Weekly Colonist

FRIDAY DECEMBER 30, 1887.

THE STAR IN THE EAST.

For about three or four weeks past a very remarkable star has been seen. It appears as a rule between 2:30 and 3:30 a. m. An astronomer writes: "I saw it the other morning; at first I perceived a kind of veiled light, apparently about nine inches in diameter, and presently the star itself appeared, and gradually disengaging itself from the cloud it rose majestically upon the horizon, shining forth with a clear star brilliancy. In color it appears to be a pale yellow, and is a true star. It (as may be supposed) forms a conspicuous and beautiful object in the heavens, surpassing in size and magnificence all the other stars. If this is in reality the star of Bethlehem, as stated, it would be on that account alone a sight worth seeing, and as it only appears, we are told, every 315 years, we are indeed privileged by its visit.

WHISKY STATISTICS.

The following figures will supply some interesting evidence of the development of the British trade in spirits. In 1694, as regards England, the produce of all stills amounted to 1,885,752 gallons of *low wines*, or 754,300 gallons of spirits, and in 1743 it had increased to 12,498,800 gallons of *low wines*, or 4,999,520 gallons of spirits. As regards Scotland, the earliest record of the quantity of spirits made is in the year after the Union, 1708, when the quantity made was 50,844 gallons. In the course of about half a century—*i. e.*, in 1756, this quantity was increased to 433,811 gallons. About 1776 the manufacture was further increased in consequence of the commencement of the export to England. As regards Ireland, the number of gallons distilled in 1720 was 136,675; fifty years later, in 1770, it was 801,174, and in 1820 it was 4,636,192. As compared with those figures, it may be stated that the latest ascertained output, compiled from reliable authority, of 4 English, 28 Irish, and 129 Scotch whiskey distilleries now approximates a total annual capacity of 50,000,000 gallons, and the whisky trade is far from having reached its utmost point of development. It would be dangerous to risk a forecast as to its future, but, all circumstances considered, whisky must undoubtedly be assumed to hold the key of the situation as the popular spirit in the estimation of the British races.

PROF. HUXLEY ON TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

Professor Huxley, addressing a meeting in Manchester to consider the question of technical education, said the subject was one of primary importance and vital significance to the welfare of the country. The object at which they should aim was the development of the industrial productivity of the country to its uttermost limits consistent with social welfare. He believed they should strive to improve the present system of primary education in such a manner as would make it a proper preparation for that particular business in life which might be contemplated. The present primary education was too bookish, too little practical, and gave no training to those particular faculties of observation, accuracy, and dealing with things rather than with words, which were of the utmost importance to industrial life. The teaching of drawing was of the first necessity, and in his mind the child who had been taught to make an accurate elevation, plan, and section of a pint pot had received a most valuable training of eye and hand. He also advised the development of object-lesson teaching, which was most necessary to the education of children. The man, however, did not live yet who could draw up a final scheme of technical education. A committee was appointed to promote the formation of technical schools in the Manchester district.

M. PASTEUR AND THE AUSTRALIAN RABBITS.

The offer of a prize of £25,000 by the government of New South Wales to the discoverer of a means of killing the rabbits which are devastating the colony has attracted the attention of M. Pasteur. He sends a letter on the subject to the *Temps*, suggesting ideas which he thinks may be found of use. Hitherto mineral poison has been employed to destroy the animals; but they increase with such frightful rapidity that poison has proved a very insufficient means of meeting the plague. What is wanted, M. Pasteur suggests, is a poison endowed, like animals themselves, with life, and multiplying with similar rapidity. An attempt should, he thinks, be made to introduce a disease among the rabbits which would become epidemic. There is such a malady, known as hen cholera, which has been carefully studied in his laboratory. This disease is common to poultry and rabbits. Among the experiments which he made was the following:—He shut up within a limited space a number of hens. He gave them food tainted with the microbe which is the cause of the hen cholera, and in a short time all of them perished. Sometimes poultry-yards are devastated by epidemics of this kind, which spread doubtless through the tainting of food by the droppings of the first sick fowls. The same thing he believes would happen to rabbits which, returning to their burrows, would there spread the disease. Nothing would be more easy than to communicate the disease to a few of the animals. Round a burrow M. Pasteur would place a movable fence, within which the rabbits would circulate in search of food. Experiments have proved that it is easy to multiply to any extent the microbes of hen cholera in all kinds of flesh soups. If the food of the rabbits were watered with these liquids full of microbes, the animals would catch the disease, and spread it everywhere. M. Pasteur adds that the disease of which he speaks does not attack four-footed domestic animals, and as fowls do not live in the open country there would be no risk of destroying them.

THE DOMINION ELECTION.

Major E. G. Prior, M. P. P., has accepted the influential and largely signed requisition presented him and will be the Liberal-Conservative candidate for the Commons in the room of Mr. Shakespeare. That he will be elected, in the event of a contest, there is no doubt and as little that he will make an excellent representative. Up to the present no one else has signified his intention of entering the lists and it is quite within the probabilities that Mr. Prior will be returned by acclamation.

COMMERCIAL UNION DEFEATED.

Commercial Union has received a decisive blow in Ontario. The election in East Northumberland was fought out on that issue, and it was agreed that the result should be regarded as an index of the feelings of that section of the province, at least. Dr. Mallory was again the Liberal and commercial unionist candidate, and Mr. Cochrane, the Liberal-Conservative standard-bearer. The latter was victorious. Wiman's "fad" was evidently not popular with the electorate, and received its first square knockdown in fair battle.

THE NEW FRENCH CRUISER.

The *Journal de la Marine* gives us some information concerning the new French cruiser Dupuy-de-Lome, which was to have been laid at Cherbourg after the plans of M. Thibeaudier, but which now is to be built at Brest on the plans of Inspector-General de Bussy. The new cruiser is to be built entirely of steel, and to be protected from one end to the other so as to be sheltered from the effects of projectiles charged with powerful explosives. The following are to be her dimensions: Length, 114 metres; breadth, without cuirass, 15.70; mean draught, 7.07; displacement, 6,297 tons. The cuirass is to be 10 centimetres, the deck completely plated, and beneath it is to be another deck for protecting the crew from the effects of splinters. There is to be shelter provided for the captain and the men engaged in working the big guns. There is also to be a belt formed of obturating matter rising to one metre above the floating line, and there are to be 13 watertight compartments. The Dupuy-de-Lome will be armed with two 19-centimetres placed on each side in demi-turrets; six guns of 16 centimetres, two quick-firing guns, eight machine guns, and four torpedo-tubes. She will be worked by three triple-expansion engines, and is to steam 20 knots. She will carry two masts armed with machine-guns; her crew is to be composed of 400 men, and her cost is estimated at about £360,000.

PHONOGRAMS.

It is stated by New York correspondents of the daily papers that Mr. Edison has succeeded in making his phonograph a "practicable and commercial apparatus." Phonograms will be sold in the shape of small cylinders, 1¼ inch in diameter, and from 1 inch to 4 inches in length. One-inch phonograms will contain 200 words, sufficient for an ordinary business letter, and will cost 50 cents a dozen. Full-size phonograms, 4 inches in length, will contain 800 to 1,000 words, according to the rate of speed of the speaker, and will cost about 36 cents a dozen. There is no manipulation of apparatus necessary. It will occupy about the room necessary for a type-writer, the cells going in a closet or under the table. The motor will be boxed over, and nothing but a revolving cylinder and mouthpiece will be in view. One touch of a little switch sets the machine in motion. Then the mouthpiece is adjusted to the cylinder, and talking may begin. The same process is to be gone through when the machine is to be read. It will be seen that the cost of phonograms is a great deal more than that of letter-paper; but provision is made for the use of the same phonogram twelve times if the messages it contains are not worth keeping. A little knife is attached to the machine, which takes a shaving off the surface of the phonogram the seven-thousandth part of an inch thick, and gives a fresh surface. This process may be repeated twelve times. Boxes for sending phonograms by post will be ready, with instruments, and will resemble the old-fashioned wood-turned pill boxes. It would appear, from the mention of "cells," that the phonograph is to be driven by an electro-motor.

THE POSTMASTERSHIP.

"Thus the salary attached to the office is $2,400, with an additional 25 per cent., or $600, for extra cost of living—a system which is recognized in the office to the lowest clerk in the service, making in all $3,000 a year. Mr. Wallace's retiring allowance cannot be less than $1,500 a year. So that the cost of the Victoria postoffice to the electors, irrespective of employees' salaries, will be in the neighborhood of $4,500—and all this for political favors to friends of the powers that be."

Thus writes our evening contemporary with reference to the postmastership. There is absolutely not a word of truth in the statements made. Had the *Times* taken the trouble to consult "The Civil Service Act" for 1886, it would have found under schedule B, headed "City Postmasters," the following facts: Postmasters are paid according as they rank, in five classes. In class 1, where the postage collections exceed $80,000 the salary is $2,600; in class 2, where they are from $60,000 to $80,000 the salary is $2,400; in class 3, where they are from $40,000 to $60,000 the salary is $2,200; in class 4, where they are from $20,000 to $40,000 the salary is $2,000, and in class 5, where they are less than $20,000 the salary is from $1,400 to $1,800 as the Postmaster-General determines. Victoria is understood to come under the 4th class and consequently Mr. Shakespeare's salary will be $2,000. The Act then reads: "*These salaries shall not be supplemented by any allowances, commissions or perquisites whatsoever.*" So that Mr. Shakespeare, upon his assumption of the duties of Postmaster, receives a *total salary* of only $2,000, and not $3,000, as stated by the *Times*. Had our contemporary taken the slightest pains to consult the Act he would not have exposed his gross ignorance upon a matter which is familiar to most people conversant with public affairs. Did he also glance his eagle eye over "the Civil Service Superannuation Act," Sec. 3, Subsec. (*a*), he would also have learned that the retiring postmaster will be entitled to a superannuation allowance very far short of $1,500, as he states. Indeed, according to the Act it will not reach $1,000, "so that the cost of the Victoria post office to the electors, irrespective of employees' salaries, will be in the neighborhood of $2,800 and not $4,500, as stated by our veracious contemporary. The public can form their own judgment of a journal which either wilfully misstates in order to prejudice the chances of the Liberal-Conservative candidate or displays a pitiful unfamiliarity with a matter upon which it endeavors to enlighten the electors. However, in the event of a contest we may expect a deluge of just such ridiculous stories.

PECULIAR ELECTRIC PHENOMENA.

Some very singular electrical phenomena (says the *English Mechanic*) were observed on two very dry days at a printing office in Mayence, when the establishment seemed to be convrted into a huge electrical battery. Electric sparks several centimetres long could be drawn with the fingers from all parts of the printing machinery, just as may be done from a charged electric machine. The action of the sparks became so pronounced that the layers-on and takers-off (who, it should be remarked, in German printing offices are mostly young women) refused to work, as burning sparks were emitted every time the machines were touched with the hands. The electrical phenomena were most striking in the machines used for lithographic printing. A strong paper made of cellulose was being printed at the time, and the takers-off observed a slight crackling as the sheets, which adhered pretty closely to the oil-cloth covering of the cylinder, were being withdrawn. This crackling was finally developed into a loud explosion, accompanied by beautiful flashes from 10 to 12 centimetres (from 4 to 5 inches) in length. The discharges are stated to have been more effective the more quickly the sheets loaded with electricity were withdrawn. A small circular saw mounted about 4 inches from an iron column discharged at intervals of from 20 to 30 seconds, when driven, powerful electric sparks, accompanied by loud explosions, upon the column. These phenomena were observed for hours, and continued for two days, when the printing office became free from electricity, and has remained so since. The following explanation is given by *Iron* of the occurrence. The outer walls of the building in which the printing machinery is placed are separated from the surrounding soil by a thick layer of asphalte, serving to keep the moisture arising from the soil from penetrating the walls. In the present case the asphalte, at the same time served to isolate the electricity generated within. The floors of the several machine rooms are also laid thick in asphalte, and the machinery is fixed direct to this flooring, so that is likewise perfectly isolated. There are only a few iron columns having direct connection with the earth. On the morning of the day on which the startling phenomenon described was first observed, all the machine belts had been greased with a mixture consisting of resin and linseed oil, serving to increase the friction between the belts and the pulleys. As soon as the machinery was set in motion, each individual pulley was converted into an electric machine on a large scale, negative electricity being formed on the belt covered with resin, and positive electricity on the iron pulley. The stored electricity, of course, was immediately given off whenever one of the machines, which for the time being were changed into accumulators or secondary batteries, was "tapped."

A LOWER PROVINCE exchange concludes an article on the death of Baker Pasha as follows: "His brother, Sir Samuel Baker of the British army, and a cousin, Mr. E. C. Baker, M. P. P., of British Columbia, are among the surviving relatives of the deceased, known by reputation in Canada." Our worthy representative in the Commons does not, we believe, claim the distinction. Col. James Baker, M. P. P., for Kootenay is, however, a brother of the late distinguished soldier.

THE New York *World* has been taking the census of opinion of the United States Congress with the result that the Republican members declared their preferences for presidential candidate for 1888 as follows:

Non-committal	58
For Blaine	45
The nominee of the convention	17
John Sherman	10
Harrison	2
Against Blaine	4
Judge Gresham	2
Gov. Robinson (Mass.)	1
Allison	5
Gov. Rusk (Wis.)	1
Chauncey M. Depew	1

The connection between the senators and representatives and the party machines is very close in the United States, and the above no doubt gives an approximate idea of how the nominating convention if it met now, would be constituted. Mr. Blaine is the strongest personal candidate, with John Sherman second; but the chances are more in favor of the man from Maine than the vote indicates, as he would probably draw to himself most of the non-committals.

IN AN interesting address before the Massachusetts Reform Club, at Boston, Prof. A. T. Hadley, who is well known as a student of the railroad question, called attention to the fact that since the law went into operation the short-haul clause has been daily of less account than was expected, while the clause affirming common law principles against discriminations has been daily of more account. This has happened because the commissioners have shown a disposition to extend their power under the sections against discrimination at the very time when they were narrowing it under the short-haul section. In a great majority of cases, moreover, the tariffs which conflicted with the short-haul principle had been framed as they were for the purpose of building up particular industries or particular localities. When the railroads undertook to favor certain localities or individuals they did it not by differences of tariff rates but by special rates to individuals. Their practice thus violated not the short-hand principle but the general rule against discriminations. The commissioners have also said in effect that the railroads should not make lower rates for large shippers than for small ones. Prof. Hadley warmly commended the course of the commission thus far, and President Cleveland's judgment in its appointment, but intimated that its greatest difficulties were yet to come. It has now begun to deal with specific rates—a very perilous field.

WE have several times spoken of the praiseworthy efforts which are being made to change portions of the desert of Sahara into a blooming garden. It now appears that these labors are beginning to produce practical results of the most encouraging character. The industry of the last few years has turned a large section of Northern Sahara into an immense basin of artesian wells, and the presence of an abundant water supply which, it appears, extends under the entire desert, has occasioned a most gratifying transformation. As a tangible result of thirty years' work many thousands of acres have been changed from barren sand to lavishly productive soil. This practically created country now contains about 25,000 inhabitants, in the neighborhood of 200,000 forest trees and more than 100,000 young fruit trees. In former times this district was absolutely rainless. But now the presence of an embryo forest is causing the development of cloud formations, and it cannot be long before the country is visited by regular rains. This would mean, among other good things, a most decided improvement in the climate.

CONDENSED DISPATCHES.

The crisis on the continent shows no signs of ending.

A fire at Evansville, Ind., destroyed the dry goods house of J. W. Ruff & Co. Loss, $4,000.

The Great Eastern has been sold to a metal firm for £16.000. The vessel will be broken up.

Frank Warrilow, a painter in San Francisco, fell a distance of 20 feet while at work and was killed.

A fire in Montevido, Minn., burned a large part of the town yesterday morning. Losses, $12,000; insurance, one fourth.

Russian diplomats seriously expect some action on the part of Germany, Austria and Italy to induce Prince Ferdinand to withdraw from Bulgaria.

The Gleason-Gilmore fight is declared off. Gilmore sent a letter to the St. Paul *Globe* stating his backers refused to let the fight proceed, the principal reason being that the time and place of meeting was given out instead of being kept secret.

The suit of the banque Franco-Egyptienne against the New York, Boston and Montreal Railroad trustees for $6,000,000 is ended. Decision reserved. The record in the case covers 20,000 printed pages, and the argument occupied three weeks.

A negro laborer named Edward Johnson, of Delhi, Ohio, attempted to thaw out a dynamite cartridge in his house, when it exploded. Johnson and his two daughters were terribly torn and are not expected to recover. His wife and son were also seriously injured.

Ground was broken at Piedros Negros, Mexico, on Thursday, for the great international bridge that is to span Rio Grande at this point, connecting Eagle Pass, Texas, with this city. The event was celebrated as a holiday. It will take two years to complete the bridge.

Judge Seward Smith, of Pierre, Dak., was yesterday committed to Mount Pleasant insane asylum. He became insane while judge of the Fifth District from overwork and worry over unjust charges preferred against him by office-seekers. He was removed and is succeeded by Governor Church.

At a meeting in Tammany hall, New York, recently, the general committee took more the character of a democratic jollification. Carlisle, Randall and others were unable to attend. Senator Daniels, Editors Dana and Dorsheimer and District Attorney elect Fellows spoke. Most of the speakers endorsed Cleveland's message advocating a reduction of the surplus.

A collision occurred on the Cincinnati & Northern railway between the Montgomery accommodation coming south and an outgoing passenger train going north. Both engines were wrecked. Mrs. Proctor, who lives at South Norwood, and a Mr. Ringold were fatally injured. Engineer Collins had his ankle broken jumping; Engineer Glasgow had his leg broken; Edward Hickey, a passenger, had his foot badly crushed; Chas. Barber, another passenger, was injured about the face.

Capt. Thomas B. Jones, of the schooner "Orter," was found dead in his bed in New York. His room mate, Capt. Wallace Dakin, of the brig "Curlew," was arrested, pending the coroner's investigation. Both men are from St. John, N.B.

Secretary Whitney directed the commandant of the Brooklyn navy yard to dispatch at once a naval vessel with instructions to secure or destroy the large raft which became detached from the Marinda, off Nantucket light, on Monday last.

The story published yesterday that the nuns belonging to the third order of St. Dominic were in great distress and poverty in the convent home at Elizabethport, is denied by the sister superior of the convent and by prominent Catholic priests.

The summons in the civil action of Henry S. Ives, against Julius Dexter, president of the Hamilton and Dayton R. R., for damages for malicious libel and prosecution and false imprisonment, was served on the defendant at New York yesterday.

Terrible suffering among the farmers and stock-raisers in Western Kansas is reported from exposure and want. Four persons are said to have perished in Clark County, and a woman and six children are known to have died at Dighton. There is a scarcity of coal and food, while the weather is very severe.

The Prince of Wales has ordered a gold watch to be made bearing the inscription "To John L. Sullivan, Boston, U. S. A., with the best wishes of Albert Edward, Prince of Wales." He also gave Smith a present of £25 which was gratefully received by the English champion.

The Lackawanna Coal & Iron Co. at Scranton, Pa., announces a reduction of wages on January 1st next. Two thousand men will be affected. A falling off in orders and a reduction in the price of steel are given as reasons for reducing the wages. The reduction will amount to from five to ten per cent. The employees will accept the reduction.

That a little three-year-old girl was given a peach. She disposed of everything but the stone, and then made known her predicament thus: "Mamma, I've eaten the cloth and I've eaten the meat, but what shall I do with the bone?"

LATE CANADIAN NEWS.

ONTARIO.

Inland revenue returns for November are $571,000.

Sir John has intimated that the coming session will be short.

There is some talk of Hector Cameron, Conservative, running in Carleton.

The Victoria hotel, Woodstock, owned by J. Thompson, was damaged by fire to the extent of a thousand dollars.

C. P. R. authorities say four million bushels of Manitoba wheat have passed through Ottawa *en route* to New York.

The Mercier government has appointed J. B. Charleson, of Quebec, overseer of lumbering operations in Ottawa district.

Frank Richmond, a Grand Trunk brakeman, slipped from the top of a train which had broken apart and was terribly mangled and killed.

While C. A. Brewer, a farmer near Sarum, was cutting feed with a hay cutter, it became hot and fired the hay. The barn and contents were burned; loss, $3,000; insurance, $1,000.

The trial of the petition against the return of Dr. Roome, Conservative M. P. for West Middlesex, has closed. All but two of the charges were dismissed. Judge Falconbridge will give decision on those two in chambers at Toronto.

It is said that Henry Taylor, ex-president of the Bank of London and the Ontario Investment Association, has made an offer to surrender property held by Mrs. Taylor, worth $200,000, if he is released and guaranteed immunity from prosecution. The offer has not yet been accepted, but it probably will be.

The talk of commercial people is the reported failure of Joseph Kidd, of Dublin, Perth county. Kidd was engaged in several lines of business—general store, drugs, grain and flour, lumber, etc. His liabilities are said to be over $100,000. Some others are said to be involved. An assignment to Mr. Clarkson of Toronto is officially announced. The principal creditors are the Bank of Commerce, Frank Smith & Co., and McMaster, Darling & Co., all of Toronto.

Lieut.-Col. Archibald Ponton, Belleville, is dead, aged 82.

Religious service in honor of the Pope's jubilee have commenced at Ottawa.

An Ottawa civil servant offers to give $1,000 to the home rule fund provided any other citizen gives a similar amount.

The clergymen of Ottawa propose to apply at the coming session for an amendment of the law relating to Sabbath observances.

A dwelling house and contents belonging to James Purdy, carpenter, St. Catherine's, was burned. Loss, $1,000; insurance, $900.

An Indian from Walpole Island was killed on the Grand Trunk track at Tecumseh. Another Indian was killed on the same spot within three weeks.

Willie, the 8-year son of John Sharp, plasterer, was killed by a Grand Trunk lorry at Toronto. The driver, Frank Lipsett, was arrested for manslaughter.

Mrs. Middleton, who eloped with Fen Hamilton, tried to get into her late residence but found the door locked. The injured husband is still at Qu'Appelle.

The endowment fund of Queen's university, Kingston, lacks about $15,000 of reaching the figure calculated—$250,000. The students have enthusiastically taken up the matter, and during the holidays will raise the amount needed.

Preliminary hearing in the Russell county protest was resumed. C. H. Mackintosh, ex-M.P., the defeated candidate, admitted treating, but said it was the custom of the country. With reference to the charge of giving Mrs. McDonnell, hotel keeper, $10, he says it was won on a wager for her ability to kick as high as his head.

Alfred Chase (colored) was arrested at Windsor and taken from the Grand Trunk train about to leave for the east. He is charged with stealing $3,000 worth of securities and $127 in cash from Ezra S. Rice, of Livonia township, Wayne county, Mich. Chase declined to return to Detroit, and will be tried for bringing stolen property into Canada.

QUEBEC.

Canadian Pacific Railway Company's earnings for the week ending December 14th were $264,000; same week last year, $203,000. The above does not include earnings on the Southeastern railway.

Another daring burglary took place at Montreal. During the absence of Lawyer Lightfall and family at church the house was entered and all jewelry, much wearing apparel and other goods stolen. No clue.

W. Davis & Son, Ottawa, and R. G. Reid, builder of the Lachine bridge, have been awarded contracts for work necessary to the entrance of the C.P.R. in the west end of Montreal. It is expected trains will run into the new depot by Dominion day.

P. E. Pearsall, of Peterboro, and his wife, attended the Salvation Army temple and during the crush Mrs. Pearsall's pocket was picked of $120 in cash and $200 in notes and cheques. The couple were on a brief visit and did not think it worth while to bank the money.

Miss Tenney, against whom an action for $5,000 was instituted by the mother of the unfortunate girl Ida Hawkins, who was asphyxiated by coal gas some time go in Montreal, has in her turn taken an action against her landlord, the Hon. James Ferrier, claiming that he is responsible for the liability, if any, as he was abound to keep the furnace in good order.

Lingham, a well-known cattle exporter of Belleville, has just received through Lord Dufferin the appointment as manager in India of the cattle estates of the Nizam of Hyderabad, who will be remembered as having given $2,000,000 towards the fortification and defence of India a short time ago. It is his desire that the American plan of farming and rearing of cattle be introduced on his estate. He has been connected in the ranch business with Frewen, the well-known cottle king of the west.

Rev. Father Calin, superintendent of the Montreal seminary, lies in a critical condition at Hotel Dieu hospital.

Jimmy McShane, Minister of Public Works, says the political plot for ruining him will be frustrated, as all accusations will be satisfactorily explained.

Michael Hurley, inventor of a system for heating cars by steam, has received an order from the department of railways to fit up an experimental train on the Intercolonial railway. If successful it will be adopted all over the line.

A dispatch from Stanstead says an attempt was made to blow up the residence of Horace Canfield, a bailiff under the Scott act, who has been serving many prosecutions of late. About one o'clock a bomb with lighted fuse was thrown into the house, but Mrs. Canfield heard the noise and by a miracle managed to detach the fuse, thus preventing a terrible disaster.

The movement to abolish tax exemption on Montreal church property has probably received its death blow by a pastoral letter of Archbishop Fabre, who denounces the proposal as a dangerous one and liable to upset the basis of society. He orders Catholics not to vote for any candidate for the city council or legislature who favors the project. The only step now probable is an increase in the already heavy burden on the general taxpayers.

NOVA SCOTIA.

The highest tide, with one exception, ever known at Pugwash, occurred on Friday night, accompanied by a fearful gale with rain and snow, doing considerable damage.

Archdeacon Gilpin has received a despatch from the Archbishop of Canterbury asking for the records of the diocese, and a pledge that any gentleman chosen by the English bishops will be accepted by the clergy. He replied that it would be illegal to give such a guarantee, but it was generally understood the clergy would abide by the bishops' decision.

A freight train and lorry carrying section men, collided on the Intercolonial near Dorchester; five of those on the lorry jumped and escaped. The other named Landry was horribly mangled.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

Geo. T. Kane's dwelling, St. John, was burned. A child was thrown to the spectators below and Kane and wife jumped. All were seriously injured. Troops vinegar works in another part of the city were burned. Less $10,000; insurance $5,000.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

Robt. Crawford, postmaster at Indian Head, is at Ottawa. He is spoken of as a prospective senator.

REVEREND SHINN.

Full Text of His Remarkable Prayer to an Iowa Legislature.

The Hon. Frank Shinn, who was the Republican nominee for State Senator in this district, is the son of the Rev. Shinn who made the famous prayer in the Iowa legislature in the early days, when that body convened at Iowa City. At that time the issues in this state were Federal money against wildcat banks and prohibition. The Rev. Shinn was called upon to open the house with prayer one morning, and did so in the following language: "O God, bless the young and growing State of Iowa. Bless her representatives, senators and chief officers. Give us a sound currency, pure water and an undefiled religion, for Christ's sake. Amen." It has been many years since the prayer was delivered, and yet for its remarkable conciseness, pungency and power it has never been equaled by a public prayer since.—*Council Bluffs Nonpareil.*

BEATING THE CANADIAN PACIFIC.

Why the Long and Short Haul Clause Was Evaded.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—The hearing in the case of John H. Martin and H. H. Martin of Denver against the Southern Pacific Railroad company, alleging a violation against the long and short haul of the inter-state law, was continued before the commerce commission to-day. Thomas R. Kimball, general freight agent of the Union Pacific road, and W. G. Clements were called, and added that greater freight rates were charged between San Francisco and Denver than between San Francisco and Omaha, and justified it on the ground that the Canadian Pacific company, being a competitor for business to Missouri river points, compelled the Union Pacific to make a reduction in favor of those points, the Canadian Pacific being without the jurisdiction of the commission. Defendants claim that under the circumstances stated above, there has been no violation of law. Mr. Martin stated that the discrimination was made in the interest of Kansas City.

VITRIOLIC VENGEANCE.

A Young Man's Face Disfigured by His Discarded Sweetheart.

Miss Maggie Lloyd until a short time ago was the pretty cashier in the largest dry goods house in Reading, Pa. She resides with her aunt, the wife of Dr. Frank Rieser. Miss Lloyd is well connected and highly respected. In the same establishment was Mr. Howard Potter, nephew of the leading member of the firm. He held a responsible position also. The young people became lovers, and finally their friends were told they were engaged to be married.

Recently it was noticed that Mr. Potter's attentions to Miss Lloyd were falling off, and finally he informed the young lady that their engagement must be cancelled. This happened last Sunday night. He called on Miss Lloyd at Dr. Rieser's and said he would not marry her. This was in the parlor. The young lady had been laboring under a high state of excitement, and she handed Potter a glass filled with dark liquor and asked him to take a drink of wine. He refused in alarm.

He refused a second time. She then pulled his handkerchief from his pocket, and with her left hand held it over his eyes, and dashed the glass, which was full of vitriol, into Potter's face. Frenzied with pain he rushed into the kitchen, washed his face and hurried out toward his home. He got no further than a neighboring restaurant, where a doctor was called. Since then he has been confined to his room. The doctor was with him three hours this day. Potter will probably be disfigured. Miss Lloyd is quite melancholy and does not know the extent of Potter's injuries. Dr. Rieser says he found the lady afterward entirely out of her mind in the parlor, wondering where she was.

THE CARAQUET RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

Complete List of the Killed—Nearly all Leave Wives and Large Families.

BATHURST, N. B., Dec. 18.—A terrible accident occurred yesterday afternoon near Caraquet station, on the northern division of the Intercolonial railway. While the train, which left Caraquet at 2 p. m. for Gloucester Junction, in charge of Conductor Daniel Kearney and Driver Michael Lanigan, was near McIntosh's Cove bridge, three miles from Caraquet, the trainmen noticed heavy drifts of snow on the west side of the bridge. The train consisted of one passenger car, an engine and a snow plow. Eight section men were aboard for the purpose of assisting in the clearing of the road of the snow which fell in Friday's storm. The passenger car was on the left side of the bridge. The section men, the conductor, Brakeman Lordon, a young man named Frank Miller, Driver Lanigan and Fireman Boucher—13 persons in all—were on the engine. They then started, but when they got on the bridge the plow and engine left the track and fell over into the river. Sectionmen D. Patterson, Cormier, Fullarn and F. Packey escaped, as did also Brakeman Lordon, who jumped through the cab windows. They are all more or less injured, but none of the five was fatally hurt. As soon as the news reached Bathurst, Doctors Meahan and Bishop were at once sent to the scene. The bodies when found were pinned down under the engine, which was lying bottom up in the river. The train was running slowly at the time, as they had plenty of time when they got over the bridge to get a run at the drift. The following is a list of the killed: conductor Kearney, of Douglastown, driver Lanigan, Bathurst, Feliz Boucher, fireman, Bathurst; Joseph Vienneau, section-man, Bathurst; John Poulin, section-man, Caraquet; John Carney, Bathurst; Frank Miller, Bathurst; Octave Pinet, section-man, Caraquet. By noon to-day all the bodies have been rescued. The wounded are doing well. W. H. Chisholm, superintendent, W. Mann, engineer, and P. H. Melvin, of the railroad company, were also at the scene of the accident and did everything that was possible. The bridge is a good one and is not damaged. It is about twenty feet high. the water at low tide is one foot deep. The tide was high at the time of the accident.

THE COAL FAMINE AT SAN FRANCISCO.

Prices Steadily on the Rise—No Immediate Prospect of Relief.

The San Francisco *Call* has had an interview with leading coal dealers of that city. They said that retailers around town are unable to have their orders filled, and some of the wholesalers have closed their yards for the time being. Prices have enhanced fully 50 per cent., and within the next thirty days still further advances are predicted. One dealers said he did not expect a big supply until April, and it might possibly hold off longer.

One dealer said he had been in the coal business in this city for thirty years, and during that time he had never seen the market so bare as it is now, and never had the prospects for a supply been so gloomy. He could not have his orders filled and his customers now, when they ordered two tons of coal, received about one-quarter the quantity. The supply for the next few months would have to come from our domestic mines, and the Australian coal now on the way, which is used to make steam, etc., would have to be utilized for domestic purposes. While he did not anticipate any real hardship in the city, he saw nothing ahead for some time to come but rigid economy in the use of coal and the acceptance of whatever quality of the article that might be offered. Seven ships are due from Australia, thirteen are on the way, and fourteen are loading. The Newport Coal mine furnishes about 3,000 tons monthly; of the 22,000 tons output of the Wellington mines San Francisco received monthly about 15,000 tons. Owing to the fire in the Nanaimo mines some 15,000 tons monthly were lost to this market. Chandler's Wellington mine furnished about 1,000 tons a month; the Black Diamond is very limited; the Pennsylvania anthracite comes in small quantites, say a few hundred tons a month. Where this formerly sold for $14 a ton it would now bring $25 or $30 were there any on hand. The West Hartley, Scotch Flint and Cannel cannot be found in the market, nor can the Seattle nor Star.

As an indication of how matters stand Mr. Middleton mentioned the steamer Wellington discharging 2,300 tons of coal at Pacific street Wharf. There were 300 wagons ready to haul it away as fast as it could be delivered, and to get a load the teams had to get in line and wait for hours.

The rumors to the effect that some one had created a corner in coal Mr. Middleton pronounced too ridiculous to consider for a moment. "There is," said he, "no coal in the market, and not enough for our needs is on the way, and to make a corner some one has to have a lot of coal on hand or under control."

The Oregon Coal and Navigation Company's steamer Arago docked at Vallejo street Wharf yerterday morning, and at once commenced discharging her cargo of Coos Bay coal. A long string of teams was in waiting to get coal from the steamer, some of them having been in position since nightfall the night previous.

At Pacific street the steamer Empire docked with a load of Wellington coal. Here a string of teams, two blocks in length, were in line, waiting patiently to get a load of the scarce article from the steamer. Nearly every coal yard in town was represented at the two wharves.

TRANSCONTINENTAL TRAFFIC.

Olds Speaks of the Agreement of the C. P. R. With American Roads.

MONTREAL, Que., Dec. 15.—Traffic Manager Olds, speaking of the agreement of the Canadian Pacific with American roads for transcontinental traffic, said: The American transcontinental roads have agreed to interchange freight and passengers with the Canadian Pacific on terms satisfactory to this company. I do not think there will be any advance in freight rates from Pacific Coast points to eastern points, but I believe it is intended to apply the same through freight rates on west bound freight as those now in effect on American lines. It is a virtual recognition of the importance of the Canadian route, and will result in large American travel over our line, as none of the American routes can compare in point of scenery to ours. It is, in fact, a very satisfactory arrangement to us. It will be ratified at a meeting of traffic managers at St. Louis on the 19th.

HE WILL DROP OUT.

LaRiviere to Resign His Portfolio Before the Meeting of the Legislature.

MONTREAL, Dec. 19.—Hon. Alphonso A. C. LaRiviere, provincial treasurer of Manitoba, has all along refused to make public any statement of the result of his conference with the Dominion government, or of his future intentions, but he has been less cautious in conversation with political and personal friends. To them he has stated that he is tired of the worry and excitement of political life; and he intimated that he will shortly resign his portfolio in the Manitoba government. He said that the cause of this action was not differences of opinion with his colleagues. They had always got along well together and were, in short, a remarkably happy family; it was simply due to his desire to have a rest from the cares of office. He left the impression that he would retire before the meeting of the legislature of Manitoba on January 12th, but as a member of the house would continue to give the government his hearty support.

A GLASS OF ENGLISH PUNCH.

Some of the Renowned Jester's Pictorial Disquisitions.

President Cleveland has already been naturalized in *Punch*. Therefore his face is no new feature in to-day's issue. But Sullivan is a new-comer, and the fine hand of *Punch's* artists give a page to each, side by side.

In one the artist portrays as the centrepiece of an evening reception, Sullivan in full-dress, with his "Sloggerism" of looks, so to speak, humorously exaggerated.

He is surrounded by a bevy of ladies admiring the new aquarium monster. The background is formed of a crowd of envious blackcoats in sulking row.

At the right-hand corner of the cartoon stands, with arms folded, a pleasantly burlesque figure of Irving, talking to a smiling friend. The picture is entitled "Society's New Pet."

The Irving shadow is named De la Ruche, a Rising Young Tragedian, who remarks:

"Oh, the fickleness of women! Look at those idiots there, swarming all over him. Ugh!"

"I should like to kick him, and I shall seek opportunity to do so," answers the friend, who writes tragedies, but dislikes popular tragedians.

"Do, my dear fellow; do," rejoins De a Ruche.

"Humph! but who is the beast?" retorts the friend.

"Slog, the pugilist from California, champion of the world," says De la Ruche.

The friend, aside: "Humph! I'll think better of the kick."

On the opposite page are scenes in a White House reception.

President Cleveland is discovered in lines which are by no means a caricature, and is generously smiling. He holds a crush hat in his right hand, and is looking toward Miss Columbia, but glancing at Miss Free Trade on his left, and holding her hand.

Miss Columbia sports an Indian sachem's crown of feathers, and wears a muslin walking-dress spotted delicately with stars.

Miss Free Trade has in her hand a cornucopiæ labeled "F. T.," in which appear corn and wheat stalks. She is habited in a semi-classical robe, and looks as modest as Miss Columbia seems proudly defiant.

The cartoon is denominated "Quite English, You Know."

The President is pictured in the act of saying to Miss Columbia: "Will you allow me to introduce this young lady?"

A song of six verses and chorus, denominated "Quite English, You Know," and a parody fills another page. Its second headline reads: "Latest version, as sung by President Cleveland." Of this the first verse and chorus go thus:

May I ask you, Miss Columbia, this lady to note?
She's English, you know.
What effect will this have on the Democratic vote?
She's English, I know.
She comes from a country that's cursed with a throne;
That's English, you know.
I think in your interest she ought to be known;
She's English, you know.
She may help you to deal with your surplus overthrown;
That's English, you know.

CHORUS:

I'll ask you, Miss Columbia, this lady to hear;
She's English, you know.
Her form, which is slim, and her eyes, which are clear,
Are English,
Quite English, you know.

TWO DEATHS.

The Sad Fate of Two Ladies Visiting the City for Holiday Shopping.

Mrs. James, residing at 326 O'Farrell street, on Wednesday rented a room to two ladies from Chico who were in the city for the Christmas shopping. They introduced themselves as Mrs. Thompson and niece. Yesterday evening after dinner they returned to the house and retired to their room. The younger one complaining of a sore throat Mrs. Thompson came down-stairs for some oil to apply as an ointment. Shortly after they retired to bed. The light was out in the room at 9 o'clock. This morning Mrs. James put the key in the lock of the door with the intention of entering for the purpose of putting clean towels in the room. She found it locked on the inside, and as she detected a strong odor of escaping gas, a gentleman lodger was summoned and the door forced. As soon as it gave way, the gas poured out into the hallway like a cloud, and it was some minutes before the small apartment could be entered. A sad sight met the eye. Upon the bed lay the two strangers in easy restful attitudes as if asleep, but a glance, however, sufficed to show that both were dead. The escaping gas was hissing from the open burner and the window was tightly closed. The coroner was immediately summoned.

The effects of the deceased were subjected to a thorough search, but nothing was found that would lead to the identification of the unfortunate women except a parcel from a down-town dry goods establishment marked "Mrs. Thompson, Chico." It was subsequently ascertained that the lady was the wife of Charles Thompson, agent for the Southern Pacific Company at Chico. The sad intelligence was immediately telegraphed to the husband, who awaits the return of his wife to complete the family circle during the many pleasures of the holiday season.—*S. F. Bulletin.*

A CANADIAN HOMER.

The following graphic and touching ballad, evidently from the pen of an untutored French-Canadian "skald," floats to us—without explanation through the press, and we publish it both to show that the tire of the "Nibelungen" poets and the author of the "Cid" is not extinct:

'Twas one dark night on Lac St. Pierre,
De wind was "blow," "blow," "blow,"
When de crew of de wood skow "Jule La Plante"
Got scare and run below.

For de wind she's blow like hurricane,
Bimeby she's blow some more,
When de skow buss up on Lac St. Pierre,
One-half mile from de shore.

De captain she's walk on de front deck,
She's walk on de hind deck too,
She's call de crew from up de hole,
She's call de cook also.

De cook he's name was Rosa,
He's come from *Moreal*
Was chambermaid on a lumber barge
On dat big Lachine canal.

De wind she's blow from nor, eass, wess,
De sou wind she's blow too,
When Rosa says, "Oh! captain,
Whatever shall I do!"

De captain she's throw de hank,
But still dat skow she drift,
For de crew he can't pass on dat shore
Because he lose dat skiff.

De night was dark like one black cat,
De wave run high and fass,
When de captain took poor Rosa
And lash her to de mass.

When de captain put on de life preserve
And he jump into de Lac,
And he say, "Good-by, my Rosa, dear,
I go down for your sake."

Next morning very hearly,
About half-past two, three, four,
De captain, cook, and wood skow
Lay corpses on dat shore.

For de wind he's blow like hurricane,
Pretty soon she blow some more,
For dat skow buss up on Lac St. Pierre,
One-half mile from de shore.

MORAL.

Now, all good wood-skow sailor mans,
Take warning by dat storm,
And go and marry one nice French girl
And live on one good farm.

Den de wind she may blow like hurricane,
And 'spose she's blow some more,
You shan't be drowned on Lac St. Pierre
So long you stop on shore.

LOCAL BRIEFS.

Turkeys which were imported in a live state from the Sound and dressed here have been shipped back, the supply across the Sound having proved too small.

The Queen's market meat exhibit last evening attracted a great deal of attention. There was no vote this year upon the best looking man in the line, as it is generally conceded that while the proprietor of the Queen's remains in the business none of the others have a show.

THE POLICE UNIFORMS.

TO THE EDITOR.—An article appeared in this evening's *Times* in which it is stated that some one had realized a profit of $150 on the police uniforms, and I am asked to explain into whose pockets the supposed profit went? In the hope of being able to answer the conundrum propounded, I waited on Mr. A. McLean, the contractor (who is very unwell) this evening and he informed me that the $150 alleged profit had not gone into his pockets or into those of Mr. Roberts who made up the goods. I am certain it did not reach my pockets, and that it is not now nor ever was in the mayor's. Mr. McLean desires me to say that the mayor and I were both present when the arrangement was made with him for furnishing the suits, which the council had ordered to be made by white labor at Victoria and not in Ontario, that the mayor approved of the cloth and took an active and leading part in ordering the suits. I having declined to open Mr. McLean's letter on the subject, which was addressed to me as chairman of the police committee—except in the presence of his worship.

I may add that in every step taken with regard to these uniforms the mayor, the council, and the police committee were consulted. Even the cloth was chosen by the mayor and the police committee and not by me individually.

D. W. HIGGINS.