THE WORLD, PRICE ONE CENT

The Toronto World.

THE WORLD'S City circulation is larger than the combined circulation of all the other morning papers in the city.

SIXTH YEAR — THURSDAY MORNING, AUGUST 12, 1886. — PRICE ONE CENT

TORONTO'S BIG SENSATION

CHARGE OF DEFRAUDING THE CITY AGAIN DONE BY OUR CITIZENS.

Alleged Rascal — In Burns' Contracts for Coal—$8,000 the Consideration—A Sergeant of C Company Also Arrested.

Patrick Burns, coal dealer; T. C. Johnson, his bookkeeper; Bernard McCarthy, his collector; John H. Venables, mechanical engineer of the Toronto waterworks—these are the names of well-known citizens whose arrest yesterday afternoon created a whirl of excitement on the streets, and has been the talk of the town ever since. "What's the trouble?" "Do you know the charge?" and similar eager questions passed round, but met with no definite response, although vague rumors spread rapidly among the little knots of excited men who discussed the startling affair on King, Toronto and Court streets. The prevailing report was that the accused were in for swindling the city in connection with coal contracts, but nobody knew how, when or where. The detectives darted in and out of Police Headquarters with a knowing look, but said nothing.

When things had somewhat quieted down The World managed to get some information. "The charge," said Detective Reburn, "is that from May, 1883, to June, 1885, they unlawfully conspired to obtain and acquire to themselves the sum of $8000, the property of the City of Toronto." "Who swore to the information?" "I did," replied the officer, "and I'll tell you no more." Mr. Burns, Mr. Johnson and Mr. McCarthy were apprehended by Detectives Cuddy and McGrath. They were cheerfully calculating that prospects were bright for a hard winter on coal when the officers entered Mr. Burns' King-street office and quietly invited them over to Court-street. They went, only to learn they were wanted for defrauding the city. The trio were struck with surprise. "My God," exclaimed Mr. Burns, as he took off his broad-brimmed Panama and wiped his perspiring brow, "what does it all mean?" The charge was read over to them, their valuables and papers were taken possession of, and they were locked up in the vile smelling cells below. This was at 4 o'clock. Their names were not entered on the slate, as in ordinary cases, and their arrest was kept as quiet as possible. But in the course of an hour it began to leak out, and soon friends of the accused were on the move for bail, headed by Mr. W. G. Falconbridge, Q. C., solicitor for Mr. Burns. In the meantime Detective Reburn arrived with Mr. Venables from the waterworks, where he had found the engineer in a disturbed state of mind on account of a big break in the new pumping engine. Mr. Venables looked flushed and nervous, but tried to be composed and nodded and spoke a word to some friends while at Inspector Seymour's desk. The prisoner was escorted down stairs, but only remained there a short time, being removed to the Agnes-street station.

The news of the affair now spread rapidly and a large number of intimate friends of the quartet gathered at Police Headquarters to see what could be done in their behalf. Among citizens who came to the rescue were James Beaty, M.P., John Small, M.P., F. D. Barwick, W. H. Knowlton, John E. Mitchell, E. F. Clarke, Ald. Piper, George Michael, A. E. Portch and Paul Rigby. The crime of conspiracy to defraud is a misdemeanor, and bailable. Justice of the Peace Hugh Miller was immediately summoned to the station to sign the bonds, the amount of bail in each case being fixed at $1000 and two sureties of $500 each. Acting Crown Attorney Galbraith, Mr. Falconbridge and Inspector Seymour got the necessary papers ready, and the whole party assembled in the Police Court clerk's office, where the gentlemen going surety attached their names to the bonds. W. H. Knowlton and J. E. Mitchell went bail for Patrick Burns; E. F. Clarke and J. E. Mitchell for J. H. Venables; W. H. Knowlton and A. E. Portch for T. C. Johnson; and George Michael and A. E. Portch for Bernard McCarthy. Then the barred doors below were unbolted and up came Burns, Johnson and McCarthy, while a telephone message to Agnes-street ordered the release of Venables. Friends crowded round the first mentioned three, shook hands, extended their sympathy and assured them that it would be all right. The accused appeared to take things lightly, talked cheerfully and went off with their friends smiling, headed by Mr. Burns and Mr. Falconbridge arm-in-arm. Mr. Falconbridge assured The World last night that there was no ground for the charge against Mr. Burns and that his innocence could be established. For years Mr. Burns has been one of Toronto's largest coal men and has filled many big contracts. Mr. Venables ranks high as a mechanical engineer and has been a long time in charge of the waterworks. Mr. Johnson is a middle aged man, living with his family at 89 High-street. Mr. McCarthy resides at 38 Duchess-street. Both have been in Mr. Burns' employ a number of years. "All the accused are well off for friends," said a citizen last night, "who will stick to them to the last."

Nothing of a criminal character that has happened in Toronto for years has created anything like the sensation and comment which this case has done. The position of the men implicated, their good standing in the community, their extensive acquaintance, and serious accusation brought against them all tend to make it a really celebrated case and one which will be watched with the utmost interest not only in Toronto, but throughout the Dominion and in the coal circles of the United States, where Mr. Burns has big business connections. Nothing else was talked of on the streets, at the hotels, clubs and other places where people most do congregate. The great question was: "Who is at the bottom of the case?" Some said Mayor Howland, others thought rival coal dealers had a hand in it, and not a few were ready to stake their reputation that Chas. H. Symons, Burns' defaulting bookkeeper who skipped out early last winter, would loom up on the prosecuting side. In an interview published below the Mayor told The World frankly that he was responsible for the proceedings, which settles that part of the question. The alleged frauds were committed from May, 1883, to May, 1885, the two years Mr. Burns had the contract for supplying coal to the Waterworks Department. Symons was Burns' head bookkeeper during this period. In October, 1885, he was arrested at the instance of his employer on two charges, larceny and embezzlement. While awaiting his trial at last winter's assizes he jumped bail and crossed the lines, taking up his abode at Detroit, where he is at present working. Symons was very bitter against Burns for prosecuting him and before he left said to an intimate friend: "I have Burns as tight as one man could ever have another, and as sure as there is a God in Heaven I will get even with him, but I cannot do it now." The inference is that Symons knew of crooked transactions on the part of his employer, and that the latter, being aware of this fact, had not done the right thing. Detective Reburn, who has had the case in hand for six weeks, saw Symons at Detroit a short time ago, and it is supposed he obtained from him sufficient information on oath to warrant the present proceedings.

And now as to the nature of the alleged frauds by which the accused parties are said to have swindled the city out of $8000. It simply resolves itself into the charge that Mr. Burns, aided and abetted by certain of his employes and waterworks officials, collected from the city $8000 for coal which he never delivered at the waterworks. The prosecution will endeavor to prove that Venables certified to large lots of coal having been received when as a matter of fact they were not supplied at all. The returns of coal consumed at the works will doubtless play an important part in the evidence. For instance, in the last year of the Burns contract the quantity of coal returned by Venables as having been consumed was 10,642 tons, while in the subsequent year when Rogers & Co. had the contract the consumption was 2000 tons less. How can this great difference (a matter of $10,000) be accounted for? Was all the 10,647 tons of Burns' coal really delivered and burned, or was the Rogers' coal so much superior to it that the department could get along with 2000 tons less. A cart load of books was yesterday afternoon brought down from Burns' office to Police Headquarters. It will be endeavored to show from these that while certain quantities of coal are charged against the city, there are no corresponding entries to show that these identical quantities were furnished to the city. And here, it is understood, is where Symons will come in as a witness for the prosecution. By an order from a judge he can return to Toronto and give evidence without being molested on the old case against him, his period of staying in the Dominion being of course limited. The case will be called in the Police Court this forenoon.

Other parties alleged to be implicated are on Detective Reburn's little list, and more arrests may therefore be expected.

WHAT THE MAYOR HAD TO SAY.

Specific Charges Carefully Weighed and Evidence Filed Up by His Worship.

At 10.15 last night The World called at Mayor Howland's residence in Queen's Park-crescent. His Worship had just returned from Lorne Park, where he and his extensive Bible Class had been enjoying their annual outing. The Mayor had heard all about the arrests on his way from the wharf to his house.

The reporter asked His Worship if he had any statement to make which could be printed without prejudicing the case on either side.

"I have very little to say," began Mr. Howland. "You know almost as much as I do myself at present. While I, as chief magistrate, assume the responsibility of the arrests, the case is now out of my hands, having been taken over by the officers of the law."

"What are the real nature of the charges against Mr. Burns and his alleged fellow-conspirators?" asked the reporter.

"I could not possibly answer that question at present. They will all come out in court. Some time ago, I, in common with others, in the City Hall and the newspapers, shared the belief that there was something wrong with the manner in which certain civic officials and outsiders were acting toward the corporation. I moved very cautiously in the matter and quietly got together all the evidence I could. Then I drew up certain specific charges against these gentlemen. To make sure that I did not err, and not wishing to rely on my own individual judgment, I consulted with Deputy-Attorney-General Johnson in the matter. That officer of the crown admitted that the case was of more than ordinary importance and he and the Attorney-General himself, after carefully looking into the evidence in my possession, decided to place the matter in the hands of Acting Crown Attorney Galbraith. As Mr. Galbraith is only an acting prosecutor, the Attorney-General decided to associate Mr. Hugh McMahon, Q.C., (whom, by the way, is a co-religionist of Mr. Burns') with him. I may repeat that I weighed the evidence all the way through against these gentlemen with the utmost caution, and I feel that I have acted cautiously and considerately."

"Are there many implicated in the conspiracy?"

"I am not at liberty to answer that question," said His Worship. "Informations were sworn out against a certain number, and I do not not know what the prosecuting attorney and the officers may add to the list. If these men are guilty, they should be severely punished; if they are innocent, they will speedily be released. I think I have given you all the information that I am at liberty to give. I do not want to keep anything back from the public, but at the same time the matter now is in the hands of the law officers, and I suppose they will make the most of it."

"Will the City Council take any action at its next meeting, Mr. Mayor?"

"I am sure I do not know. I suppose I would answer any competent question the aldermen might ask just as I am answering you."

The reporter then bid His Worship good night and took his departure. After he was gone Detective Reburn drove up in a closely-covered cab and had an hour's consultation with Mr. Howland. Reburn to the reporter was as mum as a mouse. He had nothing to say further than that he managed the case from the time that it was decided to make the arrests.

SECOND CHARGE AGAINST BURNS.

Defrauding the Dominion Government—A Sergeant of C Company Arrested.

Last night Detective Reburn continued his researches in the line of fraud, turning his attention from civic to military circles. Driving out to the headquarters of C Company, Infantry School, at the New Fort, he arrested Quartermaster-Sergeant John Sawnson on a charge of being implicated with Mr. Burns in a conspiracy to defraud the Dominion Government out of $1000. The period of the alleged frauds extends over the same time as in the city case, and the charge is of a corresponding nature, it being alleged that Swanson credited Burns with coal which was not delivered at the Fort. Col. Otter went bail for the prisoner.

Imitation of a Sister's Sad Example.

BURLINGTON, Iowa, Aug. 11.—May Cole, while on the train from this city to Keokuk last night suddenly walked out on the platform and jumped between the cars. She was killed. The train was brought back here and the body was identified by James Cole as that of his sister. The brother was overcome with grief and attempted to cut his throat. On being prevented he leaped head foremost through a window, but was not dangerously hurt.

Two Mysterious Disappearances.

CHICAGO, Aug. 11.—A week ago F. J. F. Bradley, ex-Manager of the Pullman Works, mysteriously disappeared. Shortly after J. C. Atcheson, manager of the Hotel Florence of Pullman, also disappeared. Yesterday the hotel safe was forced open, but whether any defalcation was revealed is not known.

Harvest in the Northwest.

CHICAGO, Aug. 11.—Advices from nearly every station in Manitoba and the Northwest indicate that the harvest will be nearly finished this week. All reports agree as to the superior quality of the grain, although the average yield will be likely under twenty bushels.

The Chicora leaves Yonge-st. wharf 8.30 p. m. and 10.30 p. m. on to-morrow evening with the Knights of Pythias' moonlight excursion.

CABLE NOTES.

Dr. Jacob Rappeport, the largest financial speculator in Vienna, died of apoplexy yesterday.

Lord Edward Cavendish and W. S. Caine have been appointed party whips by the liberal unionists.

Owing to rainy weather in Russia during the past fortnight grain is rotting in the fields and farmers are greatly depressed.

The Republique Francaise says it is certain that diplomacy will effect the annexation of the New Hebrides Islands to France.

Six men were killed at New Ross, Ireland, yesterday, by the collapse of a railway tunnel in course of erection.

The French ambassador at Rome had a long interview with the Pope yesterday on the China question. It is reported that a satisfactory arrangement was effected.

Cholera of the most virulent form prevails among the French troops in Tonquin. The chief of the medical staff has succumbed to the disease.

Prussia and the Vatican have signed a convention terminating the religious controversy between them so far as it related to secondary matters and regulating the presentation of beneices and the appointment of ecclesiastical seminaries within the Kingdom of Prussia.

Hobnobbing with Royalty.

A King-street hotel keeper just returned from Europe tells everybody that he moved constantly in the upper circles while in Europe, and that only a few hours previous to his departing for home he sat at table with three kings and two queens, the other man had four aces. You can enter the best society, said he, if you wear quinn's the shirtmakers, necktie.

TORY RULE IN IRELAND.

LORD SALISBURY FORESHADOWS VIGOROUS COERCION.

A Dinner Given by the Lord Mayor—Sir A. P. Caron Responds for the Army and Navy—How the Present Government Accept the Verdict of the People.

LONDON, Aug. 11.—A banquet was given by the Lord Mayor this evening. Sir A. P. Caron, Canadian Minister of Militia, who responded to the toast of the "Army and Navy," referred amid loud cheers to the Canadian assistance sent to Egypt.

Lord Salisbury congratulated those present on the result of the elections. He expressed his pleasure at Lord Rosebery's consistent continuance of a foreign policy that raised England in the estimation of nations. He regretted that there still remained a subject for painful meditation. "Every day's news," he said, "reminds us that Ireland is not yet inhabited by a concordant and homogeneous people. It is the duty of every government to devote its whole energies to freeing the loyal people of Ireland from the constraint exercised upon them, whether in the form of riot or in the more dangerous, insidious and effective form of outrage and intimidation. While admitting the great difficulty and responsibility of the task—which are so great that previous governments equally anxious with ourselves only succeeded temporarily and to an imperfect extent—we possess an advantage over our predecessors which we hope to turn to good use. We hear a mandate from the people deciding finally, and, in my opinion, irrevocably, the question which has wrecked the peace of Ireland. [Cheers.]

"The question of an independent government in Ireland, after deep discussion and advocacy by the most powerful statesman this country has ever seen, has been rejected emphatically and equivocally by an enormous majority of the people of the Kingdom. [Loud Cheers.] It is not unworthy to remark that most of the voices in favor of separation have been obtained by the personal influence of the great statesman and upon other considerations apart from the merits of the question. We believe that our opponents will eventually admit that this is England's final decision, armed with which it is our duty to restore in Ireland that social order, the loss of which is the only cause of its discontent. I am convinced that in such a policy we shall find the strongest support in the enormous population of which you are the true representatives."

The Daily News says the speech shows only too plainly that the only medicine for Irish disorder is a good dose of drastic coercion. Galbraith.

Quietness Restored.

BELFAST, Aug. 11.—The city was quiet last night. The wounded are improving.

A petition which has received numerous signatures, has been handed to the mayor, demanding the appointment of a royal commission to investigate and report upon the causes of the disorders which have occurred here since June.

A slight row occurred to-day as some workmen were about to enter the street railway depot on the Falls road. The military quelled the disturbance before it became serious.

At midnight the city was tranquil. Detectives are watching suspected sellers of firearms.

Murdered in a Cemetery.

BELFAST, Aug. 11.—The man who was killed while in a Catholic cemetery yesterday attending the funeral of a victim of last week's rioting, and who was supposed to have been shot by the police, was, it is learned, killed with a pitchfork by a man now under arrest, and who has been identified by several persons who saw him engaged in his murderous work.

All the Ministers Reelected.

BIRMINGHAM, Aug. 11.—Mr. Matthews, Home Secretary, was re-elected to the Commons for East Birmingham without opposition. The Liberals at the last moment withdrew their candidate, Ald. Cook, leaving the field clear for Mr. Matthews.

All the new ministers have now been re-elected to the Commons. Everyone was unopposed, and the withdrawal of Alderman Cook, the Liberal candidate, against Mr. Matthews in the East District of Birmingham, is said to have been due to the Radical Union's opposition aroused by the Cook correspondence with Arthur Chamberlain.

Coming to Stir Up Strife.

DUBLIN, Aug. 11.—The Dungannon Patriotic Union will send a deputation of Loyalist orators to the United States and Canada to address public meetings throughout both countries in the interest of the Irish opposition to Home Rule. The orators will leave Ireland as soon as Parliament adjourns in the fall, and among them will be Major E. J. Saunderson, Tory member for North Armagh, and Mr. Russell for Tyrone.

THE DREAM OF FEDERATION.

A Deputation Obtain an Expression of Views from Lord Salisbury.

LONDON, Aug. 11.—The Marquis of Salisbury to-day received a deputation of Imperial Federationists, who called on him to urge the appointment of a Royal Commission or the summoning of a conference to enquire into the best means of accomplishing the closer federation of the states composing the British empire, to secure concerted action in time of war and to promote direct intercourse by a system of commercial and postal telegraphs. Peter Redpath spoke for Canada. The Marquis of Salisbury said it would be difficult to overrate the importance of the subject. He promised to carefully consider the suggestions made by the deputation with the exception of one to the effect that the Government should enter into negotiations with Germany for the evacuation by the latter power of New Guinea, and France for the evacuation of New Caledonia. This suggestion, the Premier said, was outside of practical politics. He hoped the Colonists would be able to contribute materially to the defence of the Empire, and that the men who devoted their lives and their careers to that defence would in future be drawn more together. He expressed hearty sympathy with the general idea of federation represented by the deputation.

PANIC IN THE MONEY MARKET.

Extravagant Bidding by a New York Broker.

NEW YORK, Aug. 11.—The money market this afternoon registered rates not seen since the May panic of 1884. Many trust companies and banks began calling in loans this morning, and although large amounts were loaned on call at 4 per cent. in the afternoon the bidders held off and the price on regular transactions moved up to 12 per cent. per annum. This price was reached just before the close, and immediately after a loan was made at that figure, a broker bid 15 for $10,000. Not getting the money he bid 20, then 25, 30, 35 and 40 in succession. At the last figure he obtained the loan. While he was bidding other brokers stood about with interested faces. The majority did not care to have their names connected with the high rates bid and thus were slow to loan their cash to him. All day other large brokers were lending money freely at seven per cent. and at the close the rate fell to six per cent.

BRUTAL IRISH LANDLORDS.

Fifty-Six Poverty-Stricken Families Evicted.

DUBLIN, Aug. 11.—The Longford Board of Guardians has adopted resolutions denouncing five local landlords for the heartless eviction of fifty-six families. The action of the landlords, the resolutions say, is ascribed to organized attempts to create disorders and crime in a peaceful country, the landlords knowing that it is impossible for tenants to pay rack rents. The board asks the Government to take immediate cognizance of the landlords' actions in order to prevent wholesale pauperism and the deportation of large numbers of the people of Ireland.

P. Q. A. RIFLE MATCHES.

Result of the Second Day's Competition at Montreal.

MONTREAL, Aug. 11.—The last day's shooting in the Province of Quebec Rifle Association matches took place to-day.

At the annual meeting of members the Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec was re-elected patron and Sir A. P. Caron President, and Lieut.-Cols. McEachren of Ormstown, Ouimet of Montreal, Miller of Quebec and Capt. Trenholm, Coaticooke, Vice-Presidents. An executive committee was also appointed. The following were the prizes at to-day's competition:—

Active Militia and Battalion match, 200, 500 and 700 yds, 7 shots at each range—First, Capt. Aylmer, 54th Battalion, 88 points, Dolan silver cup and $30; second, Pte. Smith, 5th Royal Scotts, 82 points, $20; Staff Sergeant Armstrong, G. G. F. G., 81 points, $20.

Battalion prizes open to teams of six previously named: Governor Generals Foot Guards, 423 points, $30; second 8th Battalion, Quebec, 421 points, $20; third, Sixth Fusiliers, Montreal, 416 points, $15.

The Military match, for sections of five officers, non-commissioned officers or men from any military corps affiliated with the P. Q. R. A. First series, skirmishing, distance from about 500 yards to about 200 yards, number of rounds 10, size of target 4 ft. by 2 ft. 6 in., divided into three belts, the lower belt 15 inches deep, scoring 5 points, the centre belt 19 inches deep, scoring 3 points, the upper belt 5 inches deep, scoring 2 points. The targets were exposed 15 seconds at a time. Two targets will be allowed each section. Points prize, 50th Battalion, 86, $25; Montreal Garrison Artillery, 80, $20; G.G.F.G., first team, 76, $15. Second series, volley firing, to be competed for by the same sections and at the same sized targets as first series, volley by command of the officer in charge, distance 300 yards, number of rounds 5, position, kneeling in single rank. Targets were lowered and holes patched after each round. For each shot fired out of time 3 points were deducted from the score of that section. Point prize, 8th Royal Rifles, Quebec, 76, $20; 43rd Battilion, 64, $15; Victoria Rifles, 64, $10.

Martini-Henry match—Ranges 600 yards, with Martini-Henry rifles, Government pattern; Points prize, Col.-Sergeant Dalrymple, 5th, 33, $20; Major Anderson, 43rd, 30, $15; Lieut. Edwards, 58th, 30, $10.

Optional match range, 500 yards, any number of entries, only one score to count—Staff-Sergeant Sutherland, G. G. F. G., 33, $20; Staff-Sergeant Armstrong, G. G. F. G., 32, $20; Private Hall, 79th, 32, $15. Extra series—First, at 500 yards: Captain Edwards, Victoria Rifles; 2d, Private G. Thompson, 12th; 3d, Corp. Hartley, 8th, Quebec. At 600 yards, Staff-Sergeant Sharpe, 53d; 2d, Capt. Edwards, Victoria Rifles.

Look out for the Knights of Pythias' moonlight excursion by str. Chicora to-morrow evening.

An Heiress Elopes With a Scoundrel.

MONTREAL, Aug. 10.—On August 4 Miss Madeleine Kessler, a 22-year-old heiress, eloped from Chicago with Alfred Regnier, alias Rickner, alias French Fred, and came to Montreal. The detectives and chief of police here were immediately communicated with, and located the couple. The chief states that they will not be arrested unless the authorities come after them from Chicago. French Fred is a genuine dude, and walks the streets of Montreal with as much grace as a millionaire, although he is said to be dead broke. He is 48 years of age and the husband of Madame Philomena Choquette, the head of a gilded palace in Chicago. Peter Kessler, father of Madeleine, died about three weeks ago, leaving an estate valued at $300,000 to his daughter. The girl was quiet and innocent, but, through a piece of knavery, she was introduced to French Fred. Madeline saw him often and was under the impression that he was well to do. Rickner won her confidence by deception, and Miss Kessler renounced home, mother and all that was dear, and fled with him to Canada. Mrs. Choquette said she knew Fred in Montreal, and his picture was in the rogues' galleries of Boston, New York and other places. He served a term in Kingston Penitentiary, and had bested her out of $2000 in seven months. Fred and Miss Kessler will probably be taken back to Chicago by the authorities, who are now after them.

His Rufu Complete.

Sir Charles Dilke's name has been erased from the list of Privy Councillors. Such an event, it is said, has not occurred since the last century. His downfall is the more painful because so many women are affected by it, their friendship for him causing suspicion. This is particularly the case with Mrs. Rogerson, whose salon has in time past been a centre of very distinguished society. Her parties were noted. People intrigued for invitations to her house. But her connection with the Dilke case puts an end to her social entertainments, and closes one of the pleasantest houses in London.

An English Assurance Co. Goes Under.

LONDON, Aug. 11:—A sensation has been caused by the statements made in court to-day in connection with the affairs of the Briton Medical and General Assurance Association. A hearing on a petition to wind up the business of the association was in progress and during the course of the proceedings the judge stated that the failure of the concern was due to defalcations which would exceed $500,000. He declared that every effort would be made to unearth and punish the miscreants who had caused the ruin of the association.

Fight Over a Funeral Benefit.

LONDON, Aug. 11.—Miss Lizzie J. Shaw of Hamilton has appealed to the Ontario Grand Lodge I. O. O. F. against the action of Chorazin Lodge, London East, in paying a funeral benefit to the widow of the late Bro. A. K. Shaw. Chorazin Lodge has been notified of the appeal, and the case will be considered by the Grand Lodge. The trouble was that Mrs. Shaw had not been living with her husband for some time prior to his death.

A Blaze at Oakville.

OAKVILLE, Aug. 11.—Two barns on Mrs Aaron Oliphant's farm, on the Lake shore road east, in the Township of Toronto, were totally destroyed by fire yesterday afternoon. About 40 or 50 tons of hay, two threshing machines, a reaper, mower, two valuable horses, four pigs and other contents were burned. The loss will be in the neighborhood of $2500. There was an insurance of $1750 in the Western on the buildings and contents.

Assault on a Scott Act Magistrate.

FERGUS, Ont., Aug. 11.—Police Magistrate Lowes, who was here to-day trying Scott Act cases, was assaulted twice. The first assault took place at the Commercial House about 6.30 this evening, when he was knocked down and not a word had been spoken. The second offence was committed about half an hour afterwards at the railway station, where he was waiting for the train.

OUR OWN COUNTRY.

Items of Interest Received by Mail and Wire.

The old Ontario hotel, owned by Wm. Arthur, at Goderich was burned down yesterday. Loss $900.

A gobbler that hatched a brood of turkeys and chickens is the sensation at Mount Pleasant, down near Kingston.

A Haldimand county farmer, D. S. Barfoot by name, was robbed of $265 on a Canada Southern train between St. Thomas and Ridgetown.

The first conviction at St. Thomas for violation of the Scott Act was made Friday. George Crossman, keeper of a billiard room, being fined $50 and costs.

D. S. Barfoot, a Haldimand farmer, on his way to Kansas, was robbed of his valise and $265 yesterday at Ridgetown, Ont., on the Canada Southern.

In Ontario, woodcock may be shot after August 15, and snipe, rail, golden plover, grouse, pheasants, partridge, prairie chickens, ducks and other water fowls and hares after September 1.

Charles Wilson, the Port Stanley thief, has been operating extensively in hotels throughout Western Ontario, and hotel proprietors who may miss any articles should communicate with the Chief of Police at St. Thomas.

THE I.O.O.F. GRAND LODGE.

ANNUAL MEETING COMMENCED AT LONDON YESTERDAY.

The Reports—Gratifying and Prosperous Condition of the Order—Parade of the Brethren.

LONDON, Aug. 11.—The annual session of the Ontario Grand Lodge, I.O.O.F., opened here to-day, a large number of representatives being present.

Grand Master Martin's report says that the state of the order is extremely gratifying, and contains a lengthy account of his stewardship.

"It is with much pride and gratification," says Grand Secretary King in his report, "that I am privileged to present this, my twentieth annual report—pride in looking back over the record of these twenty years, to see the more than ordinary prosperity that has marked our course all the way, and gratification at the knowledge that I have been permitted to take an active part in its prosperity, and tenfold more grateful for the measure of friendship and love that has ever been tendered me by my brethren, one and all, during every hour of the time." The secretary reminds the Grand Lodge that it is eleven years since last it met in the Forest City, and goes on to say that since then "many and varied changes have occurred. We had then 141 lodges, with 10,000 members; to-day we have 208 lodges, with 14,742 members. Since that date there has been expended by the order in Ontario, on account of its beneficial and charitable purposes, $353,742.25, an average of over $86.07 for each day during that long time." Referring to the past year's work, the report says: "Nine new lodges have been instituted: Orillia at Orillia, Gordon at Palmerston, Campbellford at Campbellford, Beaverton at Beaverton, Ridgely at Oil Springs, Bracebridge at Bracebridge, Floral at Parkdale, Caledonia at Caledonia, and Alba at Pakenham. One ceased to work, Scotia Lodge at Port Robinson, while several lodges are not in as healthy a state as we earnestly desire they should be. Two Rebekah lodges have been instituted: Picton at Picton and Beatrice at Guelph. All of these new lodges are flourishing, and have sent in very encouraging reports. The results of the year ending December 31, at which date the returns are full and complete, shows a gain in membership of 170, and for the term just closed June 30, 1886—a net gain of 242, with two lodges yet to hear from. Much of the prosperity can, no doubt, be traced directly to the visits of the Grand Master to many of the lodges, and this proves conclusively that a more perfect and uniform system of visits by the Grand Master, or some authorized officer, would result in great good to the order." The report reviews the routine work of the year at length. Ninety-one brethren died in that time, the death rate being 1 in 158. Since the order was instituted in 1856, the sum of $406,826 has been dispensed in relief by the lodges. The receipts for the year were $11,807, and there is a balance on hand of $4752.

After routine business the lodge adjourned for the purpose of taking part in the parade. In the afternoon the various lodges and encampments assembled on Richmond-street and headed by the bands of the 7th Fusiliers of London and the Royal Grenadiers of Toronto marched to the Queen's Park where a very enjoyable time was spent.

The Knights of Pythias' moonlight excursion on Friday evening next is to help meet the deficit caused by the wet weather at the recent demonstration.

Improvement in Iron and Steel.

NEW YORK, Aug. 11.—A despatch from Pittsburg says 12,000 tons of steel rails have been contracted for there this week. A special from Philadelphia says a general improvement in the demand for iron and steel has developed itself within a day or two. Inquiry for steel rails is more active than it has been for months, and supplies are wanted in lots of 20,000 down to 1000. Brokers have inquiries for foreign steel rail blooms. Three mills are preparing to start on foreign blooms to meet the urgent demands of railroad builders who have been unable to secure the promise of satisfactory deliveries from the regular mills.

Convention of Bankers.

BOSTON, Aug. 11.—The annual convention of the National Association of American Bankers was called to order in Horticultural Hall by president Lyman J. Gage at 10 o'clock this morning, with more than the usually full attendance of delegates. Rev. Phillips Brooks opened the proceedings with prayer, after which President Gage delivered the opening address. T. Ewart of Boston delivered an address of welcome. The members of the association were entertained at a banquet at the Parker House last night, and will be given an excursion down the harbor to-morrow afternoon, and will be entertained at dinner at the Parker House to-morrow night.

High class fancy work less than half price. Berlin and zephyr wool 7c per oz. Jas. C. Farley, dealer in bankrupt stocks, 113 King-street west.

Consumed by Lightning.

MOULINETTE, Ont., Aug. 11.—During a thunderstorm this afternoon the barns of Mr. Geo. Raymond of Sheall's Island were struck by lightning and totally consumed, with over 100 tons of hay and all his farming implements and three Holstein calves and three pigs. Loss about $4000, partly covered by insurance.

Killed at London Car Works.

LONDON, Aug. 11.—While Allen Duguid was unloading car wheels from a tilt cart at the Ontario car works this morning, he stepped on the end of the cart, when it tipped backwards, throwing him to the ground, and the wheels on his body, crushing him to death instantly.

JOTTINGS ABOUT TOWN.

The most popular excursion that will go out of Toronto on Civic Holiday will be the Select Knights of A. O. U. W. to St. Catharines by Grand Trunk Railway.

Mr. Peter Small called on The World last night and disclaimed any connection whatever with "Catholicus." He had heard, however, the name of Timothy Warren Anglin mentioned.

Two expressmen fought at Bay and King streets yesterday afternoon. Robert Gallagher threw a stone at Wm. Breaky and succeeded in smashing one of Treble's large plate glass windows. They were both locked up.

John Featherstone and Charles Williams, a bartender, fought in the Union station refreshment room Tuesday night because Featherstone would not pay for the beer he ordered. Featherstone was fined $5 and costs in the Police Court yesterday.

The Ingle & Hunter pumping engine is again partially disabled, a crank wheel on one of the pistons having cracked. It will take some days to repair the damage. The Worthington engines have been put into commission.

Mary and Michael McDermott were charged in the Police Court yesterday with smothering their three months' old child, whom they took to bed with them while drunk. They live in Claremont-street. No evidence was taken, as Coroner Duncan is to hold an inquest.

A sail-boat carrying a couple of spruce-looking young fellows capsized yesterday afternoon in the Bay a few hundred yards out from the Toronto Yacht Club house. Both immediately climbed on to the bottom of their upturned boat, and one, who was clad in a dainty Nor. folk jacket, sat calmly smoking his unextinguished pipe until a dingy from a neighboring yacht picked them up.

Building permits granted: W. S. Thompson, erection of four brick dwellings west side of Brunswick-avenue, cost $12,000; W. J. Macdonald, addition to his Colborne-street warehouse, cost $3000; W. J. Whitten, rough-cast addition to his dwelling on Murray-street; M. Samuels, five rough-cast brick fronted houses at Centre and Edward streets, cost $4000; W. J. Whitten, alterations to 173 King-street east; cost $1100.

How to be Happy.

The weather is so excessively close and warm now that everyone is wondering how to best enjoy life. The cheapest, the best, the coolest (fact nothing can beat it) way is to buy a hammock, fix it up on the lawn, and be happy; mind you buy from Strathern, 179 Yonge-st., just clearing out his stock; and have them at your own price, it's a great catch for buyers. cdx

Dineen's Hats. x

THE BERLIN SAENGERFEST.

A Great Day in the German Town—Mirth, Music and Festivity.

BERLIN, Aug. 11.—This is a great day for little Germany. The town is full of visitors and decorations. Flags of all nations decorate all the houses and stores, and wherever one goes one hears the German and one sees the lager festivity and conviviality reign supreme, their only rival being hospitality, which is exuberant and all embracing. The place is full of strangers, all of whom are cared for in the most bountiful fashion.

The visiting societies number about 300, and have spent the day in rehearsing for the concerts. In the afternoon there was an interesting drill competition in the Park, in which the Brantford Hose Company came off victorious, being closely followed by Excelsior Hook and Ladder Company of Dunnville, the Galt fire brigade making a good third. The judges were Col. Goodman, Major Allan and Mr. D. J. Peace (Hamilton), one of the principal Canadian officers of the Knights of Pythias.

In the evening a splendid concert was held in the rink; the decorations made it one of the handsomest concert halls in the province. Mrs. Caldwell, Mr. Jenkins and Fred. Warrington provided the vocal solos. Mrs. Caldwell was at her best and provoked a perfect storm of applause; so did Fred. The Thirteenth Band of Hamilton played splendidly and were encored several times. The big chorus of men, numbering 300 voices, sang splendidly. They are a fine body of singers, and showed what careful training at home will do. The choruses they sang showed a fine variety, some being modern and one especially being an old classic. The audience was thoroughly pleased and applauded all warmly. They were so pleased with Mrs. Caldwell that they demanded an additional song from her and she gave the "Cuckoo Song" in her own inimitable style.

The evening wound up with a regular German "Cammers," where the small hours still found the singers and their wives, sweethearts and friends at the social tables, sweetening life with song and lager.

The band of the 10th Royal Grenadiers will accompany the Knights of Pythias' moonlight excursion on Friday evening.

St. Joseph's Church Picnic.

About 500 people attended the picnic for the benefit of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Leslieville, in Leslie's Grove, Eastern-avenue, yesterday afternoon. The picnic was a success in every way, and a handsome sum was realized towards wiping out the debt on Rev. Father O'Reilly's neat house of worship. Mr. James Pape and Mrs. Pape were among the most energetic workers to make the picnic the success that it turned out to be. Among the visitors from the city who went to the grove to lend a helping hand were Hon. T. W. Anglin, E. E. Sheppard, Patrick Boyle, E. S. Cox and Mrs. Cox, James Larkin, M. McConnell, Joseph Tait, Joseph Powers and Mrs. Powers, John Coyne and others. Very Rev. Vicar-General Rooney and Fathers Moya and Shay were also present. A platform having been erected, Mr. Sheppard, Mr. Anglin and Mr. Boyle, editors all, by the way, made a few impromptu remarks. Mr. Sheppard thanked the picnickers on behalf of Father O'Reilly, for their handsome patronage of the refreshment stands and their contributions generally. Lubar's string band, as usual, furnished good dancing music.

A Triple Social Event in Wilcox-Street.

A social gathering was held last night at Ex-Ald. John Harvie's new residence, "Davaar Villa," in Wilcox-street, which had a threefold object—a house-warming, the celebration of Mr. and Mrs. Harvie's silver wedding, and the marriage of his eldest daughter, Miss Jeanie, to Mr. Richard A. Donald. The latter ceremony was performed by the Rev. Lennedy Creighton of Toronto, who is grandfather of the bride and twenty-five years ago performed the same office for her parents, Rev. J. R. Creighton of Milwaukee, uncle of the bride, assisted. The bridesmaids were Miss Donald and Miss Laura Harvie and the groomsmen Mr. John Ross Donald and Mr. John Kennedy Harvie. The presents were numerous and costly, embracing a handsome piano, a parlor set, sideboard, silverware, ladies' fancy work, etc., many of them coming from Scotland and friends in the United States. After the wedding breakfast, and an enjoyable evening of social amusement, the young couple left for a trip to the upper lakes.

Parched Exhibition Grounds.

Park Superintendent Chambers is praying for rain to dampen the sun baked and browned surface of some of the large pieces of turf in his charge. Especially does the Exhibition Park need refreshing showers. The turf up there now looks as hard and uninviting as it well can look and Ald. Crocker, the hard-working and painstaking Chairman of the Exhibition Committee, is seriously considering the advisability of bringing up the old Boustead fire engine, letting it take suction from the unlimited waters of the lake and giving the grounds a thorough soaking. They need it. The new sheep pens are progressing favorably as also is the new s wer. In fact the city seems to be doing the right thing by the association. Ald. Crocker, Baxter, Verrall and M. J. Wood, of the Exhibition Committee, and Mr. Chambers went up to the grounds yesterday and made an inspection.

Tickets for the Knights of Pythias' moonlight excursion can be had from Barlow Cumberland, 72 Yonge-st.; M. S. Murdoch & Co., 89 Yonge-st.; J. S. Brunsdon, 97 King-st. east; Osborn's news depot, Rossin House Block, and from all members of the order.

Rewards That Never Were Paid.

A few weeks ago Mayor Howland, by advertisement and by screaming posters, announ