

General News.

CANADIAN.

The Western Fair opened at London on the 22nd with the prospect of eclipsing every previous Exhibition held in that city.

The Provincial Exhibition virtually opened at Ottawa on the 23rd. There was a large attendance for one of the early days of the Fair, and it is expected the extra attractions during the week will draw still bigger crowds.

A heavy squall in the nature of a cyclone, suddenly struck Quebec from the north-west last week, doing a large amount of damage in an incredibly short space of time. It spent its force chiefly on the upper parts of the city, where it unroofed a number of buildings, blew down old walls and trees, filled the air with flying debris, and almost lifted people from their feet in the streets. It lasted in all but five minutes.

William Wright, of Pellam, walked off the canal bank at Welland last Friday night and was drowned. His body was recovered shortly afterwards. He is said to have been under the influence of liquor.

Mrs. J. B. Morratt, an old lady, was found dead near her home at West Winchester on Saturday. The husband, who is over 70 years of age, is suspected of causing her death.

As the freight train leaving for the north about 4 p. m. was passing Russell's siding on Saturday, the engine ran into the siding, the balance of the train keeping the main line. The fireman was instantly killed and the engineer slightly injured. The engine and five cars were made a complete wreck and the track badly torn up.

A new cottage for the accommodation of acute patients was opened at the asylum for the insane at Hamilton on the 23rd, Mr. J. M. Gibson, M. P. P., and others being present. The cottage will accommodate sixty patients.

A dispute ending in a fight occurred last week at Nilestown, and one of the men, Rufus Eldridge, was stabbed to the heart and killed. The party who is supposed to have stabbed him is a Frenchman named L'Anceite. Another young man named Nelly was also stabbed about the body, but may recover. Eldridge's half-brother, Mr. Stevens, is supposed to have stabbed Nelly. All the parties were arrested.

FIRES.—A disastrous fire occurred at Welland on the 19th. The barn belonging to the Fraser House was totally destroyed, also a fine black team belonging to Mr. McCrimmon, valued at \$350.—The flour mill belonging to Isaac P. Gould, M. P. P., of Uxbridge, took fire on the morning of the 18th. They were completely burned down. The loss is about \$5,000, and is fully insured.—A fire broke out in P. Madden's planing mill, Orillia, on the 18th, which soon enveloped the whole building in flames. A dwelling-house adjoining caught fire, and from there it spread to the old lumber mill the property of the Floss Lumbering Co., and in about half an hour \$8,000 worth of property was swept away.—On the 19th, a fire broke out in the north-east corner of J. McGregor & Son's boiler works on Sandwich-street, Windsor, and the flames rapidly spread over the entire works, the Essex Flour Mills, which were about twenty feet below the boiler works soon took fire and in a short time both the boiler works and mill were burned to the ground. The loss on the mills and boiler works is estimated at about \$75,000.—One of the most destructive fires that has ever occurred in that neighbourhood took place Saturday afternoon in London East, in the Great Western car shops. Three immense buildings covering five or six acres were completely destroyed and a vast amount of material also. The loss is variously estimated at between \$150,000 and 200,000. Between 350 and 400 men are thrown out of work.—The Canada piano factory, outside Montreal was burned Tuesday night, the loss being six or seven thousand dollars, with insurance in the Northern of three thousand dollars.

UNITED STATES.

Farmers are suffering serious losses in Pennsylvania on account of the protracted drought. The drought in the western part of Washington county is so bad that the cattle are dying, and sheep have perished in large numbers.

Continued wet weather in Minnesota and Dakota threatens to damage the wheat crop considerably.

Gold and silver have been discovered in Murray Co., Ga. Experts say the mines are among the richest yet discovered. People are flocking there.

Forest fires, which have been burning for a week, are causing much alarm in the villages of Ballston and Pleasant Mills, on the borders of Atlantic and Burlington counties, New Jersey.

It is said that the Phillip oil well, at Titusville, Pa., attained its highest production on Tuesday, the well being the largest ever opened. It is estimated that it will produce nearly 100,000 barrels before another well in the neighborhood reaches sand.

"2. A prominent citizen of one place of 6,000 population said to me yesterday: 'There is not over one-twentieth of the liquor sold in Kansas that was sold before the amendment was passed. You never see it anywhere. There are no saloons to tempt the young, and no bars where young men learn to be drunkards. More than this, the settlers coming into our State are increasing in favor of temperance and against liquor, so that public sentiment is constantly growing in that direction.'

"3. A man gave an instance of the vigor with which the law is enforced. Said he: 'One night I was in a barber-shop and listened to the conversation. One man said to another: "I had a good drunk on bay-rum last week. Could not get anything else with liquor in it; but I bought a bottle of bay-rum and got drunk." Another man said: "I bought six bottles of lemon extract and drank 'em all. It made me drunk, and put me to sleep so hard that my folks were afraid I wouldn't wake up again, but I did.'" Now that looks as if the liquor law was enforced in Kansas, does it not?'

"4. I met only one man who said: 'Temperance legislation is making drunkards all over Kansas. It has made private bars in houses, so that people do not know what their boys are getting when they visit next door. I asked this man for his name and address; and was informed afterward that he was not a competent witness, as his character was not worthy. The gentleman who so informed me said: 'I know the village and I know the man. He cannot name any person in this town who dares to sell liquor. And if any parent finds that liquor has been given to his children he can have the giver thoroughly punished for it.'

"5. Two years ago (and more than a year after the amendment went into operation) I saw open saloons in Lawrence, and in Topeka, the State capital, a city of 24,000 population. To day you can go through those cities and not find a saloon-keeper's sign; not even a keg of lager in front of the door to suggest the business within. In riding through Missouri the saloons are the most prominent objects in the landscapes around the railway station, and in front of the great union depot of Kansas City (which it may be needful to say is in Missouri) there is a solid block of liquor shops. But when the traveller crosses the invisible line and enters Kansas he sees at once a different picture—quiet, cozy villages, little hamlets of one-story cottages, but not a saloon among them. That the law against liquor-selling is violated in secret, there is no doubt, just as laws against stealing and murder are violated. But it is enforced as thoroughly as any other statute, and in ninety-nine out of every hundred towns in Kansas it is supported by a strong and growing public sentiment."—*Rescue*.

"The State has made a good growth during the past five years, and continues to grow. People are coming to the State by scores every day. Families of intelligence, refinement and wealth are coming. Parents come to give their children the benefit of living in a State where there are no saloons, and where they can get for each child a farm. Prohibition is working finely in the State, and is growing in favor all the time. Recently Lawrence has been compelled to close her saloons, and the city government of Topeka has had a case in *quo warranto* brought against it to deprive it of its authority, as a city, to grant license, and the Mayor was compelled to resign. No saloon has been seen in the capital city and largest city of the State for months. The same proceeding is now pending against the city government of Atchison. The next will be Leavenworth, and that ends the list."—*Christian Advocate*.

BELGIUM.—A temperance league has just been formed in Belgium, and no country in Europe seems to want one more. M. Cauderlier, the Secretary, gives in his prospectus some interesting statistics of the consumption of alcoholic liquors in the different European States, and shows that drink costs them a good deal more than their standing armies. Germany, for instance, spends twenty-four millions a year on her army, and eighty-eight millions on her beer and brandy. France spends three times as much on drink as she does on her army. The liquor bill in England is heavier still, reaching, as it does, the enormous total of 120 odd millions. But the Belgian is the hardest drinker in Europe. He drinks as much beer as the Frenchman, the German and the Englishman put together. Eight per cent. of the males of the poorer class who die in the Belgian hospitals under the age of thirty succumb to the effects of alcohol. Within the past thirty years the consumption of spirituous liquors in Europe has increased by sixty per cent., and insanity, suicide and crime have increased in like proportion.—*Catholic Temperance Advocate*.