

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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Mr. T. B. Flint, of Yarmouth, has resigned the shrievalty and Mr. George H. Guest has been appointed sheriff of the county, Mr. Flint resuming the practice of law.

A number of studious gentlemen in Montreal have formed a society for the purpose of writing Canadian history. Twelve papers in all are to be submitted during the present season, the first commencing 1497-1608, the subsequent ones including periods of longer or shorter duration.

It is stated that the Dominion Government propose consolidating shortly two of the present departments under one Minister and creating a Minister of Trade and Commerce, under whom will be established a bureau of labor. The railways and public works will probably be the departments consolidated.

There appears to be no doubt that Sir Charles Tupper intends returning to Canada for the purpose of re-entering public life. It is rumored that Sir Charles will again contest his old constituency, Cumberland, but there are not wanting indications pointing to his nomination in an Ontario constituency.

Dr. Charles Doucet Casgrain, of Windsor, Ont., and Mr. Samuel Merner, of New Hamburg, Ont., have been called to the Senate, leaving one Ontario vacancy to be filled. Dr. Casgrain has been selected as the representative of the 120,000 French Canadians in Ontario. Mr. Merner is the first representative of the German element that has been made a Senator.

The Halifax dispensary has for a long time presented a gratifying yearly record, and each year proves that the directors and medical gentlemen engaged in alleviating sickness and suffering among the poor of Halifax are fully alive to the nature and importance of the work in which they are engaged. The following summary shows the practical work done through the dispensary during 1886: Number of patients treated, 4,150; number of visits and consultations, 11,941; number of prescriptions dispensed, 15,953; number of teeth extracted, 821. Mr. W. C. Silver, the directors and the medical officers are to be congratulated upon the success which has attended their labors.

Political matters are now the chief topic of club and street gossip in Halifax, and speculation is rife as to the probable candidates to be placed in the field by each party. Public opinion has already nominated Hon. A. G. Jones as the Liberal standard bearer, but wavers between W. B. McSweeney and Dr. Farrell as the second Liberal candidate. It is difficult to ascertain who are to be the candidates of the Conservative party. Messrs. J. S. Maclean and T. E. Kenny have been named, but it is doubtful whether political life presents any charms to either of these gentlemen. Messrs. Stairs and Daly will probably be the nominees if they will consent to contest the constituency.

Massachusetts has spent \$18,000,000 in soldiers' monuments since 1861.

The Senate has passed without division a bill granting Mrs. Logan a pension of \$2000 per year.

The orange crop of Louisiana is less than one tenth of the average crop. There will be none for shipment north.

The colored people of South Carolina own ten millions in property, while in Louisiana they pay taxes on thirty millions.

The annual rental of the pews in the Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, resulted in their being sold this year for \$27,861, which is an excess of last year.

The Cherokees want authority from Congress to tax the railways running through their territory, the same as the States, and to compel the roads to cease discrimination against the Indians.

A policy holder in an American life office having been bitten by a mad dog was packed off at once, at the expense of the life office, to Paris, where he became a patient of M. Pasteur, and was cured.

Officers of the Sub-Treasury note the fact that while heretofore there has been no use for pecunies in the South and South-west, there is now a great demand for them there, as trade is increasing so decidedly.

Ladies of St. Luke's Church, Brooklyn, have opened coffee-booths at the Ferries and the Bridge, where they provide hot coffee and bread, or a bowl of hot soup, or other nourishing food, for one cent.

A citizen of Minneapolis is building a genuine log house right in the city. It will be a big, rambling dwelling with queer corners and quaint windows; it will have all the modern improvements, and will cost \$20,000.

The Rev. S. W. Dike says that the Vermont law of 1884 requiring all bills of divorce to be filed at the term of court preceding that in which they are heard, thus ensuring a delay of six months before trial, is reducing the number of divorces in that State. In 1884 there were 202, and in 1885 only 94.

In 1870 the United States consumed 254,609 pounds of opium. In 1880 the consumption had increased to 533,451 pounds. Of course these figures are on the drug that passed the Custom House and paid duty. As much more was smuggled.

The report of the expert examiner to the South Boston Railway Directors is made public. Ex-Treasurer Reed's cash deficit was \$150,677, and more than twelve hundred shares of stock were overissued. Reed has been sentenced to State Prison for seven years.

A new industry has been started in Vermont for collecting the cones of the white or spruce pines and extracting the seed from them, which are then sent to France, Germany, and other parts of Europe, to renew the forests there that have been cut down. Each bushel of cones yields about two pounds of seed.

The New York railroad branch of the Y. M. C. A. held its annual meeting at the Grand Central Depot. Cornelius Vanderbilt presided. He made a short address, reviewing the formation and development of the association. The reports showed the total attendance in 1886 to be 55,364, against 50,345 in 1885. President Depew delivered an address that was at times humorous, and serious at others.

Mrs. Adam of Youngstown, Ohio, is suing for a divorce from her husband because Adam voted the Democratic ticket. Just think of that! Doesn't it prove that Mr. Thurman's Jackson Div banquet at Columbus can find work enough considering the condition of the party at home, without going into other States for material. Ohio is the only State where the party is so bad off that voting its ticket is a legal ground for divorce.

A laboring man of Minerville, Pa., has patented a car-brake, which he thinks is much better than the Westinghouse brake. He says it can stop a freight car running at the rate of thirty-five miles an hour in fifteen feet, lock the wheels dead in six or eight seconds, and stop a locomotive running at the rate of forty miles an hour before it has moved twenty-five feet. He has been offered \$75,000 for his invention.

In an excise case in the Tombs Police Court, New York, where a saloon-keeper was held for a violation of the excise law, his counsel offered as bail a monster diamond. Justice White at first refused it, thinking it was glass. The lawyer, however, explained and it was taken as security. It is the largest finished diamond in the United States and known as the President. It is 52 carats in weight, and is valued at \$45,000.

A bill of much importance to shipping interests is the measure now under consideration in the United States senate, which provides that owners whose vessels have been injured by a government vessel shall sue in the admiralty courts and recover damages. Hitherto it has been necessary in such a case to have recourse to a special act of Congress; and the proposed change is one which commends itself both as thoroughly sensible and equitable.

The Edison-Gilliland-Smith system of telegraphing to and from trains without a direct connecting wire—the system described by Mr. Edison as the "air telegraph"—is now in use on the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railway, only a few months after the first test at Staten Island. One car on each train is furnished, it appears, with an inexpensive instrument, and induction is relied upon for carrying the electric current from this instrument through the air to the ordinary Morse wires at the side of the track. Construction trains on the St. Paul road are provided with these instruments and operators to work them. A construction train frequently has seventy or eighty laborers aboard, and must get out of the way of all regular traffic along the line. Accordingly, such a train has to be constantly moved on to sidings, in order to leave the road free for passenger and freight trains.—*English Mechanic*.

The Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad is laying down large quantities of burnt clay ballast on its Iowa lines, having put in some forty miles in ten-mile sections, besides a large quantity during the latter part of the season. It is said to give excellent results, and it is certainly not very expensive nor troublesome to burn, when the clay is at hand and other ballasting material is not. The Union Pacific, the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha, and the Hannibal and St. Joseph roads have also used considerable quantities of it. To prepare the ballast, the soil is stripped off for a length of 300 to 1,000 feet—whatever length of train for loading is desired—and a fire started with kindling. On this a mixture of slack and pea coal is sprinkled, then a thin layer of clay two to three inches thick, then another good sprinkling of coal, then more clay, and so on indefinitely, in the proportion of about one ton of coal to eight cubic yards of ballast. When fully burned the pile is about eight feet high and twenty to thirty feet wide, and from four to five months are consumed in burning it, a small gang of men being on hand constantly to feed the pile. One gang will ordinarily burn from 24,000 to 25,000 cubic yards at once, and its cost on the cars at the pit is about eighty cents per cubic yard. After the first rain the ballast is not dusty and it does not crumble.—*Chicago Times*.

The newest French book on "Beauty" makes a dead set against earrings. Mr. Stevens, on his bicycle tour around the world, has arrived at Shanghai.

The jubilee of the Queen's reign will be celebrated throughout India on February 16th.

The Austrian Jews are being expelled by the wholesale from Odessa and Wolosyska.

The Imperial Bank of Berlin has raised its rate of discount on foreign bills from 2½ to 4 per cent.