# THE GOSSIP OF A WEEK.

## SOME INTERESTING NEWS AND CURRENT TOPICS.

**Political Pointers—Last Week's Storm—A Terrible Cyclone in Ontario—The Loss of the Steamer Idaho—Election Protests—General Middleton's Successor.**

TORONTO, July 28.—This last week, the city of Kingston, which a few days ago was crowded to overflowing with Freemasons, has been captured by uniformed corps of Oddfellows. A gala time has been spent there and many competitions were held. The prizes, all of which were very valuable have been awarded as follows:—Drill, first prize. Oswego, N. Y.; second, St. Thomas, Ont.; Belleville, Ont.; third. Ottawa secured the prize for the largest uniformed Canton on parade, and St. Thomas, the prize for the Canton coming the longest distance.

Another bad storm passed over the country last week, and did a dreadful amount of damage. These storms seem to be weekly affairs. Hardly a week has passed this summer that we have not had some sort of storm. Rain in a perfect deluge, thunder, lightning, hail and small cyclones have devastated miles of farm land in Western Ontario. Despatches state that the hail stones were as large as plums. Wheat and oats have suffered greatly. Whole fields have been laid low and stripped. Several houses and barns have been reported as blown down, and near Hamilton a barn was carried 100 yards into a neighbor's farmyard. Fruit trees and vegetables have also suffered terribly. Where the cyclone struck and where the hail storm ploughed its way, miles and miles of property have been destroyed. This storm it is stated was the small northern portion of the cyclone which has created such awful havoc in the Eastern States and Massachusetts, there 500 people are homeless, many lives have been lost, a hundred or more houses and buildings have been utterly destroyed and over a hundred thousand dollars worth of damage has been done. This has been altogether an unusual year for storms and although the States have received the brunt of them, Canada has suffered a great deal.

Things generally have been pretty quiet in political circles. The twenty-fifth petition against the election of members to the Ontario Assembly has been filed here. It is against the election of A. F. Campbell in East Algoma, Mr. Campbell is a straight Equal Righter, who got elected on that ticket. This petitioning seems to work both ways, for a counter stream of petitions is flowing in. Mr. Dunlop, M. P. P. North Renfrew, against whom a petition was filed some weeks ago is the first to lay a counter petition against his opponent in the election, Thomas Murray. If this sort of thing goes on, the whole Legislature will be petitioned against and a new election will be in order.

The newly made Quebec Cabinet held their first meeting in Montreal last week, but did not do much business.

Much stir has been created in Montreal over the loss of the steamship Idaho on Anticosti. Shipping and export merchants in various cities in Canada are the chief interested parties as the Idaho's cargo was extremely valuable. It was worth about $650,000 and consisted of 89,000 bushels of grain; 40,000 boxes of cheese; 209 head of cattle and 88 sheep. All this is a total loss. The Idaho is a steamer of 4,000 tons, valued at $25,000 She is a new vessel and was chartered by the Dominion line from English owners who ran her between England the East Indies.

An instance of longevity comes from Fitzroy Harbor. Mrs. Ball has just reached her 105th year. Although the neighbors are very kind and would give her any assistance she does her own work and carries her fire wood on her back a distance of half a mile and is as straight as most women of 50 years. She has been twice married, but has survived both her husbands and all her children.

The contractors, M. P.'s and others are greatly interested in the successor to the late John Page, chief engineer of the Dominion. Prominent names mentioned are those of Walter Shanly, Collingwood Schrieber, Thomas Keefer, but it is not known that any of those would care to accept it. One man said to be the dark horse, is W. G. Thompson, C. E. now in charge of the new Saulte canal, and a trusted assistant of the late chief.

The appointment to the position vacated by General Sir Frederick Middleton is still causing much speculation in military circles. It is now stated from Ottawa that Col. Walker Powell, the Dominion's very efficient Adjutant General will receive the office. Names also prominently mentioned are Col. Charles Robinson, of the Horse Guards and Major General Hewitt; who founded the Royal Military College.

Adam Brown, M. P. the big Hamilton member commonly called Dicky bird Brown, because he introduces on anti-pigeon shooting bill every session has been appointed Canadian Commissioner at the Jamaica Exhibition. He is communicating with the various Boards of Trade throughout the Dominion and is collecting all the information about the exhibition and the Canadian exhibit that is possible.

Great preparations are being made for the Toronto Industrial Fair, which as usual will be held in September. The new features are principally exhibits from Spain and the West Indies and an International dog show.

The Canadian Riflemen are doing well at Bisley as the new Wimbledon is called. They were beaten in the Kolapore Cup match, but took second place and money which amounted to $400. In one day the team which only numbers twenty, scooped in $1,800 in prizes besides badges and silver cups. On the whole the Dominion can be proud of her riflemen, who are showing well to the front. In the Corporation of London match the team had everything their own way and won nearly all the best prizes. The chief prize winners so far have been Pte. Hutchison (43rd Batt Ottawa, Lieut. Smith, St. John's rifles, Staff Sergeant Ogg, Guelph, Capt. Bishop, Halifax Major Garrison, Halifax, Pte. Hora, Kingston, Capt. Gray, Guards, Ottawa, Sergt Hall, 76th Waterloo, Que., Sergt Henderson 62nd. St. John, Capt. Hustead, (Third Victorias), Pte. Wyndatt, (60th Battalion), Pte Dawes (Royal Grenadiers), Corp. Marris (13th Hamilton).

The export trade of Canada, reached $94,889,945 last year, an increase of $8,375,363 over the previous year. This is the best showing since 1883.

A new cable is being laid by the Dominion Government to Anticosti on the Gulf of St Lawrence. Superintendant of Government Telegraphs Gisborne is directing the work.

Whiskey is going up. There has been a concentrated movement in Toronto to charge 10 cents per glass for whiskey sold over the bar. No doubt if there is any strength in this movement it will spread to the country and we will have to pay the same price for drinks as they do in the United States. The reason given is that distillers have advanced prices.

Secretary Blaine, at the Bar Harbor, is reported to be showing considerable anxiety concerning the Behring Sea affair.

## HUNTING THE CLAM PEARL.

**How the Villagers of Albany, Wis., Spent Sunday.**

ALBANY, Wis., July 28.—The pearl fishing craze has broken out afresh in this little village and 1000 men, women and children, many with large rakes, others using their hands and others diving into the channel of Sugar River, were out Sunday from daylight until midnight in their enthusiastic search for pearl-bearing clams.

The occasion of the excitement was the letting out of the water from the Albany milldam, by which 200 acres of overflowed lands were made accessible to the pearl fishers. The result of the day's work was many wagon-loads of clams, and perhaps $1000 worth of pearls, although it is very difficult to make an exact estimate as to their value, owing to the reticence of the fishers.

The water in the pond is still falling rapidly, and the hunt will continue for several days, until all or nearly all of the clams are taken away. To-morrow it is expected the number of pearlers will be largely increased. A picturesque scene was presented by the pearl fishers. All wore wide-brimmed hats and old clothing; many farmers drove in with their families from the surrounding country to enjoy the holiday and it required but a short visit to the underbrush to metamorphose the neat country lasses into veritable water nymphs, and they were soon up to their armpits in the mud and water digging clams with the rest.

As fast as secured the clams were taken to the shore and there opened, the finding of a particularly valuable gem being announced by a mighty shout of joy. So far as known no pearls were found having a value of more than $100. Many fables are told of big prices being obtained for these pearls in New York and elsewhere. They have really very little value and have been offered by the bushel to dealers. About one pearl in ten bushels might bring $10. A farmer, John Shafer, two miles from Albany, says he has refused $700 for a pure white pearl found on this farm. Some estimates place the value of pearls sold since the advent of the industry, a year ago, at $300,000 The pearl territory comprises about 30 miles surface.

## THE LOTTERY BILL.

**A Hard Fight Will Probably Have to Be Made to Pass It.**

WASHINGTON, July 28.—Although the vote on the substitute bill adopted by the House Postoffice Committee denying the further use of the mails to those engaged in the lottery business for the purpose of forwarding that business was unanimous, an effort was nevertheless made to amend the measure here and there, apparently in the interests of a less vigorous form of procedure against the offenders.

It was proposed, for instance, that the bill be amended so as to except newspapers furthering public lotteries from the operations of the bill. But in reply it was urged with convincing force that the portion of the press accepting such patronage was the agency next only to the mails themselves upon which the lottery companies relied for the successful carrying on of their business.

With the committee's endorsement of a bill, however, the fight has but just begun. The next move must be to secure a day for the consideration of the bill in the House. While a large majority of the House is at present in favor of the bill, the lottery companies are strongly intrenched here, and there is every reason to believe that through their paid agents they will attempt in some way to defeat the action proposed. After the successful purchase of a State Legislature no hesitation will probably be felt about attempting to corrupt Congress. But the situation here, fortunately for the country, is different from that at Baton Rouge, and however active the lottery agents and lobbyists may be their daily transactions can be noted and the proper warning sounded.

**Chicago May Have Gas Fuel.**

CHICAGO, July 28.—Chicago hopes soon to be emancipated from the abominable smoke nuisance. The City Council has taken up the fuel gas ordinance, so long delayed, and will probably pass it on Monday evening. The measure is backed by the Chicago Economic Fuel Gas Company. The company proposes to furnish fuel gas from Indiana, which will have to be piped about one hundred and fifty miles, and to supply local consumers at from 50 to 60 cents per thousand feet, with a rebate to the consumer for cash payment and 5 per cent. to the city of the company's earnings for the privilege of laying pipes in the alleys. Those in position to know all about the project laugh at the idea advanced by the opponents of the ordinance to the effect that it emanated with either the Standard Oil Company or the old Gas Trust. The laying of the pipes through Indiana is already under way. If the company is given its ordinance fuel gas will be delivered here before Jan. 1.

## A BRUSSELS BLAZE.

**A Business Block Entirely Wiped Out—The Work of an Incendiary.**

BRUSSELS, Ont., July 28.—About 1 o'clock Sunday morning a fire broke out in the Halliday block in Miss Montgomery's furniture store, which resulted in the complete destruction of the entire block. The buildings being composed of wood and the fire having gained great headway before any alarm was given, all hope of saving the block was abandoned, and the efforts of the firemen were directed successfully in confining the fire to its origin and in saving the adjoining buildings. The town fire engine, which did noble service, worked steadily, throwing two powerful streams for over three hours, when the fire was got under control, and but for its efficiency it is safe to predict that the adjoining buildings would have been destroyed.

The losses, so far as can at present be ascertained, are as follows: Miss Montgomery, furniture, partially destroyed, $500, insurance unknown; Thomas Ferguson, stoves and tinware, $1500, insured for $800; William Roddick, loss on building $800, insured for $350: John Halliday, loss on building $1500, insured for $1000; Misses Sample's loss on clothing and contents $500, no insurance. The fire is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary.

**A Big Blaze at Montreal.**

MONTREAL, July 28.—Fire broke out at 8¾ this morning in Walter Paul's grocery, corner Green-avenue and St. Catherine-street, Cote St. Antoine, totally destroying the grocery and outbuildings. The loss is $50,000.

**Plow Works Consumed.**

MINNEAPOLIS, July 28.—The plant of the Monitor Plow Works here was burned to-day. Loss $115,000. The fire caught from a locomotive spark.

**A Washington Fire.**

TACOMA, July 28.—C. M. Johnson's sash and door factory was burned to-day. Loss $75,000.

## THE HOME CIRCLE.

**Recipes for Cleaning Silk.**

First, take a clean, bright pan, put in it about two quarts of cold water, and into the water drop as many old kid gloves as can be produced; three or four are sufficient, however.

Let this come to a decided boil, and let it boil until the gloves have first shrunken to the size of a baby's hand, and then softened into a pulp. Strain this, add a little more hot water to it, also some ammonia, about a teaspoonful. Put in the silk, piece by piece; wash thoroughly, then rinse in clear water, in which you have put some borax and spirits of camphor. Use light gloves only for light silks, and any color when you are freshening a black one.

It is said the *modus operandi* is a far better one than the use of coffee extract, to which the pressing iron adheres. Another way is to use soap bark, putting in a handful to a gallon of water, then dipping the silk up and down in it, but never wringing or squeezing it. Hang by the edge along the line, and let drain off until it is dry enough to press. Lay a cloth over it and iron upon that.

**Tea Making.**

In preparing tea the water to be used should never be poured directly from the kitchen kettle into the urn. It should be cold, fresh water, brought absolutely to the boiling point. The tea used will, of course, differ according to taste, but none is better for the purpose than the best English breakfast. The leaves must be placed in a pot in the proportion of a heaping teaspoonful to each person. Upon these leaves pour a small quantity of boiling water; never use all of the latter needed at once, as a sudden rush will certainly "drown" the tea. Now pull the cosey over the teapot and allow the contents to draw a few moments, when you will have the best infusion possible; repeat this process as many times as needed; after using the first potful and filling once more with boiling water the tea loses its strength and flavor. Boiled tea is hurtful, and breakfast tea should never be steeped upon the stove. It will not often be necessary to strain where these directions are followed, but the sudden addition of water floats the leaves, which do not again settle.

## THAT BABY.

**A Thing of Beauty and a Joy Forever**

There was a baby in the railway car the other day. It was not an unusual child, but it had a decidedly bright face and pretty ways. For the first few miles she was very quiet, and her blue eyes looked around in wonderment, for evidently it was the little one's first ride on the cars. Then as she became used to the roar and rumble the baby proclivities asserted themselves, and she began to play with her father's mustache. At first the father and mother were the only parties interested, but soon a young lady in an adjacent seat nudged her escort and directed his attention to the laughing child. He looked up, remarked that it was a pretty baby and tried to look unconcerned; but it was noticed that his eyes wandered back to the spot occupied by the happy family, and he commenced to smile. The baby pulled the hair of an old lady in front, who turned around savagely and glared at the father with a look that plainly said, "Nuisances should be left at home." But she caught sight of the laughing eyes of the baby, and when she turned back she seemed pleased about something. Several others had become interested in the child by this time—business men and young clerks, old ladies and girls—and when the baby hands grasped the large silk hat of her father and placed it on her own head, it made such a comical picture that the old gentleman across the way, unable to restrain himself, burst out into a loud guffaw, and then looked sheepishly out of the window, as if ashamed to be caught doing such an unmanly thing, Before another five minutes he was playing peek-a-boo across the aisle with the baby, and every one was envying him.

The ubiquitous young man, ever on the move, passed through, and was at a loss to account for the frowns of everybody. He had failed to notice the baby. The brakeman looked in from his post on the platform and smiled. The paper boy found no custom till he had spoken to the baby and jingled his pocket of change for her edification. The conductor caught the fever and chucked the little one under the chin, while the old gentleman across the aisle forgot to pass up his ticket, so interested was he playing peek-a-boo. The old lady in front relaxed, and diving into her reticule, unearthed a brilliant redippin and presented it bashfully to the little one, who, in response, put her chubby arms around the donor's neck and pressed her rosy little mouth to the old lady's cheek. It brought back a flood of remembrances to that withered heart, and a handkerchief was seen to brush first this way and then that, as if to catch a falling tear.

The train sped on and pulled into the station where the baby, with her parents were to leave the car. A look of regret came over every face. The old gentleman asked if he couldn't kiss it just once; the old lady returned the caress she had received, and the baby moved towards the door, shaking a bye-bye over the shoulder of her papa, to which everyone responded, including the newsboy who emphasized his farewell with a wave of his hat. The passengers rushed to the side where the baby got off and watched till she turned out of sight at the other end of the station, shaking by-byes all the time. Then they lapsed into silence. They missed that baby and not one of them would be unwilling to acknowledge it. The little one's presence had let a rift of sunshine into every heart, warm or cold, in that car.—Orphan's Friend, House of Angel Guardian.

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