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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

We regret to learn of the destruction by fire of the Beauport Lunatic Asylum, Quebec, on Friday night last. Two of the patients were burnt to death. The number of inmates being in the neighborhood of eight hundred great exertions must therefore have been made to save the lives of so many. The property destroyed is valued at \$75,000.

A dreadful fire occurred at Boucherville early on the morning of the 25th January, at the farm house of Pierre Dulude about two miles from Montreal. The family retired to bed early leaving a fire burning in the kitchen. Mr Dulude was awakened by smelling smoke, and on going down stairs found the carpet on fire. He called to his wife and ran to the barn to get a ladder, by which his wife and eight children who were in the second story, might escape, as the stairway was on fire. But before he could get back the whole building, which was a wooden one, was in flames and the wife and children were burned to death. Dulude escaped with nothing on but his night dress, and was so badly burned in his efforts to save his family that he is not expected to live. The wife and children are literally burned to ashes, and only fragments of them can be found.

Delisle Village, near Montreal, was also the scene of a fearful fire on the morning of the 25th January. Twenty-two families were burned out, and an entire block of brick cased houses was destroyed. The village has no fire brigade, and a pitious appeal was made to chief Bertram, who ordered out a division of the Montreal City brigade, which at 5 p.m. got the fire under control. The losses amount to \$30,000. Many of the people burned out are in a destitute condition.

Information reached the Department of Public Works on the 28th ult. to the effect that the iron superstructure of one of the piers of the Intercolonial Railway bridge over the Restigouche had fallen upon the ice, but the bridge itself had stood firmly and its stability is untouched.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies has signified his approval of the Governor General's commuting the sentence of Lepine.

The City Hall, Fredericton, built of brick and stone, was destroyed by fire on Monday night. It was valued at \$25,000; partly insured.

The British Government has adopted a system of torpedoes for the defence of the harbours of Halifax and Bermuda.

So far as yet known, the Ottawa Curling Club has made the highest score for the Governor General's medal, having made 128. Orilla comes next with 127. Arnprior made 119 points. The Thistle Club of Montreal, scored 122 points. Last year Quebec won the medal by 120 points.

A French contemporary states that there are yet in France and its colonies, 25,000 men who have fought under the first Napoleon, their ages being from 80 to 90.

A baggage car and three coaches of a passenger train on the Springfield division of the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad, was thrown from the track on the 25th ult. by a broken rail two miles east of Moselle, the smoking car and two coaches rolling down an embankment about twenty feet high. John Denzer, mail agent, had both knees dislocated; twenty others, whose names have not been ascertained, were severely injured, and some ten or a dozen others slightly injured.

A magnificent necklace and ear drops of diamonds, a present from the Khedive of Egypt to General Sherman's daughter as a token of appreciation of the General's advice concerning the reorganization and discipline of his army, have arrived at the New York Custom House. They are valued at half a million of dollars. Congress lately authorized their acceptance by the lady and her husband, Lieutenant Fitch of the Navy.

A careful examination of the cellar of the Navy Department, Washington, shows that complete arrangements had been made on the 26th for burning the building. Trains of rope and waste paper were laid about the floor in each instance connecting with piles of shavings and kindling wood. It is believed that the fire in the building on Monday, was the act of an incendiary.

The *Milan Gazette* says that Garibaldi continues to receive from municipalities and private persons in France numerous letters expressing gratitude for his services during the late war, and protesting against the attack made upon him by M Perrot in the French Assembly. Victor Hugo has written a letter to M. Bordone, in which he says M Perrot's report is "beneath contempt."

A special to the *Daily News* says:—Extensive preparations are being made by Spanish royal troops for a movement against the Carlists, in the event of King Alfonso's proclamations calling for the submission proving ineffective. 40,000 troops are now massed around Talavera for an attack upon the main Carlist position at Pu-

enta La Reyna and Carseil Pass, commanding the road to Pampeluna. King Alfonso will participate in the operations of his troops.

The Royalist army in Navarre is advancing on the Carlists, and has already captured several of their pontoons. King Alfonso is present.

The Carlists have left the Provinces of Biscay and Guipuzcoa, and moved into Navarre, taking with them all their material of war. The army of the north has assumed the offensive against the Carlists.

General Primo De Rivera has been appointed to the command of the second corps of the army of the North.

Six hundred Carlist have submitted in the Province of Castellon de la Plana within the present month.

Fugitives from Estella assert that Don Carlos has shot several officers for treason.

Don Carlist will personally command his troops in the battle which is impending to frustrate the efforts of Alfonso to relieve Aluempoa.

A Santander despatch, of the 26th says that the Carlists have fired on a British vessel loaded with telegraph cable, off the Biscayan coast.

The *Times*' Paris despatch says there is a flood in the river Seine, and the water is still rising. At Paris the water is so high that the steamships can't pass under the bridges, and have ceased running. The streets of the low environs of the city are covered with water to a depth of three feet.

From Paris we learn that a bill has been drafted which authorizes a Government concession for the construction of a submarine railway tunnel between France and England. Copies have been distributed among the members of the Assembly.

The death of the Emperor of China—Shun Ai sin Choholo Tung-Chi—is announced. The deceased potentate, who ruled over four hundred millions of people, was born April 5, 1853, and acceded to the throne in 1861. It is thought that a grandson of Prince Tun, uncle of the deceased Emperor, will probably succeed to the Throne.

The electors of Greenwich, at a meeting on Thursday night, adopted a resolution expressing in cordial terms their confidence in Mr. Gladstone, and regretting his retirement from the leadership of the Liberal party.

The *Past* announces that the Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath has been offered to M. Curiale, and Alfred Tennyson is to be made a baronet.