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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

It is certainly appalling the number of disastrous fires that has occurred within the past week. In our last we chronicled the news of two destructive fire in Ottawa; this week the news has reached us of another fire in Chicago, which though not so extensive as the one of 1871, is still nevertheless of a very calamitous nature, as the parties burned out are chiefly of the poorer class. The area burned over covers fifteen squares. Taking half blocks here and there, and lumping them together, the whole extent of ground burnt over would be about one half mile long and a little less in width. The loss is variously estimated at from four to six millions of dollars. Fortunately the Chairman of the Fire Relief Committee of 1871 has still in his hands over a million of dollars. This will afford immediate relief to the poor unfortunate thousands that have lost their all, but further assistance will be needed.

Another fire broke out about 4:30 p.m. in the north western part of the city in the vicinity of the junction of Milwaukee and Chicago avenues. Fifteen or twenty buildings were burned in a short time, the flames being fanned by a brisk north west breeze and fed by inflammable material. The Fire Department was promptly on the ground and by most vigorous efforts succeeded in checking the progress of the fire before it did further damage than already stated. The fire originated in Dugan's smoke house in rear of his packing store. Nearly an entire block was burned, but the buildings were mostly of an inferior sort. Loss about \$60,000. During the progress of this fire, two attempts at incendiarism in the same neighbourhood were discovered and frustrated. In one case kerosine was used. Another alarm sounded from the corner of Wabash avenue and Madison street about six o'clock p.m., but the fire there was soon subdued. The first election under the new Dominion Election Law will take place on the 25th instant in the following constituencies: Napierville and Vercheres; Province of Quebec; East Elgin Ontario; and Provencher, Manitoba. No announcement is made regarding Marquette. It is stated that Riel does not intend to contest Provencher again, but whether the statement is correct or otherwise we are unable to say.

It is feared the yacht *Foam* which left Toronto on Saturday afternoon 11th inst has been lost, with all on board—seven persons. Search has been made all along the shore at the west end of the lake, but so far nothing has been found to indicate the fate of boat or crew. P.S.—The *Foam* has been discovered sunk two miles from Niagara.

At a meeting of Chaudiere mill owners held at Capt. Young's office on the 17th, it was decided to issue circulars to all the leading lumbermen of Ontario and Quebec, inviting them to attend a convention to be held at this city on the 30th instant, for the purpose of adopting measures to prevent over production of lumber and square timber, and considering other matters important to the trade.

Paper flour barrels are being made in Iowa. They are said to be air tight and water proof, to weigh much less than the ordinary wooden barrels, and to be able to stand more rough usage. One of the manufacturers predicts that in five years every barrel of Western flour will be sent east in barrels made from the straw the wheat grew on.

A package was shipped from Cherokee Station, Ia., a few days ago, addressed to her Majesty. It contained a head dress of elaborate design.

The Government of Austria and Prussia have agreed to open negotiations with the Sublime Porte, looking to the recognition of the independence of Roumania by Turkey.

Prince Bismark has had the honour, seldom enjoyed by any but crowned heads, of having had two attempts made on his life. Young Blind gave him the benefit of four pistol balls, only one of which slightly wounded the statesman, in May, 1866, and now a Madgeburg cooper has failed at Kissengen in a somewhat less determined attempt on his life.

The *Times'* special from Berlin says that Kullman, who attempted Bismark's life, is considered a mere tool. He confesses he was acting in concert with others. Hanthaler, the priest arrested for connection with the plot, belongs to the Village of Walchza, in Austrian Tyrol. He checked Bismark's horses at the critical moment.

Immediately on hearing of the affair, the King of Bavaria sent congratulations to Prince Bismark on his fortunate escape.

The Berlin press declare that the attempted assassination proves the necessity of repressing Ultramontane teachings.

Annie Cuthbert of Cobourg has won the Champion flag and \$100 at Put-in-Bay on Saturday the 11th inst. The course was 30 miles in length, and the wind most of the time blowing a gale. The race on the 29th had been declared off, hence the trial on Saturday.

The city of Halifax, in the person of its Mayor, has been summoned to appear before the supreme Court on the first day of October sittings to answer to the expenditure in violation of established law, of the

sum of one thousand dollars towards defraying the expenses of the anniversary celebration of the 21st ult.

The appeal to England against the New Brunswick School Law has been dismissed with costs, respondents' counsel not being heard.

Dr. Sangster it would seem has carried the nomination at the Convention of Teachers at Toronto, on Friday last. The vote stood as between him and Goldwin Smith, 27 to 25.

A complete official list of the insurance of New York and New England Companies on property destroyed in the late Chicago fire, places the amount at \$2,727,290. Insurance in foreign companies makes the total sum a little over three millions of dollars. The total salvage is \$492,320; net loss \$2,244,970.

Scotland won the Elcho Shield at the Wimbledon meeting; England, second; and Ireland, third.

Various accounts agree that Bismark's escape was miraculous. His hand was touching his hat when wounded. His coachman fearing a second shot struck the would be assassin across the face.

A number of police have been sent to Kissengen to protect Bismark from a repetition of the attack. Evidence has been discovered betokening the conspiracy.

Madrid July 15.—General Mariones reports that Bilbao is in no immediate danger. In case General Zaballa resigns General Mariones will probably be appointed his successor in command of the army of the North.

Madrid, July 16.—The Carlists have ordered one Republican to be shot for every shell fired by the fleet of Bilbao.

London, July 16.—The ex-King of Rangoon is dangerously ill at Vienna.

Kissengen, July 16.—One of the wounds received by Bismark in the wrist has healed, and another caused by the burning wads of the assassin's pistol, which scorched the flesh, is still painful, the inflammation is slowly subsiding.

Kullman has been removed from Kissengen to Wursburg.

London, July 14.—Despatches from Spain report that General Zabala has removed his headquarters from Tafalla to Logrono. Gen Moriones is also retiring toward the river Ebro. Sickness is prevalent among the national troops. It is anticipated that active operations will be postponed three weeks.

Madrid, July 14.—The Carlists have opened attack on Cuenca, 84 miles southeast of this city. The garrison is making a vigorous defence. Reinforcements have been forwarded hence by rail.