

Notes of the Week.

An intelligent Churchman is wanted as Canvassing Agent for this paper in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. To the right man steady employment and a good salary will be given.

Ottawa despatches say the ceremonies attending the formal opening of the Dominion Parliament on Friday were even more elaborate in detail than ever before. The Governor General's speech while not containing any point of special interest, is highly satisfactory, showing the financial and general condition of the country to be exceedingly good. His Excellency speaks of his visit to British Columbia with pleasure, and makes a friendly reference to the kindness of his reception in the United States, and to the good feeling happily existing between that country and England. A measure is to be introduced regulating the sale of intoxicating drinks. Immigration into the North-West is spoken of as likely to prove exceptionally large the coming year, although the past year was very far in excess of any previous time. Mention is made of the unprecedented progress made in the construction of the Pacific Railway. Traffic can now be carried on from Thunder Bay over a distance of a thousand miles, and it is confidently stated that the Rocky Mountains will be reached during the present year. The business on the Intercolonial Railway is increasing greatly. Notwithstanding the expenditure on capital account amounted to over seven millions of dollars, the surplus of the consolidated revenue, together with the proceeds of the sales of land in the North-West during the year, were more than sufficient to cover the expenditure, and the debt was at the close of the year less than for the year previous. It is to be hoped that every care will be taken to guard against legislation in the interest of one section of the country to the injury of another, or in favor of rich corporations to the detriment of the people at large. We may also hope that the results of this session of our Dominion Parliament may be generally acceptable to the whole country, and may prove most beneficial in assisting its development, and in increasing the prosperity of our people.

The outlook in France continues to be far from reassuring. Indeed, it is becoming more and more certain that mischief is brewing in that far but strangely unsettled country which may result in scenes of violence and bloodshed. The socialistic feeling which would do away with every vestige of rank and make common the goods of the rich is increasing in intensity unchecked, with a government seeing the danger but instead of taking measures to avert it pandering to some of its worst features. A Paris despatch says Jules Ferry has recommended President Grevy to expel the Orleans princes by a decree. Grevy hesitates to take such a course but it will probably be adopted. If a ministry is formed under Ferry, sweeping changes in the ministry, making virtually a new cabinet, are expected to be gazetted on Sunday next. It is even said that General Thibaudin, Minister of War, will be the only member of the present ministry remaining. Meanwhile the entrance of General Thibaudin into the Cabinet, as Minister of War, has aroused Germany into silent but none the less active preparations to defend her lately acquired Rhine territory, which she feels may be made at any time a point of attack. It is feared in England that whenever the bill passes depriving the princes of civil rights the Socialists and Communists will need but little more encouragement to make an attack upon their property. That is believed to be the inevitable end of the present legislation, and sinister tokens of the approaching struggle already reach us from Paris, where it is firmly believed that expatriation measures will lead to the policy of pillage.

We see that the Russian police claim to have entirely destroyed the Nihilist organization in that country. It is asserted that the Czar is now able to walk the streets of St. Petersburg without fear of

assassination. The Emperor has issued a manifesto, naming May as the time for the public coronation ceremony, which he says he determined not to perform until the feeling of the people had time to calm. On the other hand, it is asserted by a Socialist leader, now in the United States, that the Czar will never be crowned, meaning by that, we suppose, that the blood thirsty desire to take his life has not been appeased. It is hardly to be believed that the conspiracy is at an end. No concessions have been made, and there has been no change in the condition of the people to justify the hope that a better spirit prevails. A strange story of the Nihilist conspiracy comes from St. Petersburg. It appears that several persons occupying high social and official positions in the government of Volhynia recently received threatening letters signed by the "Socialist Committee." One was addressed to the Governor himself, and threatened him with death unless he forwarded 3,000 roubles to a place named, by a certain day. When the sender of the letter came to receive the money, he was discovered to be the Chief of Police. He was instantly arrested, and remains in strict confinement.

It is time the general government took some decided action to prevent the increase of gambling in one of its most pernicious forms. Lotteries, to which we refer, and which we have condemned on more than one occasion of late, are becoming so common that unless a stringent law is adopted for the whole Dominion we may expect to find them doing an incalculable injury to society, and especially to the young. One has just come off in London, Ontario, in which the prizes ranged from \$15,000 to \$5; and now the *Quebec Chronicle* says there is a rumor that another one on a gigantic scale is proposed in that city, and that an attempt is to be made to have it legalized by the legislature. We are glad to find it saying: "We hope no such bill will be presented in the House of Assembly. It certainly would not pass, but we would be sorry to hear even of the attempt being made to introduce such a measure, alike revolting to our sense of honor and decency and the principles of justice. Last year there was talk of a provincial lottery being organized, but it fell through and died still born. The same fate should promptly overtake the new scheme." We endorse what it further says of this dangerous form of gambling. "They are degrading to the country which permits them, and they open the door to all sorts of vice and immorality." And we add for ourselves, nothing that we know of could injure the business morals of a community and destroy honest business effort and dealing more than the hungering desire to obtain money without having earned it, which this evil fosters.

We have hardly chronicled the abatement of the great floods in Hungary and in the Rhine Provinces of Germany which caused so serious a loss of life and property, before we are called upon to make mention of a serious overflowing of the country bordering on the Ohio river in the United States. Many places have been wholly or partially submerged, all business is at a standstill, and the destruction of property has been enormous but fortunately no lives have so far been lost, although hundreds of people have been driven from their homes and exposed to many hardships.

It is known we presume that all Germans have to serve in the army for a term of years, and in no way can they escape conscription unless they avoid it by leaving the country. This will explain the following which we take from the *Pati Mall Gazette*:

The following letter has been addressed by a German resident in England to Prince Bismarck, in reply to a notice to present himself at a certain place in Prussia for military service under the conscription:

"My dear Bismarck,—I feel highly flattered by your kind invitation, addressed to me at my native town, to join the German army, but I am afraid I shall not be able to accept it, for I am now in England, engaged in the more useful work (as I consider it) of expounding mental science

and teaching people how to make the best use of their faculties. For the same reason, I scarcely feel myself at liberty to accept even the hospitality of six months' board and lodging at the expense of the State, which you considerably offer as an alternative. I much prefer basking in the sunshine of English liberty to being forced despotically into military servitude in my own country. I have altogether given up fighting since I left school. I do not know that I have anything particular to fight about now, and hardly care to engage in fighting at any one else's bidding. If you have a quarrel with anybody, I would advise you to settle it amicably if possible, or else fight it out yourself. If after you have 'fixed up' the army you can make it convenient to run over here at any time to one of my phrenological lectures, I shall be happy to point out the superiority of life in England, and explain the nature and utility of the, as I say, more useful work which I am engaged in, and I will examine your head, either publicly or privately, free of charge. With kind regards to the Governor, I remain yours faithfully, GUSTAVUS CORNEN."

It appears that after all the new Archbishop of Canterbury did not spring from the Methodists, but is of a Church family. Having helped to circulate a wrong impression, we cheerfully make the correction. The *London Guardian* says:—"A statement has appeared in the *West Briton*, which has been copied into a large number of other newspapers, that the Archbishop-designate is the grandson of the Rev. Joseph Benson, a once celebrated Wesleyan minister and president of the Conference in 1798 and 1810. We have authority for saying that this statement is entirely unfounded."

An Ottawa despatch says that "the Department of Agriculture has decided to adopt the system of vital statistics proposed by a delegation some time since from the leading cities of the Dominion. It will go into operation at once and returns will be rendered monthly. The following cities will be represented when the scheme is perfected: Ottawa, Toronto, Hamilton, Winnipeg, Victoria, B. C., Montreal, Quebec, Fredericton, St. John, Halifax and Charlottetown. We are glad to know that the Dominion Government has adopted the views of the leading medical men of the Dominion and others who have been urging this step upon them. Before Confederation some of the Provinces collected these statistics and found them most valuable, and now that the system is to be adopted in the principle cities of the Dominion we may hope to find the best results following its introduction.

We know very little of the dangers attending a heavy fall of snow, although, perhaps, we sometimes complain of a detention of a few hours on our railroads on account of it. As showing two phases of the danger which we escape, we select the following, the first a telegram from the United States on Friday last, says: A stage which left Massouta for Deer Lodge, Montana, yesterday, was caught in a blizzard on Flint Creek Hill. The driver lost his way, and with horses and several passengers, was found frozen to death. And the other from an English exchange tells us that heavy snowstorms, lasting for fifteen days, have produced an extraordinary earthship in the valley of Faverges, near Marais, Switzerland. On the night of Tuesday week the villagers, alarmed by a terrible noise, betokening the dislocation of the mountain, hastily sought refuge in the neighbouring villages of Geravel and Bouchet. The next morning a great mass of earth was seen pushing before it heaps of mud and stones, dragging after it rocks and trees, and rolling straight towards the village.

It is a remarkable thing that notwithstanding the advance of medical science diphtheria is still an unchecked epidemic in so many places. That the disease has baffled the skill of the world's best physicians is shown by the fact that it is dreaded alike by rich and poor, and the mortality among children is as great and even greater now than it was years ago. Recently the havoc in France has been so great from this disease that the Government has offered a prize of \$25,000 for a diphtheria cure.