The Weekly Mail.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, JAN. 23, 1880.

THE COMING ELECTIONS.

THE four elections that must come off within a short period are beginning to awaken a certain degree of interest, but no excitement, in the public mind outside of the contested constituencies. In three of the vacant constituencies the majorities of the former members were small. Dr. BERGIN had only 38 in Cornwall; Mr. CHRISTIE had but 89 in Argenteuil; Mr. GALBRAITH, deceased, had but 43 in North Lanark; Mr. VALIN in Montmorenci had a large majority of 226. The circumstances in all the constituencies are such that fair contests should be expected if the Opposition has any settled policy to maintain. But this does not appear to be the case. In Cornwall, for instance, Mr. MACLENNAN is running as a pronounced "Protectionist," although the *Globe* indignantly repudiated the notion some time ago. No doubt it will now proceed to prove that Protectionism is quite compatible with Free Trade and Reform. Our readers will remember that in the Cape Breton contest the Grit Opposition took a similar course. They patted Mr. McKAY on the back, while he declared himself a Protectionist to the extent of 75 cents per ton on Nova Scotia coal; but he was willing to concede to his Ontario friends perfect freedom in American grain and flour. The *Globe* declared that Mr. McKAY was right in making the demand—yet in calling himself a Reformer. No doubt similar logic will avail to prove that Mr. MACLENNAN is a good "Reformer," though he pronounces himself a Protectionist and almost hints at "independence" of parties. The complete and inexcusable dishonesty of both the party and its candidate in this contest could not be better exemplified. The party is willing to accept a candidate who comes wearing the stolen colours of the enemy. The candidate is willing to submit to the self-abasement of sneaking, if he can, into Parliament on utterly false pretences. We feel certain that no honest man in Cornwall will earnestly support a candidature that is marked by such glaring improprieties. Mr. MACLENNAN is a "Protectionist;" but he seeks mainly the support of those who profess to curse Protection with a grievous curse. He professes a *quasi* independence of parties, and yet is supported only by those who seek the overthrow of the Government which imposed the Protection he supports in theory. No situation could be more discreditable for a candidate. We are certain that the people will mark their disapproval strongly. On the whole we do not think that our Opposition friends will have any reason to be proud of the results of these contests. In the ordinary nature of things, it is the Government that would have most reason to be afraid. It is not reasonable to think that a Government majority of, now, nearly 90 could be kept unbroken for a whole term; and as Governments necessarily tend to lose strength under circumstances that compel rigorous economy and a rigorous enforcement of excise and customs laws, it was reasonable to think that the present Government must sooner or later lose some seats. But we do not see in any of these contests any danger that the Government need fear. Public opinion is not so fickle as to have reverted from its opinion in favour of Protection already; and constituencies that, by a small majority only, returned men to support, as they thought, a Grit Government, may not be in such a hurry to return men to support a Grit Opposition—an Opposition without a policy, or organization, or a leader.

THE SUCCESSION OF STATESMEN.

THE rumours of the death of Prince BISMARCK have not been unreasonable. His removal from the scene of statesmanlike activity can hardly be long delayed. Life owes the great German nothing. He has often tempted death, and is always tempting indisposition; there is, probably, nothing that could shorten life that Prince BISMARCK has not indulged in. He has been a hard liver, a hard drinker, feeder, smoker; and he has voluntarily assumed such responsibilities and anxieties as few men in modern times have been able to stagger under. He has been in many battles. He has faced assassination. He has been the conscious object of the hate of a princely and privileged class. He was the minister of a monarch who half feared and mistrusted him, and who is known to entertain ideas opposed to those of his "Government." He has probably violated all the social observances and laws which even the lax morals of the Continent respect. Few men, therefore, have had so little reason to look for a long life, or for peace at the close. It has become a common remark in the press which takes platitudes for granted with great simplicity, that if BISMARCK died there would be strange doings in Europe. This does not follow. A nation can always spare a statesman as well as a monarch—or a man. As a rule great statesmen die before their purposes have been gained. But nations survive and the succession of statesmen goes on. The fact probably is, that if Prince BISMARCK does not die there will be strange doings in Europe. His death would probably solve some very difficult and dangerous problems to the satisfaction of all wise men. It would tend to give greater effect to the religious, the Christian forces of German national and domestic life, of which the King is a preserver and advocate, so far as he may be under existing circumstances. It would to a great extent mollify the French mind and relieve it from the anxious enmity with which it must regard the sayings and doings of the man of blood and iron. It would render the development of Parliamentary rule more possible, and might render that development helpful instead of hurtful to the strength of the State. The continuance of BISMARCK's life for a number of years more may, on the other hand, bring about that natural and inevitable reaction in public affairs, the signs of which, in revolts all around against his personal ascendency and his dangerous policy, may be noticed by the least observant. It is a melancholy truism that there is nothing a State suffers less from than the loss of a statesman. It is, perhaps, truer of some than of other States. When there is personal rule and a personal policy, the loss of the leader may cause the abandonment or failure of the policy; and this is the case in Germany. But in States that are governed under newly established forms and which have developed their institutions gradually, national policy is traditional, or party policy is traditional; and a statesman may die without being missed by the State. The singular continuity of national life in Great Britain has rendered the loss of a statesman an inappreciable event in national history. The policy of parties is pretty well defined. And in the case of statesmen who, as in the cases of Lord BEACONSFIELD and Mr. GLADSTONE, may seem to be pushing a policy too far for safety or national acceptance, the natural law of death generally solves the difficulty and saves the State. It has been the fate of very few statesmen to find full acceptance for their policy to the end of their careers. BISMARCK is no exception to the sad general rule. Now that life is all retrospect, the remembrances can hardly be pleasing. And here at his doors he can see the rising forces of socialism, of irreligion, of anti-national feeling threatening the destruction of his work. The close of all great men's lives is sad and lonely. This great German has not even the satisfaction of feeling that the King whom he has served loves him, or that the State which he has made dominant in Europe is proud of his name.

THE NORTH-WEST.

SOME of our Opposition contemporaries cannot contemplate without dismay the prospects of the North-West. The Reform party seems to have acquired a sudden and new fondness for this interesting portion of the country. We remember the time when this fondness did not exist. They used to look on the wilderness of the West as a place given up chiefly to half-breeds, buffalo and weeds. The formation of new provinces or the annexation of more territory was looked upon as a glaring impropriety. The lands were considered of little value. The building of the railway was denounced by a large section of the Liberal party as an imposition and an outrage on the settled Provinces. But a change has taken place of late. It is now considered that the North-West lands are of immense value, and the Grit mind is in agony to think that Sir JOHN MACDONALD should have adopted such regulations as do not seem to the eyes of his critics to be the best for developing the riches of the West. Day after day we read attacks upon the Government of the North-West. We are amused at the earnestness displayed by the propagandists of this new philanthropy. During their own period of power they didn't seem to be moved by the same missionary spirit. They did not settle the land, nor build the railway, nor develop the country. They dug ditches and built railway lines in the muskeg swamps, but that can hardly be considered a practical effort. But what is the present state of affairs? The railway was never so rapidly pushed on. Further and further west it goes, thanks to the Minister of Railways, and even the Reform journals in some cases admit that the work is being done well. The country was never so well known as it is now, thanks to Mr. POPE, the Minister of Agriculture. The administration of the country was never so effective and complete as it is now, thanks to Sir JOHN MACDONALD. The population is rapidly increasing; the price of land is going steadily up. If the railway lands of Illinois sell for $11 per acre, or the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific for $7.50, what will it not sell for in time in the fertile virgin wheat fields of our Canadian North-West? The reports of the delegations that visited this country have been published far and wide, and must have the effect of sending a considerable stream of emigration this way. Never, at any time, were the prospects of the North-West so great or so cheering, and never was a land attracting more attention. Yet this is the very time that our friends of the Opposition, with that wonderful tact and discretion which mark their career, pick out for assailing its prospects, and for declaring that they are dark. Public opinion is too clear and strong on this subject, to be confused or weakened by Opposition charges, manifestly baseless and made for the worst species of effect—for effect abroad against the interests of our country. The attempt to belittle our own land and to discourage those who would seek a home and fortune in it, is the lowest species of treason. Fortunately it is made, as we have said, under circumstances that render success impossible.

THE FUTURE OF BRITISH AGRICULTURE.

THE cry of "The land for the people "and personal cultivation," which thirty years ago did service in the Chartist cause, has been revived throughout the United Kingdom. While the Irish tenant-farmer refuses either to pay rent for his land or to be evicted in default, his English compatriot demands a sweeping reduction in his payment to the land-owner, and at the same time raises the cry for reform in the land laws. The Scotch tenant-farmer joins in the hue and cry, and recalls the unpleasant fact that in some counties the peasant farmers have been driven from the soil to make room for the deer and the grouse, and that the number of persons living by agriculture in Scotland has decreased by one-third during the last quarter of a century. At the present critical juncture in British agriculture there is no lack of reform measures propounded. The most prominent are the subdivision of the land into small holdings, and reform in the laws affecting the ownership and transfer of land. The latter question was recently added to the programme of the Farmers' Alliance, and as this body has within six months won for itself a prominent position, the subject will be thoroughly ventilated. The Alliance has also placed in the political field a large number of candidates who are recognized as specially representing tenant farmers. Agricultural reforms may, therefore, be expected from the next Parliament, but what direction they will take it is impossible to predict with any degree of certainty.

The abolition of the laws of primogeniture and entail is a favourite plank in the land reform platform, and undoubtedly much may be said in its support. Many Conservatives, like Lord RANDOLPH CHURCHILL, are advocates of the reform, while Lord CARINGTON lately showed from his own experience the defects of the laws in this regard. The prospects of an alteration being carried out within the next few years are, therefore, favourable. The advocates of peasant farming appear, however, to be unacquainted with the land system in other countries. It is true the peasant proprietors in France are largely prosperous, nevertheless a recent French writer in describing the condition of some of the peasant farmers of Brittany and the Pyrenees, says, "without "capital, encumbered with debt, half "eaten up by mortgages, the French "proprietor drags on an existence of "poverty and anxiety." The experiment of small holdings has, moreover, been tried at Axholme, in Lincolnshire, but the results reported are mixed successes and failures. The advocates of this system are prone to point to the farmers of Canada and the United States as supporters of a system of small holdings. The reverse is the fact. Our agriculturists have a failing for acquiring more land than they have capital or skill to farm. In the neighbouring Republic the tendency is towards farming on a gigantic scale, not equalled in Europe. Agricultural authorities hold the opinion that Manitoba will be ultimately a country of large farms. Profitable agricultural operations are no more conducted with diminutive holdings on this continent than in the United Kingdom, where the small farmers of Dorset, Norfolk, Shropshire and Hampshire have difficulty in making both ends meet. It seems strange that at a time when the Canadian and American farmers have been carrying all before them in the provision markets of the old land, even against the wealthy and skilled tenants of large farms, an agitation should be in full swing to revert to small holdings and poverty-stricken cultivation by peasant proprietors. To the Canadian mind reform in the land and game laws, and large reduction in rents, would appear to be a wiser programme than the proposed reversion to an exploded Chartist hobby.

THE POST-OFFICE ACCOUNTS.

FROM a return made recently to Congress, it appears that the postal revenue of the United States was credited for last year in the accounts of that Department with upwards of a million dollars for postages on official correspondence. A similar course was pursued formerly in Great Britain, but it has been discontinued there for some years past. In Canada, too, the annual Post-Office reports to Parliament have, for a number of years past, included in the revenue statements an item of $64,000 under an old and incomplete estimate of what the postage upon parliamentary and departmental correspondence might amount to if charged at the ordinary rates. But this item appears in the Post-master-General's report only. It is not recognized in the Public Accounts of the Dominion, and we believe it is considered to be advisable to exclude the item from the Post Office accounts in the future, so as to bring the latter into strict accord with those rendered by the Finance Minister. This, it will be observed, will effect an apparent reduction of $64,000 in the postal revenue of the first year in which the item is dropped, as compared with previous years. The change proposed has, as we have observed, long been adopted in England, and is so sensible and reasonable that it is a wonder it has been continued in the United States. Official fictions die hard, even in a progressive Republic.

CHANGES IN THE MINISTRY.

IT has long been expected that M. MASSON's health would not permit him to continue in the discharge of the arduous duties of his office as Minister of Militia. In order that he might be relieved of the severity of the labour, while his advice and general ability were retained for the public service, some changes have been effected in the Departments. We are in a position to state that M. MASSON will at once be gazetted President of the Privy Council; Mr. O'CONNOR will become Postmaster-General, and Sir ALEXANDER CAMPBELL will become Minister of Militia. These changes will, we believe, receive the approval of the country. M. MASSON's ability and influence are retained in the Government. Mr. O'CONNOR's sphere of activity and public usefulness is widened to the extent of the largest of the public departments, and Sir ALEXANDER CAMPBELL will find a Department under his control, in which his very best qualities as an administrator, his accuracy, his firmness and his skill in dealing with a sensitive service, will have full play. We believe it will not be exaggerating the truth when we say that the Militia Service while welcoming the coming, is not disposed to speed the parting, Minister of Militia, whose courtesy to individuals, and whose evident regard for the welfare of the service have won for him general and cordial regard.

A COURAGEOUS MINISTRY.

IN a late issue reference was made to the enterprise and courage of Mr. POPE in making what might have been an expensive and unsuccessful experiment in the business of immigration. The singular success of Mr. POPE's invitation of the agricultural delegates has fully justified him in his enterprise. But even failure would not have lessened the credit due to the courage he exhibited in making his experiment. These qualities of enterprise and courage are valuable qualities in an individual Minister. They are simply invaluable when they are the characteristics of a whole Ministry. It is a singular and noteworthy fact that every active Minister in the present Government has exhibited the same courage and the same enterprise in his Department. Sir JOHN MACDONALD, as Minister of the Interior, has had the energy to almost revolutionize the system of government heretofore carried on in and concerning the North-West. He has put the public lands up for settlement and sale under conditions that, in spite of all the Opposition papers may say, will result in giving us the best possible class of settlers in that country. He has abandoned the mischievous system of the centralization, at Ottawa, of Indian affairs. He has made provision for having the Government represented in British Columbia by a trusted agent. The Minister of Finance has put into force a tariff that has been called revolutionary. He has made loans that even Mr. MACKENZIE has called good. He has made a visitation of the country that even the Grit papers have, in some quarters, admitted to be wise. The Minister of Customs found a tariff prepared for him and he determined to put it into force. He shut down on undervaluation. He exhibited commendable courage in putting down smuggling, in stopping slaughtering, in preserving on all sides that protective aspect of the tariff which many of those for whose benefit it was framed seemed not to understand correctly. He has not feared to face criticism, or even condemnation, when he felt he had a duty to perform. The Minister of Inland Revenue has taken trouble to find out the opinion of the country on the Weights and Measures Act, and has had the courage and frankness to make alterations in his departmental rules. The Postmaster General has put forth some degree of strength in putting down the importation of poisonous literature through the mails. The Minister of Railways is pushing on the Pacific Railway at a rate of progress of which Parliament will approve, and of which the country may well be proud. The Minister of Public Works has got a firm grip of every portion of the property committed to his care. In whatever direction one looks, one finds activity, courage, enterprise, among the present Ministry. "Activity "in ill-doing!" cries the Grit press; "enterprise in ruin! cour-"age in robbery!" Well, of course that is the Opposition view. We may state it in advance. But the people of Canada are not in the mood for such criticism. After five years of depression, stagnation, and confessed incapacity, they welcome with satisfaction the activity of men who have a well-defined plan—which the people have accepted after close inspection—and who are putting their plan into practice with such activity, such energy, such courage as the people were not accustomed to for five years, and which may by the inspiration of example cause a general increase in the courage, the activity, the enterprise and the prosperity of the people themselves.

THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION.

THE *Globe* does not succeed in its attempt to show that there is need of an agricultural commission. Returns about unproductive, swamp and over-cropped lands could easily be obtained without the aid of such a body. Commissions are costly luxuries. A search in the Public Accounts from 1872 to 1878 shows that the Province has paid the following sums for commissions:

Agricultural Farm Commission....	$ 1,200
Law Reform Commission..........	4,523
Boundary Commission..........	9,882
Central Education Committee Commission..........	472
Board of Examiners Commission...	774
Central Prison Labour Commission.	3,292
Consolidation of the Statutes Commission..........	70,520
	$90,663

This is an enormous sum, and much of it was money thrown away. If an Agricultural Commission could accomplish anything, if it were called for by the agricultural interest or needed in the public interest, nobody would say a word against the Premier's action; but it is too bad to create work and expend public money for no other purpose than to provide employment for needy hangers-on. It would be better and certainly more honest to vote them a good round sum out of the appropriation for hospitals and charities.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Kingston *News* reminds the Guelph *Mercury*, which takes exception to the number of Ministers in the Dominion Cabinet, that Mr. Mackenzie was the first to draw attention to this alleged redundancy of executive heads, though he took good care when in office to make no reduction. It is wonderful how economical Reformers are when out of office.

The Moncton sugar refining enterprise is making headway. A number of leading New Brunswickers have filed in the office of the Provincial Secretary a memorandum of association for the incorporation of a company to be known as the "Moncton Sugar Refining Company," It will have a capital of $200,000, to be divided into two thousand shares of $100 each, Moncton being the principal place of business.

We understand that before giving up his office of President of the Privy Council, Hon. John O'Connor recommended Mr. John J. McGee, brother of the late D'Arcy McGee, as the successor of Mr. Côté in the office of assistant-clerk of the Privy Council. Mr. McGee will probably be appointed to the office in question. Mr. McGee has been in the public service for a number of years, and has for a year past been in the Premier's department.

Dr. Clark, the Superintendent of the Toronto lunatic asylum, and an eminent authority on the subject, says the "senseless mental over-strain to which school children are subjected" is a pregnant source of mental and physical deterioration. He is right beyond doubt. The common school curriculum is far too elaborate; it induces superficiality, and encourages forcing and cramming; and in nine cases out of ten the pupil finds three-fifths of it utterly useless in after life.

Speaking of the recent appointment of sixty-five justices of the peace for South Brant, the Brantford *Telegram* says that many of the new appointments are a disgrace to the country, and that the Provincial Secretary's own friends are disgusted at the length to which he has gone to pamper egotism and insane ambition. Several gentlemen in Burford, our contemporary states, rather than be associated with some of the new magistrates, who can neither read nor write, intend to refuse to qualify.

The agricultural prosperity of Australia is endangered by the appearance of red rust in the wheat fields of South Australia, Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales. The disease is due to the existence of a minute insect parasite somewhat similar to the *phylloxera* which has done so much damage to the French grape crop. In one or two instances the rust-like appearance is said to be due to a parasitic fungus of like nature to the "coffee fungus" of Ceylon and Brazil. The Queensland Government has offered £1,000 for the discovery of a remedy.

The failure of the French wine crop is likely to introduce another American product to the notice of the English consumer. The London *Standard* suggests that as Australia and America are both grape-growing countries, England in the dearth of French vintages, would do well to welcome the produce of the California and Ohio vineyards, and the Australian wines which, if not equal to the choicest European brands are, at all events, to be obtained free from adulteration. The prejudice and custom, it says, which are all-powerful in these matters must give way before necessity.

The cattle plague, which is viewed by American stock raisers with so much concern, is, as yet, but partially understood. The most reliable authorities describe it as a contagious eruptive fever, mainly affecting the bovine species, but liable also to attack sheep, goats and deer. The actual virus from infected cattle is regarded as the sole source of the disease. It is indigenous to the plains of Western Russia, and is by no means a modern disease, as is frequently supposed, but has been known for 1,200 years, having frequently spread from Russia over Western Europe. In 1744 it destroyed 200,000 cattle in Holland, later in Denmark about 300,000, and in one year 400,000 in Piedmont. It has also ravaged Egypt, China and Japan. The only effective way of dealing with it is to slaughter the infected animals.

The report of the Inspector of Prisons and Asylums for 1879 shows that the five lunatic asylums in the Province have accommodation for 2,692 patients, and that 2,825 are in residence. Mr. Langmuir recommends that another wing be added to the Kingston asylum, and that an addition be made to the idiot asylum at Orillia. The Mercer Reformatory will be ready for occupation in April. The number of prisoners committed to the various gaols throughout the Province last year was 11,220, a decrease of 800 as compared with 1878. The annual cost of maintaining the Provincial institutions is $653,000, while the revenue derived from them is $101,000.

A steady stream of emigration has set in from India to the British colonies best adapted by reason of temperature or special industries to attract the superfluous Hindoo population. Nearly 16,000 Indians emigrated last year, of whom 14,000 were Hindoos proper, one-tenth of them being of the Brahmin order. The restrictions of caste are rapidly giving way before education, commerce and modern institutions. Many of them go to the Fiji Islands, whither the Chinese have preceded them, and Trinidad, Jamaica, Mauritius, Natal and Demarara are also competitors for Hindoo labour. They have the character of being docile, industrious, and thrifty settlers.

An association has been formed in London, England, for the purpose of obtaining an amendment to the law to render employers liable for injuries sustained by employés in their business, through the negligence of other workmen. Mr. Gladstone is to be asked to take charge of a bill to that effect. Such a law is needed in this country, where dangerous machinery is often exposed in factories in a manner to imperil the safety of employés. In connection with railroad service there is no sort of liability on the part of the companies, a matter which might well be considered by the Legislative Committee appointed to take into consideration the dangers to which they are subjected.

"Paint me wart and all" said Cromwell to the courtly painter who asked whether he should reproduce the Protector's lineaments to the life, or tone down somewhat their defects. Something of the same sentiment is manifested in the command of Queen Victoria, that the new coins shortly to be issued from the British mint shall represent her not as she appeared in the days of her girlhood, but in her present likeness. The order shows a commendable absence of that personal vanity from which sovereigns, no less than those of private station, are not always exempt, and which was conspicuously manifested in her royal predecessor, Elizabeth, whose wish to be thought beautiful at sixty was in strange contrast with her general strength of character. Queen Victoria has in this matter given another evidence of her good common sense.

Senator Billa Flint, in a letter to the Belleville *Intelligencer*, ably exposes the disingenuous spirit of some of the attacks made on the N. P. He narrates a conversation he heard between two farmers. One had a new pair of boots, for which he said he paid $4 50. The other remarked that they were dear at the price, and he replied: "Leather has gone up because hides are so dear." Said the other: "It is the effect of the N. P., it makes you pay more for your boots." "Here was a farmer," says Mr. Flint, "railing out against the N. P., because another farmer had paid (as he thought) 25 or 50 cents more for a good pair of hand-made boots than formerly, yet he would take double the price for his beef hides, pocket the money, and think nothing about its bearing on the N. P., because he was the gainer thereby. It is all very well to get double price for beef hides, and thereby put $4 per 100 lbs. in his pocket, but to pay the shoemaker 50 cents, or even 25 cents, extra, on a pair of boots was outrageous, and showed how hard the N. P. was on the farmer."

The Halifax *Chronicle*, speaking of the meat monopoly in England, quoted by the Conservative press to show that combinations to keep up prices could exist in a free trade, as well as a protectionist, country, says:—"There is a simple remedy for this evil, according to Tory logic. Let the English Parliament adopt a high protective tariff, which will either shut out American and Canadian cattle and meat altogether, or impose a very high tax upon them. Then the monopoly will be destroyed, prices will come down, and the English people will get cheap meat! Of course! This is the logic of the protectionist, the logic that is solemnly given to the people of Canada, and of course it is as good in England as it is here." The transparent fallacy of this argument lies in the last clause. Of course it is not as good in England as here, for the reason that under no circumstances could England possibly produce food enough for her present population, whereas, in our case nothing but the assurance of a home market is needed to develop the leading lines of manufacturing industry sufficiently to supply all our wants.

A correspondent writing to us on the question of the relative equalization of the prices of cereals at Toronto and Chicago, says:—"Some years ago a very large portion of the flouring mills were located east, situated in the cities, towns and villages adjoining the lakes and canals, where cheap freights could be got from the west. The wheat west was carried by railroads to shipping ports on the lakes, then shipped east, delivered at the different flouring mills, made into flour, then re-shipped either by railway or boat, and forwarded to Europe. As soon as the railway system became general in the west, and the different railways began to cut through freights to Europe to a very low figure, the Americans saw at once it was their interest to build mills west. The extra freights paid for shipping grain to the eastern mills and having to handle it so often, put the eastern millers in a position that they could not compete with the western millers. The result has been that flour mills west increased to such an extent that competition among the millers, and the low rate of freights to Europe, through freight from Chicago, London or Toronto being equal or nearly equal, have enabled Chicago millers to pay Toronto rates for wheat. In regard to oats in the United States, east or west, we all know that until very lately oats were grown for feeding purposes only. A few years ago some of our Canadian oat millers built some very large oat mills in the Western States, and since then a great number of oat mills have been built West, oat millers, buying very large quantities of oats, grinding into meal and forwarding from Chicago through to Europe at as low rates, or nearly as low, as our Canadian millers in the vicinity of London or Toronto. The oat mills West opened a new outlet for oats, and the increasing quantities used for that purpose made oats scarce West. The demand for oats being in excess of the supply, coupled with the advantages of very low freight to Europe, both Canadians and Americans selling in the same market, competition in Chicago has forced American millers to buy at Toronto prices."

TORONTO INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

The Last Meeting of the Present Directors.

The final meeting of the present Directors of the Toronto Industrial Exhibition was held on Tuesday at the City Hall. Mr. Withrow, the President, presided. The other members present were Messrs. McMaster, Hamilton, McGregor, Smith, Booth, Fleming, McGee, Leslie, Rennie, and Close. The meeting was called for the purpose of receiving reports on the results of the late exhibition.

The Secretary, Mr. Hill, presented a voluminous report upon the result of the Exhibition, from which it appeared that the total number of exhibitors was 1,617, and the total number of entries 8,283. The amount offered in prizes was a little over $20,000, and the amount actually awarded $17,407 92, in addition to ten gold medals, 14 silver and 39 bronze medals, and several diplomas. This was a larger amount awarded in prizes than had ever been previously awarded at any exhibition in the Dominion. The number of prize takers was 896; the largest amount paid to any one exhibitor being $456 (Messrs. Jardine & Sons, of Saltfleet.) The most easterly point to which a prize was awarded was St. John, N.B., and the most westerly point, Chicago, Ill. The number of persons who paid for admission at the entrance gates, and purchased tickets, was 103,108, to which must be added exhibitors, attendants, judges, and representatives of agricultural and other societies, who were admitted by ticket, and the children and teachers of the public schools in the City of Toronto and the County of York, who were admitted free of charge.

After the transaction of some routine business the meeting adjourned.

THE CITY RECORD.

The Asylum farm of 130 acres produced, last season, crops to the value of $12,571.

The amount to the credit of Toronto depositors, in the Government Savings Bank, is $226,000.

Seventy prisoners made 2,600,000 bricks in the Central Prison brick-fields during the past year.

A new building, to be used as an amusement hall and a chapel, is to be erected in the Asylum grounds.

In the Division Courts of York, the claims entered for adjudication during the year numbered 5,819, and amounted to $196,385.

The steam heating apparatus for the Andrew Mercer Reformatory for Women is to cost $7,833. The building is to be ready for occupation in April.

At the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Speaker Clarke offers the daily opening prayers. When Mr. Wells was Speaker, the duty was performed by a clergyman.

Of the 2,376 lunatics taken care of in the asylums in the Province, 674 are in the Toronto Asylum; 646 of these are incurable. The annual cost per patient is $123.74.

Dr. Pyke, the new Professor of Chemistry, at University College, commenced his series of lectures at the college, on Monday of last week; he was introduced by his predecessor, Prof. Croft.

It cost $9,739 to repair the injuries done to the foundry in connection with the Central Prison by the fire of 1878, and add an extra foundry to the building. The foundry is now used as a broom factory.

Notice is given in the *Canada Gazette* of an intended application to Parliament for the incorporation of a company for the construction of a railway line from Toronto to Quebec, by way of Ottawa. The applicants are Montreal men.

Recently a number of the prisoners in the Central Prison became too sick to drill. The physicians considered that the men were pretending, and the warden sent a few of them to dark cells, and deprived them of their tobacco. The next day the prisoners were well.

SHARP PRACTICES ON FARMERS.—In hearing a case at the Police Court on Monday, in which a farmer appeared to prosecute a charge of alleged fraud against a city dealer, the Magistrate spoke his mind pretty freely on the subject. He said that complaints were being constantly made to him of the sharp pactices of buyers in the city, who seemed to consider it their duty to take any mean advantage they possibly could of the farmer. He further added that he was determined, if possible, to stop the practice, and would, if convictions were recorded, make an example of such offenders.

STABBING AFFRAY IN THE CENTRAL PRISON.—On Monday afternoon considerable excitement was caused in the broom making department of the Central Prison shops by the murderous attack of one of the prisoners on a fellow convict. Although the prisoners are not allowed to converse, two of them managed to quarrel, and after various displays of ill-feeling the affair culminated on Monday, when one of them suddenly plunged a knife into the back of the other. As the guards were at some little distance from the men at the time of the attack, the unfortunate victim would, no doubt, have been killed had not a companion come to his assistance, and felled the would-be assassin to the ground. The injured man was at once conveyed to the hospital, where his wounds, which are pronounced very dangerous, were dressed, and the assailant was placed in close confinement to await examination.

A STRANGE CASE.—At the March sitting of the Court of General Sessions, the case of Stewart v. Stewart came up for hearing before Judge McKenzie. It was an action for trover brought by a Mrs. Stewart to recover $200, the value of some household furniture alleged to have been wrongfully taken and sold by Charles Stewart, her step-son. The defendant in the action is the son of the late James Stewart, of York township. His father, dying, left him about $40,000, and he not making any provision for his wife, a young woman, the step-son took possession of the homestead and furniture. On the day of the trial, which was decided in favour of the step-mother, young Stewart gave his evidence in a rambling style, which caused the Judge to enquire if he was intoxicated. The counsel for the defendant remarked the strange conduct of his client, and could not account for the sudden change in his bearings and actions within an hour. Stewart was seriously spoken to by the Judge, but it did not alter his conduct. He left the court a lunatic, his mind having become unseated while he stood in the witness box. A few days ago, he was removed to the Asylum, on the order of three doctors, and an application will shortly be made at Osgoode Hall to appoint a guardian to take charge of his estate.

FOR THE RELIEF OF PAIN we firmly believe "BROWN'S HOUSEHOLD PANACEA" will more surely quicken the blood, and heal—whether taken internally or applied externally, and thereby more certainly relieve pain, whether chronic or acute—than any other pain alleviator. It is warranted double the strength of any other medicine for similar uses. Sold by all dealers in medicine. 25 cents a bottle.

FEMALE WEAKNESS. — VEGETINE acts directly upon the causes of the complaints. It invigorates and strengthens the whole system, acts upon the secretive organs, allays inflammation, cleanses and cures ulceration, cures constipation, regulates the bowels, headache and pains in the back cease; in fact there is no disease or complaint where the VEGETINE gives so quick relief, and is so effective in its cure, as in what is termed Female Weakness. It has never failed in one instance.

It Operates Like Magic.—Mrs. Winslow's SOOTHING SYRUP, for children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays all pain Sure to regulate the bowels.

LATEST HOME NEWS.

Captain Douglass Jones, a new English professor for the Royal Military College, has arrived at Kingston.

There are 25,000 barrels of potatoes on the wharves at Halifax, N.S., awaiting improvement in the markets.

An attempt has been made to fire the new small-pox hospital on Sandy Hill, Ottawa, now in course of construction.

In the past week there were eighteen cases of small-pox in St. John, N.B., and out of this number fifteen proved fatal.

The Department of Interior have offered a reward of $100 for the capture of Policeman Grayburn's murder in the North-West.

Mr. B. Devlin, ex-M.P. for Montreal, who was obliged to sojourn in Colorado for his health, is so far restored that he is on his way home.

The value of exports from Murray Harbour, P.E.I., during the past season was $121,248, of which canned lobsters amounted to $64,278.

The Moncton, N.B., Sugar Refining Company has been incorporated with a capital of $200,000, divided into 2,000 shares of $100 each.

Mr. Wainwright, general passenger agent of the Grand Trunk railway, has fixed the date of the first special train for Manitoba from Ottawa for March 2nd.

A wildcat, shot near Zurich, in the county of Huron, was taken to London, Ont., yesterday. It is four feet eight inches in length, and weighs thirty pounds.

Mrs. Mary Rayan, mother of the Reeve of Biddulph, was buried on Saturday afternoon. She had reached the ripe old age of one hundred years and twenty-one days.

The school population of the City of Belleville is 1,882, of these 1,505 attended the Public schools, 61 went to select schools, 92 to the High school, and 224 did not attend any school.

Rev. Mr. Muller, who was taken suddenly ill at London, Ont., last week, and for some time appeared very low, has recovered, and left for Detroit, intending next to visit Chicago.

Mr. E. G. Sills, a manufacturer in the village of Frankford, has decided to contest the election for the West Riding of Hastings against Mr. Alex. Robertson, who was lately unseated.

The London, Ont., Presbytery yesterday afternoon resolved to divide into two sections to be known as the London and Sarnia Presbyteries. The question of geographical boundaries was left to be decided at the March session.

The Department of Militia and Defence is about to sign a contract with Messrs. E. E. Gilbert & Sons, of the Canada Engine Works, Montreal, for the remodelling of a number of the old smooth-bore guns in the possession of the Militia Department.

Mrs. Catharine Weeks, a poor woman over 60 years of age, arrived at St. John, N.B., on Saturday, after walking from Fredericton, a distance of 80 miles. She was about to continue her walk to Bangor, Me., where she has relatives.

Of the eighty school sections in the county of Prince Edward, only one has voted in favour of township boards of trustees. A few others did not pronounce upon the question, but in the great majority of the sections the proposed change has been condemned by a unanimous vote.

The death is announced at River John, Pictou County, N.S., at a ripe old age, of Donald McLeod and David McLeod, who, with seven others, signed the pledge, and organized in January, 1828, at West River, the first temperance society in Nova Scotia, and the first, it is believed, in British North America.

Mr. Bruce, one of the Inverness delegates who has been visiting parts of the Dominion that escaped the attention of the other delegates, left Ottawa on Monday for the West. He expresses himself very much satisfied with the country, and will doubtless give a favourable report of his visit on returning home.

The champion tramp seen in Nova Scotia was sent to the Halifax city prison yesterday for a year by the magistrate, for vagrancy. He said he had walked to Halifax from Chicago, had been four years on the road. He didn't know where he was born, or his age. He gave the name of John Hollett, and speaks very imperfect English.

Mr. Topley, photographer, of Ottawa, experimented upon the photograph of the eyes of Ada Brown, the victim of the West Winchester tragedy. He enlarged the photographs of the eyes to such an extent that the character of the deposit of silver in the photograph film was clearly visible. Not the least trace of any image was to be seen.

A number of immigrants recently arrived at Halifax, N.S., by steamers from England, are seeking relief from the civic authorities there. They state that parties in Great Britain, who sold them tickets, promised them a passage to Montreal, but on their arrival they discovered they could not go further on the money paid in the Old Country. Some of them are in destitute circumstances.

The sum of $203,978 was deposited in the Government Savings Bank at Charlottetown, P.E.I., for the six months ending December, 1878, an increase of $83,000 over the corresponding period of last year. It is worthy of note that since Prince Edward Island entered Confederation, the deposits have more than doubled. On 1st July, 1873, they amounted to $249,941.10; now they are over $600,000.

HALIFAX, N.S., Jan 15.—The value of shipping registered at Amherst is $128,000. During the past year, 18 vessels of 17,817 tons, valued at $706,000, were built in Hants county. The total shipping owned in Hants county is 271 vessels, of 156,360 tons, valued at four millions of dollars, and requiring 3,000 men to navigate them. This makes Hants County to-day the third largest shipping district in the world, of which Canada may be justly proud.

Mr. A. G. Scott, of Stirling, accidentally poisoned four of his pigs by giving them bluestone in mistake for condition powder.

The Kingston and Montreal Forwarding Company are erecting a new elevator at Kingston. It is to be one of the finest on the lake.

A by-law is being prepared at Ottawa, compelling vaccination, and other precautionary measures are being adopted against the spread of small-pox.

The Dominion Government have granted the memorial of the Belleville City Council for the establishment of a gas inspection office in connection with the weights and measures office.

Mr. H. P. Wilson, an experienced horticulturalist, says the peach buds in the vicinity of St. Catharines are all right so far, although the unprecedent warm weather is causing some of the bushes to sprout.

Molsons' Bank has taken proceedings against the corporation of Brockville for a $2,000 protested note, which was drawn up by late Town Clerk Taylor, and signed by the Mayor, said note being a forgery of the Clerk.

A letter is published in a St. Catharines paper, from Niagara Township, calling attention to the large amount of smuggling being carried on along the Niagara river, between Lewiston, N.Y., Youngstown, N.Y., and Niagara and Queenston, and other points along the frontier.

The Council of the Guelph Board of Trade met on Thursday evening, to take steps towards securing a hide inspector for Guelph. It was decided to communicate with the Government regarding the appointment, and to procure information from the inspectors at Toronto and Hamilton.

A despatch from Prince Arthur's Landing announces that an explosion yesterday destroyed some powder and nitro-glycerine works about one mile from the town. It is believed to have been due to an incendiary. No one was killed. Almost every building in the town was damaged.

"Now You See It."

Gilt-Edge Butter Maker takes the "witches out of the churn," and turns tedious, unsatisfactory churning into gratifying success. Sold everywhere.

HAMBURG, N. Y., May 28th, 1879.

JOHN E. PIERCE, Secretary World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y.:—

DEAR SIR,—Yours asking as to reputation of "Gilt-Edge Butter Maker" received. We have never kept it until lately. Have sold one case, (3 doz. boxes), and it has given the best of satisfaction.

Yours respectfully,
T. L. BUNTING.

THE RAILWAY DISPUTE

Northern and Credit Valley Railways.

Explanatory Statement by the Directors of the Northern Railway.

NORTHERN RAILWAY OF CANADA,
Toronto, 19th Jan., 1880.

To the Editor of The Mail.

SIR,—The Directors of the Northern Railway Company, feeling that their policy and action in relation to the entrance of the Credit Valley railway into the city has for a long period been persistently misrepresented, and believing that public opinion has thus been seriously misled, to the prejudice of this Company, desire me to forward the accompanying memorandum, signed by themselves, embodying the facts of the case, chiefly as collated from official records; and they trust that a fair and impartial consideration of this statement by their fellow-citizens will relieve them from the unjust and unfounded suspicion of having offered a factious or improper opposition to the entrance of the Credit Valley Railway into Toronto.

So long as the questions at issue between the companies were before the Courts, the Directors refrained from public discussion, even in self-defence; but judgment having now been delivered by the Court of Chancery in favour of this Company, they feel free to place the facts of the case before their fellow-citizens, as they are unwilling to remain any longer under the unjust suspicion of antagonism to the commercial interests of Toronto, which it is their duty and anxious effort to promote, and in which they venture to claim, as merchants and freeholders, a considerable and substantial stake.

I am, sir,
Your obedient servant,
WALTER TOWNSEND,
Secretary.

THE NORTHERN AND CREDIT VALLEY RAILWAYS.

Memorandum by the Directors of the Northern Railway Company relating to the entrance of the Credit Valley Railway into the City of Toronto:

In the winter of 1878-79 it was asserted in the public newspapers over and over again that this Company was stubbornly opposing every possible obstacle to the entrance of the Credit Valley railway into Toronto, and the Directors thought it necessary to take official action to correct these misrepresentations.

They accordingly caused the whole ground between Parkdale and the Bay to be carefully surveyed in order to ascertain what location might be available for an independent track for the Credit Valley Railway, with the least interference with the tracks of the other railway companies; and at a Board meeting held on the 14th February, 1879, the Managing Director presented a plan upon which such a location was laid down, together with a confidential report upon the whole subject.

The location shown upon that plan for the Credit Valley railway was practically the same as in June, 1879, was recommended to the approval of the Railway Committee of the Privy Council by Mr. Frank Shanly, C. E., the Government referee.

In the memorandum prepared by the Managing Director for the guidance of the Board, he made the following statements:—

"I commend to the unqualified support of the Board the plan I have made showing a proposition for the entrance of the Credit Valley Railway into the city from Queen street to Brock street as being beyond all question the easiest and cheapest possible location for the Credit Valley Company, and the least injurious to all other interests."

* * * *

"In regard to their line from Queen street to Bathurst street, I do not think we need ask anything in the shape of rental or compensation for the occupation of the land, but the Credit Valley Company, if it adopts the suggested location, ought certainly to pay to us its proportion of the cost of the *works to which it succeeds*."

"I think it would be unwise to evince any hostility to the ingress of the Credit Valley, if they are content to come upon the location between Brock and Bathurst streets, specially reserved for such purposes."

The Board of Directors having carefully considered the whole subject, thereupon adopted the following minute:—

"The Managing Director submitted a plan prepared in illustration of his views relating to the location of the Credit Valley Railway from Queen street to Brock street in this city, and he recommended that in the event of the Credit Valley Company adopting that, or *an analogous* entrance from the West, this Company should not dissent therefrom, but that under no consideration should this Company assent to any other Company intruding its rails or traffic within the Brock street depot yard."

The terms of that minute having been communicated to the President of the Credit Valley Company, he, on the 14th April, 1879, addressed a letter to the Secretary of the Northern, from which the following is an extract:—

"Understanding from our Vice-President (Mr. C. J. Campbell) that you had expressed the opinion that the Northern Railway Company were willing to grant the Credit Valley Railway Company an independent right of way over what is called the Ordnance reserve from Queen to Bathurst street, according to a plan prepared by the Chief Engineer of the Northern Railway Company, and approved by the General Manager, I would feel obliged by your laying this letter before the President, and request him to call a meeting of your Board at an early day in order that an understanding may be arrived at."

Three days after the receipt of that letter a special meeting of the Northern Board was accordingly held, for the purpose of the proposed consultation between the two Companies; and the following parties were then present (19th April, 1879):—

For the Credit Valley Railway Company—Mr. C. J. Campbell (Vice-President), the Hon. R. Wells (Solicitor), and Mr. J. C. Bailey (Chief Engineer.)

For the Northern Railway Company—The Hon. Frank Smith (President), Messrs. Blaikie, Barnhart, and Greig (Directors), Mr. G. D. Boulton (Solicitor), Mr. Owen Jones (Chief Engineer), and Mr. W. Townsend (Secretary.)

The location plan, already referred to, as adopted by the Northern Board on the 14th February, was then produced, and its proposals carefully examined and criticized by all the parties present, and, after a very full discussion of the whole question, the following minute was prepared, read over, and adopted, as embodying the result of the meeting:—

"Mr. Jones (Chief Engineer) exhibited and explained a plan, prepared by the Managing Director, before his departure for England, showing the proposed approach of the Credit Valley railway to the city. The Credit Valley authorities declared themselves satisfied with the location shown upon this plan to Bathurst street, and declared themselves willing to accept the same, on the condition that the Credit Valley Company is not to attempt to occupy the lands of the Northern railway east of Bathurst street.

"The President requested the Credit Valley Railway Company to put their proposition in writing, with full particulars as to payment to be made the Northern railway as compensation for their original outlay in grading fencing, etc., with an understanding that the Cre-