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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

THE city of Ottawa during the past week has been kept in a constant state of excitement in consequence of the reported presence in our midst of the notorious LOUIS RIEL, the member elect for Provencher, and the alleged murderer of Thomas Scott, at Fort Garry, during the emute in the Province of Manitoba in 1869. It appears that at noon on Monday, the 30th ult., he went secretly to the House of Commons, accompanied by two friends, members of the House, presented himself at the office of Mr. Patrick, Clerk of the House of Commons, who administered to him the oath, which he took and subscribed his name on the roll, and immediately left the building. As soon as it became known to the other members of the House that Riel had taken the oath and subscribed his name on the roll of members; Mr. McKenzie Bowell, member for North Hastings, having raised the question of privilege relative to Louis Riel, moved for the attendance of the Hon. Atty.-Gen'l Clarke, of Manitoba, who was examined at the Bar of the House relative to the Indictment preferred before the Grand Jury of the Queen's Bench of Manitoba, who produced the indictment and stated that a warrant had been issued for his arrest, and that he is now a fugitive from justice. Finally an order was made for his appearance in the House on Wednesday, the 8th inst., in order, we suppose, to move for his expulsion, and in default of his putting in an appearance on that day, a motion will probably be made to declare his seat vacant and a Writ ordered to be issued for a new election of a member for the electoral district of Provencher.

Mr. Vaux, Accountant of the House of Commons, has been superannuated, and Mr. Hartney, it is rumored, will succeed him in that office, performing at the same time the duties of his former position.

The Governor General has signified his desire to present a silver medal annually to the pupils of the Upper Canada College, during his stay in Canada.

The Victoria, (B.C.) Standard states that Mr. Chief Factor Graham will succeed the Hon. Donald A. Smith as Chief Administrative Officer of the Hudson's Bay Company at Fort Garry.

At Toronto, on the 4th April, a gunner in the Dominion Artillery was arrested for striking Bombadier Longman with a rifle and tearing his hand badly.

The Government of Newfoundland have decided to offer a bonus of two dollars per ton on all ships built in the Province. This is a judicious movement, and will probably do much to stimulate shipbuilding in that Island, and possibly open up a new market for Canadian timber.

The ship-building trade of Nova Scotia is flourishing. No less than ninety-nine vessels are on the stocks at the present time. The aggregate tonnage of these is estimated at 76,680.

The Manitoba Better Terms deputation have, it is said, secured the object of their mission to Ottawa.

A Winnipeg paper says a new steamer is being built at Grand Forks, to run on the Saskatchewan. The boat which was sunk last season will be raised and repaired for the same route.

Steps have been taken by the merchants of Winnipeg to establish a line of boats on the Red River in opposition to the Kittson monopoly.

A large part of the fruit imported into Boston from the Mediterranean, which was formerly brought on sailing vessels, now comes on the Cunard steamers, and the British steamer America, with a full cargo of Sicily fruit, the first ever imported directly into Boston on a steamer, will soon arrive.

The Mississippi River has overflowed its banks and spread itself 50 miles wide.

Sir Edward Thornton has renewed the lease of the country seat on the Hudson, near Catskill, occupied by him last season.

An appropriation was made in the Washington Senate yesterday for the deepening of the mouth of the Mississippi River.

The throes of Stone Mountain, North Carolina, were resumed on Wednesday night, being more violent than at any time since signs of volcanic action have been observed.

The Philadelphia City Council, at a meeting on the 2nd of April, passed, by acclamation and amid great applause, the one million dollar Centennial Appropriation Bill. The Mayor has signed the bill. A certified copy was transmitted to Washington.

The President of the Brooklyn City Railroad has issued an order, prohibiting, under pain of dismissal, any of the drivers or conductors drinking intoxicating liquor, or to live in or enter a house where liquor is sold.

The Carlists according to latest accounts, seem to be making good the defence of their position before Bilbao.

The California State Senate has passed a bill authorizing juries in trials for murder to say in their verdict whether the penalty shall be death or imprisonment for life.

Mr. Anderson will introduce a resolution in the House of Commons declaring that as Great Britain was adjudicated to be in the wrong in permitting the escape of the *Alabama*, and compensated Americans who suffered by the depredations of that vessel, British subjects who suffered similarly ought also to receive compensation.

The Lord Mayor of London gave a banquet on the 31st March at the Mansion House in honor of Sir Garnett Wolseley. Among the distinguished guests present were the Prince of Wales, Prince Arthur, the Duke of Cambridge, Vicount Cardwell, and Mr. Gathorne Hardy. General Wolseley, in response to a toast, gave an interesting account of the Ashantee expedition, and declared that King Coffee had for a long time premeditated the war. The General was received with the greatest enthusiasm, and his speech was frequently interrupted with cheers.

Captain Glover, of the Ashantee Expedition, arrived at Liverpool on the 3rd April, and was received with great rejoicing.

Reports from the districts affected by the famine show a great improvement in the situation. The measures taken by the Government to relieve the distress of the people have proved very effective. There are now no actual cases of starvation outside of Tirhoot, and in that district there are but a few.

The latest advices from Cape Coast Castle are to March 12. An embassy, numbering with its escort 250 persons, had arrived there from the Ashantee King. It was reported that they refused to discontinue human sacrifices, and disputed the amount of the indemnity.

The Carlists assert that the movements of Serrano against the Royalists, before Bilbao, entirely failed, and that there was no fighting between the 28th and 30th of March.

A young man named Pique has received, at the hands of the Mayor of Dover, the Royal Humane Society's certificate, for having leaped from a height of forty feet into the sea, and saved the life of an artilleryman who had been blown off the Admiralty Pier by the discharge of a gun.

Captain General Concha proposes a formal treaty of peace, the terms including a pledge that Cuba shall remain united to the Spanish Crown, the people send representatives to the Cortez, and slavery be only abolished by the consent of the slaveholders.

The Spanish Republicans are said to have lost 4,000 men killed and wounded in an engagement with the Carlists.