

## Colliery Catastrophe.

**Fifty Men Perish in a French Coal Mine.**

**How the Japs Propose to Shut Off Pekin's Water Communications.**

**Intensely Cold Weather Interferes with Warlike Operations.**

**The Tonghak Rebels in Korea Number About 1,000,000—Outline of the Queen's Speech.**

### GREEDY FOR GORE.

BERLIN, Feb. 4.—As a result of a quarrel over the Anti-Revolution Bill, Prof. Von Kauffmann has challenged Dr. Schmoller, the well-known professor of political science, to fight a duel with pistols.

### THIRTY MINERS REPORTED KILLED.

PARIS, Feb. 4.—An explosion of fire-damp has occurred at Montcelu-Lesh mines, in the department of Saona-et-Loire.

Thirty miners are reported to have been killed. A dispatch received at 11 o'clock this evening from Montcelu-Lesh mines says that about 50 men were in the mine at the time of the explosion. Of those taken out only two were uninjured. The number of lives lost is now given as 46.

The bodies of 21 dead miners have been taken out of the pit at Montcelu-Lesh mines, and eight have been taken out alive. All of the latter were injured. President Faure has donated 2,000 francs toward the relief of the families of the sufferers.

### THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

LONDON, Feb. 4.—The Queen's speech on the occasion of the opening of Parliament tomorrow was read at the Ministerial banquet tonight. It refers to continued efforts to promote peace between China and Japan; the conclusion of a treaty with France with regard to African Hinterland, and the prospect of an early settlement of the question of the Russian boundary line in Asia. The speech also expresses regret at the Armenian outrages, and asks for an increase of the financial provision for strengthening the navy. The bill programme makes no reference to the veto power of the House of Lords. The Irish Land Bill is placed before the Welsh Church Disestablishment Bill.

### THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

TOKIO, Feb. 4.—At the meeting of the plenipotentiaries of Japan and China on the 2nd inst., Count Ito in an address to the Chinese plenipotentiaries, pointed out to them the defectiveness and insufficiency of their powers. He gave them positive assurances, however, that whenever China manifested a serious and sincere desire for peace by confiding actual full powers to the Chinese plenipotentiaries, the Japanese plenipotentiaries would be prepared to enter upon new negotiations. The contents of the credentials of the Chinese plenipotentiaries are known to the Japanese plenipotentiaries here, but they decline to talk about the matter further than to say their powers were simply ad referendum and not plenipotentiary.

### THE EASTERN CONFLICT.

LONDON, Feb. 4.—A dispatch to the Central News says the Chinese Gen. Sung is encamped outside of New Chungwang with 50,000 men. Gen. Sung reports having lost 500 men in trying to recapture Kaitse. The Japanese are within ten miles of New Chungwang. It is expected they will take the foreign settlement and then march to New Chungwang.

A dispatch from Tokio says: Admiral Ito reports that in consequence of severe snow storms and heavy gales, which prevailed since Jan. 31, the Japanese fleet has been obliged to take shelter at Yung Cheng. Leaving only a small squadron to watch operations at Wei Hai Wei. The cold is intense, the guns of warships being covered with ice. British, French, German and Italian warships are watching the fighting at Wei Hai Wei.

The transport Yokohama left Yung Cheng for Port Arthur on the morning of Feb. 1. She reports that the Japanese fleet had returned from Yung Cheng and were off Wei Hai Wei. In passing that place the Yokohama observed that all of the forts were firing upon the Chinese fleet, which was returning the fire.

A dispatch from Hal Cheng, dated Jan. 27, states that the Chinese have 2,500 cavalry at Paohawtsu; 15,000 troops at Tienchuan and vicinity, and 7,000 near Shanhaikuan. Of southern troops there are over 7,000 in New Chungwang. These troops are under the command of Gen. Tong. In Tien Tsin the Viceroy has levied 10,000 Hunan and 10,000 Chihli troops. Tien Tsin has a regular garrison of 15,000 men.

TOKIO, Feb. 4.—At present the situation in Manchuria is briefly this: The first Japanese army holds the main part of the Chinese forces imprisoned in the mountains northward of Feng Wang, and the whole of Southern Shinkiang, as well as the coast road to China proper are guarded by an isolated force of between 20,000 and 25,000 men.

### TO SHUT UP PEKIN.

TOKIO, Feb. 3.—When the Japanese capture Wei-Hai-Wei, which fell will probably be accomplished in the closing days of February, it is their intention to blockade the Gulf of Pechili. The distance across the mouth of the Gulf from Port Arthur to the east of Wei-Hai-Wei on the west is only 100 miles. Twenty ships can easily close it, and they need not be ships of war. Good swift ships with a couple of guns aboard will probably serve the purpose. To China the blocking of the port would be a very serious matter. Before the days of steamers Pekin used to procure its supplies of rice and salt by the Grand Canal, an inland route secure against interruption by a foreign enemy. But for the past 25 years the capital has depended upon communication by sea, and by the Pechu River, and its plight would be emphatically embarrassing were the Gulf of Pechili blocked.

### A MILLION REBELS.

TOKIO, Feb. 4.—The Tonghak rebels in the southern province (Chollado) of Korea are now said to number

1,000,000. Out of 53 prefectures in the province 50 have been compelled by the insurgents to become partisans of the insurrection. The Tonghaks have erected Chollado into a separate kingdom, appointing their own sovereign and administrative officials. Were these people fighting for freedom they would deserve sympathy, but having submitted quietly to the yoke for decades, and then armed opposition to a power undertaking to relieve them of that yoke is inconsistent with any genuine love of liberty. They are merely political tools agitating in the interests of the Ming family, whose members find that the reforms introduced by Japan cut at the root of their extortion and corruption. The latest intelligence from the disturbed districts say that the people themselves have killed the Tonghak leader, that his head has been identified by the Japanese sent to quell the insurrection, and that the rebels have dispersed.

### HORRIBLE POSSIBILITY.

**North Waterloo People in a State of Excitement.**

**A Child Supposed to Have Been Murdered and Cremated.**

BERLIN, Ont., Feb. 4.—Considerable excitement prevails in the northern part of the riding, and the people of the village of Linwood and vicinity are at present in a feverish state of mind. On Saturday afternoon two strangers—a man and a woman—were seen passing through the village, accompanied by a child, traveling in a southerly direction. They were observed to enter the woods about two miles from the village, where a fire was kindled, it being a very cold night.

Here they remained for some time, when they left and wended their way to a farmer's by the name of John Wilcox, on the 13th line, where they sought and obtained shelter. It now transpires that the child was not with them after they left the bush, and a search was instituted, with the result that what appeared to be parts of human bones were found in the ashes where the fire had been kindled.

Acting on this circumstantial evidence, the village constable was ordered out, and is now tracing the fugitives in order that a solution may be effected.

TODAY'S DEVELOPMENTS.

BERLIN, Ont., Feb. 5.—The only development in the supposed Linwood child murder case so far is that the constable is out in pursuit of the suspects this morning. They are described as being about 35 years old each. Several of the villagers whose suspicions had been aroused visited the place where the fire had been made and kicked the ashes around more or less. As a result when Dr. McEachern visited the place he had some difficulty in gathering up any of the supposed remains. In an interview he said the cluster he secured consisted of ashes, snow and other substances, but he would not swear that there were any remains of human bones.

There is a conflict of statements reported out to them the defectiveness and insufficiency of their powers. He gave them positive assurances, however, that whenever China manifested a serious and sincere desire for peace by confiding actual full powers to the Chinese plenipotentiaries, the Japanese plenipotentiaries would be prepared to enter upon new negotiations. The contents of the credentials of the Chinese plenipotentiaries are known to the Japanese plenipotentiaries here, but they decline to talk about the matter further than to say their powers were simply ad referendum and not plenipotentiary.

### POLITICAL MATTERS.

**Arrival of Hon. Wilfrid Laurier at Toronto.**

**South Waterloo Liberals Unanimously Choose Jas. Livingston, M.P.—A Place for Mr. Creighton.**

### HON. WILFRID LAURIER AT TORONTO.

TORONTO, Feb. 4.—Hon. Mr. Laurier arrived in town this morning at 7:30. He was met at the Union Station by a number of leading Liberals of the city and escorted to the Rossin House, where he will remain during his stay in Toronto. He made no engagements for today, but will rest, preparatory to his hard work of tomorrow, when an important meeting of the council of the Ontario Reform Association is to be held to make arrangements for the coming campaign. He will also deliver an important address in the Massey Hall in the evening.

### JAS. LIVINGSTON, M.P., RENOMINATED.

GALT, Feb. 4.—The Liberal convention for South Waterloo was held here this afternoon. The meeting was a very large one, and the greatest enthusiasm prevailed. James Livingston, M.P., of Baden, was given the unanimous nomination of the convention, and after considerable persuasion he accepted the nomination. Resolutions of confidence were passed in Hon. Wilfrid Laurier as leader of the Liberal party, also in the Government of Sir Oliver Mowat, Premier of Ontario.

### PLACE FOR CREIGHTON.

The Toronto Evening News says: It is understood that Mr. David Creighton, manager of the Empire, will be offered the position of assistant receiver in the Receiver-General's office here. If he is willing to accept it the present incumbent of the office will be superannuated. In the event of Mr. Creighton declining this position he will be offered another at Ottawa. It is expected, however, he will prefer to remain in Toronto.

### NICHOLAS AMONG THE PROPHETS.

TORONTO, Feb. 4.—Nicholas Flood Davin addressed the Young Conservative Club this evening. In the course of his remarks he said Manitoba and the Northwest would send as many supporters of the Government of Sir MacKenzie Bowell at the coming election as it had sent at former Conservative Governments. The disgrace of Winnipeg would be wiped out.

### NOTES.

Mr. Conmee's total majority in West Algoma is 279.

West Bruce Liberals meet in convention at Kincardine on Feb. 8.

All signs at Ottawa point to an early election. The Government is making no preparations for a session of Parliament.

At the last Kingston bye-election, there were 4,734 names on the voters' lists, and of these 4,157 votes were polled. As evidence that the electors of Kingston are intelligent, there were only 25 rejected ballots. Some of these might have been spoiled intentionally. There were four tendered ballots.

The Patrons of Waterloo county are to hold a convention at Berlin on Tuesday afternoon.

Inspect H. Overmeyer's livery, formerly Tripp's, before you engage a conveyance for pleasure driving.

## After the Fire.

**The Church Boards Meet and Appoint a Committee.**

**The Trustees Anxious That the Congregation Shall Not Scatter.**

**And Will Endeavor to Find Temporary Quarters Large Enough, Regardless of Expense.**

A joint meeting of the quarterly and trustee boards of the Queen's Avenue Methodist Church was held at 8 o'clock yesterday afternoon in Salvation City, to consider ways and means to cope with the position in which the church is placed owing to the disastrous fire of Saturday night. The venerable Dr. Sanderson occupied the chair, and among those present representing the church boards were Thos. McCormick, Geo. Robinson, Dr. Eccles, D. C. Han-nah, S. McBride, Geo. T. Mann, W. M. Spencer, Chas. Barnes, A. B. Powell, S. Abbott, Thos. Hobbs, Mr. Watson, H. Abbott, John Green, Saml. Glass, R. J. C. Dawson, T. R. Parker, Mr. Burgess, Mr. Irwin, Rev. Mr. Kennedy, Mr. J. Dickinson, John E. Boomer, and others.

A delegation consisting of the pastor, Rev. E. B. Lancelley, Wm. Bowman, C. J. Beal, A. Keenleyside, A. Bradford and Mr. Lewis was present from the Dundas Center Church.

Rev. J. R. Gundy, Rev. Joseph Ward and Rev. Benjamin Clement were also present. The latter made a very feeling prayer, alluding particularly to the recent visitation.

### A SAD MEETING.

"I meet you today," said Dr. Sanderson, in a tremulous voice, "with a somewhat saddened heart. I join my somewhat saddened heart with yours, and we have a great deal to be grateful to God for, yet we feel a degree of sadness as we think of the house where our fathers worshipped, being laid waste. While we think this there cannot but be a sense of sadness resting upon hearts that would be grateful to God and would have faith in him at present and through the future. God has been very good to us, and we are especially very grateful to him, notwithstanding the saddest circumstances under which we gather together. We cannot but regret the loss of the house where our fathers worshipped, but for the kindness that he has manifested during the past 40 years in connection with the church that has now been laid waste. The hundreds, and the hundreds, and hundreds that have been soundly and savingly converted to God—the hundreds, and hundreds, and hundreds more who have been built up in their faith as they have attended the services of the sanctuary. We cannot but be

GRATEFUL TO GOD for the triumphal flight of many who have passed through death triumphant, and who perhaps but for the sanctuary that is now desolated might have wandered on in paths of sin until their lives were spent and their unprepared souls passed into the hands of the great God. We have a good deal to be thankful for, and we should all have strong faith in that God who has been with us in the years that have passed since May 10, 1857, and who will increase our love to his cause, and increase our faith, and while he lends us breath may we labor and offer all our works to God."

Mr. Sanderson then explained the object of the meeting, which was to make suitable arrangements for the services of the next Lord's Day, and he prayed that they would come to a wise and judicious conclusion.

### OFFERS OF AID.

Mr. A. B. Powell was elected secretary. He proceeded to read the written offers of aid from St. Andrew's congregation. Rev. E. B. Lancelley, on behalf of Dundas Center, extended the use of their church.

Mr. Powell read the following letter:

"To the Trustees of Queen's Avenue Methodist Church:—After consulting with the church wardens, I beg in my own name and in theirs to offer you for the services of your congregation the use of Bishop Cronyn Hall until you are able to make more suitable arrangements. I regret that we can only include in this offer the Sunday congregational services, as during the week the hall and committee rooms are in constant use. The Bishop Cronyn Hall is seated for 600. Allow me to assure you that in the destruction of your place of worship you have the most sincere sympathy of our church community."

"I remain, gentlemen, yours faithfully, GEO. M. INNES, dean."

Mr. Powell read an offer of aid from the Hill Street Mission.

Vocal offers were made on behalf of the King Street Methodist Church, the Y. M. C. A., First Presbyterian Church, W. C. T. U. and the Salvation Army.

### THE DISCUSSION.

Mr. Spencer announced that the Sunday school comprised 50 classes, and a membership of over 500. He dwelt on the great necessity of keeping the scholars together, and said that the Opera House and City Hall had been suggested, but he did not favor either.

"No," said Mr. McBride, "a circus on Saturday night and a prayer meeting on Sunday would not do."

Col. Lewis spoke of the Mechanics' Institute, and someone else suggested the Princess Rink. While the offers were most kind it was generally conceded that the worst possible calamity that could happen would be to have the congregation scatter. This was more to be feared than any pecuniary loss. It was pointed out that definite arrangements would have to be made for at least a year, and that it would be better to incur any expense in hiring a suitable place of worship than to lose their congregation for want of room.

Mr. Thomas McCormick said that a wrong idea had gone forth, and that the Vesper congregation wanted to get rid of their old building, anyway. That was a mistake. The old church would have done for many years to

come. All that was needed was an extension to the Sunday school.

It was finally decided to leave the who matter in the hands of a committee consisting of Messrs. McCormick, Robinson, Spencer, Mann, Abbott, Dr. Eccles and McBride. They will report at their meeting at 8 o'clock this afternoon.

### PRaiser APPOINTED.

M. Powell announced that the insurance companies had appointed Mr. Duund as their appraiser, and after a thorough discussion Mr. Shopland was appointed to appraise the property for the church. Mr. McBride said that he had that morning found Wesley Hall unguarded either by the janitor or by a policeman. He had cleared the building of a crowd of boys who were poking into every corner, and had locked the place up.

Te police will be requested to look after the place.

The furnishings in Wesley Hall will be taken out immediately and repaired. The books will also be gathered up and things put in shape for the Sabbath school session next Sunday.

The Ladies' Aid will save a large quantity of delf which was stored in the hall, a committee consisting of Messrs. McBride, Spencer and Mann was appointed to look after the salvage in Wesley Hall.

### UNSAFE WALLS.

While the meeting was going on a force of firemen, acting under City Engineer Graydon, were busy pulling down the church chimneys, which were considered unsafe. It was a difficult undertaking, but was ultimately completed without injury to anyone. A fire of the chimneys, Engineer Graydon stated that the east and south walls of Wesley Hall were unsafe and likely to fall. Barriers will be placed in position to keep pedestrians away from the dangerous parts until something is done.

### NOTE OF THANKS.

Before the meeting concluded Rev. M. Kennedy moved a very kindly worded vote of thanks to the sister churches that had so kindly come to their assistance.

Mr. Spencer seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

The question of rebuilding will not be considered until temporary quarters are arranged for.

## Late Canadian News.

### Dath of a Veteran Clergyman at Hamilton.

The Manitoba Legislature has been called to meet on Feb. 14.

Montreal banks report the 4th of February payments as generally well made. Frederic Lemke dropped dead at his home in Ottawa East on Sunday. He was 70 years of age.

The funeral of the late Mr. James Gibbon took place on Monday afternoon at Berlin, and was largely attended.

In Prince Albert on Monday the mercury marked 53 degrees below zero, while at Winnipeg it was 42 degrees below.

Bradstreet's reports these assignments: Guerard Bros., hotel, Port Arthur; James Robertson, drygoods and millinery, St. Thomas.

Mr. J. W. Garvin, public school inspector, of Peterboro, has been dismissed, owing, some people say, to his absence from duty attending political meetings. He is a Conservative.

John Williams, arrested on Sunday night at Gananogue on a charge of conspiracy to commit bigamy, appeared before Police Magistrate Deacon at Brockville on Monday and was remanded for a week.

On Monday afternoon at Halifax a 15-year-old boy named Eddie Strachan attempted to board a street car in motion. The car ran over one leg, crushing it so completely that it had to be amputated.

A lunatic named Cyrille Couture was found hanging in a barn at Beaufort, Quebec, on Friday. The man belonged to Beaufort, and was 34 years old. He was known as a reliable and quiet patient.

Rev. Mr. McGill, who resided on the mountain a few miles from Hamilton, and who was the oldest clergyman in that part of the country, died at his home on Sunday. Rev. Mr. McGill was born in 1809, and retired a few years ago from active ministry in the Congregational Church.

Without a liberal supply of Dr. Price's Baking Powder no modern cooking school is adequately equipped.

### SMALLPOX SPREADING.

A Number of New Cases Reported in Elgin.

Several Families Isolated—Port Stanley Excited.

AYLMER, Feb. 4.—The following new cases of smallpox in Malahide township were officially identified on Saturday: Mrs. Henry Percy, Mrs. Austin Jay and child, and Mrs. Silas Ashton and child. The Aylmer and Malahide boards of health met at the town hall, Aylmer, this morning, when the following business was transacted:

The section of the township of Malahide, from Yarmouth town to line lots No. 20, including the 1st, 2nd and 3rd concessions, be placed under quarantine until raised by the medical health officer. Mr. Bradley was authorized to provide a lady nurse for Silas Ashton's family. Mr. Wonnacott to have the Percy house to Jos. Sanders, these arrangements to be carried out as soon as possible.

Mr. Wonnacott reports that he has quarantined the following houses and families: Alfred Van Slyke, John Gillett, Joseph Sanders, R. H. Lindsay, Austin Jay, John Sinclair, the three Percy houses (William's, Frank's and Henry's, the old homestead), T. Wonnacott, and Wm. Wonnacott, and Alvin Nichols, Port Bruce; Silas Ashton, Morwood Ashton and E. Dangerfield.

EXCITEMENT AT PORT STANLEY. Four young men skated down the lake yesterday to Port Bruce, where several cases of smallpox are said to exist. This morning Dr. Mothersill vaccinated them and a meeting of the board of health has been called for tonight to decide what further action shall be taken.

### THE MAIL BAGS SAFE.

LONDON, Feb. 4.—The fishing smack Verna has arrived at Lowestoft, having on board one of the steamer Elbe's mail bags and the body of a man which she picked up near the spot where the steamer foundered.

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Dundas and Carling Streets.

33½ Yards Yard wide  
**Gray Cotton**  
For \$1.  
The heaviest in town.

**Compare**  
25 Yards Yard Wide Heavier  
**Gray Cotton**  
For \$1.  
Used to be 5c a yard.

**Compare**  
16 2-3 Yards Heavy  
**Gray Cotton**  
For \$1.

**Compare**  
14 2-3 Yards Yard wide  
**Gray Sheetting**  
For \$1.  
This is the heaviest in the trade.

**Compare**  
12½ Yards Heavy Twill  
**SHEETTING**  
For \$1.  
Free from dressing.

**Compare**  
10 Yards  
Fast Color American  
**Dress Prints**  
For 75c.

**Compare**  
42-Inch Heavy  
**Pillow Cotton**  
Extra Quality.  
12c Yard.

**Compare**  
14 Yards American  
**Bleached Cotton**  
For \$1.  
FULL YARD WIDE.

**Compare**  
12½ Yards Heavier  
**Bleached Cotton**  
For \$1.  
Free from dressing.

**Compare**  
10 Yards American  
**"Fruit of the Loom."**  
**Bleached Cotton**  
For \$1.  
The Best in the Trade.

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**GREY COTTON**  
**SALE**

14½ Yards American  
**Bleached Cotton**  
For \$1.  
FULL YARD WIDE.

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For \$1.  
Free from dressing.

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10 Yards American  
**"Fruit of the Loom."**  
**Bleached Cotton**  
For \$1.  
The Best in the Trade.

**Compare**  
10 Yards Heavier  
**Bleached Cotton**  
36 inches wide, for \$1.  
"Dwight Anchor."

**Compare**  
72 inches  
Heavy Twilled  
**Bleached Sheetting**  
Only 20c Yard.  
SPECIAL VALUE.

**Compare**  
42-Inch Heavy  
**Pillow Cotton**  
Extra Quality.  
12c Yard.

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