

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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14 cases of diphtheria are reported from Windsor.

The Dominion Parliament is prorogued to 14th January.

Sir Adolphe Caron has been well and heartily entertained in British Columbia.

30,000 tons of coal, belonging to the G. T. R. on the docks at Sarnia, are on fire, and likely to be destroyed.

Twelve cargoes of potatoes, aggregating 55,000 bushels, have been shipped from Canning to American ports.

Major Richards, of the Imperial Army, has submitted a new system of target practice to the Militia Department at Ottawa.

The English Mail Train from Halifax, on Monday, made the run to Montreal, 700 miles, in 20h. 15m., the shortest time on record.

Manitoba wants \$60,000 from the Dominion Government for affording accommodation to Northwest lunatics in Manitoba Asylums.

The system of apportioning to customs officers a share of the fines inflicted for undervaluation, has been abolished—none too soon.

The largest output of coal ever made at any mine in Nova Scotia in a single day, was 2,683 tons at Springhill Mines last Wednesday week.

Traffic on the I. C. R. is steadily increasing. It largely exceeds, for the first five months of the current fiscal year, the similar period of 1886.

The Winnipeg Board of Trade has been asked by an English firm why straw was not exported to Great Britain for the purpose of making paper.

M. Lamothe, Governor of St. Pierre and Miquelon, arrived at Halifax the day before yesterday, and left for New York, en route to France, in the afternoon.

The clerks who sort the Ocean mails on board the steamers, are to be abolished. One or two will be superannuated, the others will find billets on shore.

The Montreal *Witness* complains, apparently with justice, that the inquest on the late precipitation of a C. P. R. train into the Lachine Canal was not sufficiently searching.

The Canso fishermen have been reaping a rich harvest the last few weeks. 500 quintals were caught in one day by about 60 boats. Yankee poachers are making great hauls.

Major Howland, of Toronto, has flattered the ward politicians of that city, by producing a list of payments to Aldermen and ex-Aldermen in former years by a hose manufacturing firm.

A project is in course of discussion between the Imperial Government and that of British Columbia, to settle 1250 Highland Crofters in Vancouver Island, but there is a hitch as to terms.

Natural gas has been discovered in Gloucester township, 12 miles from Ottawa, and a company has been formed to supply that city with it for lighting, heating, and manufacturing purposes.

A portion of the fine Lunatic Asylum at London, Ont., was burned last week. The kitchen, laundry and bakehouse were destroyed, but the main building escaped. Loss, \$24,000, well insured.

A fire broke out in the cage pit, Albion Mines, last week, but the damage is said not to be great, and nothing serious was apprehended. A further report, however, expresses fear that it will have to be abandoned.

Mr. Kamper, the representative of the syndicate which proposes to buy up the I. C. R., and establish great iron works in Nova Scotia, will spend the coming session of Parliament in Ottawa, in furtherance of the scheme.

Taking the first three months of the fiscal year the export trade of Canada shows a remarkable increase, the total being \$30,808,623 as compared with \$28,254,000 for the same period last year, being an increase of \$2,554,090.

The new mounted police riding school at the barracks at Winnipeg, was totally destroyed by fire on Friday. The band instruments were ruined by the conflagration. The riding school was erected only last year at a cost of forty thousand dollars.

Vice-President Van Horne, of the Canadian Pacific, in an interview at Winnipeg, Dec. 5, said the running time from Montreal to Vancouver will soon be reduced to four days, as against six now. The wharfage capacity of the road at Vancouver will be doubled.

Fifty tons of smelts were to be seen last week in one lot at Buctouche, Kent Co., N. B. The *Moncton Times* says "that two men, with nets, made \$100 in one day, and that good wages are being steadily made during the fishing season. Prices last week ranged from 1c. to 2c per lb."

Says the *St. John Globe*:—A prominent English divine with whom the church-wardens of St. John's church have been in correspondence lately, with a view of obtaining a successor for Rev. George M. Armstrong, writes that he had spoken to four or five clergymen, and they were all afraid to come to Canada, believing that the climate would be too rigorous for their health. This mistake is doubtless caused by the frequency with which Canadian winter scenes are depicted in the English and Canadian illustrated magazines and papers.

The attempt to unseat Sir Jno. Macdonald is said to be likely to fail.

The Montreal harbor receipts, at the close of navigation, show an increase over last year's of \$18,146. The number of vessels increased 64, with a larger tonnage of 61,074, wholly in steamships. There was an increase of \$157,081 in customs, but a decrease in excise of \$1,791.

A terrible accident occurred at Stellarton, on Monday morning. Engine No. 170 exploded. W. Eastwood and D. Robertson, section foreman, and A. Fraser, foreman of machinists, were instantly killed, and A. Murray, fire man, was seriously injured. Great remissness in the inspection of boilers is evidently chargeable to the Railway authorities.

A miserly old farmer living near Newport, Me., has been robbed of \$32,000 which he had hoarded in his house. What else could he expect?

Potatoes have begun to arrive in New York in large quantities from Germany. Thousands of sacks are received by every steamer, and command \$1.75 per sack.

The N. Y. press has a story of a New Brunswick shipowner, who proposes to build a yacht to compete with the *Volunteer*, and to call it by the detestable name of the *Bluenose*. It is probably a Yankee yarn.

Nothing is more singular than the immediate recurrence of unusual catastrophes. Another railway engine boiler has exploded at Haak's Switch, Pa., killing three men and injuring two, it is thought, fatally.

An enormous moose has been killed in Maine. It was thought for 5 days, into Canada and back again. It measured 9 feet from base of horns to tip of tail, stood 22 hands high, girth 9 ft. 4 in. The horns spread 4 ft.

Lead was being bought up rapidly in New York the day before yesterday, by a French syndicate, at an advance of \$1.00 per 100 lbs. over last week's rates. It is suspected France wants lead and copper with a view to war.

Atlanta, Ga., has reverted to high-license from prohibition, which does not seem to have answered well. Moderate persons advocate a consensus of conservatives of both parties to throw round the retail liquor traffic all reasonable restraints.

The N. Y. *Daily News*, the organ of the laboring classes, says that 50,000 skilled workers, of both sexes, are out of employment in that city, and that, including laborers and persons who live by odd jobs, it is believed there are 100,000 unable to obtain employment.

Mr. Chamberlain is being considerably lionized by Washington society, and, being supposed to have the finest collection of orchids in England, was entertained, as a special compliment, at an "orchid" dinner by Messrs. Putnam and Angell, two of the American Commissioners.

The President's message to Congress, which opened on Monday, is a very important document. It advocates a reduction of revenue to obviate a treasury surplus of \$140,000,000 in June, reductions in the tariff on protected articles, and the free admission of raw materials.

The Maine Central is taken precautions against snow blockades this winter by constructing snow fences along the road, in the cuts and clearings, where huge drifts are always piled up in heavy storms. The fences are eight feet high, and miles of these have been built the past season.

One Stephen Bailey, of Columbia, S. C., butchered his wife a week ago, and cremated her in a furnace. This hoary ruffian, who is 70 years of age, confessed, on his arrest, to have murdered his two previous wives also, one with a club, and the other with a brick. He evinced no repentance.

The State of Iowa contemplates legalizing courts of arbitration for the settlement of disputes, to obviate recourse to the law courts unless the arbitration fails. The promotion of the principle of arbitration, whether for national or private disputes, is an undoubted advance in civilization.

Experiments with the incandescent electric light, made at the torpedo station at Newport, develop a novel use, and one that promises to be of value in naval warfare. With lamps of 100 candle power fastened to poles submerged in the sea to a depth of twenty feet, the water is illuminated within a radius of 150 feet. There is little or no glare from the submerged light to betray the presence of the boat using the spars.

If there is a shadow of truth in the following paragraph, it is a foul blot on the vaunted escutcheon of respect for women the United States are supposed to uphold:—A special from Indianapolis says:—"Gov. Gray has made a private investigation into the charges of cruelty in the Woman's State Reformatory. He found that girls were tied up by the wrists, or handcuffed and whipped brutally on their bare backs. Attempts at bribery were discovered. Whispers of deeper scandals are circulated. The Governor recommends a change of punishment by solitary confinement instead of flogging."

The "Fair Trade" agitation in England seems to be gaining strength.

The death is reported of the Rt. Rev. John Power, R. C. Bishop of Waterford and Lismore.

China, discerning difficulties in the future in getting tribute from Corea, has declared that country independent.

The accounts of the Crown Prince of Germany are, just now, more hopeful. His voice is gaining strength.

It is satisfactory to note the report that M. Flourens is expected to retain the portfolio of Foreign Affairs in the French Government.

The Catholic church has sustained the loss, by death, of the Most Rev. Dan. McGettigar, Archbishop of the R. C. Diocese of Armagh, and R. C. Primate of all Ireland.