

Weekly Messenger

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THE WEEKLY MESSENGER.

The subscribers to the *Weekly Messenger* now number six thousand two hundred and twenty-three and the list continues to increase each week. The renewals are coming in remarkably well, showing that such a paper as this meets a decided want in the community. We ask every subscriber whose subscription ended with the year to renew before another week, as in a few days we will begin cutting off the names of those who have not renewed, a very disagreeable duty, but one absolutely necessary if the price of the paper is to be kept as low as it is at present. The large, beautiful type of the *Weekly Messenger*, its concise and complete summary of news, its valuable general reading and other features make it one of the most attractive papers of the times. The price is fifty cents a year, or five subscriptions sent in the one envelope for two dollars, or forty cents each. All communications should be addressed, JOHN DOUGALL & SONS, Montreal, Que.

BUSINESS NOTES.

The workmen in the manufacture of iron and steel, and the mining of iron and coal, in the Middle States, anticipate a great many strikes this year, to meet or prevent reductions of wages almost certain to be attempted. A suspension of nail factories on account of the low price of nails is announced from Chicago to shortly take place, which will deprive twenty thousand men of employment. The stove moulders and mounters in Gurney's and Copp's foundries, Hamilton, Ontario, are on strike against a threatened reduction. Eight hundred men are on strike at the coal mines near Des Moines, Iowa, on account of an attempt to reduce wages. Ten thousand looms and two hundred thousand spindles are estimated as being idle in Philadelphia, causing the idleness of five to six thousand operatives and shortened time and lowered wages to ten times as many. A proprietor says the mills will remain closed until either the price of labor decreases or that of products advances. A movement is on foot among the hundred and seventy thousand bituminous coal miners of the United States to organize under one head for mutual protection. At the same time the Miners' Union of the Belleville district, Missouri, has been dissolved and its members are free to make each the best terms he can with the employers. Mr. Howard, the Secretary of the Spinners' Association, has issued a circular from Fall River, in which the events of the year are reviewed. He says capital has arisen as a great power in the country, and clothing itself with an iron mail, has with a hard hand crushed labor down to starvation wages. After a reference to the dormant spinning industry in Lawrence, Massachusetts, and Cohoes, New York, the circular prophesies as follows:—"We are steering rapidly toward a crisis in human events, and if employers are wise the first, the most important point they should consider is the advisability of paying such wages as will enable their employees to live in comfort and decency and accumulate something for an emergency." So long, however, as employers find no difficulty in filling their mills with people who cannot get any better employment than spinning and weaving, it

is useless for the leaders of the operatives to try to either coerce or frighten employers into raising wages. The woollen mills in the neighborhood of Newburg, New York, are much affected by the dulness of business. Two mills employing two-hundred hands are closed, and of three still running one has reduced wages and the others are expected to do likewise. The owners attribute the depression to merchants holding off from buying in expectation of Congress altering the tariff. The failure of Messrs. Cotton, Connall & Co., of Glasgow, Scotland, has embarrassed the Canadian branch of the firm in Montreal. Messrs Morgan & Wood, of Newtown, England, have failed for three hundred thousand dollars. Mr. Charles A. Schad, postmaster at Wolcottville, New York, has assigned with liabilities of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and only fifty thousand of assets. It is the gravest failure in Niagara county for ten years, and was caused by doing too heavy a business on borrowed money. Messrs. William Miller & Sons, turkey red dyers, Glasgow, Scotland, have failed with debts of six hundred thousand dollars. Palatial new law courts were lately opened by the Queen in London with great pomp. The failure is just announced of the builders, Messrs. Bull & Son, with liabilities of nearly a million dollars, which would indicate that the contract was a disastrous one for them. Mr. R. Nagle, lumberman, has sold a timber limit of a hundred and fifty miles on South River, Lake Nipissing, Ontario, to Mr. Alexander Fraser, of Westmeath, for over one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. The most consummate bank failure, perhaps, ever heard of is that of the municipal bank of Sapojok, Russia. There are only three thousand persons in the municipality, but the bank's liabilities are supposed to be millions of roubles, while the assets are twenty-nine roubles and the bank furniture. An increase of one-half in the rates for fire insurance will go into effect in the city of Quebec on the fifteenth instant, on account of the recent heavy losses there. Six firms with eight hundred men are cutting ice on the Hudson River, at Castleton, New York, where about a million dollars is invested in the business and a harvest of two hundred and forty thousand tons of ice is expected to be secured. General trade throughout North America for last week is reported by a mercantile agency to have been fair, though the dulness incident to the close of the year was felt. Dry goods show marked inactivity, while the iron business is looking up. The record of failures in the United States is, however, not a pleasant one, there having been two hundred and fifty-seven during the week, fifteen more than the preceding week, one hundred and five more than the corresponding week of last year, and the largest number in any single week in two years.

CRIME.

Sarah Murphy, an unmarried woman long resident at Hillsburg, Ontario, was lately found dead in her house under circumstances that indicated murder. Augustus Berringer died at Syracuse, New York, within a week after beginning to take pink root and mandrake prescribed by a quack doctor to kill tape worm. Mrs. Stillwell of Mount Vernon, Ohio, mentioned last week as having confessed on her deathbed to three murders, in which her mother had part, has since confessed to having murdered her mother after she was injured in a railway accident at Ottumawa, Indiana. She also says she is guilty of other crimes that she will not divulge. A father and son named Chabot and two other men named Orr and Blanchet have been declared guilty by a coroner's jury of a recent murder in Arthabaska, Quebec. Five thousand dollars were stolen from a package in transit by express from Indianapolis to Muncie, Indiana, by an unknown thief. John, Annie and Louisa Kodisch are held at Watstown, Wisconsin, for the murder of their mother in December. Jeff Walker, a mail carrier, was arrested at Petersburg, Virginia, for robbing the mails, and confessed to having carried on the dishonest work for the past three years. J. L. Smith, a Mormon, while being taken to penitentiary to serve a life sentence for the murder of his little son, leaped from the train and fell in such a way that one of his legs was taken off by the wheels, and his recovery was doubtful. A bank in Lucan, Ontario, has been entered by a burglar, who wrecked the safe but failed to open the burglar-proof steel chest inside, which contained some money. A colored man named George Seymour was arrested in Philadelphia while trying to pawn a diamond breastpin valued at three thousand dollars, and the culprit was recognized as a waiter at a hotel at Long Branch, where a lady was robbed of thirty thousand dollars' worth of diamonds. Russell Lester, in Indian Territory, set out to kill a man against whom he had a grudge, but was himself killed by his intended victim, who discharged a double-barreled gun into him. Polk, the State Treasurer of Tennessee, absconded, a defaulter to the amount of about half a million dollars. He is believed to have taken the money to speculate in stocks, and lost heavily, but is supposed to have carried much away with him. The defaulter was arrested at San Antonio, Texas, but released on a writ of *habeas corpus*, it is thought aided by the stolen money, and the last heard of him was that he was over the line into Mexico. He was a nephew of the late President of the United States, and Mrs. Polk, his venerable aunt, together with other relatives, feel deeply his disgrace. Daniel Taylor and Aaron Rhoades have been arrested in Reading, Pennsylvania, upon a charge of the abominable crime of selling the meat of three hogs that had been bitten by mad dogs and died of rabies. A triple homicide is reported from Panola, Texas, where Sheriff Ross, George McDonald and George Caricken quarrelled and fired at the same moment. They all fell, Ross dead and the others mortally wounded. Maro Kay, a clerk in the County Office of Alameda, California, is a defaulter for fifteen thousand dollars, and has been arrested in San Francisco. A valise stolen from a member of an opera company in Philadelphia contained fifty thousand dollars' worth of jewels belonging to Madame Albini, one of the performers, and it is said the jewels were smuggled past the customs officials of New York by the owner of the valise without paying duty. Frederick Mann the murderer of the father,

mother, a son and a daughter of the Cooke family at Little Rideau, Ontario, was caught before he had gone very far and is now in the county gaol of Prescott at L'Original. Though but a mere lad, his conduct since placed in custody, as well as his crime, stamps him as a hardened villain such as the annals of crime have seldom produced.

FIRES.

The knitting factory of Messrs. Barber & Co., Merriton, Ontario, which employed forty hands and was running day and night, was burned on the third instant, causing a loss of about eighteen thousand dollars. A fire at the Montreal Rolling Mills on the third instant destroyed the main building and much valuable plant, the loss being about fifty thousand and insurance thirty thousand dollars. On the following day a fire broke out in a rolling mill at Cohoes, New York, and destroyed it and other factories, entailing a loss of from a half to three quarters of a million dollars. The two burnt rolling mills mentioned above were both closed for repairs when overtaken by fire. A flour mill and adjacent buildings, with several thousand feet of lumber, the property of Messrs. Wheeler Bros., at Stouffville, Ontario, were burned on the third. The butcher house and barn of Mr. Louis Duhamel, near Ottawa, were burned on the third instant, together with over a hundred carcasses of beef and mutton, and large quantities of hay and grain, farming and butcher implements, the loss being eight thousand and insurance five thousand dollars. A fire in Brooklyn, New York, gutted the wholesale china store of Messrs. Ovington Bros., damaged the New Jerusalem Church, the Clinton House and many other establishments, and burned out the Vandom photograph gallery. The loss is about a quarter of a million dollars, but it is said to be a fortunate circumstance that the hundred and fifty clerks employed in the china store had not begun work when the fire broke out, else the loss of life might have been dreadful. Several manufacturing establishments at South Bend, Indiana, were burned on the fourth of the month, the loss being eighty thousand dollars. The tannery of the Wisconsin Hide and Leather Company in Milwaukee was damaged on the seventh to the extent of thirty thousand dollars, and there are suspicious hints as to the origin of the fire. The firm had been in trouble, and all its books and papers are burned.

THE MARQUIS OF LORNE and Princess Louise have been met at Los Angeles, California, by Lieutenant Tate and eight men, of the United States army, who will escort the representatives of royalty through the country. The party were to have left Santa Barbara, California, for San Pedro on the sixth of this month, and at the latter place would start by special train for the East. The Princess has changed her mind about going to Bermuda, and in answer to a letter of enquiry from the Marquis as to the desirability of her remaining the rest of the winter in Charleston, South Carolina, General Sherman has written that, in his opinion, there was no safer or more pleasant place in the United States for the Princess than Charleston.