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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Yesterday being the Queen's birthday, it was observed with great *eclat* in Ottawa, and in all the cities and towns throughout the vast Dominion of Canada.

The Hon. D. A. Macdonald, Postmaster General, has been appointed Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Ontario in the place of the Hon. John Crawford, deceased. The office was offered to the Hon. George Brown, but he declined it.

The acceptance of the Lieutenant Governorship of Ontario, by the Hon Mr. Macdonald, necessitated certain changes in the *personale* of the Dominion Government. The Hon. Edward Blake has entered the Government as Minister of Justice, and the Hon. Mr. Fournier takes Mr. Macdonald's place as Postmaster General, but Mr. Fournier continues to discharge the duties of Minister of Justice till after Mr. Blake's re-election, which will take place immediately. Mr. Holton is also spoken of as likely to enter the Ministry, but to what portfolio he is to take the oversight of is merely conjectural.

On Thursday His Excellency the Administrator of the Government commuted the death sentence passed upon the Brockville abortionists to imprisonment in the Provincial Penitentiary for life.

Lt. Col. H. Richardson has been appointed temporarily Deputy Minister of Justice, in the absence of Lt. Col. Bernard, who goes to Europe to recuperate his health. Col. Richardson is an able and painstaking officer.

The Ontario Government gave the late Lieutenant Governor a public funeral, on the 18th inst. The procession started from Government House at two o'clock for St. James' Cathedral, where services were held by Dean Grassett, His Honor's pastor, and his attendant during his last illness, assisted by the Rev. Can Baldwin. After the procession passed along King to Parliament street, thence to the cemetery. No traffic of any kind was permitted on King street from John to Parliament streets, from two o'clock until the procession passed. All places of business were closed punctually at twelve o'clock. The following is the order of the procession,—Marshals, Lieut. Col. R. Denison and Lieut. Col. Otter; band of the 10th Royal Escort of Cavalry, volunteer officers, Collegiate Institute, Upper Canada College and Normal School, officers and members of council of public instruction and education department, officers and members of universities and colleges, the medical profession,

the Bar, the Clergy, the hearse, attending Clergy and Physicians. Pall bearers. Sir John Macdonald, Chief Justice Hagarty, Hon. Frank Smith, Hon. Oliver Mowat, Hon. W. H. Howland, C. B., Mr. E. Crombie. Chief mourners, Members of Executive Council of Ontario, Members of Legislative of Ontario, Officers of Government and Assembly, Members of the Privy Council, Officers and Members of the Dominion Parliament. Officers and members of the Dominion Civil Service, chief justices, chancellors and judges, the sheriff and other officers of the court, the mayor and council of the city of Toronto, the mayor and council of the city of Hamilton, other municipal bodies, officers of the municipal council, boards of trade, literary and scientific societies, national societies, mechanics' institute, other public bodies and societies, citizens in carriages, citizens on foot. The attendance of citizens was very large, testifying to the very high esteem in which the deceased was held by all classes in the community.

The *Polynesia* which left on Saturday 15th for Liverpool grounded on a mud bank near St. Thomas, during the thick fog and snow storm of the same evening. The steamer, however, was not in any way damaged or incommoded beyond the momentary stoppage to her voyage. She floated on the morning of the 17th, and proceeded on her journey.

The water in the Ottawa river has risen to a great height since the recent rains. This will greatly facilitate the lumber drive on that stream.

The Government have awarded contracts to Ald. Bangs, of Ottawa, for the manufacture of 4,000 caps for the active militia, and to Thomas Taylor for a similar number of pairs of boots.

We deeply regret to learn of the sudden death of Mr. James O'Reilly, Q. C., which event took place on Saturday evening 15th at his residence in Kingston. He retired to bed about 9:30, but had not been long there when he complained to Mrs. O'Reilly of a pain in his head, and asked for a drink of water. Mrs. O'Reilly went down stairs to get the water, but on her return, to her great astonishment, she found her husband dead. Drs. Lavell and Yates were called in, but their services were of no avail, the vital spark had fled. The cause of Mr. O'Reilly's death is supposed to have been apoplexy. The Kingston Bar on learning of the death of their brother barrister, immediately meet and passed resolutions of condolence to the widow and family.

Active preparations are in progress for changing the gauge of the Intercolonial Railroad, which will be carried out, on the 18th and 17th June.

It has been decided to hold the next annual meeting of the Reformed Episcopal Council at Ottawa, in May, 1876.

The body of the Rev. Joel Briggs, of Toronto, who disappeared on the 1st of May, was found in the bay at that place on the 17th. Deceased had been an inmate of the Toronto Lunatic Asylum, having been temporarily insane. An inquest was held on the body and a verdict of "found drowned" was returned.

The Hon. John C. Breckenridge, of Kentucky, died at Louisville yesterday. At the election of 1856 he was elected Vice President, with Mr. Buchanan President. After the outbreak of the war Mr. Breckenridge denounced President Lincoln's call for 75,000 volunteers, and recommended Kentucky to join the cause of the South. The deceased was appointed a Major General in the Confederate army, and he became Secretary of War of the Confederacy in February, 1866. In June of the same year he escaped to England, where he lived in exile for some years.

The Hon. Mr. Letellier De St. Just, and Mr. Perrault, Secretary of the Centennial Commission, left Ottawa on Saturday the 15th en route for Philadelphia to make arrangements with the General Committee for the representation of Canadian industries at the Centennial Exhibition. They intend visiting the maritime provinces before returning for the purpose of establishing branch committees at St. John and Halifax.

Another Vatican Council is to be summoned, with a view to discuss proposed ecclesiastical reforms.

Missouri is threatened with a plague of grasshoppers, and the Governor of the State has appointed a day for humiliation and prayer that the impending calamity may be averted.

Buffalo gnats are making terrible havoc among the horses and mules near Memphis. Hundreds of animals have already been killed by the little pests.

The grasshoppers have been discovered in Nemaha and Richardson Counties, whose sprouting fields of grain have been eaten clear throughout. Their line of march is from there in an easterly direction. Grain eaten fields are quickly renewing and the damage is slight. With increased acreage present indications are good for crops of small grain.

The largest number of immigrants that ever entered the United States in any one year was four hundred thousand. Last year the number did not equal one-half of that. Besides this, thousands returned to Europe on account of dull times.