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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Major General Edward Selby Smyth, an officer of some distinction in the Imperial army, has been appointed to the important position of Major General Commanding the Militia Forces of the Dominion of Canada. Major General Smyth served as Brigade-Major to the forces in the Concan and Sawaut Warree Country during the campaign of 1844 and '45, and was present at the attack and capture of several strong stockades, as well as in the operations before the mountain forts of Monabur, and at their final assault; also, at the forcing of the Kirwatee Pass and subsequent occupation of the country below the Ghats. Served also in the Kaffir war of 1851-2 (medal), and mentioned in general orders for coolness and in trepidity in command of a column in action in the Fish River Bush (Brevet of Major); with the expedition north of the Orange River in 1852-53 afterwards Quarter Master General of the 2nd Division; and subsequently as Deputy Adjutant General and Deputy Quarter Master General to the Forces in South Africa from January 1854 to July 1860. While commanding the troops in the Mauritius he was twice sworn in, and acted as Governor in 1870 and 1871. He was appointed Major-General 6th March, 1868.

Arrangements have been made with the several Railway Companies for the conveyances to Ottawa of intending competitors at the Dominion Rifle Association Match, which takes place this week, at one fare and a third for the double journey. Passage at this rate can be secured upon production of member's ticket and commanding officer's certificate at any station.

Major D. A. Macdonald, of the Militia Department, left Ottawa on the Evening of the 9th inst., for Manitoba, in charge of Stores, etc., for the Military stationed in that Province.

The Winnipeg *Nor-Wester* says if there is not a big Show at Qu'Appelle at the making of the Indian treaty it will be a wonder. It has been asserted that nearly every tribe in the North West, with the exception of the Black feet will be represented. It predicts that Lieut. Governor Morris and the Hon. Mr. Laird will have their hands fully employed, and will have some difficulty in satisfying all the demands of the Indians.

Hon. Mr. Dubuc, the successor of Mr. Clarke in the Manitoba Attorney Generalship, and a partisan of the half-breeds, had been retained for the defence of Riel, Lepine, and others in their forthcoming trial, for the murder of Scott. Now, however, that

he has succeeded to Clarke's position, and become the prosecutor, it is said he will be obliged to engage a substitute to continue the proceedings, in the Court of Queen's Bench, which alone has authority in the matter, decides that the trials must go on.

Hereafter, dead letters instead of being burned up at Ottawa will be returned to the writers, according to the act introduced last session. Between 200 and 300 letters are thus returned every day.

A committee of the Senate has reported on certain petitions for prohibitory liquor law, which were presented with over three hundred thousand signatures. They find that Canada derives over three millions a year from the liquor traffic, and that about one half the crimes committed are the result of intemperance, while drunkenness is rapidly increasing, especially in large cities.

Mr. Marc-Aurele Plamondon, Q. C., of Quebec, has been appointed Judge of the Superior Court for the District of Arthabaska.

The Halifax, rowing club have decided not to agree to Sadler's proposed alterations from the Brown challenge, which he originally accepted.

There was a heavy shower of rain in the neighbourhood of the Gatineau on Friday morning last and a former who came in with a load of hay, had his stuff as well as himself well drenched. He was rather surprised when he discovered dry weather in Ottawa.

The works on the Northern Colonization Railway have advanced so far that a further instalment of \$70,000 has been paid on account of construction by the Provisional Government.

The Imperial Government, it seems, has ordered a list of Canadians who served under the flag in 1812 to be made out, and this is being done by the Militia Department at Ottawa. A good many are said to be already inscribed, and all who are entitled to be enrolled, but are not yet so, should lose no time in sending in their names.

The marketable value of soldiers' claims for lands in Manitoba, is said to be \$155 each. This is pretty near the actual value of homestead rights, and the difference that the latter can be had by pre-emption.

The Minnesota State Lumbermen's Convention, at a meeting held in St. Paul last week, adopted the following resolution:—"Resolved, that the delegates from this State to the Saginaw Convention, be directed to make arrangements for a convention of lumbermen of the Mississippi Valley and its tributaries, for the purpose of uniting all parties in said valley who are manufacturing lumber, in reducing the production of lumber, and agreeing upon time and place of meeting."

A special to the *Times* says, two white refugees—one in the Union, and the other an ex-Confederate soldier—arrived at New Orleans from Conshatta, having been warned away from their homes by White Leaguers on account of their support of the general government. They confirm the previous reports of the murder of officials and negroes, and say that the swamps around Conshatta stink with the corps of slaughtered negroes.

The Duke of Argyll has commissioned M. R. Anderson, architect, Edinburgh, to commence operations at once, with a view to the thorough repair and partial restoration of the interesting ruins in Iona.

Capt. Harvey, of the 71st Highlanders, while disembarking troops from the *Tamar*, at Queenstown, on the 5th inst. gallantly rescued a woman and child who had fallen into the water. It was quite dark at the time, and there was a strong tide running.

A special from Paris to the *Daily News* says M. Francors Pierre Gilliame Guizot, the eminent French author and statesman, is in a comatose state, and death is imminent.

A collision occurred in the Mersey on the 9th between the Spanish steamer *Tamar*, and the Anchor Line steamer *Alexander*. The latter was sunk and *Tamar* was badly damaged.

From a return made to the Bureau of Statistics, at Washington, it appears that during the month of August, the grain and flour shipped from Chicago to Canada to be transhipped to some European port, was as follows:—Wheat, bush., 357,853; corn 215,675; oats, 16,686; flour, brls., 4,287. Total value, \$543,712.

A terrific collision occurred on the Great Eastern Railway, near Norwich on the 11th. Fifteen persons were killed, and thirty injured, some of whom it is feared will not survive.

The Paris newspapers publish an official Carlist despatch, acknowledging that the *Loyalists* fired on the German gunboats *Albatross* and *Nautilus* at Guetaria. The despatch declares that the vessels were endeavoring to effect the landing of arms under the pretext of exercising the crews, and in conclusion says the Carlists will recognize no combination of Serrano and his accomplices, but will exact respect for Spanish territory, and resist the bravado with which the German Government has endorsed the action of the gunboats.

The Carlists recently fired on a train of cars believing that the Austrian and German Ambassadors were passengers. The driver and stoker of the train were killed.

A despatch to the *Times* says the Ameer of Kashgar has defeated the principal body of troops which was menacing his frontier.