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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Colonel Fletcher delivered a very able and instructive lecture on the "Defence of Canada," on Thursday evening, to a large and attentive, and highly respectable audience; a report of which we will endeavor to lay before our readers shortly.

The Canadian Commissioners at the Centennial Exhibition to be held at Philadelphia next year, have been appointed. They are three in number, and their duties will be to superintend the three great departments, as follows:—Hon. Senator Penny, of Montreal, for Arts; F. W. Glen Esq. of Oshawa, for Manufactures; and Hon. Senator Wilmot, of New Brunswick, for Agriculture. The Government have been fortunate in availing themselves of the services of three men so essentially representative of the interests which will be respectively entrusted to them. M. A. Perrault, of Montreal, has been appointed Secretary of the Commission, who will commence their labours immediately after the close of the session.

The subject of having the boundary line between the American colony of Alaska and British Columbia defined as soon as possible, which has been mooted in the United States Senate will be brought before the House by Mr. Roscoe, one of the members for Victoria. As mining operations are going on in the extreme north of the Province, it is well that this matter should be settled as soon as possible.

From Winnipeg we learn that the outlawry of Riel was completed on Wednesday last by means of the proclamation in the Court of Queen's Bench.

"An old pensioner," says the Ottawa Times of Saturday has passed away in the person of Mr. David Luck, for a long time the care-taker of the old Government House and Vaults in Montreal. Mr. Luck, who was in the ninetieth year, having been born in England on the 28th August, 1874, had been in the service of the Canadian Government almost from time immemorial. His recollection carried him back to the days of Sir George Prevost Sir John Henry Craig, the Earl of Dalhousie, the Duke of Richmond and other early British Governors who held almost sovereign sway in Lower Canada. Many years ago, about the time of the Union of 1840 or perhaps later, Mr. Luck was placed on the Pension List, and given charge of the ancient historical building in Montreal, above mentioned. Here the writer of these lines saw him last summer,

and had frequent opportunities of testing the accuracy of the old man's memory with regard to matters and things in the time long ago. He then identified the chamber in which the remains of the Duke of Richmond were laid in state on their being brought from Richmond, near Ottawa, where the Duke had died from the effects of a bite from a pet fox. He also informed the writer that there were now but two or three members of the Civil Service surviving, who knew him when he was in active public employment. Mr. Luck died on Wednesday.

Lieutenant Conter, R. E., the officer in charge of the British Palestine Survey Expedition, reports important discoveries of ruins in the hill country of Judah, which he purposes to identify with some of the lost biblical cities and sites. He has been also engaged in a search for the limits of the Levitical towns, hoping to find some inscription or monument similar to that which rewarded M. Ganneau at the city of Gezer. He has not found any Hebrew inscriptions, but appears to have discovered boundary stones which may prove to be the ancient Levitical landmarks. He promises to make a survey of Mr. Henry Maudsley's recent discoveries on Mount Zion.

The examination of the Prince Imperial of France at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, is being conducted in a manner precisely to that of the other cadets. The Prince since his sojourn at the Academy has risen in his class every term, and the result of the examination, the marks being cumulative from each previous examination through which he has already passed, will be made known with those concerning the other gentlemen cadets in the first class. He is understood to have acquired great proficiency both in Artillery and Mathematics, and has taken up, in addition to the qualifying or obligatory subjects, several voluntary ones.

The Playfair Commission on the British Civil Service are in favor of reducing the number of officials now employed, of adding one hour to the official day, and of increasing to some extent, the salaries at present paid. The Commission also recommends that the Board of Trade, which was recently reorganized, should be taken as the model of all other Government departments.

Telegrams from China say that a civil war in that country is considered imminent.

A Bill introduced by Lord Elcho into the Imperial House of Commons placing the entire Metropolis of London under one municipal government, has had its first reading.

The Prussian State Council has determined to prohibit the importation of American potatoes into Germany.

A telegram from St. Petersburg announces that the Khan of Khiva has paid the last instalment of the war indemnity to Russia.

The French Foreign Minister has tendered to the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs of London the Order of the Legion of Honor; but, it being illegal for British subjects, except by special permission, to accept foreign distinctions, the offer has been declined.

A tariff union of the islands of the Pacific, at the head of which will be Australia and New Zealand, is proposed by the latter colonies.

The London *Civillian* is informed, the Admiralty offices in London are once more to be revised, with a view to further "economy." The permanent staff is, it is stated, to be reduced, whilst the number of "Writers" and nonde-crypt officials will be considerably increased.

It is reported that the Carlist Chieftain Mendauri was arrested for treason, and shot by Don Carlos.

An official despatch has been received by the Spanish Minister of War, admitting that the advance guard of the extreme left of the Alfonsist troops, operating against the Carlists in Navarre, has suffered a check, and stating that it was caused by over confidence of its commander in his strength. This, however, will have no effect upon the general plan of the campaign. Vainmaseda is to be appointed Captain General of Cuba. Important measurers in regard to that Island are impending.

The Carlist Committee in London claim that it has intelligence that Don Carlos' troops have gained a great victory over the Alfonsists. The loss of the latter in killed and wounded being 7,000 men.

In the French Assembly on the 11th, the bill for the organization of a Senate was taken up.

An Amendment providing that Senators be chosen by the same electors as the deputies in the Lower Chamber, was adopted by a vote of 322 yeas to 300 nays. The amendment was carried by the united vote of the Left and the Bonapartists, Fifty Legitimists abstained from voting, but they hope to cause a rejection of this as well as other Constitutional Bills, when they come up for final action. The right Centre is dissatisfied with the course legislation has taken, and the Committee of Thirty are disposed to resign. The left decided to make every possible concession in matters of detail in order to save the Constitutional bills.