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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

We deeply regret to announce that the Hon. Mr. VAIL, Minister of Militia, was taken suddenly ill at Bangor, State of Maine, on his way to Ottawa, on Friday last, and that his arrival in Ottawa will be delayed for some time in consequence of his physician advising that it would be unsafe for him to be removed. A later telegram, however, we are happy to say, conveys the gratifying intelligence that the hon. gentleman has so far recovered that it is confidently expected he will be able to resume his journey immediately, and may be expected in Ottawa this week.

A meeting of Frenchmen was held in Quebec on the 2nd inst., for the purpose of petitioning the Dominion Government for the pardon of Ambroise Lepine, convicted at the recent assizes in Winnipeg of the murder of Thomas Scott in 1870, and sentenced to be hanged on the 29th January, 1875. And also for an unconditional pardon of Louis Riel and his confederates in the rebellion of 1870. That in the event of a refusal to these demands the French members of the Ministry are to be peremptorily called on to resign their places in the Cabinet. The meeting was presided over by Mr. J. P. Rhosume, and addressed by the Hon. Mr. Cauchon, Mr. Caron, Mr. Pelletier and Mr. Frechette, members of Parliament, who pledged themselves to secure, if possible, the pardon of Lepine, and a general amnesty.

The Quebec Legislature will meet for the despatch of business on Thursday the third day of December next.

The Militia force in the North West is about to be reduced from three hundred and forty to two hundred men, the change being considered justified by the quiet state of the country and the efficiency of the Mounted Police.

George Brown's Challenge to J. H. Sidler, the English champion, to row a five mile boat race with a turn, for \$5,000, has been accepted.

John Sanders, who is believed to have been the 1st survivor of the crew of the *Shannon* when she encountered the *Chesapeake*, died at North Sidney on the 26th inst.

The Ontario Legislature meets for the despatch of business on Friday next the 12th inst.

It is expected that the grading and all preliminary work prior to the laying of the rails on the line of the Northern Colonization Railway between Montreal and Ottawa will be completed by the first of next February.

The *Quebec Gazette*, the oldest newspaper in the Dominion, has been purchased by the Messrs Foote, proprietors of the *Chronicle*. The *Gazette* was established in 1760, immediately after the conquest of Canada.

A magnificent tract of land containing 500 000 acres well timbered with pine, birch and spruce, has been discovered in New foundland. The soil is very fertile and capable of supporting with ease 100 000 settlers. This fine tract, whose existence hitherto was not even suspected, lies round the shores of Gander Bay, river and lake. The cause of its remaining so long undiscovered in so old a colony, is that the people were so occupied in fishing, that they utterly neglected the other splendid resources of the island.

Twenty-four waifs from the streets of London, sent out by the benevolence of Archbishop Manning, have arrived at Quebec, where they have been placed under the care of the Sisters of Charity, pending ultimate arrangements.

The United States army is about to be reduced to a peace footing of from 27,000 to 25,000 men.

Garibaldi is about to be tendered an annuity of \$6,000 by the Principality of Naples.

Walter Harris, of Baltimore aged thirty five years, who was in the habit of smoking in bed was found dead in his room this morning. His body was horribly burned and presented a sickening sight. The fire is supposed to have been caused by the pipe of the deceased.

The cable of the Direct United States Company which parted and was lost while being laid by the *Faraday*, has been picked up by that vessel in latitude 50 and 31 longitude. The cable is in perfect condition and it was spliced to the portion remaining on the *Faraday* at 11 o'clock this morning (2nd inst.) and the work of paying out again commenced.

Despatches from Madrid announce the return of Senor Castelar to that city. The Carlists report that they have erected four batteries of sixteen cannon before Irun and the bombardment will be opened on Wednesday at the latest.

The British Ambassador at Constantinople has called the attention of the Porte to the increasing slave traffic between Bengazi and Egypt and the Porte has promised to suppress it.

Advices from Buenos Ayres state that a report has reached there, but which was not officially confirmed, that a battle took place on the 26th ultimo in the Province of Buenos Ayres, near the mouth of the Rio Salado, between the Government troops and a body of rebels under Mitre. The result is said to have been unsettled, although the Government forces claim the victory. Mitre's force retired and effected a junction with Ribas, when both again marched toward the city of Buenos Ayres. The Government troops still retained their original positions about the Capital, and a decisive engagement was hourly expected.

It is considered certain that the coming session of the National Assembly will be opened with an urgent message from President McMahon in favor of the adoption of the Constitutional Bill, especially that creating a second chamber and recommending the substitution of voting by arrondissement for the present system.

News has been received from Central Asia that Yakob Khan, son of Sheranili, Ameer, of Afghanistan, has rebelled against his father and is now within three days march of Candabar. A battle is imminent unless the Ameer agrees to the exclusion of British influence from Afghanistan.

A special telegram from Henedayo says peremptory orders have been received from Paris for the expulsion of all Spaniards without distinction before Tuesday evening from frontier towns on the right bank of the Biddassoa, for fear they may interfere in the conflict at Irun. Many of those affected are without means of travelling.

A despatch from Santander says Don Carlos is determined to concentrate his forces in Biscay for the attack on Irun, knowing that General Lizerna had gone to Madrid to tender his resignation. The Republican Government has only just begun to take measures to resist this movement. All the steamers in the harbor of Santander have been embargoed to carry 5,000 men to the relief of Irun. Trains have been obtained, and to-day 6,000 men will leave for the scene. Don Carlos has only twelve cannon, but some are of large calibre, and all are in good condition.

There was a tremendous explosion of power at Hounslow yesterday afternoon, and four persons were instantly killed.