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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The Ontario Legislature was prorogued on Thursday last—the day the Dominion Parliament was opened.

Major General Smyth's annual report was laid on the table of the House of Commons, on the day of the opening of the Session. This is commendable dispatch. The report is a valuable one—containing many points of interest to the Force, and the country generally. We will shortly commence its publication.

Mr. Delorme, on Monday, moved for a return showing the names, age and residence of the veterans of 1812-15; who have received a gratification from the Federal Government of Canada, the number of those militia men having commissions as officers, and how many such applications have been made by persons living out of Canada.

New York was visited on the 8th inst., with one of the most destructive fires that has occurred for years. Property to the amount of four or five million dollars were destroyed, and four firemen lost their lives, and several others badly wounded by the falling walls of the burning houses. One firm that of Casher, Brundertie & Co., lace dealers, estimate their loss at one and a half million dollars.

The Lords of the Admiralty have appointed Mr. George Frederick Smith, of Ottawa, a Lieutenant on board Her Majesty's ship Rover, now fitting out at Sheerness.

The London Globe says it is reported that the difference between the British and French fishermen has led to the destruction of certain machinery which the French used in their operations at Newfoundland. The Government have impressed upon the Colonial Office the advisability of stationing a man-of-war permanently at St. John. Her Majesty Queen Victoria opened the Imperial Parliament of the British Empire on the 8th inst., in person. Her renewal of the wonted custom was the signal for a grand demonstration, and the thoroughfares of London were thronged. The following is a digest of the Speech from the Throne:—

"England has not stood aloof from the effort now being made by other Governments to bring about the pacification of the Turkish Provinces. England has agreed, with the sanction of Parliament, to purchase the Khedive's shares in the Suez Canal. China has received in a friendly spirit the representation made by England in regard to Margary's murder, and it is hoped the discovery and punishment of the offenders

will speedily follow. The Queen expresses her thanks at the manner in which the Prince of Wales has been received by her Indian subjects. She declares that the course pursued by England, in putting an end to slavery within her own dependencies, makes it important that the action of her ships elsewhere should be in harmony with that course. The affairs of the colonies have generally continued to advance in prosperity though troubles in Malacca and South Africa are pointed out briefly. Bills for regulating the United Kingdom, for the amendment of the merchant shipping laws, and for prison management and primary education, are promised.

The official correspondence relative to the purchase by Great Britain of the Khedive's shares in the Suez Canal, is made public. The details of the commencement and object of the transaction correspond with the explanation made by Mr. Disraeli in the House of Commons last night. In November last the Egyptian Minister of the Interior secured the British Agent that the Egyptian Government considered England her most sincere friend, and would infinitely prefer the Egyptian interest in the canal transferred to England than to any other power. The Rothschild's receive 2½ per cent. commission on the \$20,000,000 advanced, and 5 per cent. interest until the British Government refund. The correspondence includes a letter from Lord O to Russell, the British Minister at Berlin, reporting that Prince Bismarck had mentioned the purchase in terms of high appreciation and approval. A letter of the British Agent at Cairo shows that the Khedive offered to sell England the right to 15 per cent. of the net revenue of the canal, to which he was entitled after the earnings of the canal exceed a certain specified sum. The Khedive recommended the purchase as giving additional control over the canal. The Earl of Derby refused and stated that England would regard as inconsistent with the integrity of the Ottoman Empire any act by which the Khedive dispossessed himself of control over the canal.

The Hungarian diet has decided to erect a national monument to the memory of the late Mr. Dask, the celebrated statesman.

General Garibaldi, son of the Veteran Liberator of Italy, died a short time ago at Florence, without receiving extreme unction. The clergy refused Christian burial, and his father, in consequence, advised a cremation of the remains.

King Alfonso leaves Madrid for the army on Wednesday next. The Government has purchased six Krupp guns, and 6000 rounds of ammunition, to be sent to Cuba.

The Anglo-Egyptian Bank has contracted to advance \$10,000,000 to Egypt on the security of her crops, and also a loan of \$70,000,000. to meet the Egyptian floating debt and other charges.

The *Keles Uepe* a journal of Pesth, publishes the following:—The sublime Porte, on account of its financial difficulties, recently requested Roumania to pay her customary tribute in advance. The Roumanian Government has sent a note in reply declaring that treaties stipulate that the tribute is payable only in return for obligations assumed by Turkey to defend Roumania from foreign invasion. The Porte, however, has shown itself incapable of quelling a local insurrection. The Roumanian Government is convened. It can no longer rely on Turkey for protection, therefore the obligation to pay tribute is at an end. Roumania, moreover, complains that the Porte has concentrated troops at Wedin, and sent ships up the Danube under a false pretext, that the threatening attitude of Serbia rendered such measures necessary. Roumania is consequently compelled to take such measures to protect her frontier. The note concludes with the declaration that Roumania is an independent State, will resist every attempt to occupy the territory or march foreign troops through it.

The Queen will probably proceed to the continent on the 25th March.

The Mutilation Bill introduced in the Imperial House of Commons yesterday, places passengers on the same footing as cargo, in regard to the liability of ship owners for their safety.

Sir Charles A Herby has introduced his Merchants' Shipping Bill in the Imperial House of Commons. It contains all the provisions of the temporary act of last year. Mr. Parnell said his present impression was that the bill fell lamentably short of securing a satisfactory settlement of the question.

Right Hon. Sir John Taylor Celeridge, formerly one of the Judges of the Court of Queen's Bench, and afterward editor of the *Quarterly Review*, died on the 11th inst., aged 86.

In the House of Lords on the 11th, Lord Cairns introduced a Judicature Amendment Bill, maintaining the final appellate jurisdiction of the House of Lords, on an improved system and providing for sittings during the recess of Parliament.

The *Daily Telegraph* has a report from an Egyptian source worthy of credit, that Mr. Cave's departure has been postponed, and when he leaves Cairo he will be succeeded by an Englishman, who will hold the post of permanent adviser to the Khedive.