

Weekly Messenger

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THE WEEKLY MESSENGER.

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IRISH NEWS.

An abandoned German brig loaded with dynamite was towed into Hull, and as the captain gave a false declaration regarding the cargo it is thought to have been intended for Ireland. Fifteen thousand dollars, the balance of the Duchess of Marlborough's relief fund, will be devoted to assisting emigration. The Lord Mayor of London was asked by a deputation to open a fund for the relief of distress in the west of Ireland, and he said the speeches made at the meeting that sent the deputation were such as to keep people from giving to a fund originated by such an agency, but he was willing to receive contributions for the object in view, and if large enough to justify it would open a fund. Mr. O'Donnell, one of the speakers at the meeting in question, has sent a scurrilous letter to the Lord Mayor in reply to his remarks. Two thousand starving persons surrounded the hotel in Glen-columbkil where the Poor Law Inspector was staying and demanded employment, and when he advised them to emigrate some, one exclaimed, "We would rather die than emigrate." Destitute fishermen have been admitted to the workhouse at Kinsdale. Archbishop Croke confirms the reports of widespread and fearful distress in the counties of Mayo, Donegal, Clare and Sligo, and that ecclesiastic says the country can never expect peace and plenty until it is rid of the yoke of a bloated and ruthless oligarchy, meaning of course the landlord class. The gunboat "Redwing" has made some fruitless attempts to reach the Island of Innismurray with stores for the relief of the starving inhabitants. Mr. Trevelyan, Chief Secretary for Ireland, made a speech at Hawick, in which he justified the prosecutions of the press for the publication of attacks upon judges and jurors, which, he said, were as much a part of the implements of murder as the sword-cane or pistol. He defended the action against League public meetings and the arrest of reporters of the same, on the ground that a class of men had arisen who lived on agitation, and such reporters were of this class and attended meetings to advise the people not to disperse. Mr. Trevelyan also denied that the diminution of agrarian crime was more apparent than real, and pointed to the rapid decrease in murderous offences whenever it was seen that murderers were being executed. The Government, he said, was ready to work with Irish members of Parliament advocating legitimate schemes of reform. During the week exciting disclosures have been made against the prisoners held for murder and conspiracy to murder in Dublin, by their own comrades who betray them to save themselves. Michael Kavanagh, the confessed driver of the car on which the Phoenix Park murderers escaped, gave evidence in detail of all that he knew of the fearful tragedy, his testimony generally agreeing with the accounts of the crimes first

published as well as being supported by the statements of other informers. It is said that the prisoners, although assuming levity of manner in some cases in the dock, are in despair, and that Carey, the Councilman of Dublin, wears a very woe-begone aspect, apparently feeling his position more deeply than the others.

BUSINESS NOTES.

The strike of iron workers at Somerset, Massachusetts, against a reduction of ten per cent in wages, has failed. Work has been resumed by the railway strikers at Stratford, Ontario, a peaceable settlement having been made. Floods have overwhelmed the Connellsville coke region, Pennsylvania, just as a strike was on foot. Lately the coke workers issued a circular to protest against the employment of cheap Hungarian labor, which charged the Hungarians with being depraved and filthy in their modes of life. The City Council of Quebec has granted aid of two thousand five hundred dollars a mile to the Quebec and Lake St. John Railway. Besides subscribing to the Cork, Ireland, Exhibition of next season, the White Star Steamship Company will carry free a hundred tons of exhibits from the United States. British imports increased in January, as compared with the same month last year, about fifteen million dollars, and the increase of exports was about four million dollars. The ice crop on the Hudson river, just completed, is the largest ever gathered there, being three million tons of beautiful ice. Some of the ice men in Toronto are, on account of the fine quality of the ice, laying in a supply for two seasons. A gentleman returned from the woods of the Ottawa district says the prospects could not be better for the largest output of timber ever produced. More men are at work, the roads are good, and the amount of disease among the men has been exaggerated. The British and Canadian Lumbering Company, a powerful concern, with headquarters in Toronto, have bought the well-known Skead's saw-mill in the neighborhood of Ottawa city, the price being reported at one hundred thousand dollars. Thirty thousand tons of new shipping have been ordered on the Clyde, Scotland, within the space of a fortnight. Messrs. Manning, McDonald & Co., railway contractors, have engaged to carry the mails from Thunder Bay to Rat Portage, Manitoba, during the present winter for a thousand dollars a month. The Western Union Telegraph Company has swallowed up many companies started to compete with it, and the news published during the week that it had leased the Mutual Union Company's lines for ninety-nine years was not surprising, however much it might have been regretted as announcing the renewal of monopoly in telegraph business in America. Twelve rubber factories in New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island, employing eight thousand persons, were to have closed on Saturday last in consequence of the high price of rubber. The following failures are among the most prominent of the week—W. S. Battle, Raleigh, North Carolina, interested in cotton mills, liabilities two hundred and thirty-five thousand dollars; President Battle, of the State University, resigning on

account of the above, liabilities forty thousand; W. Walker & Co., ship-builders, London, liabilities about three hundred and fifty-five thousand dollars; S. G. W. Archibald, tanner, Truro, Nova Scotia, liabilities fifteen thousand; Sharp & Co., worsted spinners, Bradford, England, liabilities two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Improvement in business at important centres is reported by telegraph to a leading commercial journal, but the industrial situation is not improved. There were two hundred and fifty-six failures reported in the United States in the week, being twenty less than in the preceding week, ninety-seven more than corresponding week last year and four hundred and six more than that of two years ago. Canada had thirty-four failures, twelve less than the previous week.

CASUALTY.

A twelve thousand barrel oil tank near Bradford, Pennsylvania, burst and took fire, destroying a pump station, in which Mrs. Davy was burned to death, and Col. Hegon and a boy badly burned. The loss of property was fifty thousand dollars. Strong shocks of earthquake were felt in different parts of America and Europe on the fifth of this month. At Wolfborough, New Hampshire, a breeze sprang up from perfect calmness at the moment of the shock. A three year old child in a family named Bedoin, living near Ottawa, was burned to a crisp a few days ago. While his mother was out, he and a brother aged seven were poking up the fire, when the clothing of both took fire, as well as that of an infant in the cradle. The elder boy, with great presence of mind, picked up the baby, and, after dipping it in a barrel of water, jumped in himself, but his younger brother met the sad death above noted. A child named Nisbett, aged seven, has been burned to death under similar circumstances at Richmond, Nova Scotia. Ten persons were reported dead and four dying, from eating mushrooms, at Santa Catarina, Mexico. Mr. Levi Lewis, a young farmer of Lobo Township, Ontario, has died from the effects of being crushed between his sleigh and a gate post while trying to stop a young team of horses running away. The survivors of the steamer "Kennure Castle," recently foundered in the Bay of Biscay, kept themselves alive three days by chewing a flannel vest. While miners were robbing coal pillars in a mine at Central Hill, Pennsylvania, a few days ago, a blast in an adjoining breast threw down ten tons of material, burying seven men, mostly Poles, and all with families, causing the death of all of them. Oliver Childs, at Abbeville, South Carolina, was trying to brain a mad dog with the but-end of a gun after it had missed fire, when it went off and killed himself. Four men were killed and several seriously mangled by an accident in the Severn Tunnel Works, England. Several stage passengers and horses perished in a snow squall at Flint Creek Hills, Montana. A girl in London, Ontario, swallowed a lizard in a drink of water taken from a city service tap, not knowing what it was as it passed down her throat. She was overtaken by great pain in a day or two, and the doctor, supposing she had swallowed some living thing, treated her accordingly, with the re-

sult that she threw up the reptile, a four inch specimen, and soon recovered. Another person in the same city caught a fish in a pail from the same source. A Toronto boy, named Anderson, has received a shot in the leg from a pistol that he and his brother were playing with. The steamer "Gem" has been burned in Washington Territory, and in trying to escape the flames George Gowan, C. Rayback and the Chinese cook upset the only boat left, after the lifeboat had been let go adrift, and they were drowned. F. Vickery, a teacher among the Indians, told his wife to follow him and he would save her, and both jumped overboard and went to the bottom. By keeping the steambot's head against the wind, the remainder of the passengers and crew were able to stay on the bow until they were rescued by boats from the shore. Three hundred persons were killed and over ten thousand injured in the anthracite coal mines of Pennsylvania last year. Particulars of the floods in the Middle States are appalling. The loss of property along the Ohio River, chiefly in Cincinnati, Newport and Covington, will amount to millions, whole square miles of dwellings and factories being under water to the height of two or three stories. The city of Lawrenceburg, Indiana, was entirely inundated the first of the week, and many other populous places have been deluged: Five hundred houses at New Albany, Indiana, were flooded, and three thousand men out of work owing to the water stopping the factories. The dam protecting the lower part of Louisville, Kentucky, broke at midnight of Monday, letting sixty feet of water upon twenty blocks of buildings. The scene is described as awful, and the loss of life is supposed to be great. The Southern cities are anticipating floods in the Mississippi almost as serious as those of last spring.

IN THE TARIFF DEBATE in the United States Senate, Mr. Leman attacked the protective system in plain terms, arguing that it was delusive and its maintenance not necessary for the existence or development of American manufactures. The discussion and votes on the bill, he held, showed that it was impossible to materially reduce the present rate of taxation and at the same time maintain a high protective system. There could be no easier or more grateful task than that of lifting unnecessary burdens from the people. Probably, he said, no other people in the world were ever needlessly taxed for a series of years merely because their rulers were unable to devise a method of reduction.

THE CANADIAN PARLIAMENT is in session. The Governor-General's speech at the opening refers to the bright prospects of British Columbia when the progressing railway communication with the rest of the continent is completed, and to the rapid settlement of Manitoba and the North-west going on. Among the legislation promised is a uniform liquor law for all the provinces, a uniform franchise for Dominion elections, a law to regulate labor in factories, the consolidation of customs, militia and public land laws, and measures relating to the civil service, banking and navigation.