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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The news from British Columbia is not of an assuring character. The Governor General is reported to have refused to receive an address from the people of Vancouver Island, reflecting on the course taken by the Canadian Government in refusing to build that section of the railway—but that the petition should be sent to the Colonial Office. He, however, assured the people of Victoria that the main land line would be built as speedily as possible, and that a fair compensation or an equivalent would be given the Islanders in lieu of the road. The *London Times*, which by the way is very hard on Canada just now, is pointedly down on the Canadian Government on this same question. It says:—"At this crisis of confederation Lord Dufferin intervenes, and visits Vancouver Island to tranquilize the excited feelings of the colonists. British Columbia's bargain has been broken and a subsequent compromise repudiated, these events forming a scandalous chapter in Canadian History. The Pacific Railway being promised, British Columbia entered the Dominion. Sir Hugh Allan's operations involved the Macdonald Ministry in ruin. Mackenzie, embarrassed by financial difficulties and Canadian discontent throws the Pacific scheme overboard." The *Times* then gives the history of Mr. Mackenzie's negotiations with British Columbia, and says:—"The Columbians are indignant. Secession, however, is a political impossibility. The Colonial Office can only exercise moral pressure on the Dominion Government, but such pressure must be firmly and energetically applied. The Canadians must be told they are playing fast and loose with a solemn engagement, jeopardizing their young national credit, and discrediting the English name of which they profess to be proud."

The Island of St. Paul, in the Gulf of the St. Lawrence, was visited with a terrific water-spout on the 18th instant. The House of Refuge, stables, barns and outhouses, with their contents, were taken up bodily and dashed to pieces by the waterspout. One man was unfortunately killed, and the rest of the staff of the Humane Establishment narrowly escaped a dreadful death.

Mr. Speers, an Ontario cattle dealer, has received a letter from a gentleman in England offering to invest from £20,000 to £100,000 sterling in the business of exporting meat, cattle and horses from Canada.

The soundings for the channel tunnel to connect England and France will be finished by the end of August. The engineers report that the results are very satisfactory.

Advice received from Cape Coast Castle dated August 2nd, state that the King of Dahomey has confined all the Europeans at Whydah in their houses, and threatens to massacre them. The English are not the only Europeans there, for only a day or two ago it was stated that this barbarous monarch had seized a number of Frenchmen as hostages to secure peace on the part of Britain. It is probable also that there may be Dutch and Portuguese traders at the port, so that this step on the part of the King will embroil him in a conflict with three or four nations. Even regard for his savage female body guard would not prevent summary and severe vengeance being taken on the King and people of Dahomey, if the former carries out his threats; and it will not be safe for him even to keep the Europeans in confinement. Such a policy will cost the King of Dahomey very dear.

Earl Russell has written a letter to Lord Granville, arguing the necessity for an autumn session of Parliament. He declares that the barbarities perpetrated in the Turkish provinces call for a determined combination of the powers.

The Eastern war is likely soon to be brought to an end, as Prince Milan has consented to an armistice. And a Constantinople despatch of Aug. 26th says the preliminary negotiations for peace were opened the night previous between the foreign ambassadors, in consequence of the step taken by Prince Milan. A Vienna despatch also says—"It is asserted here that at the preliminary peace negotiations between the Signatories of the Treaty of Paris including Russia, it was proposed as a basis that Prince Milan should be retained on the throne; that Servia should pay a war indemnity, and that Turkey should have the right of placing a garrison in a Servian fortress on the Turkish frontier." Whether the recent victories said to be gained by the Servians over the Turks will affect the peace negotiations remains to be seen. Success at this time may be considered unfortunate, as it doubtless will be made use of by the war party to prolong the struggle; but on the other hand it may help the Servians to secure better terms. The following are the latest items of news from the seat of war.

A special to the *Standard* from Alexinatz says Gen. Tchernayeff attacked An Sab at noon on Wednesday. Twenty Servian battalions, with two batteries of artillery, passed through the valley leading north-east of Alexinatz to the Turkish headquarters. The movement was discovered by the Turks, who went to meet the column. The Turks held their ground although the Servians were superior in numbers. The losses of the Turks were heavy; nearly all their officers were

killed or wounded. The Servians fought under shelter of the forest, but at six in the evening retreated to Alexinatz. Their total loss was 1,000 killed and wounded.

A special to the *Daily News* from Belgrade says:—"General Tchernayeff has telegraphed Prince Milan that the Servians won a great victory on Thursday. General Horvath abandoned the pursuit of the Turks at Forcaba, and attacked the rear of the Turkish right wing. Tchernayeff at the same time attacked the Turks in front. The Turks were routed with a loss, according to Tchernayeff's despatch, of 16,000 in killed, wounded and prisoners. Thirty-one Russian officers were killed in this battle."

A despatch to the *Times* from Vienna says Crete is beginning to cause uneasiness in Constantinople. The Porte's refusal to grant the concessions demanded by the Cretans has revived the animosities between the Christians and Mohammedans. This state of things has already led to bloodshed at Fethio. It is a quarrel between a Turk and a Greek, the latter was shot. This was the signal for a gathering, and before the authorities could interfere, eight Turks were killed and several Greeks were wounded. The riot was followed by a panic; all the shops were closed; the Christians barricaded their houses, and the Turks encamped in the streets. A portion of the Turkish fleet has been despatched to Retimo, and troops have been asked for from Constantinople.

The *Standard's* correspondent with the Turkish army, telegraphs under date of Nisss, Sunday afternoon, as follows:—"Yesterday and today severe fighting resulted in a complete Turkish victory. The Servians were every where driven back, and their losses must be very great. This is later than the intelligence from Servian sources, which claim a victory on Thursday."

A despatch to the *Standard* from Alexinatz says:—"Authentic accounts show that the battle which was claimed as a success by Tchernayeff really resulted in a victory for the Turks. Fuzul Pasha, commander of a division of the right wing on Thursday, fearing attack in the rear fell back. The Servians attacked all along the line on Friday, but the Turks drove them back. There was heavy fighting on Saturday, but after five hours' incessant conflict Tchernayeff's attempt to cut off Fazel Pasha from Eyoub Pasha failed and the Turks were completely victorious."

A telegram to the *News* from Vienna, says:—"Arrests of Russian volunteers for Servian continue to be made in Hungary. The Russian consuls have protested, and there is great indignation in Russia over the detentions. The latest case is that of the arrest of 14 persons, one of whom was a lady. All had passports, but they were thrown into prison."