DOMINION NEWS.

A Record of the Week's Events in Canada.

ONTARIO.

Toronto postmen delivered 116,526 letters and 38,620 newspapers last week.

Property valued at a million and a half is exempted from taxation in the Limestone City.

The supporters of the Government in the House number 141. The strength of the Opposition is 68.

Requisitions are in circulation in Ottawa for the extension of the hour of closing saloons on Saturdays till 11 p.m.

The tender of E. Cronk, for the carriage of the mails between the Grand Trunk and Belleville post-office, has been accepted.

A petition has been filed in the Court of Appeal against the return of Mr. Hammill, the Conservative member-elect, for Cardwell.

An incipient fire was discovered on Monday in the Speaker's apartments at Ottawa. It was extinguished by Mr. Kirkpatrick before doing much damage.

George Hutchinson, formerly an engine-driver of Hamilton, has been killed in an accident at Denver, Col. His father was notified by telegraph.

John Duck, of the Humber, and his wife have recovered $1,385 damages from the corporation of Toronto for injuries sustained by falling into an open drain.

J. H. McFaul, Inspector of Public Schools in St. Catharines, has tendered his resignation, which has been accepted. It is reported that he has secured a position in Toronto.

Dr. Holmes, of Brussels, was recently elected by acclamation treasurer for the county of Huron in place of Hon. A. M. Ross, who resigned to act as provincial treasurer.

At a meeting of the County Council of York, held in Toronto last week, a motion to abolish toll-gates on all county roads at as early a date as possible was defeated by 27 to 11.

James Fitzgibbon at the police court in Kingston gave as a reason for getting drunk that he was afraid to drink water, it being full of tadpoles. This excuse got him dismissed.

Conductor Barber was arraigned at the York Criminal Assizes on Friday for manslaughter in connection with the recent railway disaster near the Humber, and acquitted.

The following have been elected to form the Council of Assiginack, District of Algoma:—Reeve, George McDonald. Councillors, John T. Charlton, Alex. Ballantine, Donald L. Clark, W. R. Smith.

The inquest on Susie Gibbs was resumed at the Humber on the 24th, but no new evidence was brought forward, and consequently the authorities are still in the dark as to the perpetrator of the murder.

Thursday and Friday of last week were the two coldest days of the season, in some places in Ontario the mercury registering 32 degrees below zero, while Uxbridge is reported to have dropped down to 42.

The Limestone City is excited over the discovery of tadpoles in the water supplied to the citizens. The manager, however, stoutly maintains that Kingston water is the second best in the Dominion.

During 1882 the total number of acres of Dominion public lands sold was 639,308, the purchasers numbering 3,784. The total amount of cash received was $1,416,206, and $39,287 in scrip; the average per acre being $2.28.

The following gentlemen were recently elected to fill the vacancies in Mitchell town council caused by resignations:—North ward, A. Dent and F. Goebel; South ward, Thos. McClay; West ward, Thos. Heal, all by acclamation.

Two Kingston boys, thirteen years of age, who left the Limestone City a few days ago to seek their fortunes, having been inspired by the perusal of "Peck's Bad Boy," have had their youthful aspirations nipped in the bud by being arrested in Oswego for vagrancy.

Mr. Monk (Carleton) has been appointed Conservative whip; a most satisfactory choice of a man for a very delicate and responsible office. The whips on both sides (Mr. Freeman is, we believe, the Ministerial officer) have a good deal to do, and have many calls on their time, temper, and tact.

The Attorney-General was waited upon on Saturday by a deputation from the Chief Constables' Association, consisting of the chief constables of Hamilton, London, Middlesex, Kent, and Simcoe, with reference to the administration of justice in rural municipalities, and asking that the rural constabulary be placed upon a more satisfactory footing.

The man who has served his town for the greater part of a lifetime deserves well of it. During the past thirty years Mr. Lowry, ex-Mayor of Sarnia, has been honoured by his fellow-townsmen with nearly all the positions in their gift, from councillor up. As a tribute from his friends an oil painting of himself, by a well-known local artist, is to be placed in the Sarnia Council chamber.

The Weekes perjury case was resumed in London on Saturday, when County Constable Hodge stated that he had the previous day been instructed by County Crown Attorney Hutchinson to note down his evidence. Notwithstanding that he acted upon such advice his evidence did not stand the rigid cross-examination of Mr. Meredith. The case was again enlarged until Saturday.

Mr. Robert Cox has disposed of his farm of 125 acres in concession 2, lot 4, in the township of Markham, to Mr. Robinson, of Aurora, for the sum of $8,500. Mr. Cox, having purchased a beautifully situated building-lot from Mr. Archibald Gallanough, intends to live a retired life in the village of Thornhill. Mr. Cox will without doubt be a great acquisition to our village.

Captain Larkin, ex-mayor of St. Catharines, has received a letter from a friend in Battle City, Montana, stating that a man named Shaw has recently been taken in charge by the authorities there as a lunatic. Shaw at times mentions the names of St. Catharines people, and it is thought he probably at one time resided there. He also speaks of a brother-in-law named Fisher Monro.

The Minister of Agriculture has notified the secretary of the Ontario Agricultural and Arts Association that the following gentlemen have been elected members of the council of that association for the next three years:—Division No. 9, Mr. Henry Parker, Woodstock; No. 10, Mr. Hugh Reid, township of Sydenham, Owen Sound; Mr. L. E. Shipley, Greystead; Mr. Stephen White, Chatham; and Mr. Charles Drury, M.P.P., Crown Hill.

The election of Mr. James Bennett as reeve of the township of Metcalfe is to be contested by a man named Moyle, on the ground that at the last West Middlesex election trial he was disqualified from candidature for any municipal office. A summons in the nature of a writ of *quo warranto* was granted on Monday at Osgoode hall by the Master in Chambers, which will probably be argued next week. Moyle does not claim the seat.

The election of Mr. Thomas Thompson, as reeve of Holland Landing, has been avoided, and a new election will necessarily be held. *Quo warranto* proceedings were initiated at the instance of Mr. McClure on the ground that he had not the necessary qualification, and in answer, he filed a disclaimer, withdrawing his right to the seat. Costs have been awarded in favour of Mr. McClure, because Mr. Thompson assented to his nomination.

The adjourned meeting in Adolphustown for the purpose of considering the subject of a local U. E. L. celebration was held on the 23rd inst. The attendance was good. A committee was appointed to carry out the object of the meeting. The committee was also instructed to consider the matter of a public monument and of restoring the old U. E. L. cemetery. The Governments were to be asked for a grant. Parker Allen, Esq., occupied the chair. The weather was too unfavourable for many friends from a distance to attend.

It is greatly to be regretted personal feeling and malice should be allowed to enter into political matters. This seems to be the case in Lennox. Beaten in their attempt to unseat Mr. Roe, the Grits there should have accepted their defeat manfully, unless they intended appealing to a higher court. Realizing, however, the utter folly of further effort in that direction, they are now meanly trying to injure him in another way, by seeking to have him dismissed from the position of County Clerk.

Quo warranto proceedings were initiated in Toronto on Saturday at Osgoode Hall on behalf of Dr. Freeman against the return of Mr. John White as reeve of the Town of Milton. Dr. Freeman shows that Mr. White is a surety for the County Treasurer, and is therefore a contractor with the County Council. As reeve, he is *ex officio* a member of the County Council, and consequently he is disqualified, the law being that no contractor with a council can hold office in that council. Dr. Freeman claims the seat. A summons was granted by Mr. Dalton to commence the proceedings, and the argument will probably take place next week.

Mr. R. S. McKenzie, a boat captain of Ottawa, has just received intelligence of the sad end of one of his nephews, who was fatally shot in a Michigan shanty about the 10th instant. William McCormick, of North Nation, about forty miles down the Ottawa river, is the name of the unfortunate man. The body arrived home early last Sunday morning, and was accompanied by a brother of the deceased, who had also been employed in the shanties of Michigan. McCormick was foreman of a gang of about 200. During a quarrel one of the employés pulled a revolver and shot him in the right breast. He lived four days afterwards. He was about 35 years of age. His father and mother are living.

Mr. John Argue, caretaker of the City Hall, Toronto, or deputy-mayor, as sometimes called, died on Saturday afternoon. Mr. Argue had reached an advanced age, but was able to attend to his duties, although feeble, until a few days ago, when he fainted in one of the offices, and was carried to his room. At times he rallied, and it seemed as if he would once more recover, but on Saturday morning he fell into a deep sleep, and passed quietly away. He had no particular complaint except old age. He had been for thirty-three years in the City Hall, and was a peculiar man in some respects. He was of great service in preventing the mayors from being imposed upon by seekers after help, as they were all well-known to him and he was able to pick out the deserving cases. He was of frugal habits, and thereby became possessed of considerable property.

Gazette Notices.

OTTAWA, Jan. 25.—The *Canada Gazette* to-morrow will contain the appointment of Hon. Mr. Mousseau as a judge of the Superior Court of Quebec, *vice* Alleyn, deceased.

Two orders of the Superior Court at Quebec are published, ordering a meeting of shareholders of the Exchange Bank on the 4th of February to replace as liquidators Hon. A. W. Ogilvie and E. K. Greene, resigned.

Again Triumphant.

CHATHAM, Jan. 29.—West Kent election for the House of Commons took place to-day, and was the hottest contest ever known in this constituency. Both parties worked hard for their respective candidates. Mr. Smyth, Conservative, is elected by 312 majority, with one division in Romney to hear from. The Conservatives had a large torchlight procession through the town, which halted at the Rankin house, where the assembled crowd was addressed by the member-elect, Mr. Clancy, M.P.P., and others.

Assessment of Farm Property.

The London division Grange have adopted the following resolution:—"That it is the opinion of this grange that every farmer whose farm consists of not less than twenty acres should have the same assessed according to its natural fertility and location. The necessary dwelling-house and other farm buildings should not be assessed, and cattle and other stock raised on the farm should be free, as well as all kinds of grain. Any improvements, such as fencing, draining, orchards, ornamental trees and shrubs, should not cause the assessor to levy a higher rate than on a farm of natural fertility without these improvements.

North Ontario Election

UXBRIDGE, Jan. 30.—The court for the trial of the above case resumed it sittings today, when several witnesses were examined, who gave testimony damaging to the respondent, Mr. Gould, Reform member elect. Wm. Kyle testified that one Patterson, storekeeper in Port Perry, had promised witness' wife a new dress if she would induce him to vote for Gould. Wm. Thorn's evidence was to the effect that Sharrard, one of Gould's supporters, supplied liquor freely to voters. Orders were obtained from the court to procure the attendance of witnesses who were evading the trial, and the further hearing was remanded until to-morrow.

Mr. Paxton Banqueted and Presented with $500 by His Friends.

PORT PERRY, Jan. 26.—A demonstration took place here last evening in honour to Thomas Paxton, who previous to accepting the shrievalty of the County of Ontario had represented North Ontario in the Local Legislature, and had been identified with the progress of the county for many years. On account of the railway blockade and condition of the roads comparatively few from a distance were present, but about a hundred and fifty gentlemen from all parts of the riding and South Ontario faced and overcame these obstacles, completely filling the tables, which were spread in the Town hall.

Provincial Appointments.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has been pleased to make the following appointments, viz:—

John Cowan, of the town of Sarnia, in the county of Lambton, esquire, barrister-at-law, and Albert Edward Barber, of the town of Cobourg, in the county of Northumberland, one of the united counties of Northumberland and Durham, gentleman, solicitor, to be notaries public in and for the province of Ontario.

Peter McLean, of the township of Brooke, in the county of Lambton, to be bailiff of the Ninth Division Court of the said county of Lambton, in the room and stead of Thomas Cahill, resigned.

Famine Imminent.

W. H. Rorison, Reeve of North Crosby, says that many settlers in the rear townships of Frontenac and Addington are in danger of starving, being unable to obtain provisions in consequence of the stoppage of the trains, the snow having closed the northern portion of the line. In Kingston no business is being done, as farmers cannot get in from the country, and merchants are complaining bitterly. Wood is getting scarcer, some large dealers not having a cord of hardwood. It has gone up one dollar per cord. Peter McLaren has telegraphed to Kingston that unless he can get his provisions out he will be obliged to close down his shanties. Such a state of affairs never existed in that locality before.

Narrow Escape from a Terrible Fate.

FORT ERIE, Jan. 23.—Yesterday the reeve of Fort Erie had a very narrow escape on the railway. He was crossing the track with Mr. Miller, and before he did so he says he looked both up and down the track and saw nothing on the line in either direction. The reeve has a wooden leg and is unusually cautious in crossing railway tracks. When he got half way across, Mr. Miller drew his attention to an engine coming very fast down the track quite noiselessly. At this time it was but a few yards from them. Miller shouted and jumped. Mr. Forsyth was afraid of falling, as the track was very slippery, and his first thought was to jump on to the cow-catcher. Quick as thought he secured a footing for his false foot and sprang as well as he could over the track. The engine grazed his coat but did him no harm. When he got into the car he realised the narrow escape he had experienced and had to summons all his courage to prevent succumbing to the shock he had experienced. The reeve says he has faced death in very many forms but never had such a near call as this just experienced.

A New Salt Field.

PARKHILL, Jan. 26.—About six weeks ago a company was organized under the name of "The Parkhill Salt Works." The directors immediately entered into a contract with Mr. Wm. McKenzie, of Oil Spring, formerly of this village, who commenced boring about four weeks ago, and this evening struck salt at the depth of eleven hundred feet. It is said that no well in Canada of the same depth was ever put down in so short a time. No mishap of any kind has occurred since its commencement, which speaks well of the skill and tact of the contractor. The salt is considered the very best.

Insane Through Religion.

A young woman named Mary Gilchrist was handed over to the Toronto police on Monday as labouring under insanity and dangerous to be at large. For some time past she has worked at 15 Grenville street as a general servant. Her actions had recently become so peculiar as to raise the suspicions of her employer that her mind was not altogether right. He accordingly called in Dr. Moorehouse, who on seeing the young woman immediately pronounced her insane, and ordered her removal to safe quarters. The cause of the trouble seems to be religious mania. The friends and relations of the unfortunate girl reside in the county of Bruce, and will be notified of the misfortune which has befallen her.

Important Division Court Judgment.

Judge McDougall has given judgment in a Division Court case which came before him a few days ago which is of considerable interest to the general public. The American Express Company sued Messrs. Eby, Blain & Co. for $66. This amount was paid by the plaintiffs as the duty and other charges on a quantity of goods conveyed by them for the defendants from Toronto to Buffalo. As the duty amounted to more than the price of the goods the party to whom they were consigned refused to accept them. Eby, Blain & Co. declined to reimburse the company for what they had paid as duty as they had not directed them to pay it. His Honour decided that all charges and expenses paid by an express company in forwarding goods, such as duty, etc., even without the authority of the shipper, must be paid by him. He therefore entered judgment in favour of the express company.

Heavy Lumber Failure.

During the past few days business men and others interested in the lumber trade have been agitated concerning reports regarding the solvency of two large companies, and as recent events proved there was some grounds for their agitation. The American Lumber Company, operating largely in Michigan, assigned a few days ago, and fears are entertained that the British Canadian Lumber Company will be seriously affected by the assignment referred to. The two companies were partically under the same management, the stockholders of the British Canadian, however, being chiefly residents of Great Britain, many of whom, it is alleged are dissatisfied with the management of the concern. Some persons anticipate an early restoration to activity of the American company, claiming that the present trouble was not caused by lack of funds but through a dispute about the extent of the timber limits of the company.

The Rightful Heir.

An interesting case, placed on the list to be heard at the present sittings of the York Civil Assizes, was settled on Tuesday. It was an action brought by Edward J. Morrison, a lad eighteen years of age, to obtain possession of a piece of land on Robert street, in this city. The land was willed to the plaintiff's father by his grandfather. The plaintiff's father died many years ago, and neither having left a will, it was not known that the plaintiff was heir to the property in question. About ten years ago the defendant in the action, Robert Morrison, who is an uncle of the plaintiff's, squatted on the property, claiming it as his own. He erected a house thereon, and made a number of improvements. A short time since, however, the plaintiff learned that he was the rightful owner of the property. He placed his case in the hands of Messrs. Bigelow and Morson, who, on the defendant refusing to give up the property, brought an action to obtain possession of it. After the case had been entered in the courts, however, the defendant showed signs of giving up possession, and finally agreed to do so, and the affair was settled yesterday by the plaintiff allowing the defendant $350 for the improvements made on the property.

Interesting Legal Proceedings Involving Forgery—An M.P.P. in the Case.

From the Palmerston Telegraph.

DRAYTON.—Never since the trial of the Kilpatrick forgery cases has there been so large a crowd at the Division Court here, as was on the 15th inst. to hear the case in which R. McKim, M.P.P. was interested. His Honour Judge Drew presided. The deep interest seemed centered in the Hockney case, particulars of which are as follows:—The Bank of Commerce, at Guelph, sued Mr. Hockney, a Peel farmer, on a balance of $200 on a $250 note, said to have been signed a couple of years ago, by defendant Hockney, who is a "marksman." To prove their claim the plaintiffs put in the box Wm. McKim, who swore to seeing defendant sign the note, but could not say where the transaction took place. R. McKim, who was present giving the bank all the assistance in his power, gave some rebuttal evidence, which was objected to by Mr. Jacob, counsel for defendant.

In defence, Mr. Hockney swore emphatically that he never signed any note for McKim for $250 at any time, but admitted having given liberty to use his name in Elora to the extent of $500 last August, which sum he this winter paid, but even then signed no paper of any kind. It was not shown how McKim got this money without the defendant's signature.

His Honour reserved decision till last Saturday, when he gave judgment in Guelph in favour of Mr. Hockney.

This decision will be received with much favour by the public, as Mr. Hockney, like others who might be named, has already been a victim to misplaced confidence in a large sum, as above stated.

Successful Candidates for Civil Service Examinations.

List of candidates who passed the preliminary examinations at the Civil Service examination in Toronto last November:—Dawkins, J. B.; Howse, Wm. Henry; Langstone, Wm. Henry; Mundy, Wm.; Meredith, Wm. Edward; Swait, C. E.; Humphrey, Wm. Henry; Reid, Samuel; Winters, Chas. A.; Douglas, John; Bracken, Wm. John; Beers, Jas. Richard; Clancy, Hugh P.; Campbell, Ernest; Coohran, Fred. S.; Eden, Wm.; Fleming, J.; Fitzhenry, Thos.; Guinane, Jos.; Griffith, Wm. N.; Haycock, Thos.; Harris, Henry James; Ingram, John A.; Klippert, Adam E.; Kirkpatrick, Andrew; Kennersley, Joseph; McGill, Alex.; McRae, Edgar; Ruttan, J. W.; Spencer, Edward; Thompson, Hedley Vicars; Westmass, Thos.; Woodcock, Wm. B.; Philp, Fred.; Pollock, Geo.; McCann, Wm. John.

Qualifying Examination—Baldwin, Louisa M.; Boddy, Jas. S.; Briggs, James Robert; Bingeman, John S.; Booth, Geo.; Corcoran, John; Campbell, Alex.; Dwyer, Henry Alexander.; Durham, Robt.; Dillon, Richard; Flynn, Jas. P.; Gould, Thomas D.; Gray, Samuel; Jarvis, Julia E.; Murchison, Dalton; Mitchell, Geo.; Mathews, W. C.; McLeay, John A.; Noble, Thos. A.; Robb, Alex.; Smith, John S.; Siegmann, L. Phillip; Sanderson, Wm.; Sweetnam, Geo. B.; Smith, Jas. Allison; Saunders, Samuel J.; Stoddart, Jas.; Smith, Chas. E.; Swan, W. H.; Simpson, Geo.; Symons, Alfred; Sparks, Walter; Thompson, Wm. John; Thompson, John W.; Thompson, Wm. W.; Black, Thos.; Priest, G. W.; O'Farrel, John; Somerville, Chas.; Lamont, Robert.

Optional subjects—Mathews, W. C., précis; McLeasy, John A., précis; Sweetnam, Geo. B., précis; Priest, G. W., précis; Gurnett, T. B., shorthand.

The following passed at London:—Preliminary—Alcock, Jas.; Markle, Albert; Letonturier, Francis; Collier, Geo. B.; Dawson, Jas. H. B.; Findlater, Wm. F. W.; Land, Allen; McVicar, Wm. W.; Prince, Octavius; McMullen, D. C.

Qualifying—Berry, H. L.; Brown, James; Carrothers, Arthur; Devinney, Francis J.; Forester, James H.; Hutchinson, Frederick; Hughes, Richard A.; Hume, Herbert E.; Mollard, John Thomas; Softly, Edward; Johnson, John M.

Optional—Hutchinson, Frederick J., bookkeeping and précis; Hume, Herbert E., bookkeeping and précis.

The following passed at Belleville:—

Preliminary—Charles, J. H.; James, Hy.

Qualifying—Cook, J. E.; Lazier, S. W.; Lefebvre, Moise.

Optional—Solmes, Richard; Lefebvre, Moise, composition.

The two brothers Stephenson, convicted and sentenced to death for the murder of McCarthy at Regina, have been reprieved to the 14th of February next.

QUEBEC.

The health of the Lieut.-Governor is improving.

There is a rumour that Mr. A. O. Desilets, notary of Beauncourt, will replace the late Hon. Mr. Proulx in the Legislative Council.

The new License Act is having a wholesome effect in Montreal, the number of licenses there having been reduced from nearly three hundred to considerably less than half that number.

A petition to Parliament praying for an Act for the equitable distribution of insolvent assets has been signed by all the bank officials, commercial bodies, and leading business men of Montreal.

Le Canadien, of Quebec, says:—"The whole press congratulates M. Mousseau on his elevation to the judicial bench. In him the judiciary and the bar of Rimouski will have a judge of very great worth."

A native of Quebec named Govette died in British Columbia leaving about $21,000 among his three brothers. Two of the legatees are suing Odillon Goyette, the third legatee, for $7,000 which he has failed to pay over to them.

An epidemic of virulent typhoid fever has necessitated the closing of all the educational colleges, schools, and convents in St. Hyacinthe, a flourishing manufacturing town in Quebec. Five of the devoted sisters attending the hospital there have succumbed to the disease, and several more are said to be dangerously ill. The fatal malady is reported to be extended through the place, and much alarm is felt in consequence.

A strange action for damages has been entered in Montreal against the Union Bank. A broker in the city wished to send a hundred dollars to his lawyer in Quebec in haste. He deposited the money in the bank mentioned and paid extra charges for transmitting the amount by telegraph. The lawyer was not paid, the bank retaining it on the alleged ground that he was a debtor to the bank. The plaintiff had to remit the amount over again, but by a different bank, and now sues for breach of contract. It is certainly a novel case.

Liberal Nomination to Oppose the Attorney-General.

MONTREAL, Jan. 29.—Hon. Mr. Mercier has been nominated to stand in the Liberal interest in the eastern division here against the new Attorney-General, Mr. Taillon. At a late hour last night it was reported that he had placed himself at the service of what is called the party, for he is desirous of rehabilitating himself in the opinion of the old Stalwart Grits represented by Senator Thibaudeau and others.

A Corpse Consumed in a Burning House—Probable Death of an Inmate.

PLANTAGENET, C. Jan. 25.—A terrible affair occurred in the village of Curran this evening. Mrs. Beauline, wife of Isidore Beauline, merchant, died last night, and