

## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

PARLIAMENT opened last Thursday and the occasion was graced with a large and brilliant assemblage which gave Lord Lansdowne a very hearty reception. The opening speech is a long one, in which Lord Lansdowne congratulates us on our prosperity, the success of the fisheries exhibition, the increased immigration, and grows laudatory concerning the increased volume of traffic over the Intercolonial Railway. We are promised a bill for the assimilation of the electoral franchises existing in the several provinces, and the Canada Pacific Railway is affirmed to give gratifying evidence of its soundness as a commercial enterprise of great value to Canada.

At a full meeting of the clergy of the Rural Deanery of Lincoln and Welland it was unanimously resolved, "That in the opinion of this meeting it is unjust and inexpedient that further grants of public money be made for the support of higher education unless the claims of the denominational colleges can at the same time be recognized." We heartily endorse the resolution. If the public money is to be spent on the teaching of all the "ologies," let the money be given to those institutions where the higher education can be imparted in a thorough and systematic manner.

THE fishing industry seems to have been carried on during the past year with commendable vigour and bountiful profit. A greatly increased value has been gained in the cod fishery. To this branch of the fisheries over forty new vessels and three hundred and sixty men have been added since the previous year, as well as 1,150 new boats to the shore service. This year's catch, amounting in value to about \$7,600,000, was gathered by 29,000 fishermen, owning 743 vessels, 11,500 boats, 1,250,000 fathoms of nets and seines, and 700 weirs and traps, valued in all at \$2,250,000.

LORD LANSDOWNE commands the art of making a good and effective speech, putting his audience in a good humour with themselves and with the speaker. In the course of such a speech at Toronto, Lord Lansdowne took occasion to speak of pauper immigration, and his words on the subject are well worth reading. He said:—"Nothing has been further from the thoughts of the Imperial Government or of the private promoters of emigration than the idea of sending to this country persons who are not able to take their places as useful members of society in the land of their adoption. I rejoice that this subject is being treated in somewhat of a critical spirit on this side. The more light that we can throw upon it the better, and I think you will find that upon the whole the motives as well as the actions of those who have encouraged emigration will bear the closest scrutiny. The matter is, I am able to assure you, engaging the attention not only of the highest authorities here, but of the government at home, and if additional precautions are needed you may rely on their being taken."

HITHERTO the Cunard Line has not entered into the cattle carrying trade, but now a fresh impetus will be given to that branch of Canadian wealth by the special preparations that are being made by the well known and careful Line to carry cattle to the Old Country.

A stringent anti-Chinese bill will be introduced in the Legislature of British Columbia, declaring

it unlawful for Chinese to enter that Province, and imposing an annual tax, to be fixed by the House, on Chinese over 14 years of age.

THEY are having very cold weather in Dakota. The Grand Forks *Plaindealer* of Friday says "last night the thermometer must have gone down to near 55 degrees below, while this morning it registered 40 degrees at 7 o'clock." The lowest record in Winnipeg this winter is 44½ degrees on Thursday last, so that Dakota heads the score by 10½ points besides three or four blizzards.

CONGRESS has a big session before it. A Washington paper says 4,750 resolutions and 5,300 bills have to be considered. Our American friends start off with a promising bill of fare, and if the rhetorical flourishes can be held back for one session, every bill on the list will have a fair chance.

EARL GRANVILLE has opened negotiations with the French government for a settlement of the dispute regarding the Newfoundland fisheries. The basis proposed for a settlement by Earl Granville is the purchase by England of the French right in Newfoundland waters. Captain Fane, commander of the British frigate *Tenedos*, now on the coast of Newfoundland, has been ordered to make a special survey of the alleged French coast line, and the Government of Newfoundland is also making a special report upon the subject.

THE employees in the Post Office Department, Washington, have been notified by the Postmaster-General that the purchase of lottery tickets by them would hereafter be regarded as a sufficient cause for their removal from office.

DURING 1883 there were 2,320 cases of murder and homicide in the United States; 1,024 in the Western States, 934 in the Southern States, and 362 in the Eastern States. Ohio heads the list with 169, then comes Illinois with 157 and then Texas with 156. Certainly a startling list for one year.

SIR EVELYN BARING, the British agent in Egypt, has been notified by Earl Granville that the English Government has decided to inaugurate at once certain reforms in the government of Egypt, and has been ordered to remain in that country and supervise the operation of the new policy until the Government is satisfied with its progress.

ANARCHY worse than that which existed in the days of Arabia has sprung up in Egypt, and nothing short of a provisional administration of the country by England can now be thought of. England must either take the government of the country outright, or else cut and run. The latter is out of the question, and is un-English. The former is a matter of practical politics and will probably be carried out.

THE Whalemens' Shipping List of New Bedford publishes this week its annual review of the whale fishery business. The past year has been one of loss to those engaged in this business and its results have been discouraging. There are 144 vessels now engaged in the trade, with a total tonnage of 34,119, against 34,147 in 1882. The largest number of vessels ever employed in whaling at one time was 668 in 1824. Their tonnage was 208,399. The past years' figures are the lowest in 34 years.

THERE is a growing uneasiness in Spain over the unsettled movements there since the abortive

rising last summer. The adherents of revolutionary Republicanism are busy and cause much mischief. But King Alphonso is a strong, yet conciliatory man, and will probably steer the ship of state clear of the impending storm.

THE Hungarian Ministry of Internal Communication has issued orders that only officials of the rank of a ministerial councillor shall be allowed to step on the staircase carpet, and that all officials below that rank must mount or descend on the uncarpeted strips of the staircases. These important orders are intended to save the state carpets.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Morning Post*, who during the past half year has made three tours in Ireland, for the purpose of ascertaining the position of the country as regards industrial education and the development of industries, states:—"The result of my own observations is to confirm the opinion which I had previously formed—that the future welfare of Ireland depends more upon the training of the rising generation in industrial habits, and the development of trades and small industries, than on any scheme of heroic legislation, and that those who carry out these measures will eventually obtain the confidence of the people."

ENGLISH journalism is driven by the keenness of competition to stranger enterprises every day. The ruling craze as to dwellings of the poor resulted in one reporter getting smallpox and in another being garroted, while still another has been brought before a police magistrate for perambulating as an amateur beggarman.

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD, member of Parliament, in a speech last week, declared that English commerce is at the mercy of any power who chooses to attack it; that any nation who could send out a few fast cruisers could paralyze our shipping trade. Lord Beresford, a captain in the Royal Navy, may be supposed to know something of the capacity of the service, but the speeches of public men very often have to be taken with a grain of salt.

THE latest declaration of Chinese policy in Tonquin is a recent letter from Marquis Tseng published in Germany. He declares that the capture of Sontay has only increased the strength of the war party in Peking, and that Li Hung Chang is now ready to head the anti-foreign forces of the Empire. This is a notable conversion, and shows that China is as bellicose as France herself. Marquis Tseng expresses great disappointment that the powers have not raised a finger to restrain France, and threatens that the whole cost of the campaign shall be taken out of European trade.

INFORMATION has been received that British agents in Madagascar are collecting information of the damage caused by the French to English proprietors and commerce by the recent operations of the French navy which promise to produce more trouble than the mad acts of Admiral Pierre.

THE Queen is to spend a long vacation this spring on the Continent of Europe. She goes at first to Baden-Baden and afterwards to Darmstadt to attend the wedding of her grand-daughter with Prince Louis of Battenburg. The Prince and Princess of Wales are also expected to be there after making a long stay at the Riviera, whither they go shortly.