

General News.

CANADIAN.

The weather in Manitoba is so mild that farmers are able to continue ploughing.

Sir John Macdonald has sailed for home. He will arrive in Ottawa early next week.

The Grand Division Sons of Temperance opened its annual session in Kingston on Tuesday morning with a large attendance of officers and delegates.

The value of lumber shipped to Europe from the port of Quebec during the season just closed aggregates \$5,692,578.

The death sentence passed upon Francis Bowie, of Antigonish, N. S., has, it is understood, been commuted to imprisonment for life.

The traffic receipts of the Grand Trunk for last week showed a falling off of nearly \$30,000 as compared with the corresponding week last year. This was the greatest decrease of any week yet.

A meeting was recently held by the temperance people of Hamilton, at which it was decided to take action in the grocers' license question. Temperance Committees will be appointed for each ward, who will ask each candidate for municipal honors at next election to pledge himself on this question.

Mr. Moody, the evangelist, commenced his series of services on Tuesday morning in the Metropolitan church, Toronto, the building being densely packed on each occasion, and hundreds being turned away from the doors.

FIRES.—The steamer Essex, running on the ferry line between Port Huron and Sarnia, was gutted by fire on Friday night. Loss, about \$1,500 insured. She was owned by James G. Loughhead, of Sarnia. The cause of the fire is unknown.—At Midland, at an early hour on the 2nd, a fire broke out in the fish warehouse of Mr. John Yates, near the Grand Trunk Railway station. The building was almost totally destroyed, together with some four tons of whitefish and trout awaiting shipment to the Eastern Canadian and American markets. Loss, heavy.

UNITED STATES.

The last session of the forty-eight Congress of the United States was opened yesterday, when President Arthur delivered his last annual Message.

Many planters in Louisiana intend giving up the cultivation of the sugar cane and raising rice, owing to the unpromising outlook for the sugar interests of the United States.

At New York, on Nov. 31, Frank Saunders, inventor of the parlor rowing machine, suicided by shooting himself over the remains of his wife, who died the previous day from an overdose of chloral.

The boiler in a saw mill seven miles from Elizabethtown, Ky., on the 29th ult., exploded, tearing the building to pieces and killing eight men. Two others were fatally injured.

At Osceola, Neb., a man named Smith on Thursday night fatally shot his wife, and while gaolod cut his own throat. Previous to the shooting he was put under bonds to keep the peace.

At Franklin, Tenn., Bill Younger, who disturbed the worship of colored people on Thursday evening, was shot and killed during the night.

FIRES.—At New York, a fire on the 2nd inst., partially destroyed J. & C. Fisher's piano factory. Loss \$125,000.—At Lawrenceburg, Ind., the Bauer cooperage was burned on Tuesday. Supposed incendiary. Loss \$50,000.—At Madison, Wis., the Science Hall University was burned on the 1st inst. Loss \$250,000.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

Heavy snow storms are reported in England, the drifts seriously impeding railway traffic.

Mr. Gladstone stated that the Government had received assurance of the passage of the Franchise Bill by the House of Lords.

The barque *Luke Bruce* collided with the steamer *Durango* in the English Channel. The *Durango* sank. Twenty persons were drowned.

The ship *Mary Joseph*, bound from Sydney to the Channel, was lost, with all hands and passengers, on east point, near the Channel, on Saturday night. A violent gale blew at the time.

Slight earthquake shocks were felt on Friday in Rome, Marseilles, and Lyons, and in the department of the Maritime Alps.

In the French Senate a bill was passed abolishing public executions in future.

The inauguration of General Diaz as President of the Mexican Republic took place on Monday, and passed off peacefully.

On Saturday the rebels closely invested the town of Suakim. The ships and forts kept up continual firing. The rebels attacked the cavalry and camp patrols, but were repulsed.

Two hundred Englishmen are sick with enteric fever at Wady Halfa.

The government has been advised of an amicable arrangement between the authorities of Cape Colony and the Boers.

The French Cabinet has obtained certain knowledge that China intends to continue war. It is probable that 15,000 reinforcements will be sent to China.

It is stated that the French fleet is cholera-stricken at Formosa.

Ten thousand rifles and a million rounds of ammunition for field guns have arrived in the interior of Madagascar.

We take much pleasure in calling attention to the following circular which has been issued by the West End Christian Temperance Society:—

DEAR FRIENDS,—The Ladies' Sewing Circle in connection with the "West End Christian Temperance Society," has made arrangements for a Bazaar and fancy sale of useful and ornamental articles, to be held in St. Andrew's Hall on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, the 16th, 17th and 18th instants.

The object of this undertaking is the raising of funds for the building of a new Temperance Hall in the west end of the city, under the auspices of the W.E.C.T.S. This organization has been blessed and honored by our Heavenly Father in being made the means of rescuing many victims of intemperance, from the terrible thralldom of evil appetite, and raising them up to become useful and respected members of society. It has also been the means of restraining many young people from being led astray.

The promoters of this good work are now desirous of strengthening and rendering more permanent what has been accomplished. To this end they want to secure for themselves a local habitation, and they earnestly request all those who desire to promote the great temperance reform to do what they can to aid them in this undertaking.

The undersigned have been requested by the society to send you this circular, trusting that your known interest in the promotion of all that is good, will induce you to attend their entertainment and sale.

Choice music will be furnished. Refreshments will be supplied at low rates. There will be many attractive features in the entertainment. Admission only five cents.

Signed,

A. FARLEY, PRESIDENT, W. E. C. T. S.

MRS. MILLER, PRESIDENT, SEWING CIRCLE.

WHAT WOMEN SUFFER.

The appetite for strong drink in man has spoiled the life of more women, ruined more homes for them, brought to them more sorrow, scattered more fortunes for them, cursed them with more brutality, shame and hardship than any other evil that lives. The country numbers tens nay hundreds of thousands of women who are widows to-day, who sit in hopeless weeds, because their husbands have been slain by strong drink. There are thousands of homes scattered over the land in which wives live lives of torture, going through all changes of suffering that lie between the extremes of fear and despair, because those whom they love love the intoxicating bowl better than the woman they have sworn to love. There are women by thousands who dread to hear at the door the step that once thrilled them with pleasure. There are women groaning with pain, while we write these words, caused by bruises and brutalities inflicted by husbands made mad by drink. There can be no exaggeration in the statements in regard to this matter, because no human imagination can picture anything worse than the truth and no pen is capable of portraying the truth. The sorrows and horrors of a wife with a drunken husband, or a mother with a son, are as near the realization of hell as can be reached in this world. The shame and indignation, the sorrow and the sense of disgrace for herself and children, the poverty and frequently the beggary, the fear and the fact of violence, the lingering, lifelong struggles and despair of countless women with drunken husbands, are enough to make all women curse the traffic and the traffickers and engage unitedly to support the Scott Act and endeavor to exterminate the worst enemy of their sex.—*Casket*.