

THE WEEK'S NEWS

CANADA.

Nine men were drowned by the collapse of the Cunard wharf at Halifax, N. S.

John Elliott & Son, agricultural implement manufacturers, London, are reported to have assigned.

Dr. Medley, the metropolitan bishop of Canada, celebrated his 87th birthday on Monday.

The death is reported at Kingston of Antoine Lalonde, a native of the city of Quebec, at the advanced age of 104 years.

Floods in the Cowichan district of Vancouver Island, B. C., are reported to have caused damages to the extent of \$300,000.

It has been decided by the Toronto City Council that the street cars shall not run on Sundays.

It is proposed to establish an annual spring fat stock and horse show in Toronto, similar to the annual show in Chicago.

The estimates of the Toronto Public School Board for next year amount to \$432,000.

The St. Lawrence is firmly frozen over at Montreal much earlier than usual.

Black diphtheria has appeared in Cornwall, Ont.

The weather is so very mild at Medicine Hat that arrangements were made to play a cricket match on Christmas day.

Mr. Fred White, comptroller of Mounted Police, denies the sensational reports regarding dissatisfaction among the Indians.

John Larmouth, the extensive threshing machine manufacturer, of Montreal, has assigned.

A newly opened gold mine at Whiteburn, Queen's county, N. S., is yielding six ounces of gold per ton of quartz.

On the 30th of June, 1890, there were 1,251 prisoners in the Canadian penitentiaries, making an increase of 56 as compared with the corresponding period in 1889.

Prof. E. Stone Wiggins, of Ottawa, predicts that cholera will visit Canada next summer unless the strictest quarantine regulations are enforced.

Sir Hector Langevin is not in good health, but believes that a few weeks of absolute rest will restore him. Sir Hector has gone to Quebec for the holidays.

Physicians connected with McGill College, Montreal, are experimenting with Dr. Koch's lymph, a supply of which they received last week.

Mr. Henry Wood, of Plum Coulee, has returned from England, where he says, he succeeded, with other relatives, in producing proof of his heirship to the famous Wood fortune of \$50,000,000.

Abbe Sentenne, cure of Notre Dame-Montreal, denounced free compulsory education from the pulpit on Sunday, declaring that such legislation would be unchristian and contrary to the teachings of the Church.

American speculators have bought up all the potatoes for sale in Nova Scotia, and the price has gone up from 35 to 50 cents a bushel.

A Halifax despatch says Captain Guildford, of the steamer Newfield, one of the best known navigators on the Nova Scotia coast, dropped dead in his cabin on the vessel yesterday while writing a report.

The road committee of Quebec city has decided to erect a solid wall 300 feet long, 40 feet high and 30 broad at the place where the catastrophe occurred in Champlain street in September, 1888.

Collector of Customs Milne, of Victoria, B. C., has seized the German schooner Adels, which returned on Sunday from Behring Sea, where she killed 400 seals, for Customs irregularities.

Mr. Robert Quinn, district general freight agent G. T. R. at Toronto, was entertained at a dinner last week, on the occasion of his departure to represent the G. T. R. at Liverpool.

In the Quebec Legislature on Saturday Mr. Mercier's proposals in regard to lunatics met with strong opposition, and the result was that the Government was sustained by a majority of twelve only.

Representatives of the Irish societies of Toronto met on Sunday, and after a warm discussion appointed a committee to make arrangements for the reception of the Irish Parliamentary delegates when they come here.

Sir Charles Tupper and the Australian Agents-General had a conference on Tuesday to consider the question of a regular steamer service between Vancouver and Australian ports, which, of course, all the colonies would be expected to subsidize.

The London Star of December 5 says:—"Mrs. Birchall, who is living at her father's home in Norwood, looks ill and weak, and, it is said, declines to speak on the subject of her husband and the murder, even with her friends."

GREAT BRITAIN.

Mrs. O'Shea has gone to Paris to meet Parnell, where it is said they will be married.

Snowstorms prevailed generally in Great Britain last week.

Glasgow dock laborers have gone on strike.

Secretary Balfour will spend the Christmas holidays in Dublin.

Mr. Harrington, the Irish envoy, reached Queenstown on Saturday by the SS. Aurania and received an ovation on landing.

Sir George Baden-Powell has expressed his belief that the Behring's sea dispute will be settled this winter.

H. M. S. Magnet left Portsmouth on Monday with provisions for the destitute along the west coast of Ireland.

Mr. Balfour, Chief Secretary for Ireland, will visit Ulster in January for the purpose of giving a series of addresses to the masses.

There is a very serious railway strike in the Glasgow district of Scotland. About 4,000 men have left their work, and traffic is paralyzed.

Lord Salisbury has warned the British South African Company that its occupation of Massikess is an infringement upon the *modus vivendi* with Portugal.

Sixty ladies of Cork have signed an address for presentation to Mr. Parnell, condemning his course and asking, in the name of Ireland's reputation for purity, that he retire from active public life.

The Grand hotel at Margate was burned on Wednesday night and the guests had to escape in their night clothes.

The Bradford Chamber of Commerce has voted a resolution favouring the imposition of discriminating duties on French wines.

The Queen at Windsor last week unveiled a statue of the late Emperor Frederick of Germany.

The British South Africa Company's agent reports in glowing terms on the gold fields of Mashonaland.

In consequence of Parnell's speeches the Queen's proctor is reviewing all the documents submitted in evidence in the O'Shea divorce case.

The wardens of St. Sepulchre church in London where the remains of Capt. John Smith are buried, have issued an appeal for funds to erect a memorial "worthy of the founder of Virginia."

UNITED STATES.

A peculiar disease is carrying off many horses in parts of Kansas and Missouri.

During the season of 1890, 2,079,770 tons of coal were shipped by lake from Buffalo.

Five Indian murderers were hanged at Missoula, Mont., last week.

James Carroll was found frozen to death in the snow at Benton, near Penn Yan, N. Y., on Friday.

The poet Whittier was 83 years old on Sunday. His birthday was quietly passed at his home near Danville, Mass.

Two thousand Irishmen at a meeting in the Cooper institute, New York, last week passed a series of resolutions endorsing Parnell.

Gen. Miles has telegraphed to Gen. Schofield at Washington, from Rapid City, that all or nearly all of Sitting Bull's followers have been captured.

At Bellefonte, Pa., the snow was 24 inches deep on the level last week. Trains are all delayed on the Pennsylvania railroad. The weather was very cold.

In the House of Representatives at Washington last week Congressman Cummings offered a resolution expressing regret at the persecution of the Jews in Russia.

The Boston Chamber of Commerce on Monday passed a resolution in favour of a commercial treaty between the United States and Newfoundland.

The distress is so severe in the northern part of Kansas that bounties are offered for the scalps of wolves, rabbits, and gophers in order that the destitute may have the means of making a living.

A Scotch syndicate is reported to have secured control of five oatmeal mills in the vicinity of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and it is said the syndicate is bent on getting control of all the oatmeal mills in the U.S.

John M. Young, son of the late Brigham Young, has concluded an agreement with B. C. Faurot, a banker of Lima, Ohio, whereby he comes into possession of 3,000,000 acres of land in northern Mexico, which he intends to settle with 1,000 Utah Mormons.

Senator Gray, of Delaware, last week offered in Congress a preamble and resolution looking to the establishment of reciprocity between the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

The Standard Oil Co. has bought up the Delaware Oil Co., leaving only two independent concerns in the oil business in the States.

The private banking house of S. A. Kean & Co. in Chicago has suspended, owing to the stringent money market. It is said all claims will be paid in full. The deposits recently aggregated nearly \$700,000.

Miss Ida Laycock, a young teacher of Longmont, Col., disciplined Bert Myers, one of her big pupils, and he lay in wait for his teacher and stabbed her four times inflicting what will probably prove fatal wounds.

Succi, the Italian, completed his forty-five days' fast in New York on Saturday evening. During his fast he drank twenty-one quarts of mineral water and nine quarts and a half of croton water. He lost forty-two pounds and a half in weight.

IN GENERAL.

Empress Augusta Victoria of Germany gave birth to a son on Wednesday night.

Gold was quoted at 201 per cent. premium at Buenos Ayres last week.

The canal at Cordova, in the Argentine Republic, burst its banks and drowned a hundred people.

The Russian customs commission has decided to increase the duty on agricultural machinery and implements 40 per cent.

The Spanish Government has instructed the Minister of Finance to prepare a new protective Customs tariff.

Antonio Guerrero, the Jack the Ripper of the City of Mexico, has been convicted of eight murders and 14 outrages on women, and sentenced to death.

The czar has intimated to the London committee that he will decline to receive the appeal recently adopted on behalf of the Jews at a meeting in Guildhall.

The Tariff Committee of the French Chamber of Deputies is emulating the example of Mr. McKinley by increasing the duties on all classes of foreign goods and produce to an enormous degree.

The Paris Figaro reports that a plot to kill the Czar has been discovered, the conspirators being members of a noblemen's club.

The Russian Medical Council will prohibit the use of the Koch lymph until the treatment has been properly investigated under the direction of the Government.

Eyraud, the Parisian murderer, was convicted and condemned to death, and his accomplice, Mlle. Bompard, was sentenced to twenty years' imprisonment with hard labor.

By the addition of new territory the population of Vienna has been increased to 1,315,626, nearly 200 more than the population of Berlin proved to be at the census in 1885.

Ker Chew!

Sneeze on a Monday, you sneeze for danger; Sneeze on a Tuesday, you kiss a stranger; Sneeze on a Wednesday, you sneeze for a letter; Sneeze on a Thursday, for something better. Sneeze on a Friday, you'll sneeze for sorrow; Sneeze on a Saturday, your sweetheart tomorrow; Sneeze on a Sunday, your safety seek, The devil will have you the rest of the week!

SMUT: ITS HABITS AND REMEDIES.

BY J. HOYES PANTON, M. A.

Smut is a disease well known to farmers, and though good remedies have been found to prevent it yet there are many ignorant of them if we judge from the number of questions sent to the College on the subject. As there are several varieties of smut we shall consider the habits of some of the most common and then give some remedies.

Tilletia caries (Bunt or Stinking Smut).—When wheat is effected by this variety the grains are shorter and more swollen than usual and present a greenish-drab color. Sometimes they are cracked. These affected grains are completely filled with minute round black spores, having an unpleasant smell, and presenting under the microscope a somewhat roughened appearance. They are much larger than the spores of the common smut. When they reach favorable conditions, heat and moisture, germination takes place and a series of reproductive bodies result which give rise to the vegetative portion of the fungus. This is an exceedingly slender jointed thread that ultimately bears perfect spores in the wheat plant after reaching the seed. These reproductive bodies, called sporidia or sporules are produced outside of the wheat plant, but when they come in contact with its tissues, and running up the stem between the cells they finally reach the seed and bear spores on tiny stalks. It has been calculated that one grain may contain 40,000,000 spores, inclosed within the thin skin and not exposed as in the common smut of wheat and oats.

Ustilago carbo (Common or Loose Smut).—In cases of attack from this form the affected plants are readily observed, as it shows itself very distinctly by covering the ear with smut. The spores have no head and are exceedingly minute, being much smaller than those of *Bunt*. When they reach favorable conditions germination takes place and reproductive structures result; these, as in *Bunt*, give rise to the vegetative portion of the fungus which reaches the young plant, and a course is followed much the same as in *Bunt*. Investigation indicates that the trouble in plants attacked comes from the ground and travels upwards; that the results of the attack manifest themselves in the head, and especially in the grain; that seed dusty from smut results in much of the grain being smutty.

Ustilago Zeo-Mays (Corn Smut).—In this case the smut is not so local as in the preceding. The affected parts are not confined to the ear alone, but sometimes are found elsewhere. The spores form inside of the threads of the vegetative structure and not upon little stalks as in the other smut, and thus are widely different in development. When the spores germinate they give rise to a sort of tube-like structure in which several cross partitions are formed and the tube divides into cells. At the tip of these sporules form; they germinate singly and produce structures that may penetrate the tissues of the corn plant at its most tender point (the lowest joint of the stem) when the plant is young. During the growing period of the fungus, up to the time when spore formation takes place, it consists only of that portion which necessarily begins its growth near the surface of the ground, since it enters the plant where it forms spores. As the plant increases the fungus grows upwards to the place where it forms spores. The fruiting time of the corn marks also the period when spores are developed, usually upon the young kernels. About this time the thread-like structures branch where spores are to be formed. The tips of the branching threads swell and granules appear in the contents. These finally develop into spores imbedded in the substance within the threads; the cell walls become gelatinous as spore formation proceeds, and this gives a slimy character to the mass of smut; but in the course of time further changes take place and very little remains but dry, round, dusty spores. It is injurious to feed cattle with smutty corn, as it acts upon the animal economy much the same as ergot of rye. Passing through the animal system does not destroy the germinating power of smut, consequently the spores in manure are in a condition to spread the trouble. As it is readily seen on affected parts and may be picked off, it should be gathered and destroyed by fire or otherwise. It is not sufficient to pick off the smut and throw it upon the ground, as the spores will still continue to form.

REMEDIES.—With such facts before us we are in a position to suggest some remedies, which are applicable to the several varieties of smut:

1. Sow clean seed.

2. Steep seed five minutes in a solution of copper sulphate (1 lb. to 1 gallon of water); constantly stir so as to wet the grain evenly; then spread it on a floor to dry, or add some land plaster or slacked lime and mix until dry. One gallon is about enough for 4 bushels. Some prefer using a weaker solution and allowing a longer time: e.g., 1 lb. copper sulphate to 4 gallons of water, and steep 24 hours.

3. 1 lb. caustic potash in 6 gallons of water; let soak a 10 gallons water; let this stand a day, stirring from time to time, and the water poured off will be a solution about the same strength as the preceding.

4. Brine strong enough to float an egg does very well if the seed is kept in it for several hours with occasional stirring.

5. Immersing the grain in hot water (135° F.) for 5 minutes, or 132° F. for 15 minutes, destroys smut spores without injury to the grain. A temperature 5° above or below this fails in its results.

By keeping the seed in a sack made of coarse material it may be readily dipped into any of the solutions recommended.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Guelph, Dec. 9.

How to Drink Milk.

Why milk is "distressing" to so many people as they commonly complain lies in the method of drinking it. Milk should never be taken too quickly, or too much at once swallow. If a glass of it is swallowed hastily it enters into the stomach and then forms one solid, curdled mass, difficult of digestion. If, on the other hand, the same quantity is sipped, and three minutes at least are occupied in drinking it, then on reaching the stomach it is divided and proper digestion is obtained, as well as a most nutritious effect.

The French minister of foreign affairs yesterday said that France was opposed to a money indemnity as regards the Newfoundland trouble, and was awaiting fresh proposals.

A Word to a Wife.

If a wife wants a peaceful atmosphere and the same undivided adoration that she had from the individual who was her lover in her earlier days, one of her first endeavors must be to retain it by in some measure attending to in that line is that of keeping the household and other expenses entirely within the sum that she and her husband have decided to be fit and proper; and a system that will insure that having been established, to let her husband's pocket rest in peace, to ask for no more money, and to have none of those trifling, teasing expenses of which each single amount is small, but the sum is comparatively enormous. One of the next things for her to do is to remember that a well-fed man is vastly better and more amiable, healthier and happier, than one poorly nourished, and to govern her table and her cookery accordingly; and if the effort causes difficulty with her servants, to let him know nothing of it; and if she has no servants, to husband her strength in herself by a systematic procedure—a day for this duty, and another for that; a place for everything, and everything in its place. It would be a poor sort of husband that would not appreciate this effort, and meet it more than half-way. That business attended to, a wise wife will try and keep up with her husband's tone of thought and with his reading, and will bring forward subjects for conversation and discussion not altogether personal, omitting scandals and fashions, making herself so companionable and agreeable to him intellectually that he will not need to go elsewhere for such society. Still another point for her to consider is that of the exercise of as much courtesy to her husband as she was wont to use toward him in the days when it pleased her to think she attracted him; never, moreover, to let him see that in anything she feels herself better than he, conscious that there is no quality sweeter in a woman than humility; undoubtedly the fact remains that in many ways she is better than he, but it will not help him at all to have the fact thrust upon him, for we all wish to live up to our reputations, and if he thinks he is a faultless husband, he will try to continue so.

And then, as her husband is mortal, she is to remember that fact, and not be surprised and manifest her surprise at his want of perfection, remembering also her own want of it, and the possibility that she too may have fallen short of an ideal. It is a good plan for her to remember that she pleases not so much by brilliancy as by charm, and therefore not attempt to dazzle this husband by a superior wit and knowledge, which, after all, may not be hers, but to put herself in the attitude of listening and learning from him whenever that is possible; and if upon the occasion of any argument she should allow him to convince her, by not assuming a hostile frame of mind immediately, and by not insisting upon the last word herself, she might find that she had won more as a wife than she has lost as an advocate or a conversationalist. It may be felt base and unworthy of the nature of old harem usages to endeavor to charm, but all the same, her whole domestic well-being lies in the fact that she does charm. And whether she charms or not, a wife's duty, first of all, is to make home happy and attractive, and attention to a few points like these is one of the quickest and easiest ways of meeting that duty.

On Plum Pudding.

Ever since the days when a huge boar's head, holding a lemon in its mouth, was carried in great state along the whole length of the immense banquet hall to grace the head of the table at the Christmas dinners of the old feudal barons of Britain, Christmas cookery has occupied a large share of the attention of mankind. There would seem to be some strongly kindred sympathy between man's heart and his stomach, for whenever the former is filled with joy one of the first things he does is to fill the latter with choice edibles, and thus among all people, in countries and in all ages of the world, it has been the invariable custom to celebrate with a feast every joyous occasion, from a holiday to a wedding. Far from forming any exception to this rule, Christmas, the king of all holidays, is also the monarch of all feast days as well, and has always surpassed all other occasions in both the quality and quantity of its good cheer.

The great trenchers of beef, venison, pork, and mutton, the turkeys, capons, hens, geese, ducks, plum puddings, nuts, sugar, and honey, and monstrous bowls of punch and wassail that crowded the Christmas tables in the baronial halls of old England in the middle ages have exerted their silent influence throughout all the centuries that have passed, and that benign influence is still felt at the present day.

What shall we have for Christmas dinner? is the question to which many a thrifty housewife, who has "invited company" to dine on the greatest festival of the year, is now anxiously seeking an answer. Of course we must have turkey and mince pie, oranges, nuts, and raisins, but what can we have that will be new? To supply the answer to this pressing conundrum, which is causing sleepless nights in many a household just now, I give the following recipe:

POOR MAN'S TEMPERANCE PLUM PUDDING.—Take one cup of finely chopped suet, one of milk, one of currants, three and a half cups of flour. Mix, and add one teaspoonful of soda and spices of all kinds to taste. Beat up to a dough. Put in a pudding dish, place the latter in a steamer, and steam for three hours. This is one of the most inexpensive of all plum puddings, and a surprisingly good one. The substitution of currants for raisins is an economy which by no means detracts from the merit of the pudding.

CHRISTMAS COTTAGE PUDDING.—Take 14 ounces of suet, four of currants, five of sugar, a pound and a quarter of flour, the same quantity of stone-mashed, half a nutmeg, a quarter teaspoonful of ginger, the same of salt and of cloves in powder; mix these ingredients thoroughly, add four well-beaten eggs with a quarter pint of milk, tie the pudding in a well-floured cloth, and boil it for four hours.

A Discreet Servant.

Literary Man (to his new factotum)—What became of the letter that was on my desk?

Pat—Shure, I mailed it, sor.

Literary Man—Mailed it? You idiot. Why, there was no address on it.

Pat—Shure I know that, sor, but I thought you didn't want me to know who you was writing to.

RUSSIA AND HER NIHILIST.

An Incident in the Career of the Leader Mendelssohn.

The first man to whom the Paris police turned in their search for the murderer of the Russian Gen. Selivestroff was Stanislaus Mendelssohn, the acknowledged head of the Polish revolutionary party in France. He is a cousin of the composer Mendelssohn-Bartholdy and a grand nephew of the Berlin philosopher, Moses Mendelssohn. Although not known in France as the leader of the Paris Nihilists, for that personage has kept his identity secret from all without the movement, his control of the Polish revolutionists has long indicated that if not himself commander-in-chief, he was very near to him. Mendelssohn is 33 years old. He studied medicine in Warsaw, his birthplace, but was driven from home before finishing his course for complicity in socialist and democratic intrigues against Government officers. He lived a few years in Austria and Germany, suffering fines and imprisonment for his radical views, and returned for a short time to Russia, where he paid similar penalties for similar offenses. He brought up eventually in Paris several years ago with a comfortable little fortune received from his family, and the determination to agitate in a foreign land for revolution at home.

His property, generosity, and life of adventure at once gave him prestige among his fellow countrymen, and he increased his popularity by entertaining at his table in his villa in the Fontaine-aux-Roses the most unfortunate and helpless of his political comrades. He thus grew naturally and unopposed into a position of leadership of one of the many groups into which the Nihilists of Paris are carefully organized according to birthplace, degree of radicalism, or social tendency. The moment the murder of Selivestroff became known to the Paris police, men were despatched to Mendelssohn's villa to place him under arrest. The result, however, was rather farcical. Mendelssohn acknowledged laughingly that he knew Padlevski, who was suspected of the murder, had often helped him financially, and had sheltered him. Recently, however, Mendelssohn said, he had lost sight of Padlevski and knew nothing of the motive or plan of the murder. It was certain beyond all doubt that Mendelssohn was lying when he said he knew nothing of the planning of the murder. If he himself did not plan it, it is generally believed he encouraged the planning of it and urged that it be executed, as it was executed, shortly after the announcement in Paris of the sentencing to death of Sophie Guenzburg. Mendelssohn's complicity could not be proved or even legally presumed, so he was released to continue his work of propagating with word and purse the doctrines of violent emancipation in Russia.

Girls, a Mistake You Make.

Just a little one, but when it is one that may, after all, result very unhappily. Do not get in the habit of being familiar in manner or speech with young men. True, you may say nothing that is harmful; you may only say what you think, and that may be perfectly innocent. And always to say just what one thinks is wisdom, but to jest with Tom or Harry, innocent though the subject may be is not wise. Shall there, then, be no gaiety in life? Says a dear girl. Plenty of it. But make it pure, sweet fun, entirely clear and free from the bitter waters of Marah.

Don't you think that the one man—the one to whom you give your heart—will care more for one when he knows that an idle jest, a careless word, a familiar manner has not been given by you to every man friend you may have? It doesn't seem much, but my dear girl, because you are my dear girl, just remember that while many a girl amuses the general young man, it is the special man who is worth consideration.

You do not think it quite nice to look to marriage as your future? Why not? Do you not find the companionship of a man you love more interesting than that of even your dearest woman friend? Then you think I do not approve of woman's friendship? Indeed I do—when they are true ones. But the best friend for a woman is the man who interests her—the man she loves, and who is her sweetheart—soon to be her husband. And she makes a mistake in not trying to please him.

The e has lately been brought to Boston, Mass., a horse with a tail 12 feet 3 inches in length, a mane 8 feet 8 inches and a foretop 8 feet long. In the last 12 months the mane has grown 14 inches and the tail 16 inches, and both are still growing.

The sudden and peremptory recall of Emin Pasha from his charge in the interior of Africa is confirmatory evidence of the justice of Stanley's opinion of him. He is a scholar and a gentleman, and all that sort of thing, but he is not the kind of man who can administer upon the affairs and interests of civilization in a community just emerging from savagery. As a scientific attaché of an exploring expedition Emin Pasha might do well enough, but as governor of a territory he is a sad failure. He failed when in the employ of Egypt, and has failed in the employ of Germany. The studious Austrian is another exemplar of the evil consequences of putting a good man in the wrong place.

A Chicago despatch says:—"A commission firm of this city has received and filled rather an odd order. A number of ex-Chicagoans living in the vicinity of Shanghai, China, opened a correspondence with the firm in regard to the feasibility of importing into the Celestial domain a number of live American quail for the purpose of propagating the species in that corner of the world. The order was for 100 dozen, and the first consignment of 30 dozen has been shipped, the consignee being J. Ward Hall. The quail is a hardy bird and it is not impossible that 'Bob White's' whistle will soon be heard from the fields of the Orient."

Court tennis is the oldest game of ball that we have—that is to say, it goes back farther in its present form than any other. Games of ball of some kind go back so far that there is no trace of their beginning. In their simplest form the ball was thrown from one man to another, and the winner was the one who caught it. If we carry the process one step farther and imagine the ball, or whatever stood in its place, to be hit back with the hand, instead of being caught and thrown, we have at once hand-ball, the original of all games like tennis, rackets, etc. Indeed, the French name for tennis remains *paume* to this day, because the ball was struck with the palm of the hand.