

Daring Robbery.

HESPELER, Dec. 27.—Another daring robbery was perpetrated here on Tuesday night between six and eight o'clock. While Peter Winart and family were attending a Christmas church festival, his house was entered through the cellar door and $50 in cash taken from a tin box which was kept in the cupboard. The box was broken open, and only the pocket-book and money taken, a watch which was also in the box being left behind. A young man named Prush was arrested on suspicion, and afterwards turned Queen's evidence, implicating another young man named Conwurt, who was also arrested. A search was made, and twenty dollars of the stolen money, with the purse, were found in Frush's house. An examination was held to-day before Messrs. Chapman and Shaw, magistrates, and after a lengthy hearing both prisoners were committed to Berlin gaol, there to await their trials.

The butter export from the United States this year was seven million pounds in excess of 1876.

TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

[illegible]

[illegible] all relations with ex-Queen Isabella, whom it thinks insane. She will never be permitted to return to Spain.

Don Carlos, according to a Madrid journal, was expelled from France on a request of the Spanish Government, who will also take steps to mark their displeasure of the conduct of Queen Isabella.

A report which requires confirmation is given currency in the Paris *Moniteur* to the effect that Japan has renounced all commercial treaties and resumed its right to revise customs duties at pleasure.

A match proposed by Mr. John Rigby, of the Irish rifle team, between Ireland and the United States has been arranged. It will take place in April or May, the Irish using muzzle-loaders and the Americans breech-loaders.

Ex-Queen Isabella, of Spain, writes an indignant letter to a Paris newspaper, protesting that her visit to Don Carlos was prompted solely by the ties of kinship, and repudiating the idea that she could be false to her son Alfonso, for whom she declares she has sacrificed everything.

Don Carlos has been requested by the French Government to leave France and has started for the frontier. This request is said to be in consequence of ex-Queen Isabella's overtures to him, which are believed to be expressive of the ex-Queen's displeasure at King Alfonso's intended marriage.

A Berlin special announces that it is probable a couple of eminent members of the Moderate Liberal party will become members of the German Government, it being Prince Bismarck's desire to establish closer relations with that party, in order to gain support for his financial and political programme. The Chancellor, it is said, contrary to the platform of the Liberals, intends to resort to indirect imports, especially a heavy tobacco duty and excise. If the appointments are approved by the Emperor—and it is announced he has already approved of the new departure in substance—they will likely be made public on Bismarck's return to the capital next month.

American.

Not within thirty years has the Upper Mississippi been open to navigation as late as it is this year.

Mexican newspapers urge a close alliance [illegible] Indian's challenge, and the race will probably come off on Toronto Bay.

Fifty-three million dollars have been disbursed by the United States Treasurer within the past six weeks.

Ralph Waldo Emerson has been elected one of the foreign associates of the French Academy of Moral Sciences.

A large section of the New York underground railway will probably be completed within the next two years.

The Chesapeake and Ohio railway, four hundred and twenty miles in length, is to be sold in its entirety on April 2nd.

An attempt to pass the silver bill over the President's veto would, it is expected, fail by a very small number of votes.

An American daughtsman is engaged at Woolwich arsenal, by permission, sketching the latest improvements in projectiles.

Twenty to twenty-five per cent more cases of destitution are reported in New York for the present month than for December, 1876.

Captain Wm. H. Mount, living at Deal, New Jersey State, is at the point of death, suffering from injuries received a few nights ago from highwaymen.

Rev. Henry Ward Beecher is threatened with a suit for a hundred thousand dollars damages for not keeping his contract to finish the "Life-of Christ" within a period which has expired.

The appointment of M. Waddington as Minister of Foreign Affairs in the French Cabinet, and of the Marquis de Saint Vallier to be French Ambassador at Berlin is accepted as an earnest of better relations between France and Germany.

The Secretary of State of Brazil has notified contractors in the United States for the Brazilian railroad that coloured men will not be allowed to enter the empire as part of their working force.

At Middletown township, New Jersey, on Wednesday night, a man named Kelly, while climbing over a fence, lost his balance and fell. His feet caught between the pickets, and his head was buried in sand. Unable to extricate himself, he died of suffocation.

The export of cheese from the United States this year was the largest ever known, exceeding by over nine and a half million pounds the export of 1876. The export of leaf tobacco this year was sixty-four million pounds in excess of last year.

Nothing like the mud that prevails all over the States of Indiana, Iowa, Illinois Wisconsin, and Minnesota has ever been seen before, within the memory of living man. Trade in the smaller towns and cities which have no means adequate to cleaning the streets, is entirely at a standstill.

A strike which would affect the Reading, New York Central, and Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western Companies is rumoured to be in contemplation by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, in consequence of an order issued by the last mentioned road that it would not employ after January 1st any engineer owing allegiance to the Brotherhood.

Chas. E. Johnson, son of a wealthy Brooklyn gentleman, married Miss Flora Benedict, daughter of a prominent citizen of the same city, about a year ago. Recently the wife left her husband. Because of cruel treatment. Recently he called upon her at her father's house, demanded a private interview, declared he would kill her, and as she fled fired, inflicting a serious wound. He was arrested.

A Lynn, Massachusetts, despatch says a large crowd of Crispins on Saturday attacked a "scab" while under the protection of the police, and unsuccessful efforts made to lynch him. Half a dozen "scabs" from out of the city were attended to the depot by a mob of Crispins, but no violence was attempted. The Crispins say they will not allow "scabs" to work, and manufacturers have passed a resolution to employ no members of the Crispin organization.

Canadian.

Belleville has become a city.

Manitoba Legislature meets on January 10th.

[illegible] Weston has been quite destroyed by fire. Estimated loss, fifty thousand dollars.

It is rumoured that the Grand Trunk authorities have closed arrangements for the lease and control of the Coteau Landing line.

Judgment has been given in the Queen's Bench, making the rule absolute to quash the Dunkin Act by-law in the county of Frontenac.

Some of the shanties on the Black river have been broken up on account of the difficulty in getting up provisions. There is no snow in the vicinity.

The Quebec Government is asking proposals for working the Quebec, Montreal Ottawa, and Western railway. The road is 377 miles in length.

A public reception is to be tendered his Excellency the Governor-General on his visit to Montreal next month, to open the Mackay Institute for deaf-mutes.

The seat in the Senate vacated by the death of Hon. Charles Wilson, has been offered to Mr. Rosaire Thibaudeau, of the firm of Thibaudeau Brothers, Montreal.

A blackboard exchange, called the New York open Board of Trade, has been established in Montreal. Stocks, grain, and provisions are bought and sold on one per cent. margin.

An order-in-Council has been passed by the Dominion Government asking the Imperial Government to remove restrictions on Canadian cattle imported into the United Kingdom.

The wife of the man Bartley, charged with the murder of Sergeant Dore in Beauce, has been arrested in the State of Maine. A large amount of evidence is being taken against her husband.

At Quebec recently a daughter of Dr. Rowand, of that city, was married to Mr. Ernest T. Hankey, son of a London banker and nephew of Mr. Thomson Hankey, M.P., five years Governor of the Bank of England.

A probable murder is reported from St. Louis de Lotbiniere, Que. Two men named Doyle, who were subsequently arrested, quarrelled with a Mr. Goulbrean, and one of them struck him a blow which the medical men say must prove fatal.

Charles E. Williams, who is charged with forgery on the Union Stock Yard [illegible] mitted as a fugitive criminal under the Act.

A young man at London, named Robert Marshall has made a desperate attempt to take his own life by cutting his throat. He is twenty-six years of age and has been employed as a traveller for a tea house. At nine o'clock he was at home and apparently perfectly sane. Two hours afterwards he appeared on the streets a raving maniac.

Notice has been given in the Canada *Gazette* by William Moffat and William Murray, of Pembroke, of an application to be made to Parliament, at its next session, for an Act to incorporate a company to construct a railway from some point on the Canada Central railway, in the county of Renfrew, to Lake Nipissing, and thence to the eastern terminus of the Canada Pacific railway.

On the 31st ult. a fatal accident happened at the Great Western station, Brantford, R. Moffatt, brakeman, being instantly killed. Deceased was on the last train of the Wellington, Grey, and Bruce railway. After the train had been left in its place for the night, it is supposed he went and opened the switch for an engine, and then jumped on the engine as it was backing up, missed his foothold and fell, the engine running over him, cutting him badly about the head. Moffatt belonged to Palmerston.

A young man named Richard F. Parkinson, for nearly a year in the employment of McInnes, Bros., & Co., Hamilton, has been arrested for embezzlement. It is only recently that he was given control of the petty cash department, and it is not supposed that he has as yet had opportunity for appropriating very much. A young woman named Josephine Delmench is also under arrest on suspicion of being an accomplice, and both of them will probably be up for examination early next week. Parkinson came to Hamilton with a good character from former employers, and was not known to drink or frequent saloons.

The Quebec Government have recently issued a public notice to all parties holding Crown lands in the Gatineau agency, that an officer of the department will visit that district in the month of March next, to settle claims and to collect arrears of payments on located lots. The officer will be authorized in accordance with an order in Council lately passed to make a remission of 25 per cent. on all arrears of interest or rent, the capital of which is paid at the time with the other three-fourths of such interest or rent. The departmental order issued a few weeks ago to the effect that all lots located as agricultural lands on which the settlement duties have not been performed, and on which arrears have not been paid up, were to be cancelled, has, it is said, been rescinded, as it did not receive the sanction of the Government. It would have resulted in the cancellation of nearly one half the lands sold for twenty years past in the Gatineau Agency.

Heavy Failure in New York.

NEW YORK, Jan. 1.—It is stated the amount of securities taken and replaced by Bonner will not exceed two million dollars. The Manager of the Bankers and Brokers' Association said depositors would lose $50,000. The stockholders are responsible for all losses. A friend of Bonner says the latter admitted on Saturday that the panic of 1873 swept all he had, and since then he has been "kiting" with the aid of the Bankers and Brokers' Association. He had lent money on about $1,500,000 good collateral security, and had then borrowed much more upon these collaterals. It is rumoured the American Exchange Bank suffered by Bonner's failure, also A. H. Comb.

A Magnificent Salary—Ordnance Lands.

LONDON, Jan. 1.—The Council have decided upon a salary of $1 a year to the Water Commissioners, as the candidates in the field have agreed to perform the duties for nothing.

It is matter of complaint by the members of the Corporation that they have not yet received a deed of the Ordnance lands, although they have erected many improvements under the sanction of the Government.

MESSRS. VAIL AND JONES

They Formally Relinquish their Seats.

New Elections to be Held Immediately.

[illegible] announced.

HAMILTON.

NEW YEAR'S DAY.

HAMILTON, Jan. 1.—This being the first day of the new year, business of course has been almost entirely suspended, and the question with many was in what manner to spend the day. Had there been sufficient frost to have formed ice, there would have been rejoicing among the owners of our three skating rinks, who no doubt are anxiously awaiting the advent of King Frost, that they may cater to the amusement of the many lovers of the skating art in our city. The weather, however, although fine and bracing most of the day, was decidedly not cold enough for ice, and so our livery stables were largely drawn upon, principally by young men who were bent upon their customary New Year's calls upon their lady friends.

INCENDIARY ATTEMPTS.

Within the last few days there have been no less than five or six incipient fires discovered within an area of two blocks in the centre of our retail houses, and those interested are naturally becoming alarmed, as if any of these fires obtained much headway before being discovered, a serious conflagration would be the result.

PRIVATE DETECTIVES.

The recent escapade of a clerk in one of our wholesale houses has led some people to think that others perhaps need watching; but the *Times* of this evening contains the following item, which would serve to show that some at least of our merchants think their employees above suspicion :—

It is reported on good authority that a private detective the other day went to the head of one leading wholesale houses and asked if he had any clerks that required watching. The head of the firm indignantly replied that he had not, that he had perfect confidence in his employees, and that if the detective did not leave the store in three minutes he would have him kicked out. The detectives left without making any *adieux* worth speaking of.

FIRE AT ANCASTER.

The barn and stables of Mr. Henderson, of the Ancaster Hotel, were destroyed by fire between one and two o'clock this morning. [illegible]

General Grant.

LA VALETTA, Malta, Jan. 1.—General Grant sailed on Monday for Egypt.

British Ambassador at Vienna.

LONDON, Jan. 1.—It is announced Sir H. G. Elliot, recently Ambassador at Constantinople, has been appointed Ambassador at Vienna.

The Howell Torpedo.

NEWPORT, R. I., Jan. 2.—The Howell torpedo was tried to-day, but did not work satisfactorily owing to a defect in the rudder. It will not be tried again until materially improved.

The Scottish Hierarchy.

ROME, Jan. 1.—The Pope has authorized Cardinal Manning to negotiate with Great Britain for removal of the difficulties delaying the re-establishment of the Scottish Hierarchy.

Yield of Precious Metals.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 1.—Wells, Fargo & Co's. statement of production of precious metals in States and Territories west of Missouri river, including British Columbia and the west coast of Mexico during 1877, shows an aggregate yield of $98,500,000, an excess of $7,500,000 over 1876, the greatest previous yield.

Indian Butcheries.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—A Fort Walsh special gives particulars of the treacherous butchery of five Nez Perces by Assiniboines, who welcomed them after their escape with two women and children from Chief Joseph's camp. One of the children was also killed, and the women subjected to fearful torture and outrage. One woman escaped and the other was saved by the Canadian police.

[This is confirmed by a letter from a police officer in the Cornwall *Reporter*.]

A Flood of Newspapers.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—An unusual number of newspapers appear to have been started within the past four weeks. According to the report of Geo. P. Rowell & Co.'s advertising agency, there were established during December, 145 publications, of which 101 were weeklies, and twenty-nine monthlies. During the same period the suspension of fifty-one publications was reported, forty of them being weeklies. The new dailies number thirteen.

Bank Robbery.

LEAMINGTON, Dec. 28.—Jackson & Fuller's Bank here was broken into last night by burglars. They succeeded in breaking open the first and second doors, but after breaking off the knobs of the burglar proof chest and breaking their drills without effecting an entrance, they thought it time to make their escape. They had been watched for some time by some of the citizens, who had not completed their arrangements to close on them, but fired on them, wounding one man, who was helped away, leaving traces of blood. The thieves ran to the lake, and are supposed to have gone back to Sandusky. A yacht came to the dock some time after dark and was gone this morning.

Stabbing Affray.

OTTAWA, Dec. 28.—Between one and two o'clock this morning cries of "Murder" and "Police" were hear in the vicinity of Sparks and O'Connor streets, accompanied by piteous groaning from some one apparently being brutally beaten. The noise attracted P. C. Jno. Williams' attention, who was doing duty on Sparks street, and rushing in the direction of Garland & Mutchmore's warehouse, he saw a young man name Macdonald coming towards him. Being the only one on the street, he detained him, and a few yards further on, near the corner of O'Connor and Wellington streets, discovered the apparently lifeless body of a man stretched across the sidewalk, and covered with blood. The man was quickly picked up, and on examination it was discovered that he still lived. He was then removed to the station and medical aid summoned. Blood flowed so freely from the wounds all over his face that he could not be recognized at first, but he was subsequently identified as one Timothy Fitzpatrick, who resides on Ashburnham Hill, and who had been at the station about something, Macdonald said about his wife. He received five incised and two punctured wounds, none, however, of a very dangerous character. On being searched a knife was found on Macdonald, and on one of the blades there were marks of the blood. The toe of his right boot was also bloodstained with blood as though he had kicked his victim in the face. Macdonald, some two years ago, was arrested on a charge of attempting to stab an old man with whom he had got into a row. On that occasion, when the policeman attempted to arrest him, he also attempted to stab him. He was committed for trial, but the jury returned a verdict of not guilty. At the Police Court inquiry evidence was given against him and the case was adjourned to see whether Fitzpatrick would recover or not.

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