

THE WEEK'S NEWS.

CANADA.

There is a marked revival in the Montreal shipping trade.

The retail grocers of Halifax have formed a combination.

About 4,000 men are wanted in the Northwest for harvesting.

The Nova Scotia coal miners report a season of unprecedented prosperity.

James Lane, a Rosebank, Man., farmer, was killed by lightning on Saturday.

A cyclone in Madawaska county, N. B., wrecked thirty buildings on Monday.

Sir John Macdonald has gone to Prince Edward Island, where he will spend a week.

George Robinson, a young man, dropped dead while dancing at Winnipeg the other night.

Canadian cotton, in large quantities, is being shipped from Vancouver for China and Japan.

Well-informed politicians state that there will be an early session of the Dominion Parliament.

Mr. George T. Blackstock has been retained as senior counsel for the defence of Birchall.

Fire did \$700 damage at the residence of Hon. David Mills, London, on Monday morning.

The general conference of the Methodist church of Canada opens at Montreal on September 10.

Joseph Rollin, a 16-year-old boy, fell over the cliff at Major's hill, Ottawa, on Monday, and was killed.

The report of the Montreal harbor master shows an increase in the trade of the port for the present season.

The English Royal Niger Company has prohibited the importation or sale of intoxicating liquor in its African possessions, not on moral grounds, but on business principles, holding that the profits growing out of the liquor traffic are more than cancelled by the pecuniary losses resulting from drink demoralization.

Hon. C. C. Colby will leave for Europe in a few days. He will be accompanied by his son, Mr. Charles W. Colby.

Forty-three Icelanders arrived in Montreal on Tuesday night with the intention of settling in the North-West.

It is reported that the debts contracted at Halifax by Prince Duple Singh will be paid by the British authorities.

Gordon, who set fire to the Cambrian hotel, Wapella, Man., will spend the next fifteen years of his life in prison.

The manager of the Deloraine Coal railway says he will be able to lay coal down in Winnipeg this winter for \$5 a ton.

A strong crusade is about to be commenced in Montreal against tax exemptions. The amount of exempted property there is \$19,745,210.

Mrs. Rodrige Vallinier, of Tecumseth, who has suffered for months from dyspepsia, died a few days ago after an absolute fast of 43 days.

Valuable phosphate leads in the Wakefield district, about twenty miles from Ottawa, have just been discovered by a Californian miner named Doller.

Farmers in western Ontario pronounce the growth of the two-rowed barleyseed imported from England by the Dominion Government a grand success.

A Nova Scotia girl was fatally burned through the instrumentality of her pipe, which she put in her pocket too quickly when she was done smoking.

Two women and one man were baptized according to Mormon rites, by an elder of the Latter Day Saints' Church, in the River Thames, at London, Ont., on Saturday.

Belgian settlers in the North-west are highly pleased with their new homes. So says Mons. L. Hacault, editor of the *Courrier de Bruxelles*, who has just visited them.

Contractor Randolph Macdonald has brought suits against Toronto claiming nearly a quarter of a million dollars' damages in connection with the Don improvement works.

Fifteen hundred Icelanders celebrated their national holiday at Winnipeg on Saturday. The orators of the day expressed their greatest satisfaction with the change from Iceland to Manitoba.

Premier Mowat declines to pay a bill of \$17,000 presented by the Dominion Government for the maintenance of lunatics sent from the disputed territory which was ultimately awarded to Ontario.

General Manager Graham, of the Northern Pacific & Manitoba Railway system, is to be transferred to the Pacific coast, and the Manitoba lines are likely to come under the Dakota division superintendant.

The new town site of Fort William, Ont., has just been placed on the market, and the company owning the property have been made sanguine of the success of their enterprise by the sales of lots already made.

The merchants of Brandon propose boycotting the Northern Pacific and Manitoba railway for entering into an agreement with the Canadian Pacific to furnish discriminating rates to Winnipeg as against Brandon.

A book agent at St. Thomas on Saturday forged the name of Mr. John Carling, Minister of Agriculture, to a cheque for \$50, and with this document paid a bill of \$14 to a lively stable-keeper, receiving the change. He has not yet been caught.

By an arrangement entered into between the Calgary and Edmonton Railway Company and Rev. Leonard Gaetz the site for a new town to be called Red Deer has been located on the property of the latter. The property consists of twelve hundred acres, half of which will be given to the railway company.

The Dominion mortality statistics show that during the year ended December last there were 480 deaths of illegitimate children in Montreal, against 413 in all the rest of Canada. The city authorities explain this by saying that Montreal is made the dumping ground for such unfortunate infants owing to the facilities for their reception.

On Monday night the wife of Constable McDuff of Montreal was sitting on her gallery when a drunken neighbor attempted to assault her. She escaped into the house, locked the door and fell fainting from fright. Tuesday morning she was prematurely confined, and now the mother and child lie dead. She had been married only a year, and was a woman of superior attainments. Guerin, the assailant and cause of the dual death, is in custody.

ENGLAND.

The British authorities will leave Heligoland on Saturday.

Mr. Henry M. Stanley has quite recovered, and will soon be off for Switzerland with his bride.

Viscount Boyle (the Earl of Shannon) reached Liverpool last week by the steamship Tontonic.

The steamer Majestic made the voyage from Queenston to New York in five days and twenty-three hours.

The order for the removal of the West Riding regiment from Halifax to Bermuda has been countermanded.

Gen. Walseley retired on Friday from his place as Adjutant General, and will assume command of the forces in Ireland in October.

It is announced that on the expiration of a year from the Duke of Manchester's death, his widow will marry the Marquis of Hartington.

Editor Walsh, of the *Cashel Sentinel*, has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment for publishing a speech delivered at a prohibited meeting.

Mr. Gladstone, speaking at the National Liberal Club, referring to Gen. Simmons' mission to the Pope, said it was generally regarded with misgiving and suspicion, with doubt, indignation, and even with disgust.

Viscount Cranbrook presided on Monday at the unveiling of a statue on the Thames embankment to the late Right Hon. W. E. Forster, the Liberal statesman, chief secretary for Ireland under Mr. Gladstone's Government.

The London postmen recently discharged on account of their activity in organizing the men and urging their demands for better treatment are in a starving condition, despite the efforts of the union to save them. The newspapers very generally urge Postmaster General Raikes to reinstate them.

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UNITED STATES.

Philadelphia's population is 1,044,894.

A hailstorm in North Dakota has caused great destruction to crops.

The flour output from Minneapolis last week was the heaviest in two years.

The Kansas drought has been broken, but the rains have come too late to save the corn crop.

From 2,000 members in 1881 the Brotherhood of Carpenters of the United States has grown to 70,000.

It is estimated the public debt of the United States has been reduced about \$4,000,000 during the month.

During the one hundred years of the existence of the patent office in Washington, 433,432 patents have been issued.

In the neighborhood of Austin, Tex., millions of caterpillars have invaded the fields and are destroying the crops.

Miss Jennie Hartman, of Mertzown, Pa., shot herself dead the other day because of fears of hydrophobia. Her pet dog had bitten her.

The collision of the steamers Virginia and Louise at Baltimore on Monday caused the loss of fourteen lives, and two of the injured are dying.

The San Francisco chamber of commerce has declared itself strongly in favor of commercial reciprocity on the lines advocated by Secretary Blaine.

Senator Hoar argues that regard for the interests of her dressers should cause Great Britain to agree to the American view of the seal question.

The celebrated Blythe will contest in San Francisco, involving \$4,000,000, has been decided in favor of Florence, the illegitimate child of the dead millionaire.

It is possible that the opposition of the eastern masters and handlers of barley may influence enough Senators at Washington to knock out the proposed duty on barley.

On Saturday afternoon Charles McCaffrey, the Canadian bridge jumper, jumped from the Shears at the Atlantic works, East Boston, a distance of 150 feet. He was killed.

The report as to the great distress among the settlers in western Dakota has been fully confirmed. Many of the distressed people propose crossing the border into the fertile Canadian North-West.

A Tucson, Ariz., despatch says: The rainfall in this section during the last three days are unprecedented. All the streams are flooded, and much destruction of property has taken place in the valley.

A San Francisco despatch says the Pacific Mail steamers from San Francisco will hereafter call at Victoria, B.C., on the way to and from China, and the Canadian Pacific steamships will even up by calling at San Francisco.

A tramp named Charles Blackwell, for whom inquiry has been made recently, was found in Watertown, N. Y., and informed that \$9,000 awaits him in England.

William Rae, a Minneapolis license commissioner, who got away with \$20,000 of the people's money, has been arrested in Montreal. Rae consented to accompany a detective back to Minneapolis without extradition formalities.

Senator Cullom says the Interstate Commerce Committee has a mass of evidence which indicates the existence of cheaper transportation across the continent by Canadian routes than can be offered by American railways. The Senator says he wants to see American railways protected against such competition.

GENERAL.

Eighty deaths per day is the cholera record in Mecca.

Joseph Chamberlain says for America on Wednesday next.

Emperor William will go to Heligoland after his visit to England.

The German emperor is the guest of Queen Victoria at Osborne house, Isle of Wight.

In some parts of the Sudan the deaths from starvation number one hundred daily.

There are 500 American doctors at the international medical congress now in session at Berlin.

Paris papers report that another plot against the Czar has been discovered at St. Petersburg.

The cholera epidemic is diminishing in Valencia, Spain, but is greatly on the increase in Mecca.

A French Syndicate is building a telephone line from St. Petersburg to Berlin, via Moscow and Warsaw.

The Alpine club, of France, will visit Ottawa in September, and will be accompanied by Mgr. Labeille.

A Buenos Ayres despatch says one thousand persons were killed and five thousand wounded in the revolution.

The Russian government has taken steps to stop the work of Protestant missionaries, especially in western Russia.

It is announced by the Russian newspapers that transportation to Siberia will shortly be abolished as a judicial punishment.

The Russian paper *Grashdanin* says Russia should increase her forces near the Afghan frontier in order to teach England prudence.

Pekin, China, is submerged and business there paralyzed. The government has ordered the immediate opening of Shun King to foreign trade.

The Russian Government has ordered the enforcement of the edicts of 1882 against the Jews, and a million Hebrews will be compelled to leave the country.

Italy has ordered the study of English to be added to the curriculum of all Italian universities, and has endowed the necessary professorships for the purpose.

In the Divorce Court suit brought by Viscount Dunlop against his wife, formerly Belle Bilton, the London music hall singer, a decision was given in favour of the lady.

By order of Emperor William, all the weak or ailing children of workmen employed in Government factories will have a holiday at the seaside at the Government's expense.

It is stated that many people in Newfoundland express themselves in favour of annexation to the United States if there is not a satisfactory settlement to the fishery question.

Emperor William had a private conference with King Leopold at Ostend on Friday, and it is thought that as a result Belgium may be taken as a kind of sleeping partner into the Triple alliance.

Much excitement has been caused in Southern Russia by the apparently authentic statement that many Russian peasant girls are decoyed or abducted from their native country to supply Turkish harems.

The war between Guatemala and San Salvador still goes on. The Salvadoran army is advancing into the interior of the enemy's country, and it is expected that when Guatemala has mobilized her forces she will be able to annihilate the intruder.

The celebrated Russian novelist Glyn Ushienky has been sent to Siberia because he wrote a letter to the Czar in support of the memorandum sent by Madame Tzebriskova, and a school girl of eighteen, who was arrested in bed and hurried to prison in her night dress, has also been banished on suspicion of possessing nihilistic secrets.

No Hogs There.

In these days when persons of proclivity are so common, when from encountering them on the street, in the shop at the mart, in the place of public concourse, on the cars, on the steamboat, etc., many were beginning to conclude that there is no place where the "befurcated hog" is not, it is a small compliment to a community to be advertised as being free from the pestiferous presence. Such praise has just been bestowed upon Edinburgh, by a Mr. Swinton, at present sojourning in that ancient capital. Mr. Swinton testifies that though he has mingled freely with the people he has not yet encountered the animal in question, that he has seen no hogs among the public hack drivers, who are helpful, respectful and not given to cheating; no hog in the hotels whose keepers are cautious, and waiters models of service who don't expect big tips; no "jostling hogs" who disregard the rights of fellow pedestrians; no "staring hogs," not even among the swells, dandies and "to-bacco hogs" who puff their smoke in other folk's faces and expectorate their filth in public places; no hogs among the police, the officers in charge of tramways, the patrons of public conveyances, the frequenters of parks and gardens, the keepers of shops and their employees, the drivers of carts, not even among the beggars upon the street. Everywhere he explains the signs of good breeding are manifest. For this eulogium the Edinburgh council ought to grant its author the freedom of the city. And what a paradise that other city must be! Were its advantages equal in every respect there can be no doubt but that "Modern Athens" will soon be filled to repletion by men and women who would fain escape associations that now render their life a burden.

The admirers of the "Grand old Man" will be pleased with the high encomium bestowed upon their favorite by an influential American citizen at present in England. In a letter to the Springfield *Republican*, describing his impressions of the leading men of the British House of Commons, this correspondent says: "I have had no chance yet to hear Mr. Gladstone speak at any length; but it is enough to see him among his supporters in the House to recognize that he is the one statesman, talent, polish, courtesy, self-control, are manifest among the Tory leaders; nothing can surpass the good manners of Lord Hartington, the good-nature of W. H. Smith, and the self-controlled audacity of Mr. Balfour; but they lack the regnant and earnest spirit which shows itself through the back of Mr. Gladstone's coat as he glides out into the lobby, as well as in his eagle-like activity when facing the ministry on his bench across the big table, at one end of which sits the Speaker under his winged wig, and at the other end lies the awful mace. Mr. Gladstone is a more religious statesman than was at any time in fashion during the period of Walpole, the Foxes, and the Pitts, but he has much of the impetuosity of Chatham, with a better-balanced judgment, and much of the liberality of Fox, curiously combined with the conservatism of Burke."

Hon. James White, the Australian sportsman, owner of Kirkham and Narellan, the candidates for this year's Derby, died at Sydney, N.S.W., on July 14.

THE FRENCH CANADIAN PEASANT.

His Traits, Habits, Language, Food, Dress, and Manner of Life.

In the August number of the *Magazine of American History* Dr. Prosper Bender describes the peasant, the *habitant*, as he is called, of the Province of Quebec. Travellers in that region who are familiar with provincial life in France have often remarked how the difference between the people of Brittany and those of Normandy are repeated among the descendants of the Bretons and Normans who founded the French colony in Canada.

Those of Breton descent, for example, are sturdy in body, strong of will, and fervent in piety, while the Normans are "shrewder in business, gay, and more sociable." Inter-marriages with English, Irish, Scotch, and who claim descent from the old French nobility that remained in Canada after the cessation and dignity of their claims with courtly bearing and highly aristocratic names. But amid all variations the general type of the *habitant* is perfectly well marked.

He is usually of small or medium size, dark, with sparkling brown eyes, well-knit frame, having astonishing powers of endurance; his face, generally placid, often dull, quickly brightens at a jest. The women, or *cracheuses*, as the men call them, are mostly brunettes, pleasing rather than pretty as a rule, generally strong, tranquil, growing trious, they help the men in the fields during harvest time, and spin and weave—indeed, often clothing the whole family. Their houses are clean and orderly, and the prayer book constitutes most of their reading.

A point of importance made by Dr. Bender is that it is a great mistake to suppose, as many people do in the United States and the British portion of Canada, that the French Canadians speak a mongrel dialect or *patois*. The uneducated speak ungrammatically and inelegantly, and they use words current in Normandy, Picardy, and other centuries ago in their old rather than their modern sense, but that does not constitute a *patois* such as is heard in French provinces. The working classes in the cities use technical English words, such as "at me job," or hose instead of *maitre*, and ship instead of *magasin*. The French Canadians have also coined words not in the dictionary of the French Academy, such as *pousseries*, *baltrou*, *bordee de neige*, and so on.

"The peasant speaks without English admixture, he will say, *Il mouille*, 'It wets,' he will speak of his *butin*, plunder, when he means *deux*, goods. These are instances of misuse of words. A few more: If he wishes to describe a fellow who wears out his clothes quickly, he will say, *C'est un vrai petit usurier*, 'He is a real little usurer'; and he will say, *Il me tance*, instead of *Il m'impatiente*, 'He worries me.' Instances of corruption of words are numerous. One frequently says, *Ah! que c'est d'valer*, when a great misfortune is implied, and he should say, *Ah! que matheur*, 'Ah! what a calamity.' Many nautical terms are applied to land matters: *Embarquez a cheval*, 'embark on a horse,' instead of *montez a cheval*, for *Bienfournt*, 'well supplied,' *amarrau*, in lieu of *attaches*; *cordeaux*, in place of *guides*.

Some of the political leaders speak alternately in French and English in the House of Commons at Ottawa; and this is notably the case with Hon. Wilfred Laurier, of whom it is said that it would take a well-trained ear to tell which is his mother tongue.

But one does now and then see in the French-Canadian press such Anglicisms as *Rencontrer ses parements*, *Faire honneur a ses engagements*, and *Faire une application au Parlement*, "to apply to Parliament," in lieu of *Presenter une petition*, or *une demande*.

For many years the sticklers for pure French have been trying to extirpate Anglicisms, and to make the language of public speakers and writers more accurate and polished. Louis Honore Frechette, the national poet, and the Abbe R. H. Casgrain have won prizes in literary competitions in France.

The cabin of the *habitant* is ordinarily built with a view to the rigors of a Canadian winter, having a porch or *tambour*, with a double door. Its furniture and ornaments are of the simplest, and the snowshoes or *raquettes* for winter travel, and the moccasins or *bottes sautoises* for summer use cut a prominent figure.

A few plain three-legged stools, some wooden chairs with wicker bottoms; one or two rocking-chairs, *berceuses*, of rustic make; one heavy, spacious wooden trunk serving as both wardrobe and seat of honor; a settle-bed, and of course the kneading trough, generally sum up the furniture. Most households have a spinning-wheel and rag-carpet, *catalogne* and the walls are covered with old newspapers.

Above the bed is a wooden cross painted black below which is the sprig of blessed palm in a small bottle or vase *benitier*, containing holy water, and about the religious calendar of the diocese. This twig of palm plays an important part in the religious ceremonies of the household, around it clustering beliefs of impressive character. It is credited with the power of exorcising the evil one and preventing a stroke of lightning to the house. It is renewed each year on Palm Sunday, the old twig being carefully burned.

The houses of the well-to-do are larger, and are often built of stone. All houses are blessed by the cure about the time of their completion, while as soon as the walls are raised, a few bunches of palm, which they call *le bouquet*, are attached to the chimney or a gable, and a gun is fired by way of salute. The peasants cross themselves before beginning or completing any act, and stop work to say a short prayer three times a day at the sound of the Angelus. The large number of children in families is very striking.

Before the cession a royal bounty was granted to all young men marrying before the age of twenty, and to young girls wedded before sixteen. Parents who had more than ten children were also in receipt of a royal gratuity. In most households there are from a dozen to sixteen children, and even as many as twenty-eight. Two prominent officers of the province of Quebec are physical development and mental culture they are too. Recently the Parliament of Quebec passed a law granting a lot of land of one hundred acres to all parents who have

twelve or more living children, and already over one thousand applications have been made for the provincial bounty.

The dress of the peasants is usually the coarsest homespun, worked up without dye, but the dull and monotonous brown or gray is relieved by a colored sash about the waist, and by the blue or scarlet of the madding *toque*.

They wear beef moccasins, stretching near to the knee in summer, and cloth shoes and leggings, *mitasses*, in winter. The moccasins are all made round about the toes, and for this reason old country people sometimes call the French Canadians *roule-toues*. The wife's *labonne femme* dress is of the simplest description, composed of a warm woolen shawl, a blue skirt or dress of homespun, and a neat linen cap, frilled, and tied under the chin.

As the railroads begin to make the peasantry better acquainted with the outside world, they indulge more in dress, and are beginning to discard homespun, and also to introduce more luxurious living. But the diet of the farmer is still exceedingly plain: Just before the morning meal he takes his dram, *petit coup d'appetit*, the beverage being usually whiskey, in which he has infused some absorbent leaves. He is careful he will take it a la *cachee*. The first meal of the day consists of a platter of sour milk, in equal proportions, with buckwheat bread broken and soaked in the milk. Dinner is served shortly before midday, the bill of fare comprising pea soup, in which pork has been boiled with green herbs. The pork is generally eaten with molasses. The dessert is a bowl of new and sour milk, mixed with the bread, as for the morning meal, but they add maple sugar at this repast.

All their soups, meats and stews are served in one large dish, *a la gamelle*. They break their pieces of bread, drop them in the main dish and then scoop them out with spoon or fork till the appetite is satisfied. This custom is called *saucez*, and the parent is heard now and then saying to a child whose appetite is flagging, *Saucez donc, mon cher*—"Dip in, my dear."

After dinner all take a nap, including the servants. Supper brings more new and sour milk, cold potatoes, and the remains of the pork from the dinner. Near the coast plenty of fish is eaten. Occasionally an infusion of hot water and toast, under the name coffee, is served. In harvest time, the men carry bread and cold pork to the field for lunch, and eat it with a clasp knife.

They have an odd way of cutting the bread and pork; they hold the sandwich in the palm of the left hand, and while pressing a piece off with a circular motion, they cut next stick the end of the knife into this process is a peculiar and striking one. With a draught of water the meal is complete.

Of a Sunday they enlarge their dietary, treating themselves at breakfast to thick pancakes, *crêpes*, made of wheaten flour and milk, cooked with butter, and eaten with maple sugar or molasses. Another article of indulgence is roast pork, *porc frais*, the drippings of which, *graisse de rot*, are much appreciated by them, and also a stew, *ragout* of meat, but they use it in winter when game is abundant. When they kill cattle and portions for family use, which they bury in the snow and dig up as wanted.

The aim seems to be to live on the simplest fare, and preferably on that which is not convertible into money. The original make their own clothing and tools, as well as to raise their own food, so as to be independent of outsiders, especially of the English. But communication with cities and towns soon began to work changes among them.

The International Band.
Mamma's got a headache pain,
And had to go to bed again;
And Mary's gone after doctor's stuff,
As if poor mamma hadn't enough!
And we must be the best of boys,
And never make a bit of noise;
And we will be just terrible good,
I promised Mary that we would;
So come on, boys, and lend a hand,
And we will play at German band,
I know 'twon't hurt dear mamma's head,
'Cause you can't hear nuffin' when you're in bed.

Now, Ted, you take the big tin pan,
And bang it hard as ever you can;
And Jack will take the shovel and tongs,
And beat the time to all our songs;
The dinner horn will just suit me,
And how I blow it you shall see,
And I will be the leader too,
And strike the table one and two.
Now, we are ready to begin,
Ted, here's a spoon to strike the tin.
Now, tootie-toot! and a bim, bum, clang!
And a too-who-who! and a rum, bum, bang!
And a cling-a-ling! and with a foot and hand.

Hooray! for the American German band.
"My mamma we didn't never know
Our music could have hurt you so!
We fought—you know you said so, Fred—
Zat you c'n't hear nuffin' when you're in bed.
And we was bein' the bestest boys—
And nobody calls music noise!"

A Brutal Husband.
Toronto, Aug 14.—William J. Finlayson was up at the Police Court on Saturday on a charge of assaulting his wife. The poor woman appeared in the box carrying a baby. For a whole week, she said, the prisoner had done nothing but drink, had regularly on his return home abused her. She keeps a small shop, from the proceeds of which she supported four children besides her husband, who spent his time loafing round town. The magistrate on hearing Mrs. Finlayson's story expressed his opinion of the man's brutality in no measured terms, and gave him thirty days in jail, with the proviso that when he came out he should prove a better man.

A special despatch from Washington says that the Behring Sea correspondence will in the negotiations last winter. Great Britain and the United States were about to conclude a treaty as to the close season, for the catching of seal, when Hon. C. H. Tupper, Canadian Minister of Fisheries, represented that a close season was not necessary as the seal were in no danger of extermination by the methods of catching which were suspended.