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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The annual meeting of the Dominion Board of Trade takes place to-day in the Railroad Committee Room of the House of Commons. The Tariff, Immigration and Navigation, as well as several other topics of interest to the country will be discussed.

Mr. Ernest Leroy, of Quebec, and son of the President of the Union Bank, has been gazetted to a captaincy in the Scots Fusiliers, and proceeds at once to join the regiment.

Sir John H. Glover, the newly appointed Governor of Newfoundland, is now at Paris for the purpose of settling the differences between England and France in regard to the Newfoundland fisheries. It is believed that he is authorized to purchase the relinquishment by France of her privileges for a considerable sum of money.

A sample of the new artillery busby, recently adopted for use in the British army, has been received by the Militia Department of Canada. It is of a very neat and handsome design and is an improvement on the clumsy top-heavy muff of former years.

A military order, referring to the Regulations for the "preliminary" examinations for entrance to the Military College, says it is to be understood that although a modern language (French or German) is set down as an obligatory subject, this will not be insisted upon at the examination to commence on 8th February next, although proficiency in a modern language will give a higher educational position.

The third class of the Royal Navy Reserve, which was established in England recently for the enrollment of boys in the training ships of the mercantile marine, has not proved a success. Revised regulations, offering greater inducements, are now being framed to make this desirable organization more attractive.

The London *United Service Gazette* says— "The statement which has been going the round of the press that the last survivor of the crew of the *Shannon*, in her gallant action with the *Chesapeake*, had recently died at Bristol, is altogether incorrect; one of the gallant officers of that ship, in the person of Admiral Sir Provo Wallis, G.C.B., Vice Admiral of the United Kingdom, still surviving, and we are happy to be enabled to add, in excellent health. Sir Provo was the second lieutenant of the *Shannon*, and on the senior lieutenants being killed, assumed the command, and finished the action, resulting in the gallant capture of the *Chesapeake*."

A Madrid paper states that when the Carlist war is at an end a well trained army will be maintained in Cuba as a precautionary measure, and batteries of heavy guns placed on the coast for protection against invasion.

The New York *Herald's* Madrid special reports that the Spanish Government has sent out a diplomatic note in reply to the American circular on Cuban affairs. The reply is quite belligerent in tone and takes high ground on all questions raised by the United States.

There seems a disposition on the part of the European Powers to strongly sustain the position assumed by the United States in the President's Message, and approve the policy adopted in seeking the pacification of the Island of Cuba.

A Vienna despatch to the *Daily News* says trustworthy persons from Russia represent that incessant preparations are making for transportation of troops on a large scale next spring on the Orenburg Railway and lines running west of Moscow. A third track is being added to the line from Moscow to Polish Lithuania. The work proceeds night and day.

The *Daily Telegraph's* Cairo, Egypt, special says there have been important Egyptian successes in Abyssinia. The capture of General Kirkham, an Englishman, in the Abyssinian service, and twenty other English officers, has been reported here recently, but the news is not authentic.

A Proclamation of President McMahon and countersigned by Minister Buffet, is published. In it the President appeals for the support of law and order and good government at the coming general election, and hopes that the country will secure the necessary repose after being torn and distracted by agitation, discord and misfortune. He says that it is known that he did not desire his present power, but having been invested with it, France could rely on his exercising it without weakness, he hoped that God will aid him in support of the nation, and will not fail him in the fulfilment of his mission. The President also says he thinks the country's institutions ought not to be revised before they are honestly tried, and the conservative and truly liberal policy which he always intended to pursue should prevail.

The *Journal de Paris* says that all the members of the French Cabinet will retain their portfolios, at least for the present. The Cabinet has approved of the text of the proclamation of Marshal McMahon.

Electoral addresses of almost all Senatorial candidates in the Departments are couched in general terms supporting the Republic and General McMahon.

Letters have been received in Lima, dated Cuzco, Dec. 11th, which announces the complete destruction by earthquake on the 4th of the town of Abancay. Between 4 p. m. of the 4th and 9 a. m. of the 5th no less than thirty-seven shocks occurred, several of which were very severe.

The New York *Herald* has a special despatch from Washington in which it is said that ex-Governor Morgan holds a letter from General Grant in which he expresses himself as opposed to a third term, and asserts positively that he will refuse a nomination.

The Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople has presented to the Sultan of Turkey Count Andrassey's note, supported by the Great Powers. It is thought the Porte will not refuse to accede to its terms.

Major General Uchatius, the inventor of the new Austrian gun, has also invented a new projectile, which has been tried with such favorable results that it will probably be adopted for use in the Austrian artillery. It consists of a cast iron shell about eleven millimetres in diameter, enclosing twelve rings and a centre piece, all fitting into each other, but easily detachable. Both the shell and the rings are conical in shape, and each ring is divided into ten sections, so that when the shell explodes, besides the fragments of the outer case, 120 iron balls, representing the sections of the rings, are sent flying in all directions.

The Melbourne *Argus* relates a glaring instance of the recklessness with which powder is shipped from Loddon. A captain stated, upon arriving with his vessel at Melbourne, that he had in vain applied to the charterers in London for a safe powder magazine. He shipped 400 barrels and 24 cans of powder, which were stowed away with other goods. They had heavy weather, so that the cargo broke loose. Upon unloading the vessel it was discovered that 8 barrels and three cans had been smashed, and that the ship and crew had a most miraculous escape.

On the occasion of the recent visit of the Prince of Wales to Bombay, the local squabbles which raged in that city prevented the Prince from being asked by Government to visit the hospital for sick Europeans. The Duke of Sutherland, however, went and saw for himself the miserable huts, and was horrified and disgusted. He had previously seen the jail "but," he remarked significantly to the doctor who took him through the hospital, "I'd rather be confined there than here." The Prince of Wales, on being informed of the condition of the hospital, went to see it, and was so moved at what he saw that he wrote an autograph letter to the Viceroy on the subject. It is now probable that the present mal-arrangements will soon cease to disgrace Bombay.

Russian Admiral Possiet says that the system of transporting convicts to Siberia is a failure; first, because the punishment, physically, is too severe to work moral reform, and second because the presence of criminals tends to degrade the Siberians.