

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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Premier Mercier, McShane, and the other members of the Provincial Government of Quebec, have been re-elected by acclamation.

The first salmon of the season were on sale in the city this week. They were caught in Indian River by Loftus Mason, who is well known to the sportsmen of Halifax.

A rough draft of the plans of the proposed Church of England Cathedral in Halifax, are now on exhibition in the rooms of the Church of England Institute.

It is to be regretted that the English and French business men of Montreal could not lay aside race prejudices when dealing with commercial matters. The French merchants have withdrawn from the regular Montreal Board of Trade, and have formed themselves into a new Board distinctively French.

A small army of pickpockets and other blacklegs visited the Montreal Carnival last week, and hundreds of reports were made at the police headquarters of losses sustained by citizens and visitors. The pickpockets made away indiscriminately with wallets, watches and chains, diamond pins, fur tippets, etc.

Kentville, Digby and Bridgetown are now agitating for a proper water service. If the water supply can be obtained within reasonable distances, the cost of giving the citizens of these thriving western towns good and wholesome water, should not be excessive. Moreover, with an efficient water service, the fire insurance rates will be much reduced.

Tenders for the new City Hall were opened by the Board of Works on Monday last. There were seven tenders in all, the lowest being George Tanner, it being: Trimmed with freestone, \$62,548; trimmed with granite, \$68,052. The highest tender was: Trimmed with freestone, \$97,634; and with granite, \$99,634. Some other people differ besides doctors.

Nomination day passed off quietly in most of the Nova Scotia constituencies, but in Digby and Snelburne party feeling ran away with the judgment of some individuals, and the audiences gathered to listen to the speeches of the respective standard bearers, were broken up by disgraceful interruptions. The elections on Tuesday next will show which party has the confidence of the people.

The Ontario Legislature, which met last week, has adjourned, the members finding that pressing business required them to be at their homes for a week or more. When a member of the Dominion Parliament takes a hand in provincial elections, the party howler howls, but he is dumb when the members of provincial legislatures take an active part in a Dominion election. Why this distinction?

At a political meeting at Tyne Valley, P. E. I., at which about three hundred electors were gathered, a part of the building collapsed and one hundred of the electors were precipitated into the collar. Several persons sustained serious injuries. The stove in falling struck one man, but he fortunately escaped with only a serious bruise. The Charlottetown *Patriot* says that it almost broke his leg. That "almost" is better than a doctor.

Joseph McLennan, one of the oldest engine drivers on the Intercolonial railway, met with an accident in the Richmond yard which resulted in almost immediate death. Having oiled the switch engine of which he had charge, the deceased man attempted to mount to the cab, but in doing so slipped and fell backwards on the ice, the sharp point of the oil-feeder entering his skull just behind the ear. Mr. McLennan's relatives have the sympathy of the entire community.

An aged colored woman was recently found dead in her lodging on Albermarle Street in this city. Her death was probably due to want of sufficient clothing and food during the prolonged cold snap. The old woman was peculiar, and as she was reputed to have money in the Savings' Bank, none of her fellow-lodgers felt called upon to familiarize themselves with her mode of living; hence her demise occurred many hours before the discovery of her dead body, which was crouched in a sitting posture before an extinct fire.

According to the agreement that one year's notice should be given by either party wishing to terminate the contract of carrying the mails, now existing between the Newfoundland government and the Allan Steamship Company, the former has notified the Messrs. Allan that unless they are willing to accept a reduced subsidy the contract will be annulled at the close of the present year. The Allans, it is said, will not listen to any such reduction being made, and, if they hold out, the result will be a serious matter for St. John's merchants.

A Newfoundland correspondent in writing of St. John's, says: "It is indeed a quaint city and in many respects is a century behind the age. The shops are most peculiar. I was attracted by the display of silverware in the window of one establishment, but on entering the shop found paint brushes, iron bedsteads, and other useful articles were on sale, while at one counter a boy was waiting out tea for a customer. The shops are in reality variety stores, in which one can get everything from the proverbial pin to an anchor. Prices are quoted in pounds, shillings and pence, and a coin with a hole in it is not legal tender. Another curious fact is that cottons, silks and velvets are sold by the pound."

A coating of ice an inch or more in thickness has covered the streets, sidewalks, fences, houses and other buildings in Halifax for the past five or six days. Pedestrians without creepers or ice-sticks have found it almost impossible to ascend some of the hills, and drivers of sleighs not provided with ice-brakes have found the turning of corners well nigh impracticable.

The strike of the coal and goods handlers in New York has practically ended, and the strikers have generally resumed work, considerably poorer, and it is to be hoped wiser, through the experience that their escapade has given them. On the other hand the strike of the coal miners in the Pictou and Cumberland mines has so largely reduced the supply of fuel in this city as to nearly produce a coal famine, and dealers have taken advantage of the fact to advance their figures to consumers by 15 to 20 per cent. The *raison d'être* of this strike we do not pretend to define, but it is evident that it causes serious inconvenience to many innocent persons while it lasts.

Some one has computed that the U. S. Government pays out for pensions about \$7,000 an hour.

The Louisiana sugar crop this year is put down at 175,000,000 pounds—somewhat less than was expected.

It is estimated that about three tons of yarn annually pass into the construction of base balls in the United States.

The old house in Plymouth, Mass., in which the Pilgrims held their first council is to be torn down at the demand of modern improvements.

The publishers of *The Century Magazine* say that the sales of that periodical have increased over 30,000 copies a month since the life of Lincoln was begun.

Fifteen years ago, Chicago merchants obtained their supplies of cheese from the East: now ten million pounds yearly pass through that city from the West for New York.

John O'Neil, the convicted bondle w'rdman of New York, has been sentenced by Judge Barrett to four years and a half in the State prison, and to pay a fine of \$2000.

The total number of casualties by the recent disaster at White River Junction, Vt., is pretty accurately estimated at 37. The injured are doing well.

The ice-houses on the Hudson River have already housed more than two-thirds of the 3,000,000 tons needed to enable New York and neighboring cities to "keep cool."

The meat business of P. E. Armour & Co. last year reached the enormous sum of \$50,000,000. The business extends all the way from the Atlantic to the Pacific in this country, and then goes across the water, all over the world.

The "Destroyer," which Congress has been asked to buy from Captain John Ericsson, the inventor of the monitor, is simply a first-class torpedo boat, which, instead of firing a Whitehead torpedo with compressed air, fires a shell from a submerged gun.

Hon. A. D. White, formerly President of Cornell University, and lately United States Minister to Germany, has given to that University his valued historical library—of 30,000 volumes, 10,000 pamphlets, and many manuscripts—which cost over \$100,000.

In Kennebunk, Me., is a vicious woman who gives to each prisoner in the common jail, on Thanksgiving day, a whole mince pie. Her mother and grandmother did the same and she keeps it up. This year it took 105 pies to go round. The number of deaths which followed has not been reported.

Jay Gould has bought another railway. It is the Little Rock, Mississippi River and Texas Road. The price paid was \$1,800,000 under foreclosure of mortgage sale. As the prince of monopolists holds \$2,000,000 worth of bonds of the road, he will not have to draw upon his bank account to raise the purchase money.

Rev. Dr. George E. Reed, a Methodist clergyman of Brooklyn, responded to the invitation of the Kiralfy Brothers, who asked the clergymen to attend the "Black Crook" and judge of the merits of the ballet, by inviting the Kiralfys to come and hear him preach. Accordingly the entire troupe attended his services last Sunday.

A Chicago lady, while recently riding in a Colorado stage coach, was precipitated down a precipice 400 feet, landing in a snow drift at the bottom, and the only injury she received was from a shovel while the men were digging her out of the snow. Other passengers who lodged 180 feet from the top were terribly injured.

Alabama's most prominent female contributor to the press is Miss Mary Gordon Duffie, of Blount Springs. She is known as the "Poetess of the Mountains," and writes to several journals, both north and south, under the name of "Mary Duff Gordon." She lives on a lonely mountain in Blount county, dresses in ancient and eccentric style, carries a green umbrella and keeps a loaded musket behind her door for protection from intruders. She is one of the oddest developments of literary life in the United States.—*New York World*.

While Patti was about concluding a performance in the Grand Opera House in San Francisco, a man in the gallery stood up with a lighted bomb in his hand with the evident intention of throwing it at the singer. Just as he raised his arm and before he could throw the missile the bomb exploded, shattering his hand and inflicting serious injuries upon him. The police at once arrested the man and took him to the hospital. There was much excitement, but Patti calmly proceeded to sing, "Home, Sweet Home," and was cheered to the echo for her coolness. The man's name is not known, nor is the motive for the deed.