

General News.

CANADIAN.

Arrangements are completed for Toronto's Semi-Centennial Celebration, to be held next summer. The affair promises to be a great success.

A copy of a letter sent to the Secretary of State by Lieut.-Col. Williams, M. P., has been forwarded to Major-General Luard, who will forward his version of the Cobourg affair to the privy council.

There has been a heavy snow storm in Manitoba.

Two bad cases of blood poisoning have lately occurred near Morpeth, one from the bite of a cat on the hand of a daughter of John Smith, the other from a spider bite on the arm of Mr. Henry Bury. Both parties are doing well, but it is thought that the girl will lose the use of her hand.

A syndicate of capitalists is being formed in Cleveland for the purpose of developing iron ore mines in Central Ontario. The amount to be invested is \$1,500,000. The iron ranges to be opened are nine miles from Lake Ontario, with an area of 60,000 acres, a part of which is possession of Canadian and New York parties. The Central Ontario Railway, now being built, will open a way to the market and be sustained by the new carrying trade. The railway will terminate at Weller's Bay, Lake Ontario, where ore docks and pockets have been already contracted for. Ten mines have been located, and the output for the first year is estimated at 100,000 tons.

A young woman named Elizabeth Murphy has been killed at St. John, N. B., under very suspicious circumstances.

Edward Manning Marshall, at St. John, last week shot his wife from whom he has been separated for some time. She is expected to die.

Dr. Lawson, of Halifax, is charged with causing the death of Mrs. Bridget O'Connor, a young woman who died recently under very suspicious circumstances. Before her death she accused Dr. Lawson of doing her injury by malpractice. The case is being investigated.

Two fires occurred at Montreal on Saturday night; one in Mr. Wm. Clendenning's residence, on Palace street, destroying the whole of the interior of the building, and a large portion of the contents. The total loss will be from five to six thousand dollars, which is fully covered in English offices. The other conflagration was on St. James street west, in a shoe store belonging to Dennis Stanislas. Loss, about \$2,000.

Pratt's Hotel, at Rosseau, was completely destroyed by fire last week. Hardly any of the contents of the house were saved. Mr. and Mrs. Pratt were away. There were no lives lost.

Saturday morning about eight o'clock a fire occurred in the woollen-mill owned and occupied by F. & I. Briggs, in Stayner. Only a few looms were saved. Loss about \$6,000, no insurance.

Two serious gunning accidents occurred last week. One at St. Thomas by which a young man named Henderson had his hand severely hurt, and another at Orillia by which Frank Gill was dangerously, and it is feared fatally, injured.

The Canada Pacific workshops at Montreal are making the woodwork, lining and housing for their Lake Superior steamers, which will be sent west as finished.

A sailors' row on board the steam collier *Thetford*, at Hochelaga, resulted in the stabbing of James Smith. He has wounds on an arm, leg and left breast, which are serious. Rum was the cause of the row. Thomas Bennett Stagber was arrested, and Smith's *ante-mortem* deposition taken.

A man named Joseph Wright, employed on the Canada Southern construction train, met with a serious accident. He was trying to get on the train while in motion when he fell underneath the cars. The wheels ran over him, crushing one leg which will have to be amputated.

An immense boiler, full of oil, exploded at Petrolia on Saturday, doing a great deal of damage but not causing any loss of life.

Richard Impett, of Woodstock, who has had a good deal of family trouble, attempted suicide by cutting his throat on Thursday of last week.

A man driving a horse and buggy across the Canada Southern track at Springfield was struck by a passing train; the horse was killed and the man escaped with a few bruises.

At about nine o'clock on Monday evening a fire broke out in the lumber yards of Shortreed Bros., Craighurst, consuming a large quantity of first-class lumber, consisting of elm and pine. Loss about \$5,000. No insurance.

Conductor Calcott fell off a Canada Southern train at St. Clair Junction, and received serious injury.

Miss Sarah Dockstader, of Belleville, who while in a somnambulist condition wandered from her home to the G. T. R. and fell into a culvert, breaking her thigh bone, died from the effects of her injuries. The deceased was 76 years of age.

Some children were playing on an oil tank which was partially sunk in the ground at Petrolia. One of them named Oakley stepped on a loose board, slipped into the tank, and was drowned before assistance arrived. The child was about five years of age.

A tar-still at Petrolia burst on Tuesday, setting fire to the works of the

Imperial Oil Company. A young man named McConville lost his life.

Wm. Morgan, a farmer who lived near Strathroy, has been arrested for bigamy.

A case of wholesale poisoning occurred at Wardsville on Friday last, in which a family named Rutherford and a number of boarders were the victims of a sad mistake. It seems that arseric had been mixed with oatmeal for the purpose of poisoning mice, and a member of the family took up the poisonous mixture, not knowing its contents, and put it in with the rest of the meal, of which the morning porridge was made. No lives were lost, but the escape was a narrow one.

The Kent mills at Chatham were burned to the ground last week; loss about \$50,000. The origin of the fire is unknown. The engine and boilers are said to be in good condition. The night force were working as usual and the engine was running up to the arrival of the firemen. About forty men are thrown out of employment.

The cheese factory at Norwood, belonging to T. A. Pearsall, with its contents, was burned on Tuesday. There were about two hundred and seventy-five cheese in the building, also the books. Everything is pretty well covered.

Another of the Stockwell quadruplets at London has died. The remaining one is a girl, is healthy and expected to live.

Mrs. Dalton, in going from Toronto on the train to Oakville, was carried past to Bronte. She undertook to walk back, and in coming across the Oakville railway bridge was struck by the fast train from the west and instantly killed.

Bertie Goulding, aged eleven, was thrown from a horse near Weston. One of his feet becoming entangled in the stirrup, he was dragged some distance and killed. His skull was badly fractured.

On Tuesday, near Deux Rivières, an axle of the baggage-car of a passenger train, running at a rapid rate, gave way, and several cars full of passengers were precipitated down an embankment. Many persons were injured but no lives were lost.

UNITED STATES.

The cotton returns to the Department of Agriculture show that the condition on the first of October was worse than on the first of September. The general average is reduced from 74 to 68, and the indications point to a crop a little larger than 1881, when the yield was less than 5,500,000 bales.

In the different States the bi-centennial celebration of the first German colonization of America has been carried out on a magnificent scale. In Pittsburg the procession was fifteen miles long. Twenty-five thousand persons and four thousand waggons were in line. There 200,000 spectators.

Lieut. Story, who went on the last trip of the revenue steamer *Corwin*, to Alaska, reports the discovery of an immense river hitherto unknown to geographers. The Indians informed him that they had traversed the river fifteen hundred miles, and that it went up still higher. The Indians stated that the river in some places is twenty miles wide. It is within the Arctic Circle, but in August, when Story was there, he found flowers and vegetation not hitherto discovered in a latitude so high.

It is announced that the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railroad will soon be transferred to new owners, said to be identified with the Canadian Pacific.

Lieut. Schwatka, who with his party was picked up by Lieut. Ray, speaking of his trip up the Yukon River, Alaska, says they travelled overland to the head waters of the river, and constructed a raft to navigate the stream to its mouth. They procured a crew of six Indians, and proceeded within 25 miles of Fort Cheloat, when the rapids were encountered. The Indians refused to go on, and attempted to force the raft ashore. Schwatka, to suppress the mutiny, fired on the Indians killing three. The others submitted, and the rapids were run. The voyage was 1,829 miles from the mouth of the Yukon. Schwatka claims to have been farther up the Yukon than any other white man. Signal Service officer Leavitt says he ascended the Yukon to Fort Selkirk, 2,000 miles. He describes the river as one of the largest in the world, discharging 50 per cent. more water than the Mississippi, and at places seven miles in breadth.

It is understood that the Postmaster-General in his annual report will recommend the reduction of the drop letter postage to one cent per half ounce.

A bottlenose whale has been washed ashore in New Jersey and two professors of the Smithsonian Institution have taken a plaster cast of the carcass, and will remove the bones to that institution.