

## ECHOES OF THE WEEK

## European.

What might have proved a most disastrous mining accident, had it not been for the presence of mind and courage of a miner, occurred on Monday, in the Baillestone mine, near Glasgow. A paraffine lamp exploded and set fire to the mine. One hundred miners were at work at the time, and for six hours they were practically entombed, the fire rendering any attempt at rescue impotent. As soon as the fire gained dangerous headway one of the miners ran to a safety door provided for such an emergency, and despite the flames roaring about him, closed it, thus preventing the further progress of the flames in that direction. He was the only man that seemed to have presence of mind to remember the existence of the door, and without question his action prevented every one of the miners being burned to death.

The British brig Wellington, bound from Portsmouth, was caught in a gale which prevailed on Monday and bore up for the Tyne to make a harbor of refuge. She reached the river safely, but as she was passing in she was lifted up by a heavy sea and tossed broadside on against the stern of the British steamer Huntsman, which is stranded near the south pier at Shields. The Wellington struck the wrecked steamer with such violence that her whole side crushed in and she filled and sank. Two of the brig's crew went down with the vessel. The other six men aboard of her were picked up by boats from other vessels.

The Czaritch's famine committee, in order to enable farmers to continue their work, has decided to purchase ten thousand horses in Siberia to replace farmers' horses killed on account of the famine.

An official notice of the accession of Abbas Fasha has been given to the powers; the Khedive will make a tour abroad, visiting Constantinople, Odessa, St. Petersburg, Vienna and Paris.

Benjamin Scott, of the Royal Astronomical Service, and Chamberlain of London, died on Monday.

Two hundred sailors and many officers of the British Mediterranean fleet are in the hospital at Malta prostrated with influenza, and there are 250 additional cases of the disease scattered among the various vessels of the fleet.

M. Ribot announces that France will land the crews of her war vessels at Tangier if the Europeans in that city are endangered by the native rebels or if the sailors from other warships are landed.

The funeral of the Duke of Clarence took place on Wednesday. There was no state procession through London as at one time arranged.

The Rev. Mr. Goodall, a local preacher, has been arrested at Temworth, Eng., charged with attempted criminal assault on a married woman in a railway carriage. In the course of the struggle, the woman was either pushed or fell out of the compartment in which the two were seated and sustained severe injuries. On coming to consciousness the woman related the circumstances of the assault.

A terrible catastrophe occurred at Tiflis, Russia, on Tuesday, on the occasion of the blessing of the waters of the River Kura. As a procession of the clergy and a dense crowd of people were crossing an arm of the river on a temporary bridge the structure collapsed under the weight of the mass of the people, and fell, with its burden, into the stream. The people nearest the bridge tried to retreat, but were met by a dense crowd still surging onward. The result was a terrific struggle, in which many persons were crushed to death and a large number injured. In addition a large number were drowned in the river.

A bill introduced in the French Chamber of Deputies empowers the Government to dissolve any association having a majority of foreign members or a foreigner among its directors. This provision is aimed only at religious orders, but injures literary, scientific and charitable societies also, as they will be compelled to exclude foreigners. The penalty for neglecting to comply with the law is two years' imprisonment.

It has been announced at Rome that the Pope is suffering from an attack of influenza. The report has caused considerable apprehension owing to the extreme age of His Holiness, but Dr. Ceccarelli, his private physician, says there is no immediate cause for anxiety.

Dr. Bredermann, director of the chemical laboratory in the University of Berlin, on Tuesday killed his betrothed, Margaret Emer, and then committed suicide. Dr. Bredermann was 42 years old, while the girl was 17. The affair is enshrouded in mystery.

A convict named Bishen, confined in the Posen prison, Germany, killed a warden on Tuesday with an iron bar obtained from a bedstead, then donned the warden's clothing, took his keys and escaped.

## American.

On Monday morning occurred the most disastrous explosion of natural gas in the

history of natural gas at Lancaster, Ohio. The residence of Judge John S. Braze, a two storey brick, on North Columbus street, was levelled to the ground. Mrs. Braze, four grown children and the servant were in bed at the time, Judge Braze being the only occupant stirring. He was blown sixty feet across the street, where he was found unconscious and bleeding from severe wounds about the head. It seems almost a miracle that none of the sleeping occupants of the house were seriously injured. The walls fell outward, and this probably saved their lives. Windows were broken for several squares around and the organ in an adjoining church was ruined. The shock was felt for miles around. A leak in a pipe, it is supposed, filled the cellar and library with gas, which was ignited from the grate. The house and all its contents are ruined.

Corporal Jones, Company D, Ninth Infantry, U. S. A., stationed at Madison barracks, Sackett's Harbor, broke through the ice on Lake Ontario on Sunday morning and was drowned. His body has not been recovered. He was 28 years of age and his home was in White River, Manitoba.

The powder mills at Central City, Ky., exploded on Monday with terrific force. The noise of the explosion was heard twenty-five miles distant. Seven men were killed and six injured.

Professor Lovering, of Harvard University, has succumbed to the grip.

Tennessee militia now guarding convicts at the Coal Creek mines expect a battle to the death with the miners.

Edward J. Phelps, of Vermont, formerly Minister to England, it is generally understood will be one of the representatives of the United States on the tribunal to be selected for the arbitration of the Behring Sea question.

Augustus N. Doe, treasurer of the Bay State League, an endorsement order, having 22,000 members, was arrested at Boston on Tuesday charged with the embezzlement of \$15,610 of the league's funds. The order is in the hands of a receiver.

## Canadian.

The Dowager Countess of Cavan died at her son's residence, New Edinburgh, on Monday. The deceased lady arrived in Ottawa some time ago on a visit to her son, the Hon. O. H. Lambert, of the civil service. The dead Countess was the widow of the late Earl of Cavan, who died about a year ago. She and her husband were noted for their earnest labors in the cause of social and religious reform. Her Ladyship took palpitation of the heart and died at a quarter to four, in her sixty-third year. The title, which is one in the Irish peerage, was created in 1647.

A general mourning for the Duke of Clarence has been ordered throughout the Canadian forces.

The Northwest Assembly will ask the Dominion Government to establish an insane asylum for the Territories.

East Elgin Patrons of Industry met at Aylmer Tuesday and decided not to bring out a candidate in the forthcoming by-election.

The Deputy Minister of Militia received from Quebec on Tuesday afternoon a case containing samples of the first Martini-Henry ammunition imported from the Old Country and are expected to prove equally effective and accurate, for the trials made with this first product of the factory have been entirely satisfactory. Of the machinery used in the production of these cartridges a considerable portion was made at the Government workshops in Quebec.

Prof. Saunders, Canadian Commissioner to the World's Fair, left Ottawa for Chicago on Tuesday night to make preliminary arrangements with the Exhibition commissioners in reference to the allotment of space for the Dominion representation.

It is announced at Ottawa that Mr. Chapleau's health is far from satisfactory. On Tuesday, if anything, he was worse than he was a few days ago. His medical adviser has recommended him to go South for a month or six weeks, and it is probable that the advice will have to be taken.

Robert Stevens, chief discount clerk of the Standard Bank, Ottawa, has been missing since Saturday afternoon, and his friends are very anxious about him. The books at the bank are in good order and his family relations have been particularly happy. Suicide has been hinted at, but no cause for such an act can be assigned.

The wages of the finishers at the Astoria Silk Works, Steinway, L. I., have been reduced about 20 per cent.

A party of commercial travellers on the road were boasting about the magnitude of the houses they represented, when one, who was the last to speak, said: Gentlemen, I wouldn't like to tell you anything about the size of our premises, or the stock we carry, or the number of people we employ, because you might think I was exaggerating. But when we took stock of our employees last week we found that six cashiers and three bookkeepers had absconded three months before, and had never been missed.

## LABOR AND WAGES.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

The Trinity of reforms: Land, transportation and money.

The monopolist knows he is perfectly safe so long as workingmen waste their time in futile strikes. Freedom lies through a proper use of the ballot.

One of the chief troubles to overcome, which leads to placing political parties in the control of rings, is that workingmen are carried away by noise and vote wrongly.

The municipality of Posen, Germany, has opened public soup houses in different parts of the city to feed the unemployed and beggars, whose number is constantly increasing.

It is high time for every pulpit to take a stand upon the questions now being asked by labor, and to decide without fear or favor. It is not safe to wait until the last moment.

A ghost has driven the workmen out of the 700-foot level of the Anaconda copper mine at Butte, Mont. It is said to sit on the rafters and give orders and resembles a former fireman of the mine who was killed there.

It must be obvious to all unprejudiced minds, that it cannot be a satisfactory condition in human relationship which crowds down one class of our people to the narrow straits of bread and water. Let the distance between rich and poor be shortened.

A petition is circulating among the labor organizations of Massachusetts asking the Legislature of that State to adopt the Referendum system, as used in Switzerland, by which all legislative acts must be submitted to a general vote of the people for approval or rejection.

What is there so vicious about freedom that it is necessary to bridle and muzzle it? The woes of Russia, of England, of Ireland, of America, of all countries, are due to this one great mistake of the people. What all these stricken people need is reform. Free land, free trade, free men!

May 1 will be on Sunday this year, and on the same day the general elections will take place in France. It is expected that the workingmen of that country will use the occasion to make a grand political demonstration at the ballot box and elect a large number of Deputies to the Chamber.

No employer ever pays his workman's wages unless he does it at a loss to himself. Capital don't pay wages. The man who lays brick all week has at the end of that time produced by his labor a value far exceeding that which he calls wages, and unless he did his employer would not keep him. If your week's work has produced a value of \$100 and you receive \$10, you have paid your own wages and given your employer \$90.

It takes the wages of nearly 170,000 men to pay the ground rents of the Astor family alone. Labor pays tribute to the Astors for the privilege of living on earth, and all because of a system of land holding which labor itself upholds. The original cost of the land held by the Astors was \$18,000. Labor has made that land worth many millions and labor continues to pay millions each year for its use. In the consideration of the labor problem, however, there are people who say, "The land ain't in it."

In the discussion of economic principles we often notice with regret that workingmen sometimes act like politicians. They do not meet the question fairly with a desire to learn the truth, but are inclined to evade, disguise, straddle, shirk or beg the question. Such tactics serve to hinder the progress of all reforms. There should be no hedging or trimming among workingmen in such matters; they should go at it hammer and tongs with a determination to learn the truth. There is no other line of progress.

A very wise man aspired to be a leader among his fellows. He said: "The land ain't in it. It was only a bugaboo used to draw members away from their unions. The land does not have any effect on cigarmakers, brickmakers, carpenters and others." This very wise man does not know that tobacco grows on land, brick are made of land, and without land to build on carpenters would have no work. He does not know that land held out of use makes it harder to produce these things. Some day the landlord will tell him to "get off," and then he will perhaps realize that the fox was right.

There are some men whom society term anarchists, men who would take pleasure in blowing up a number of fellowmen for opposing the ideas advocated by anarchists. Sometimes they succeed in this blowing up business, and kill a few men, but this seldom happens. There is another class of men whom society calls shrewd in business, monopolists. This latter class monopolize production in certain ways to control markets. They reduce the number of opportunities to labor and force men into idleness. Idleness brings poverty and drives hundreds of human beings into unhealthy tenements

where sickness and death finish the work of destruction. Which of these men are the most dangerous to orderly society?

"Some businessmen and merchants do not seem to realize that their interests and the interests of workingmen are identical. When workingmen receive low wages, it naturally follows that they can only pay low prices for the clothing, food and other things consumed. When wages are high the wants of workingmen increase and the merchant and businessmen in general are prosperous. When merchants and businessmen generally realize this we will find them taking more interest in labor everywhere.

The average length of life of miners is 31 years. Machinists are outlived by printers, the average of the former being but 38 years, while that of the latter is 39. Musicians live a year longer, while the lease of life of an editor is 41, and that of manufacturers, bankers and brokers is 43. Clergymen average 54, lawyers 55, public officers 56, farmers 63, and judges 65. Glassblowers, saloon-keepers, painters, grinders and weavers do not reach the average of 30, and the lowest average is shown in the lives of seamstresses—23 years.

Dr. Rudolph Meyer, a well known statistician and economist, has gathered facts and figures showing that the standard of life of the German nation has fallen below that of pauperized Ireland, where 1,300 pounds of potatoes are used per head of the population annually, while in Germany the quantity amounts to but 1,000 pounds per head. Furthermore, although the population increased in Saxony, the people in that highly developed little country have eaten 1,000,000 pounds of beef less in 1890 than in 1889, and the amount of pork used decreased more than 2,000,000 pounds during the same time. In the city of Chemnitz 575 horses were slaughtered and marketed in 1890, also the meat of 312 dogs! Indeed, capitalism is advancing rapidly in Germany toward the Chinese diet of cats' and rats' meat.

## AMERICAN.

A strike of all the Express Company's messengers from Chicago to New Orleans has begun.

Recent heavy rains have flooded the mines in the vicinity of Shamokin, Pa., and about 2,500 men are temporarily thrown out of work.

The cutters of Shillabar & Co., Lynn, Mass., have struck for a reduction in the amount of work required of them, from ninety pairs to eighty pairs per day.

Girls employed in a Harrison, N.J., electric lamp works making \$10 to \$12 a week have been dropped, and it is reported that the company has been training girls who will take their places at \$3.50 a week.

Frankel Bros., clothiers, Kansas City, Mo., opposed the early closing movement, and the clerks in other stores spent their evenings in keeping trade from them. The sheriff soon took possession, seeking security to the amount of \$50,000.

## EUROPEAN.

A majority of the Welsh coal miners are idle.

Two thousand of the Berlin printers who were engaged in the long strike have been unable either to secure reinstatement in their former positions or obtain employment elsewhere.

The bus drivers of Paris threaten to again inaugurate a general strike, owing to the fact, as they claim, that the company has not fulfilled the promises made at the time of the last general strike.

Last month the merchants at the Via Ventidue Marzo, in Venice, went on strike against the Venetian Electric Light Company by closing their stores in the evening because the company had raised its prices. The stores were closed two weeks when the merchants gave in to the company.

Before the British Commission on Labor Mr. J. Shaftoe, of the Bradford Woolcombers' Association, testified that, owing to the low rate of wages, nearly all the children of the laboring class in Yorkshire had to work as spinners when they become five years of age. He added that the distress in the textile industry was unprecedented; he and thousands like him had worked for a week not knowing what wages would be given them. It was as much as the workman's place was worth to ask what price he would receive for his work.

Our Winters Will Gradually Grow Milder.

A reverse of seasons is supposed to take place upon this earth once in every 10,500 years, due to the varying inclination of the earth's axis. About 1,500 years ago we entered the epoch of a more genial winter temperature, and if nothing happens to prevent, we may expect a gradual softening of our winter climate during the next 9,000 years, when another glacial epoch will begin. What sort of a country will this be in the year 11,500? Will it resemble Egypt, with remains of great buildings buried or sticking up out of the sand, and known to be more than 4,000 years old?

## Is Iron Rust a Cause of Fire?

When oxide of iron is placed in contact with timber excluded from the atmosphere, and aided by a slightly increased temperature, the oxide will part with its oxygen, and is converted into very finely divided particles metallic iron having such an affinity for oxygen that, when afterward exposed to the action of the atmosphere from any cause, oxygen is so rapidly absorbed that these particles become suddenly red hot, and if in sufficient quantity will produce a temperature far beyond the ignition point of dry timber. Wherever iron pipes are employed for the circulation of any heated medium, whether hot water, hot air, or steam, and the pipes allowed to become rusty, in close contact with timber, it is only necessary to suppose that under these circumstances the particles of metallic iron become exposed to the action of the atmosphere, and this may occur from the mere expansion or contraction of the pipes, in order to account for many of the fires which periodically take place at the commencement of the winter season.

## THE CANADA Sugar Refining Co. (LIMITED), MONTREAL.

Redpath



We are now putting up, expressly for family use, the finest quality of PURE SUGAR SYRUP not adulterated with Corn Syrup, in 2 lb. cans with moveable top. For Sale by all Grocers.

## JUBILEE DRUG HALL

1341 ST. CATHERINE ST. Branch: Corner Fullum and St. Catherine streets.

ROD. CARRIERE, TELEPHONES—6041, 6207.

## McRae &amp; Poulin, MERCHANT TAILORS.

Highland Costumes, Ladies' Mantles A SPECIALTY.

Our Garments are Artistically Cut in the Latest Styles.

PERFECT FIT GUARANTEED.

2242 Notre Dame Street MONTREAL.

## THE DOMINION

CUSTOM MADE PANTS. \$3 TO ORDER. Imported Goods Inspection invited

The Dominion Pants Co., 364 St. James St. Montreal.

A. L. BRAULT MERCHANT TAILOR, 53 BLEURY STREET, MONTREAL.

## ADVERTISERS.

It will pay you to advertise in THE ECHO. It circulates extensively in the homes of the most intelligent workingmen in the City of Montreal and other Towns and Cities throughout the Dominion.