

THE WEEK'S NEWS.

CANADA.

New steel works will soon be established in Kingston.

John P. Mott, said to be the richest man in Halifax, N. S., is dead.

It is said that a fish hatchery is to be established for lake Winnipeg.

As the spring approaches there is a better feeling in Montreal commercial and financial circles.

Supt. Whyte, of the C. P. R., says the cattle on the ranges in the North-west have wintered well so far.

Louis Rubenstein, of Montreal, has won the championship of the world at St. Petersburg, Russia, for figure skating.

The first Y. M. C. A. convention of the Canadian North-west, at Winnipeg, held last week, proved a great success.

Good coal is said to have been discovered 85 miles north-east of Ignace station, which is 150 miles west of Port Arthur.

A syndicate of Toronto men have, it is said, invested \$350,000 in Buffalo real estate for speculative purposes.

The Dominion Government has decided to renew the fisheries modus vivendi with the United States, which expired last week.

Mr. Peter McLaren, the millionaire lumberman of Perth, has been appointed to the Senate in place of the late Senator Turner.

Eighteen families from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia passed through Montreal for settlement in British Columbia last week.

In reply to an influential deputation from Montreal Mr. Mercier said that the session was too far advanced to pass any temperance legislation this year.

Mr. Mercier proposes to increase the representation in the Quebec Legislature by making two counties out of Ottawa, and to give separate members to Wolfe and Richmond.

Toronto City Council has decided to abolish tax exemptions on real property except dwelling houses to the value of \$600 and under. The Council refused to abolish the tax on income and personality.

Mr. Erastus Wiman lectured in Montreal the other night on the advantage to the Province of Quebec, and more especially to the city of Montreal, of the closest trade relations with the United States.

Rodney, an enterprising dead beat who went to Winnipeg alleging that he had been sent to write up the country for the New York Herald, has been sentenced to six months in jail for forging meal tickets.

A deputation from New Glasgow, N. S., is at Ottawa to urge on the Government the importance of deepening East River at Picton for the navigation of large ships, in the interest of the great coal and iron industry.

Delos Hinkley, traveling from Southern Kansas in a canvas-covered wagon, drawn by mules, reached Kingston, Ont., last week after almost three months of travelling. He had tried Kansas for 15 years and left in disgust.

Rev. J. Edgar Hill, pastor of St. Andrew's church, Montreal, created some excitement amongst his congregation by declaring that the "Witness" was the greatest fraud of the nineteenth century.

Count de Koffignac, who has established a chicky factory at Whitewood, Manitoba, states that he is meeting with great success in the venture and says the chicky grown there is much superior to that imported from France, Germany and Holland.

The C. P. R. land department at Winnipeg is receiving numerous enquiries from farmers in northern Michigan and other parts of the United States regarding land. The enquiries come principally from Canadians who have settled in the States.

Toronto is determined to keep up its character for sobriety. The number of licensed houses in the city is, limited strictly to 150 in a population of 170,000, and now the City Council has decided to apply to the Legislature for amendments of the Liquor License Act as shall compel the closing of saloons entirely on public holidays.

The British Columbia Legislature is moving vigorously in the matter of developing the mining resources of the Kootenay district. The Kootenay smelting and trading syndicate have erected immense works at Revelstoke, and will begin operations the coming summer. The Revelstoke Mining Company also intend pushing forward their operations, and the C. P. R. expect shortly to commence the construction of a railway line to connect with steamers from the works. English capitalists are at the back of the mining projects, and a genuine boom is expected.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The South London Gas Company lost \$250,000 by the recent strike.

The Imperial Government has declined to support an eight-hour labor law.

Mr. Houston has resigned the secretaryship of the Irish Loyal and Patriotic Union. Conservatives in England have started a fund to recoup the *Times* for its outlay against the Parnellites.

The expediency of a penny postage for the whole British Empire and America is being considered in England.

The Earl of Sydney is dead, at the age of 85. He was the first earl, was a privy councillor and leaves no heir.

Sir Richard Webster says the Parnell Commission's report exonerates Mr. Parnell but incriminates his party.

Documents published at Lisbon show that the Scotch missionaries opposed a settlement of the Portuguese difficulty that satisfied Lord Salisbury.

Four hundred thousand miners in Great Britain adhere to their demand for a ten per cent. increase in wages, and an immense strike may result.

Lord Randolph Churchill's Liquor bill hits hard at the clubs, and puts strict limitations upon the liberty they have enjoyed in the sale of alcoholic beverages.

Cardinal Manning has written a letter, in which he calls Emperor William's rescripts the wisest and wisest that have proceeded from any Sovereign of our times.

Mr. Justice Butt refused Capt. O'Shea's application for writs against the New York Herald and London Star, but ordered the Dublin Freeman's Journal to pay £100 and costs.

The Queen has announced her intention to visit Drury Lane Theatre during the Carl Rosa opera season. It will be her first visit to a theatre since the Prince Consort's death in 1861.

There appears to be as much divergence of opinion among the London newspapers on the real purport of the Parnell commission's report as there are shades just now to British partyism.

In reply to Mr. Parnell, Mr. W. H. Smith said the Government simply intended to ask the House to adopt the Parnell report, and to thank the commission for its just and impartial conduct.

In the House of Commons last week Mr. Gladstone congratulated the Government upon the prompt action they had taken in the Portuguese dispute and their success in negotiating the Samoan treaty.

Mr. Parnell's private secretary was awarded £200 damages in a suit against the Belfast News-Letter for stating that he supplied the knives with which Lord Cavendish and Mr. Burke were butchered.

In the Imperial House of Commons the other day Sir James Fergusson, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, said the negotiations between England and France were tending to a settlement of the Newfoundland fisheries dispute.

UNITED STATES.

Mollie Corwin was wedded on Monday to her ninth husband at Shelbyville, Ind.

Bishop Fink, of Kansas, denounces the Farmers' Alliance and warns Catholic farmers not to join it.

The U. S. House committee on territories will report in favor of the admission of Wyoming as a state.

It is estimated that American railroads will need a million tons of steel rails this year at a cost of \$35,000,000.

The United States senate has ratified the British extradition treaty with a few important amendments.

President Harrison has authorized the expenditure of \$3,000 on the Dakota Indians and Congress will appropriate \$25,000 more.

At Butte, Mont., Thomas Bryant, aged 18, shot and killed his mother and tried to make his escape with \$220, but was captured.

J. B. Farewell & Co.'s big dry goods store in Chicago was destroyed by fire last week. Loss \$475,000. Several firemen were injured.

Massachusetts has sent 240 petitions to Congress praying that the exportation of intoxicating liquors from the United States to Africa be stopped.

The women at Plattsburg, Mo., are preparing to clean that place of its saloons because a boy was carried out of one of them drunk on Sunday night.

The students at the Indian school in Carlisle, Pa., have contributed \$550 of their savings toward the relief of the starving Indians at Devil's lake, Dakota.

Mrs. M. Newton, of Everson, Pa., has given birth to four girls. They are of ordinary size, perfectly formed and will live. Mr. and Mrs. Newton are both of Irish birth.

IN GENERAL.

The director of the opera at Smyrna has not the grippe to sing.

Gen. Boulanger has been refused a divorce and has appealed to the pope.

Count Julius Andrássy, the Hungarian statesman, died on Tuesday, aged 67.

The Sultan of Zanzibar is dead. He is succeeded by his brother, Seynord Ali.

The German socialists have withdrawn their order for a general labor strike in May.

France is said to be pledged to support Portugal in the latter's dispute with England.

The Duke of Orleans was last week sentenced to two years' imprisonment. He posed as a martyr.

It is again stated on the inevitable good authority that Bismarck will retire from the Prussian service.

Portugal's women with the Queen at their head are starting out to collect funds for National defence.

President Carnot has decided to pardon the Duke of Orleans and send him under escort to the frontier.

The Bishop of Verdun proposes to appeal to Catholics in America for funds in aid of a memorial of the apotheosis of Joan of Arc.

At the colonial conference in Melbourne on Thursday a resolution was unanimously passed approving of the policy of Australian federation.

Switzerland will act as arbitrator of the dispute concerning the boundaries between the Portuguese possessions and the Congo Free State.

There is little doubt that the passenger steamer Dunbrugg, with her 400 Chinese passengers and crew foundered in the recent typhoon in the China Sea.

A Lisbon correspondent says many symptoms show the Republican cause has been increasing in strength daily and the end of the monarchy might come at almost any moment.

The stories of the Siberian prison horrors are said, by the St. Petersburg Government, to be canards, to influence the treatment by the United States Senate of the Extradition Treaty.

The Emperor of Germany has commenced to give practical effect to his rescripts by promising an increase of wages and conferring decorations upon workmen in the state factories.

Henry M. Stanley says that he is at present busy on the report of his African journal, and that it will occupy his attention for some months to come; but when completed he may afford himself the pleasure of visiting his friends in America.

Preserving Natural Flowers.

A new method of preserving natural flowers has been discovered by an English lady, whose process is well worth considering. The flower buds were cut just as they were about to open, and the ends of the stems covered with sealing wax. Each was then wrapped separately in paper and laid away in a box. When they were wanted and clipped the stems just above the wax and immersed them in water, to which a little nitre had been added, and though the flowers had been gathered nearly a month before, on the morrow they opened with as much beauty and fragrance as if freshly plucked.

A GREAT RAILROAD TUNNEL.

One of the Biggest Engineering Projects of the Century.

Six hundred men are now digging the railroad tunnel under the St. Clair river, at Port Huron, at the rate of 15 feet each day. This means that before the year is out one of the most important pieces of civil engineering in America will be completed. More than 1,500 feet of the tunnel proper is now ready for trains on the Michigan side and 900 on the Canadian. The remaining 4,000 feet will be finished at a wonderfully rapid rate, considering the nature of the work, if no accident intervenes. It has taken six months to do the work thus far, but workmen are now more accustomed to the task and an work with greater facility in the use of the machinery, so that the engineers in charge place the completion of the work not later than the end of the year. The tunnel itself is over 6,000 feet long. The approaches are equally long, so that the entire length will be more than two miles. Of this distance, 2,310 feet are under the river, 2,390 feet on the Michigan land side, and 2,100 on the Canadian. The grade is 1 foot in every 50 except under the river bottom where it is substantially level. It is an iron cylinder tunnel—the only one of the kind in America. There is neither brick nor stone used in its construction. Neither are there any stays or supports—simply a mammoth iron tube built in sections underground. It is designed for a single track. Electric lights make it as light as day, air engines keep the atmosphere as healthy inside as above, and steam pipes hold the temperature at the proper point. It is as dry as a street in summer, and the disagreeable features common to subaqueous work are entirely absent. Work is pushed from both ends.

The Right Flag.

The design of the Canadian flag is an offence to the Montreal "Witness," which is at present leading a crusade against it. The objections have reference solely to the central spot, with its complicated provincial emblems. It objects to the present design partly because of the indistinguishable blot it appears at the distance from which flags are usually surveyed; and partly because of the difficulty of making the flag. "But who," it says, "can at the distance at which flags are meant to be seen, make out the wonderful menagerie of things on earth and in the sea which we have placed in the middle of it, and who, when they are brought near to him, can unravel their significance?" Then as a result of the difficulty of making, there being only a few manufacturers in the Dominion who are prepared to construct such a flag, we are practically without a national ensign. In the Province of Quebec the most common flag is that of France, which any one can make by sewing together three strips in three different colors. In Ontario the Union Jack is most frequently used, while among our sailors none other is ever employed. This state of things the "Witness" contends ought to be remedied. Instead of this indistinguishable and perplexing mass we should have some simple device, like the maple leaf, which with one consent all Canada accepts as its emblem. In that case the difficulty of making would be reduced to a minimum, and we might hope that the Canadian flag would at least find a prominent place on every occasion when the ensigns of nations are displayed amongst us. The result of this would be a wonderful strengthening of the patriotic feeling, which the sight of a national flag has long been known to promote. So thoroughly are our neighbors convinced of this fact, that the "Stars and Stripes" are never wanting in connection with any public or private festival. Even now the "Youth's Companion" of Boston is calling for prize essays on the national value of having the stars and stripes floating over every school house, and a flag is to be the reward of each school that takes a prize. Should the idea and the practice generally obtain the benefit in the nationalizing effect on the imagination of the American youth would be beyond calculation. The same object lesson instruction is needed in Canada; for what with the Tricolor in Quebec, and the American flag so frequently displayed on our festive occasions, our youth are being silently educated to a divided allegiance. This we can hardly afford in these days, when it were madness to deny that owing to racial and religious differences in the leading provinces of the Dominion, instead of having a union resembling a chemical compound our Confederation is, in considerable degree, still after the pattern of a mechanical mixture. By all means let us have a flag that can be cheaply and easily produced, that bears no distinctively provincial device, and that will be displayed on every suitable occasion and in every suitable place.

Fairies of Ireland.

"Sith," pronounced "shee," is the generic name for Gaelic fairies. There are many kinds of siths, the most noticeable being the ban-sith (ban-shee) or "white fairy." All families representing the ancient princes and nobles of the Irish nation have attached to them a banshee, who warns them of impending death or danger. The banshee appears in the form of a white-robed woman, with jvelly but tear-stained face. She moans around the the casements of the house wherein dwells the chieftain's family, and her voice might be mistaken for the sound of the wind.

Tradition had it that the grandfather of the writer was warned of his approaching death by a banshee, in a peculiar manner. He was riding along a quiet country road, when a woman, who had been sitting by the hedge-side, rose and veiling her face in her cloak, advanced toward him. His horse stood stock still and could be moved neither by whip nor spur. The strange woman laid her white hand on his heart, and with a low wail, vanished. Before nightfall, the story continues, he was a corpse.

But there are livelier "siths" than the banshee. The Leprechaun, gay little fellow, tricked out in gaudy garments, hammers at his brogues under the hedge. If you can catch him and squeeze him tight he will show you gold galore; if he induces you to look away for a single second, he is gone. And there are countless others. It will be many and many a day before the fairies desert from Ireland forever. The demagogues' howl may yet prove too strong for them, and then it does, Ireland, the Ireland of old and sage, will exist no longer. Wherefore, long life to the "good people" and "sweet bad luck" to their enemies.

What is the Church Doing?

The present age is utilitarian and practical if it is anything. It approaches every project, organization, or institution with this question upon its lips, "What use does it serve?" Nothing is considered too sacred to be subjected to this test. Even Christianity, or more properly the churches which profess to be the depositaries and conservators of Christian truth are confronted with the question. Standing in the presence of these organizations along the line of doing the Church doing along the line of doing to save the fallen, and regenerate the world? It asks not concerning her creeds, but her deeds; not concerning her doctrines, but her practices. It lays slight stress upon the theological differences which for ages have been given so much prominence, and which have kept the different sections of the Church of Christ so widely separated. Humanity is hungering for a Christ Christianity rather than for an orthodox Christianity. And the Church must reckon on this changed condition. For her to ignore or despise it, is to sign her death warrant. All her methods of work must be revised under the influence of this prominent fact, while her aim must be Christianity applied to practical life. In no other way will the masses be reached. Hitherto the attention of the Church has been too much absorbed with the regular church-goers, the services being largely arranged with a view to meet their tastes and wishes. The result is, that a large proportion of the community has drifted beyond the Church's influence. If these are to be won, there must be an adaptiveness to the tastes and prejudices of these outsiders, that makes them feel that the Church is interested in their temporal as well as spiritual welfare, and that they have something in common with the spiritually minded in the work of the Church.

This proposition is ably argued by the Rev. C. A. Dickinson in the October "And-over Review." He says: "The Gospel is preaching plus practice, truth plus life; truth exemplified in character, expressed in ministrations, and materialized into beneficent institutions. It is the Word made flesh, the truth moving in and through all secular life. The Church will become attractive to the people when it becomes in the truest sense of the word a ministering Church. It should be the source of all beneficent ministrations. It should allow no other philanthropic or charitable institution, however wealthy, to point to its closed doors and folded hands, and say, 'What are you doing to relieve the sick, and the widow and the fatherless, to feed the hungry, and raise the fallen?' The modern Church, with its rented pews, closed doors, and six days, interregnum of inactivity, can hardly be said to have its prototype in the Church of the Old Jerusalem, or its antetype in the temple of the New Jerusalem; for the first was certainly organized for 'daily ministrations'; and in the second, 'the gates shall not be shut at all by day.' Elsewhere he points out, that the Church may attach herself to the community by such secular work as Relief, Entertainment and Instruction exemplifying the Gospel Spirit in each. Here then is an open door through which the Church in all its members and during seven days of the week, may enter and find pleasant and profitable employment. The churches that are wise will not allow the opportunity to pass by unimproved; for as the writer of the Canadian Methodist Quarterly (a magazine, by the way, which is a credit to the publishers and an important adjunct of Canadian literature) remarks, 'The Church of the future will be the Church that most successfully applies the principles of Christianity to man's present needs, and makes the Church to be a practical organization looking to the good of man's body as well as soul, and wo Kingd of heaven in this world.'

A Cargo of Mummified Cats.

A consignment of nineteen and a half tons of embalmed cats from Beni Hassan, Central Egypt, has just reached Liverpool. In this parcel there are remains of about 150,000 cats. They were discovered by an Egyptian fellah employed in husbandry, who fell into a pit which, on further examination, proved to be a large subterranean cave completely filled with cats, every one of which had been separately embalmed and dressed in cloth, after the manner of Egyptian mummies, all being separately laid out in rows. Specimens of these have been taken by Mr. Moore, the curator of the Liverpool Museum, where they can be seen. The remainder are about to be employed as manure. The Rev. H. H. Higgins and Mr. Moore fix the date of their interment at 2,900 years before Christ. A correspondent writes:

The tomb of a section of the ancient Egyptians was the cat; hence when a cat died it was buried with all honors, being embalmed, and sometimes fully decorated, and, in short, had as much attention paid to it as a human being. It had long been believed that a cat cemetery existed on the east bank of the Nile, and in the autumn of 1889 a lucky Egyptian, as stated above, found this ancient burial ground at Beni Hassan, about 100 miles from Cairo. Laborers were soon at work, and dug out hundreds of thousands. Some were quickly sold to local farmers, and other lots found their way to an Alexandrian merchant, thence by the steamer Pharos and Thebes to Liverpool, where they were knocked down at £3 13s. 9d. per ton to a local fertilizer merchant. The auction was only known to the 'trade,' but even the 'bone' buyers looked nervously at the sample. The broker knocked the lot down with one of the cats' heads for a hammer.

Fighting Among Deer.

In the course of a recent interview Mr. Dann, the head gamekeeper of Bushy Park, said: "I saw two deer fight as I came along last year. Are their fighting propensities naturally rather great? Yes, it's their nature. They like to pick quarrels, but as a rule except in autumn, they are not vicious. This season they have been more quarrelsome than usual, and we have had a dozen stags killed during the winter, which died in the fight. I attribute this to the mild season. They are in better condition than is the case in a hard winter, and that makes them boisterous. We have three herds, which together number about 900 animals. There are about 500 in the large herd and about 200 in each of the smaller. But it is impossible to count them exactly, as they are quite free, and we have no chance of ascertaining their exact number."—London Court Journal.

The old toper does not need ice when he gets on to "skate."

Imperial Federation.

Though the question of Imperial Federation has not yet succeeded in pressing itself prominently forward in Canadian politics, it is nevertheless an issue which is far from being ready for burial, either in this country or the mother land. At a meeting held in London some time ago under the direction of the City of London branch of the Imperial Federation League, at which the Lord Mayor (Sir Henry Isaacs) presided, there were present such distinguished persons as the Earl of Rosebery, Cardinal Manning, Earl of Carnarvon, Lord Stratheden and Campbell-Lord Brassey, and many others. The principal speaker on the occasion was the Earl of Rosebery who started out by saying, that the feeling necessary to the establishment of an Imperial Federation was already in existence, that the fire had not to be kindled, only the burning embers fanned into a flame. His scheme of Federation, if scheme it may be called, is somewhat aside from the general idea advocated by Canadian federationists; that is, if the newspaper reports correctly express their views. He is not in sympathy with the three or four plans most generally advocated, viz., Colonial representation in the House of Lords, in the House of Commons, in the Privy Council; or the more commercial idea, a Zollverein or Customs Union, by which the federating parties should be guarded by a protective system from the products of all other countries. His opinion is that the most practical, desirable, and advantageous union is one of which the Colonial Conference which met in London in 1887 furnishes a fitting type. He asks, "what was that conference?" That conference was composed of all the most eminent men available in the colonies. It discussed all the questions which concerned the common good of the Empire; and it brought forward recommendations in all these questions. If that was not Imperial Federation I do not know what was. "I have always felt," Earl Rosebery continues, "since that day that the question of what is called Imperial or National Federation depended upon the periodical continuance or renewal of these Conferences."

But in order that these conferences may not prove abortive, certain necessary conditions must be met. They must meet periodically and at stated intervals; they must be composed of the best men available at the moment; and they must not presume to legislate, but to suggest; not to produce statutes, but to offer recommendations. Replying to the objection of those who might be disposed to regard such results as too neutral to be of any advantage, Earl Rosebery contended that "if any closer scheme of federation is to come about, it can only come about through the medium of such a conference, and not through the medium of any private organization. Whereas, on the other hand, if no closer scheme comes out of these conferences and, indeed, if these conferences themselves are found to be of no avail and come to nothing, then you may be perfectly certain that whatever your views may be or your exertions may be, Imperial Federation in any form is an impossible dream." To this scheme the London "Times" objects that while it "is eminently satisfactory, so far as it goes, it does not go very far. Between holding meetings in favor of the abstract idea of Imperial Federation and bringing Imperial Federation about in a practical form the distance is immense." It has a fear likewise that the time has not yet come when federation could be carried out. Local projects in the colonies, as for example, the intercolonial federation which is now to the front in Australia, would naturally prevent the colonies from giving the necessary attention to the more comprehensive scheme. Its counsel therefore to the friends of union is, to give their attention to the removal of obstacles and difficulties which might impair their work and wait for the result. Precipitancy might greatly retard the consummation they so ardently desire. Rome was not built in a day.

Wealth in Great Britain.

One ceases to wonder at the amount of British capital seeking investment in America after looking over a year's record of the money left by will in the United Kingdom. The "personalities" of dead Britain or of deceased residents of Great Britain sworn to in 1889 for purposes of probate and of succession duty reaching imposing sums. One dry goods jobber in Manchester died possessed of \$12,500,000 of personal property; a Clyde ship builder comes next with \$5,300,000, and a member of the great banking house of the Barings follows hard upon with \$4,500,000. A scion of the House of Orleans, Count Graf-fulde, died possessed of \$3,300,000, in England; and a Scottish peer, the Earl of Leven and Melville, left for division among his heirs \$2,600,000. What we call millionaires—nobody there with less than \$5,000,000 being so denominated—were numerous. Manchester alone had ten of them ranging from \$2,100,000 of "personalty" to \$1,000,000. James Jameson, the great Dublin distiller, left \$2,400,000 of hard cash, or what may be called its portable equivalent, and in England Brewer Dan Thwaites left \$2,300,000. A Cork brewer, W. H. Crawford, had a sworn "personalty" of \$1,600,000, and there were eighty other deceased brewers whose estates were liable to succession duty on \$1,000,000. It is figures like these that impress on the English mind the idea that there is in beer, as there was in Dr. Johnson's day, "the potentiality of growing rich beyond the dream of avarice." Even the railroad magnates left a less impressive aggregate, though one of them—Sir Daniel Gooch, Chairman of the Great Western—died, possessed of \$3,250,000, and of two mere railroad engineers, one was worth \$800,000 and another \$440,000. The richest representative of the iron industry, who died in 1889, was a manufacturer of plows, worth \$1,100,000—a sum exceeded by the "personalty" of a London gas-fitter, whose heirs divided the snug little sum of \$1,200,000. But even he does not come up to John Nevill, baker—who ever heard of a millionaire baker on this side of the Atlantic?—whose "personalty" is sworn to at \$1,400,000. It must be remembered that all this is in personal or movable property, and that real estate does not count in the enumeration, not being liable to succession duty.

The Provincial Board of Health, having ascertained the existence of two cases of glanders in Quebec and in Lorette, has called the attention of the Minister of Agriculture at Ottawa to the fact, asking him to immediately enforce the law respecting contagious diseases affecting animals enacted by the Federal Government in 1886.