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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The Queen's Birthday will be celebrated to-day with great eclat throughout the whole of the Dominion.

The new Pacific Railway Bill and the new Election Law Bill both passed through their third reading on Wednesday night and were sent to the Senate for concurrence. The Election Bill is to go into effect on the 1st July next. The voting is by ballot.

The Supplementary Estimates submitted to the House of Commons on the 19th inst., amount to \$1,837,145. Among the most noticeable may be mentioned \$1,500,000 for Pacific Railway construction and improvements on navigable waters in the interior in connection therewith; telegraph lines in British Columbia \$23,000; and to meet the expenses attending the making of any treaties which may be concluded during the year with the Indians of the Sackatchewan \$34,000.

Hon. Mr. MacKenzie has introduced a bill to enable the Government to lend the various Provinces in the Dominion, such sums of money as they require to complete their public works such amounts not to exceed the amount on which the Dominion is now paying interest to such Provinces, by way of subsidies.

The New Brunswick House of Assembly has been dissolved, and writs for a new election, returnable on the 30th proximo, are ordered.

Dr. Grant, of the City of Ottawa, has been chosen as one of the delegates from the Dominion of Canada by the American Medical Association, which meets this year at Detroit on the 2nd June. This Association embraces the entire American States, and its members number several hundreds.

Lieut. Colonel Skinner has been returned for South Oxford by a majority of 275.

The advised sailings of vessels for Quebec up to the 20th ult., number about fifty in excess of last year. The arrival of the spring fleet is however, considerably later.

The timber boom at Frederickton broke on Wednesday, and some millions of feet of timber, went adrift. The river is raising rapidly.

About four o'clock on the morning of the 19th. A serious fire was discovered in the Provincial Penitentiary, in the premises occupied by Mr. S. T. Drenan as a cabinet shop. The fire started about the floor of the second flat, over the engine room. The prison officials succeed in containing the flames to one building which, however, was completely gutted, only the wall remaining. An attempt to save some prison clothing

stored in the building were unsuccessful. The men worked well, both the guards and those of the convicts who were released to aid in the suppression of the fire. The loss to the Government is about \$30,000; the loss of the contractor is about \$15,000. Nearly all the articles in the shop were destroyed. The origin of the fire is supposed to have arisen from the engine room but how is unknown, as the inspection of the night round showed no signs of fire.

The breaking of the reservoir at Goshen, Hampshire County, Mass; has been of the most disastrous consequences, both in the destruction of life and property.

The cause of the disaster would appear to have been too weak a dam to contain such a large body of water, which was 150 acres in area and thirty feet in depth.

The extent of the disaster increased rather than diminishes, and it is as yet impossible to give a full and reliable estimate of the loss of property and life.

At Haydenville on the 19th, 60 families have applied for relief. The temporary funds furnished from Northampton yesterday are now exhausted, a mass meeting has been called at Northampton this evening to devise means for the continuous and systematic relief of the sufferers. The whole community is moving in the work of relief, and everything that can will be done to alleviate the loss and suffering.

Hayden, Gere & Co., at Haydenville, the proprietors of the destroyed brass works, commenced the work of rebuilding this morning, but have been obliged to desist on account of the rain. They will resume their work as soon as the weather allows, and hope to have their building ready for occupancy in three months' time.

Mr. H. L. James, the woollen manufacturer at Williamsburg, whose mill was left standing, although badly damaged, will prepare for the full resumption of business as early as possible. The most of the other business men affected by the disaster will probably resume as early as practicable, but the suffering of the labouring classes must inevitably be quite severe.

Carefully revised estimates fix the total loss at \$1,000,000, of which the manufacturers and mill owners sustained \$550,000; the towns of Williamsburg and Northampton \$150,000 for the repairs of highways and bridges; and the operatives and individuals not less than \$150,000 or \$200,000.

The Springfield *Republican's* latest revised lists make the total number certainly lost 145, distributed as follows among the four villages; Williamsburg 60, Skinnerville 4, Haydenville 30, and Leeds 51.

A Northampton despatch states that, although in some localities the industrial

interest will be revived, it is scarcely possible that the present generation will live to see the valley in its former thrift and industry.

Propositions have been made by New York capitalists which may result in the rebuilding of Leeds, which was famous for buttons and paper.

The brass works of Hayden & Gere will be speedily rebuilt on the old site in Haydenville.

Williamsburg has enough left for a nucleus, and is likely to revive in the course of time.

Skinner's mill, of which there is not left one stone upon another, will not be rebuilt.

A large number of Irish harbored revengeful feelings against Spellman, whom they falsely accused of detaining Cheny, so that the latter could not warn the people of the flood in season. They threatened to burn his house and hang him. Yesterday Spellman removed his family, with half a dozen neighbors thoroughly armed, and picketed his premises.

The Irish began to gather in knots of four or five, but finding a detachment of troops on duty, the rioters dispersed.

The following is an extract from a private letter from the Mayor of New Orleans: "Unless the resources for relief be increased in some way to \$1,000,000, many thousands must perish by famine, even that sum will not more than suffice to save the lives of the inundated till the flood subsides and overflowed lands are again tillable."

A strange disease prevails among the fish of river and lake at Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Their flesh under the microscope is found to be alive with animalcules. Millions of dead fish are floating upon the surface of the water, and dealers have been forbidden to sell any.

The Government of San José de Guatemala has settled with Consul Magee for the recent outrage upon his person by paying him \$10,000.

The Queen, it is reported will visit Russia in the autumn.

The Czar, at a reception of the diplomatic corps in London on Saturday, declared that the policy of Russia was the preservation of the peace of Europe, in which he hoped to be aided by the Governments represented by those whom he addressed.

In the treaty for the establishment of the British protectorate over the Fiji Islands it is stipulated that Great Britain shall assume all financial liabilities, pay the King \$15,000 per annum, with other pensions to various native chiefs; recognize the ruling chief as owner of the lands, which are to be opened to settlement by foreigners within a year.