

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

ANOTHER important figure in the Egyptian question is looming up in Paris. Gemal-ed-Din, the Afghan chief who is editing an anti-English paper, printed in Paris, but to be circulated in Moslem countries, claims to be descended from the Prophet. He professes undying enmity to England. After the Sepoy revolt in 1857, in which he took part, he went to Constantinople, but was expelled from there for claiming to be a descendant of Mohammed. He thereupon betook himself to Cairo, where Sherif Pasha gave him a chair of philosophy at the university. He was subsequently arrested for sedition and sent to India. Bales of his paper are now at Constantinople, ready for distribution throughout Egypt and the East.

We are pleased to see so much interest taken in our Canadian Church by persons in the Old Country. Only a few days ago a meeting was held in London at the residence of the Duke of Westminster in the interest of Church extension. The Bishop of Lichfield and St. Alban's spoke in advocacy of Canon Anson's mission to North-western Canada. The Earl of Carnarvon praised the steadfast loyalty and affection of the Canadian Church towards the English Church, and urged the church to imitate the railways and extend their sway from sea to sea. The mother country does well in giving these new missions a start. Every dollar given now will be worth a \$100 to the Church ten years hence.

OUR Legislators at Ottawa have been examining a new ballot box which is to keep elections pure. It is a square box containing four compartments, a compartment being set aside for each of the various candidates and into one of these a ball which the voter gets from the returning officer is placed. To secure secrecy the ballot is not placed exactly into the compartment after obtaining it from the returning officer. It is put into the box by the returning officer in the presence of the voter and the scrutineers, the lid of the box being afterward closed. The voter immediately enters an adjoining room where he is alone and where he pulls a string to which the name of the candidate he wishes to vote for is attached, the ball falling into the compartment set aside for the man for whom the elector desires to vote. The committee will assemble in a few days to examine into this matter and report to the House.

THE last census of the Dominion shews that there are a great many Jews in the Dominion, and that our Church ought to be alive to her responsibilities in the matter. The number is as follows:—

Nova Scotia.....	10
New Brunswick.....	55
Manitoba.....	33
British Columbia.....	104
Quebec Province.....	984
Ontario.....	1193
	2393

Of this number

Montreal contains.....	817
Toronto ".....	534
Hamilton ".....	177

WHILE writing of Jews it is well to note that considerable excitement has been aroused in the Jewish communities of South Russia by the appearance at Kischeneff of an energetic reformer named Joseph Rabinovitch. He declares Christ to have been the real Messiah, supporting his theories by numerous citations from the Bible and the

Prophets. Rabinovitch is an enthusiastic and eloquent preacher, and is winning numerous proselytes. He is anathematized generally by the Jewish press.

ONE of the saddest things regarding the "Cry of the outcast poor," is the part that drink has played in the production of poverty. From recent statistics we learn that last year \$250,000,000 were expended in Great Britain for bread, \$230,000,000 for woolen goods, \$175,000,000 for butter and cheese, \$150,000,000 for milk, \$100,000,000 for tea and coffee, \$70,000,000 for cotton goods, and \$55,000,000 for educational purposes. In the same period, \$680,000,000 were expended for intoxicating liquors, so it will be seen that this great nation paid nearly twice as much for its rum as it did for its bread, and more than twelve times as much as it did to educate its children. Of course, it is fair to add that an enormous proportion of this amount was expended in choice wines unobtainable by the poor.

THE Pope is beginning to feel more unsettled than ever and is taking precautions to secure money that flows into the Papal coffers. The official organ of the Vatican publishes a circular to Roman Bishops stating that all legacies and donations given to the Propaganda will henceforth be received in foreign branch establishments. Branches are to be established in the principal European capitals, and at New York, San Francisco, Quebec and Toronto. *Moniteur de Rome* mentions a rumor that Malta has been selected as the centre for the administration of the funds for the propaganda, under the sanction of the British Government.

THE report of the United States Commissioner of Agriculture, called for by the Senate, sets forth that the yield of wheat in that country has doubled in sixteen years, the rate of yield increasing in districts where mixed farming and recuperative methods obtain, and decreasing in regions of consecutive crops of spring wheat. The aggregate of bread-stuffs and animals and their products since 1861 exceeded in value the cotton exported during that period; the amount was more than four billions. The average weight of the wheat crop of 1883 is placed at 57 pounds a bushel. The stock on hand in commercial warehouses and farm granaries on the 1st of March was 150 million bushels, a supply ample for consumption, spring seeding and probable exportation. The prospect for the wheat crop of 1885 is reported favorable.

LOVERS of cheap butter and of thin milk will not relish the report of the New York Senate Committee. The Committee say that out of thirty samples of butter, bought and submitted to chemical analysis, only ten were genuine butter. There are several factories in New York and Brooklyn making imitation butter out of fat brought from the West and from France and Italy. This production aggregates 40,000,000 pounds annually, thus depriving the State of \$10,000,000 revenue per annum. The adulterations of milk and other food products were also exposed. Of 5,000,000 quarts of milk furnished in New York daily, it was found that 2,000,000 quarts were of water, leaving 3,000,000 of pure or skim milk.

THE floods in the States continue as disastrous as ever. Despatches received from Louisiana state that the Mississippi has broken over most

of the levees, and that Government aid is necessary to prevent the people from starving. Over 20,000 people are destitute. The philanthropy of the nation was equal to the call for help a month ago, and will doubtless be equal to the present distress.

A QUESTION has been asked in the British House of Commons to ascertain if Her Majesty's Government would assist in placing naval vessels near the Hudson Straits for such periods as might enable a report to be made upon the number of days during the year for which such route is available. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman replied: "We are in possession of information derived from the experience of a century and a half as to the limited season of the year for navigating Hudson's Strait. This experience has proved that the Strait is so hampered with fixed and floating ice as not to be free for secure navigation for more than an average of seven or eight weeks in the year, confined between July and September. The open time varies considerably from year to year, for although the Strait is occasionally open by the middle of July, it has been found closed until the middle of August, and is rarely free after September. It would be an arduous and, to some extent, a dangerous service for one or more of Her Majesty's ships to be placed in this inhospitable region for a season to watch the movements of the ice; and the observations of many years would be necessary in order to come to a safe conclusion." The request was consequently refused by the government.

MR. PREELE, the electrician of the English Post Office, read a paper last week at the Society of Arts, on the progress of electric lighting, in which he expressed a very sanguine view as to the future of the new illuminant. The day was fast approaching when we should cease to regard it a luxury, but would demand it as a necessity. The cost of supplying electricity is far less than was the cost of gas in its early days, and although electric company mongering and financing had resulted in disastrous failure, he declared that electric lighting was a most pronounced success.

THE new Franchise Bill and the Egyptian embroglio have given rise to all kinds of rumours concerning the resignation of the Gladstone Ministry. Latest reports say that the "old man eloquent" does not yet intend to yield the reigns of government. Anticipating a general election, the town of Leicester urged Mr. Herbert Spencer to become a candidate. Since Mr. Herbert Spencer has refused to accept the candidacy, on the ground that he could not consent to be a mere delegate voting as his constituents should direct, and would consequently be set at continual variance with them, the other Liberal candidate proposed, Mr. Frederic Harrison, the well-known positivist, has also declined for similar reasons. This looks like independence, and is a healthy sign in the political world. Representatives should not be voting machines, but should be men who can weigh well the measures submitted to parliament, grasp the complicated subject in all its bearings, and vote accordingly. More of such men are needed as representatives and governors.

THE sudden death of Prince Leopold at Cannes will be sincerely lamented. He was always foremost in all philanthropic efforts and was endeared to the people on account of his mild unpretentious disposition and studious habits. The Prince was the fourth and youngest son of the Queen.