

## NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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Our august Legislature was called together for business yesterday, with the usual ceremonies.

There are said to be 2,500 Icelanders living in Winnipeg. They have lately built a church costing \$4,000.

Another disastrous collision on the C. T. R. near Hamilton. Two men killed, and great destruction of railway property.

There is much complaint from Prince Edward Island as to the way in which that Province is being treated as to its mails.

Mr. Chamberlain is to be offered the Grand Cross of the Bath, in recognition of his services in the Fisheries Commission.

The rumor that Hon. Frank Smith has decided to withdraw his resignation as a member of the Privy Council has been confirmed.

Four times as many lives have been destroyed by the Dakota blizzard as were lost in the suppression of the rebellion in our own northwest.

All reports agree as to the mildness of the winter on the plains that roll up to the Rocky Mountains, and moreover, that it is not exceptional, but the general rule.

Everywhere the disgrace (which is becoming a national stigma) of bribery! A protest has now been entered against the election of Mr. McLeod Stewart as Mayor of Ottawa.

In consideration of the stormy weather which recently prevailed on the Atlantic coast, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries has extended the close season for smelt fishing to the 29th instant.

The Canadian Pacific Railway has issued a circular to the farmers, urging them to hold back their wheat until the Kewatin Mill is completed, as they believe they will then be able to realize better prices.

It is understood that Mr. R. Hardisty, one of the factors of the Hudson Bay Company, has been called to the Senate for one of the Northwest Territories. There is still another appointment to be made.

A special meeting of the Historical Society will be held in the legislative library this evening at 8 o'clock, when F. B. Crofton's paper, entitled "Thomas Chandler Haliburton, Writer and Thinker," will be read.

The sugar combine is to be brought under consideration in Parliament. The public is altogether too much at the mercy of rings. Combinations for fraud now take the place of the ancient *force majeure* in oppressing the people, and it is time they were summarily checked.

It is rumored that there is so much lack of interest in the affairs of the Regiment manifested in the 66th Battalion, that there is even talk of disbanding. It is to be hoped rumor exaggerates. On the other hand, the 63rd Rifles are said to be in every way improving and going ahead.

Mining in Souris, Man., is being as rapidly developed as possible without railway facilities. A thousand tons has been taken out this winter and sold to settlers at \$2 per ton, and with a railway to the mine it could be supplied at Winnipeg at \$4. It is said to be similar to the Galt coal.

Halifax Harbor presented on Monday last the unusual spectacle of hundreds of skaters disporting themselves on almost all parts of it down to George's Island. On Tuesday afternoon the cold abated, and torrents of rain fell, and on Wednesday the weather was quite spring-like. Throughout all the changes of the last month the sleighing in the city has continued unusually good.

Anniversaries of the week:—The 21st of Feb. is the birthday of Cardinal Newman, who was born in 1801; the 22nd is the birthday of Washington, who was born in 1732, and died in 1799. It is also, curiously enough, the anniversary of the French Revolution of 1848, just forty years ago, during which period that lively nation has enjoyed an empire and two republics. *Virè la France!*

The *Canada Gazette* says:—Lord Stanley having filled responsible positions here, there is every reason to expect he will not fall behind in the discharge of those less onerous duties of the Governor-General of the Dominion. "Indeed," says the *Gazette*, "we should not be surprised if, from a social point of view, Lord and Lady Stanley will be among the most popular of recent Viceregal residents."

At a meeting of the Hamilton Junior Conservative Association a resolution was adopted, that a stage in the history of Canada has been reached when every male subject of Her Majesty, who has attained the full age of 21 years, and is possessed of sound mind and understanding, and has been a resident of the Dominion for the period of six months, and has not been convicted of felony, should be invested with the franchise and be entitled to vote at all municipal, provincial and Dominion elections.

The abominable state of things in a Montreal Cigar Manufactory, brought to light by the investigations of the Labor Commission, cries aloud for immediate legislation for the protection of the boys and girls who are helpless under the tyranny of brutal and cowardly employers. Outrageous fines and severe beatings for the pettiest mistakes and delinquencies, confinement of children in black-holes, and corporal punishment of a girl of eighteen, seem to have constituted the discipline which recommended itself to the taste of the amiable proprietors.

Mr Gye, husband of Mdme. Albani, is staying at the Windsor, Montreal. He has come out to make arrangements for the visit of the celebrated French-Canadian cantatrice to her native country and the United States. Mdme. Albani will not come out until next February, as her London and Continental engagements will carry her up to the winter of 1888. She will open in Montreal, and after two concerts, will make a two or three weeks' tour through the principal cities of Canada and the United States; she will also sing most likely in German opera at New York, as she is mistress of German, and has sung in Berlin in der Freichung and Lohengrin in their proper tongue.

The full text of the Fisheries Treaty has found its way into publicity. Much depends on its ratification by the U. S. Senate, which may be doubtful; but the full scope of the Treaty will only be attained if the President's recommendation to place fish on the free list should be ultimately carried out. If this were accomplished, a considerable point would be gained towards reciprocity, and one of great importance to our fishermen. It is only to be hoped that American prejudice in this respect may be overcome. Meantime a *modus vivendi* is agreed upon for two years, by a protocol which concedes to American vessels the right to purchase bait, ice, seines, lines, &c., in Canadian ports, on payment of an annual license fee of \$1.50 per ton, to cease whenever the U. S. shall remove the duties on fish and fish oils, their packages, &c. The like privileges are accorded to Canadian vessels in U. S. ports. The three-mile limit is fully and fairly laid down, and in bays &c. not specially defined, it is to be measured from a line drawn across them at a point in the bay or harbor, where the width does not exceed ten miles. United States fishing vessels are to bear a conspicuous official registry number on each bow. There are, of course, minor details, which are comparatively unimportant. The language of the American protocol expresses satisfaction with the action and good-will of the British Commissioners, and the President strongly recommends the Treaty to the Senate. If by good fortune the whole scheme be ultimately brought to pass, it can scarcely be other than satisfactory to Canadians, and an irritating state of international affairs will cease to exist.

The fine old Provincial Building, which is acknowledged to be architecturally a masterpiece, has had its interior refitted and decorated, and otherwise improved by alterations which are now almost completed, and which reflect great credit on the good taste and practicability of the architect and designer. The assembly room has been completely transformed, and made one of the handsomest and most convenient chambers for its purpose on the continent. It is now semi circular in shape, the speaker's chair being changed to the north side, facing the galleries and the main entrance. The members' desks are conveniently arranged in semi-circles to conform to the shape of the room. The gallery is a great improvement over the two old ones, which were small and uncomfortable. The reporters have been well looked after, having ample space secured for them in the front row of the gallery. Convenient desks are provided, and all possible arrangements made for their comfort. The public who delight in listening to the debates will rejoice in the alterations, as they will now be able to see and hear everything without being crowded like sardines in a box. The chamber has been reduced in size, but the space thus made available has been utilized for convenient rooms for the speaker, clerk, committees, &c., &c., all of which have been handsomely and conveniently fitted up. The decoration of the walls and ceilings of the main auditorium are chaste and elegant, and at night when brilliantly lighted up the effect must be simply charming. The only danger is that the members will be so delighted with their new quarters that they will be in no hurry to leave them, and so prolong the session indefinitely. The whole building has been heated by hot water, and so well ventilated that the members and the officials need have no fear of their healths. The handsome chamber at the east end of the building, in which the Legislative Council hold their sessions, has most wisely not been tampered with. It has been given a thorough overhauling, the pictures brightened up, and the furniture varnished and repaired. All the departments have had their quarters remodeled, and in some instances changed, in every case for the better.

Another great blizzard was reported from Dakota, on Tuesday, 14th inst. Trains were abandoned on all the railway lines.

After thirteen years' litigation an Albany estate has realized 85 cents apiece for the heirs. The lawyers got about \$12,000 each.

The Minnesota Farmers' Association has passed resolutions demanding that oleomargarine-makers be compelled to color all their product pink.

Leprosy is said to be afflicting many Scandinavian immigrants in Northern Minnesota and Dakota. It is brought from the old country, and seems to spread but little.

The harbor of Charleston, S. C., used to abound with blackfish, but the earthquake seems to have scared them away, for since the great shake-up hardly one has been caught.

During last year a large number of foreign exodists returned to this province. It is understood that the official returns will indicate the arrival of about eight thousand settlers from the United States.

A terrific cyclone, on the 19th inst., destroyed nearly three hundred residences and places of business, killed 35, injured twice as many, and unhoused from 1200 to 1500 persons in the town of Mount Vernon, Illinois.

The House of Representatives has refused yeas 129, nays 128, not the necessary two-thirds in the affirmation, to pass the Hoar joint resolution changing the date of inauguration day, and extending until April 30, 1889, the term of the 50th congress.