

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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The public debt of the Dominion decreased by over \$250,000 in October.

The winter changes of the Intercolonial trains are to come into operation on Monday, the 28th inst.

Mr. John A. McDonald has been returned for Victoria by something more than two thirds majority.

Mr. Mallory, the Liberal Member for East Northumberland, Ont., has been unseated for bribery by his agents.

The Nellie Brown Mitchell Grand Concert Co. will appear at the Academy of Music on Dec. 1st and 2nd.

The freight steamer *Arizona* was set on fire on Lake Superior by combustion arising from a tank of acid. Loss \$40,000.

Sir Fred. Middleton retires with the rank of Lt.-General, the Duke of Cambridge regretting the inflexibility of the regulations.

Mr. Falconbridge, Q.C., of Toronto, has been appointed a Judge of the Queen's Bench *vice* Armour, promoted to be Chief Justice.

An attempt which has been made to send lobsters over to the Pacific for breeding has failed, and cannot be renewed until the spring.

A gang of coiners, with all their apparatus, have been seized at Sarnia. That district had been flooded for some time past with counterfeit money.

It is reported that the famous Bell farm in Manitoba is to be divided into small farms, which will be offered to immigrant settlers on favorable terms.

At the Academy of Music on the 15th and 16th of Dec., Mr. Ross' choir will present Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan's Comic Opera, "The Sorcerer."

94 carloads of Manitoba grain were at the Union Depot, Ottawa, en route to Montreal, on Monday last, and large amounts continue to arrive every week.

The two half-breeds arrested in Montana for the murder of McLeish, a North-West settler, have been handed over to the Mounted Police by the American authorities.

The school teachers and ladies of the city of Kingston contemplate calling an indignation meeting for the purpose of discussing Bishop Cleary's address at Napanea.

Mrs. Mary Froude Middleton, has given notice of application for a counter-action for divorce from her husband, on the grounds of adultery, cruelty, and desertion.

Considerable excitement still prevails at Buckingham, twenty miles from Ottawa, over a reported gold discovery. Two assays have been made which give most contradictory results.

The French steamer *Iberia*, the first boat of the Bossiere Line, arrived at Halifax on Tuesday, from Hamburg and Havre. She had 12,000 bags of sugar for the Nova Scotia refinery.

No less than seventeen Gloucester fishing vessels have been wrecked this year, with a loss of 127 lives, the great majority being Nova Scotians. Many widows and children are left desolate.

The C. P. R. is evidently doing its duty in the colonization line, if the report is true that it has acceded to a scheme of rebate of fare, on their return, to farmers who go east to get married.

The Montreal *Witness* does a good thing in re-producing a cut from one of the English illustrated papers, depicting some of the foul and scurrilous mob which recently desecrated and defiled Westminster Abbey during Divine Service.

A man named Darling, at Brockville, struck in anger at one of his sons with an oaken club. The blow missed the boy aimed at, but killed his younger brother. The father is arrested. A terrible warning to furious temper and blind rage.

The house of Inspector Anderson, of Orangeville, Ont., was damaged a second time by dynamite. A note was found tacked to the fence, warning the Inspector to desist from his efforts in favor of the Scott Act. This is a villainous way of opposing law.

A schooner on Lake Ontario is supposed to have gone down with a crew of six men and the wife of one of them. The disasters on the Lakes have been unusually numerous this year, though the loss of life has not equalled that in the Gloucester fishing vessels.

The Hudson's Bay Company's Fur Report states that the January sales will be larger than the average of some years past, and that the general improvement in trade and abundant harvests throughout the North-West point to a good prospect, and an active movement in land next year.

The mammoth timber raft which has been so much talked about, was successfully launched at Two Rivers, N. S., on the 15th. The raft is to be towed round to New York by a steamer. Its dimensions are—length 585 ft., width 62 ft., depth 37 ft., draft of water 19½ ft., and it weighs 9,000 tons.

Sir A. Caron, Minister of Militia, and Col. Powell, A. G., have gone to British Columbia, to select a site for the barracks for C. Battery.

Very numerous enquiries are being made at the Canadian Government and Steamship offices in London, by agricultural persons anxious to emigrate to Canada. All localities are asked about, but more especially the Maritime Provinces and British Columbia. The increased interest manifested is thought to be due to the splendid display made by Canada at the Colonial Exhibition.

Whatever may be thought of protection to manufactures by Dominion opposition politicians, municipalities in Quebec seem, from the following paragraph, to appreciate it on a municipal scale:—"Papineauville, Que., will give 100 acres of land, and exemption from taxation for fifteen years, to manufactures or mills. It is said that McLachlan Bros., of Arnprior, and Gillies & Co., Braeside, will think over the proposition."

The coming season, from a musical standpoint, promises to be very enjoyable, and pleasant evenings are in prospect, with no less than three choral societies practicing weekly. To the youngest of these, for the study of oratorios, we wish every success. The first concert of the Orpheus Club will be on the 28th, when an attractive programme will be given under the magic baton of their indefatigable conductor, Mr. C. H. Porter. Halifax is greatly indebted to this gentleman, Mr. C. J. Ross, and a few others, who have worked so energetically and successfully in advancing the general appreciation of good music among us.

N. Y. State has gone Democratic, and Mr. Cleveland's nomination is said to be assured thereby.

Six Mormon elders have been driven from Shelby county, Ala. Four of them were tarred and feathered.

The Fisheries Commission has, it is said, wisely determined to keep its proceedings secret until the conclusion of the work.

There is another great exodus from Maine to California. In 1870 and 1880, it was to Illinois and Minnesota.

A terrible state of things is reported in Kansas, Illinois and Missouri. Forest fires have ravaged extensive districts, and hundreds of cattle and quantities of hay, besides farm buildings, have been destroyed.

A Michigan girl surprised a thief in the barn and chased him with a pitchfork until he had dropped the harness he had stolen. It is reported that she is receiving an average of fifteen offers of marriage a week.

The State of Ohio is practically bankrupt, having less than \$89 in her general revenue fund, which is the only one in which drafts to meet current expenses can be made. If she cannot obtain advances on taxes, Ohio must be run on tick until they are paid in.

Two burglar-tramps, getting on the top of a car, were killed on the St. John express from Bangor, Me., their heads coming into collision with a bridge. They were knocked off, and the wheels went over them. Full sets of implements, together with dynamite, was found on them.

A Right Reverend crank of the Methodist Episcopal Church in New Orleans, (Bishop Keene), locates Paradise on the Atlantic coast near Charleston. The ark took the gulf stream to 40 degrees N., and sailed over submerged Spain, up the Mediterranean, till it lodged on Mt. Ararat.

Miss Rendan, a Chicago young lady, aged 19, was buried recently, whose death is said to have been caused by the presence in her stomach of a live turtle with a shell as large as a silver half dollar, which caused spasms and vomiting, and was eventually ejected. It is thought the turtle grew from a germ swallowed in water from Lake Michigan. Turtle is not a fish, so this may not be a fishy story.

Exchanges say:—"An aerolite, weighing three tons, dropped with a loud report in front of the Merchants' National Bank in Amsterdam, N. Y., Saturday morning, making a deep indentation in the ground. Great excitement was created by the occurrence, and large crowds viewed the celestial visitor. Local experts find traces of iron, nickel, aluminum and other metals in the aerolite." All the aerolites seem to fall in the United States, and generally at a season when news is dull or scarce.

The main building of Barnum's circus winter quarters has been burned. One narrative says that three elephants and nearly all the other animals, except a lion, a polar bear, and a rhinoceros, perished. The rhinoceros will, it is said, die, and the lion is not, probably, much the better for having been shot at in several places. The reports are, of course, sensational, and do not altogether agree. One account says a whole troop of elephants got loose. The crowd is said to have been bent on killing as many animals as they could.

The Ex-Empress Eugenie is critically ill at Amsterdam.

The health of Mr. Parnell is reported to be slowly improving.

The Shah is now said to have postponed his intended visit to Europe till 1889.

It is said that Prince Alexander of Battenburg is likely to marry Princess Louise of Wales.

It is reported that Mr. Ribot will form a new cabinet for France, of which M. Goblet will be a member.

The League has been proclaimed in Kerry and Clare, and several branches in Cork, Kerry and Wexford.

Mr. Gladstone has apologized to Col. Dopping for inaccurate statements, and Col. Dopping has withdrawn his action.

Wm. O'Brien continues to make the most strenuous efforts to pose as a martyr. He is now said to have written a letter in his own blood.