

THE WEEK'S NEWS

CANADA.

An effort will be made to induce Sir Joseph Hickson to run for the Montreal Mayorship.

Buildings were erected in Hamilton during the past six months costing \$414,890.

The wholesale firm of J. A. Patterson & Co., of Montreal, have made an assignment.

Mr. James Redfern, who gave his name to the well known variety of wheat, died a few days ago near Kingston.

The township of South Norwich has pronounced for prohibition by passing the local option by-law by a majority of six.

Mr. J. J. Curran, M. P. for Montreal Centre, was last week presented by his constituents with a cheque for \$7,000.

During 1890, 10,341 immigrants arrived in Manitoba, of which number 8,810 went in by the Canadian Pacific railway.

Mr. Wm. Wainwright takes the position of assistant general manager and traffic manager on the Grand Trunk.

Owing to the lack of snow, cattle are still able to graze throughout the Province of Manitoba, which is a great saving to farmers.

The members of the flour and grain section of the Toronto Board of Trade held their first session in the new building on Jan. 2nd.

The Indian Department has completed a new industrial school for Indians at St. Boniface, Man., which was opened on Monday.

Arrangements are about completed for the acquisition by an English syndicate of the principal flour mills in Canada.

The Quebec Government and the City of Montreal are borrowing money from the banks at 6 per cent.

The Nova Scotia Government has secured a supply of Dr. Koch's lymph, to be used in the hospital at Halifax.

The output of coal from Cape Breton last year was 900,000 tons, an increase of 200,000 tons over the previous year.

Mrs. Labelle, Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Quebec, died somewhat suddenly last week.

In Canada during the year just ended there were 1,847 failures, against 1,777 the previous year, with the liabilities amounting to \$18,000,000, against \$14,000,000 in 1889.

The Manitoba Indians are taking a great interest in the uprising in the States, but there is no excitement nor any inclination to indulge in ghost dances.

Several members of a family in St. John, N.B., had a narrow escape from death by poisoning, the cause being again a package of doctored candy given to one of them by an unknown woman.

The Dominion Inland Revenue Department is considering the advisability of establishing a standard for milk, as well as the introduction of legislation to prevent fraud in the manufacture of paints, linseed oil, etc.

Mr. and Mrs. John Trego, of St. Thomas, both large in stature, rejoice in the possession of a bright, healthy babe, 3 months old, which is only 19 inches long and weighs less than seven pounds.

The coroner's jury last week found George Goodwin guilty of murdering Richard Langford in Huntley Township. Detective Murray is hunting for Goodwin, and the Government has offered a reward of \$150.

Sir John Thompson has authorized the purchase of a photographic apparatus for the public service of Canada. This new invention reproduces the image on the retina of the eye, and it is hoped will prove useful in the detection of the crime of murder.

Rev. Dr. Burwash and Rev. Prof. Reynar have been appointed representatives of Victoria on the university senate in accordance with the Federation Act. The university senate is considering the question of establishing a chair in homeopathy.

Dr. Tremblay, of Windsor Mills, Quebec on Saturday in the dark took a dose of poison in mistake for a preparation for asthma, from which he suffered. He tried every means to counteract the poison, but failed, after which he went to a priest, made his confession, received the sacrament, made his will and then went home and died in great agony in the presence of his young wife and three children.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Historian Kinglake is dead. The cause was cancer of the tongue.

Gen. Booth is supplying free food for many of the London poor.

The capital of the new McCarthyite paper has been fully subscribed.

Sir Edward Cecil Guinness, of porter fame, has been raised to the peerage.

Father O'Shea of Drogheda has written a letter defending Capt. O'Shea and Parnell.

The weather has moderated in England and it is thawing.

The reports of the British farmer delegates who recently visited Canada will be issued in England at an early date.

The decrease in the weekly traffic of the Scotch railways in consequence of the strike amounts to £27,000.

Two thousand colliers near Merthyr Tydvil, Wales, have quit work on account of alleged grievances.

The London Daily Telegraph says it is authorized to deny the report of Mr. Gladstone's intention of retiring from the Liberal leadership.

The reduction of postal rates between Great Britain and India and Australia has renewed the discussion on the proposal to establish ocean penny postage.

It is officially stated that 1,150,000 Christmas parcels have been delivered by the British post-office, of which 115,000 comprised turkeys, fowls, game and Christmas puddings.

Over 200 clerks employed in the post office savings bank in London, Eng., were suspended on Saturday because they disobeyed an order to remain on duty after hours.

It is stated that Mr. William O'Brien will not surrender to the British Government while the affairs of Ireland continue in their present unsettled state.

The *Insuppressible*, the organ of the McCarthyite faction, says Mr. Parnell will

marry Mrs. O'Shea as soon as the decree of divorce is made absolute.

No sun had been seen in London, Eng., for 36 days up to last Monday. Fog and frost have greatly hampered festivities and trade, and caused distress among the poor.

At the election of Mr. Meade on Monday as Lord Mayor of Dublin, Messrs. Sexton and Healy were roundly abused by the crowd present, but the mention of Mr. Parnell's name was cheered to the echo.

Mention is made of an Italian who has arrived in London with "an instantaneous, self-expanding, life-saving belt," so light that it can be worn day and night without the slightest inconvenience.

The London Daily News says that while it hopes the appeal from Dublin Castle for help for the West coast sufferers will be liberally responded to, the question must be asked why the Irish Government is dependent upon charity.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, speaking on Wednesday at Birmingham, said that after the Parnell scandal the Liberal-Unionists hoped the Liberals would admit their mistake and again march shoulder to shoulder in the ancient way of Liberalism.

Fire broke out in London, Eng., last Friday near the Blackfriars' bridge, and at one time threatened to consume a large portion of the city. It was got under control, however, when about \$2,000,000 damage had been done.

While a school fete was in progress at Wortley, near Leeds, on New Year's day, a little girl accidentally set fire to her skirts. Her girl companions, who were dressed in light muslin, rushed to her rescue and they were all quickly enveloped in flames. The gentlemen present did all they could to save the children, but seven girls were burned to death and over twenty were injured, some of them fatally.

UNITED STATES.

The net debt of the city of New York is \$93,054,418.

Mrs. John Clifton and three of her children starved to death on a farm in Kansas.

Emma Abbott, the celebrated cantatrice, died at Salt Lake City on Monday morning.

Negroes in large numbers are migrating from Kansas to Oklahoma.

The Y. M. C. A. of Chicago intend putting up a \$1,400,000 building.

The United States Government, it is rumored, will put seven more revenue cutters in the Behring Sea next season.

A syndicate of capitalists has offered the United States Government \$14,000,000 for Alaska.

Charles Williams, of Stoney Creek, Ont., belongs to the 8th U. S. Cavalry, and was in the fight when Sitting Bull was killed.

Reports from Eastern Colorado tell of awful destitution and famine among the settlers owing to the want of rain.

An experimental shipment of six car loads of dressed beef has been made from Fort Worth, Texas, to New York.

Stepniak, the distinguished Russian liberal writer, has arrived in New York accompanied by his wife.

Two women living near New Martinsville, W. Va., recently fought a duel with butcher's knives. One woman was fatally wounded and the other seriously injured.

A Washington correspondent says the frauds of the consular agents in Canada are assuming larger dimensions than at first anticipated.

There were, during the week ending Jan. 2, 253 companies organized in the United States, the total capitalisation being \$98,969,600.

Rev. Father Craft, the Indian missionary, who was shot and badly wounded in the fight at the camp of Big Foot, has died of his wounds.

The first official act of the lately Consolidated American Harvester Company, with headquarters in Chicago, will be the discharge of 10,000 workmen.

A fire in New York which destroyed the block containing the Fifth Avenue theatre on Friday night destroyed property to the value of \$567,000.

A Hamilton commission merchant has imported from New York 535 crates of eggs. They were selling there at 23 cents a dozen, while in the Ambitious city the price was 35 cents.

W. N. Cromwell, the assignee of Decker, Howell & Co., who failed in New York two months ago for \$12,000,000, announces that all claims of principal and interest will be paid in full on demand. The firm will resume business at once.

A Seattle, Wash., despatch says over 20 opium refineries are in full blast between there and Victoria, B. C., as well as other smaller establishments. Smuggling is constantly going on, and the despatch says wealthy men are backing the smugglers.

Andy Johnson, the Pineville, Ky., terror, who has killed at least 20 men, has been converted, and is now an exhorter, having taken the pulpit at several meetings in the mountain districts. The meetings are largely attended.

In the fight between Col. Forsythe's force and Big Foot's band of Indians on Monday, 25 soldiers were killed and 34 wounded. The number of Indians killed is not yet known, but the band is apparently pretty nearly exterminated. On Tuesday two Strike's band attacked a supply train and 33 of them were killed.

Mrs. Daniel Curran, aged 108 years, died at his home in Lima, Ohio, on Tuesday. He was in full possession of his faculties till the last. He leaves a brother in Bellefontaine who is 100 years old. He was born in Ireland, but had lived in America 75 years.

IN GENERAL.

The tombs of six Popes of ancient days have been discovered at Rome.

The Czar of Russia is one of the greatest old book collectors in Europe.

The weather continues intensely cold in Europe.

Many persons have been frozen to death in the vicinity of Trieste, and much damage has been done by the high winds.

Fifty persons were killed by the explosion in a coal pit near Ostrau, Poland, on Saturday.

Archbishop Fabre has left Rome for the south of France, and will embark for Canada early in February.

Four hundred Portuguese volunteers have landed at the mouth of the Pongave River, ready for service in Malacaland.

Monte Carlo has another victim in the person of Baron von Izny, a Bavarian nobleman, who committed suicide after ruining himself at play.

The Sultan of Turkey has conferred upon Mrs. Whitlaw Reid, of New York, the order of the Shekfat, the highest Turkish decoration that can be given to a woman.

Baron Hirsch, the wealthy banker of Vienna, will shortly subsidize schools for Jewesses in Galicia to the extent of half a million pounds.

The Indian conference meeting in Calcutta has decided to send a hundred native delegates to London, to show the English people the fitness of the natives of India to be treated as fellow-citizens by the British.

The public prosecutor of St. Etienne, France, has ordered the arrest of M. Dupond, a member of the municipal council charged with the murder of his mother, who was 80 years of age.

Lady Deros, who, in her youth was a noted belle and dancer at the historical ball at Brussels on the eve of the battle of Waterloo, is dead in London at a very advanced age.

The Queen Regent of Spain forwarded to the Pope a handsome malacca cane as a New Year's gift. When the Pope touched the cane the top opened, emitting a shower of gold pieces. The Pope was greatly pleased with the gift.

Fixed Allowances for Women.

If I were left with the society ladies of Washington to settle the question whether wives and daughters shall have fixed allowances for household and personal expenses, it would not be long before every woman in the land would be rejoicing in the possession of a purse whose replenishment would be regularly attended to. Of nine prominent ladies, including among others Mrs. Harrison, wife of President Harrison, Mrs. Field, wife of Justice Field, Mrs. Man derson, wife of the Senator from Nebraska, Mrs. Miller, wife of the Attorney-General, etc., all heartily commended the system save one, and even she did not oppose. Various benefits it is claimed would result from the practice; for example, self-reliance, orderly and business habits, economy, and domestic felicity. Mrs. Manderson gives an account of two cousins, one of whom was taught in this practical way the value of money, the other had all her wishes gratified without ever being called upon to consider where the money came from. "These two girls are now grown and at college. In the case of the latter the lack of early training has resulted in a helpless inability to manage for herself in the very simplest matters of practical importance. She at times actually weeps herself out in the effort to decide the common questions of everyday occurrence. Her more fortunate cousin, on the contrary, enjoys the satisfaction of understanding thoroughly how to manage her affairs in any and every emergency." Said Mrs. Harrison, "Nothing so completely fits one for every emergency in life, whether it be for prosperity or adversity, as a good, solid education in the all-important comprehension of a just estimate of money; and how else can this be obtained except by careful training in that much neglected branch of home education? Every wife thus trusted would endeavor to prove herself worthy of the confidence reposed in her, and our homes would be all the happier for the system."

In nearly every instance the ladies interviewed emphasize the advantage of the stated allowance system as it bears upon the question of domestic felicity. Mrs. Harrison believes such an arrangement is largely the secret of domestic happiness; Mrs. Field asserts that without it there can be no real domestic comfort; while Mrs. Miller is very emphatic and says: "I believe that more than half of our unhappy marriages are the direct result of this neglect, and the sooner husbands and fathers seriously consider the importance of granting a definite allowance to their wives and children the sooner will a reform be brought about in the extravagances of the present age." If these things be so the arguments are manifestly all on the one side, there being nothing that can in reason be urged against the allowance system. For if it tends to give a better and more economical management of wives and daughters, and if at the same time it tends to promote domestic comfort and happiness there is nothing left to be desired. The wonder is that where so many advantages are to be derived the custom is not more generally practiced. Probably the explanation in some cases is to be found in the saying of Mrs. Morrow: "Some husbands and fathers like to hold the purse strings simply as a slave to their vanity," though it is more likely that in the majority of cases where no fixed allowance is made the failure is due to a lack of serious consideration.

Trade With the West Indies.
The return of Hon. Mr. Foster, Finance Minister, from the West Indies, whither he had gone on a tour of observation and with a view of promoting closer trade relations between these islands and the Dominion, has again turned the attention of Canadians to the value of the West Indian trade. Time alone will determine the full results of Mr. Foster's visit, or how far the "warm feelings" which he states the islanders entertain for Canada will crystallize into action. But that these islands furnish a considerable market for many articles such as Canada produces there can be no question. In a single year they imported from the United States alone of wheat flour, over \$2,000,000 worth; bread and biscuits, \$297,480; live stock (including horses), \$181,972; beef, \$214,355; hog products, \$930,448, and so forth. Jamaica in 1889 there is no doubt the value of \$1,597,600 imported goods to the value of \$1,119,213; while Trinidad brought in from abroad goods to the value of \$2,099,101. No valid reason can be shown why Canada should not share in supplying the needs of these islanders and of receiving from them some of the articles which we ourselves import. We produce many of the articles which they require, such as flour, live stock, beef, woolen goods, etc., while they could furnish us with sugar, fruit, coffee, cocoa, etc. That the trade will increase after the islanders have had an opportunity of seeing for themselves what the Dominion can produce (which opportunity they will have at the forthcoming Jamaica exhibition) is beyond question. If now a reciprocal commercial arrangement were entered into, which is being seriously discussed, and each country would engage to favor the other in those things it has to export a large and profitable trade between the two countries might be speedily built up.

BY SEA TO SIBERIA.

Capt. Wiggins' Latest Triumph in Arctic Navigation.

A sea route to Siberia is the latest item of interest regarding the northern regions. Only a few years ago such an idea would have been deemed preposterous. Within a few weeks, indeed, there was but dim hope that certain expectations which had been formed would be fulfilled, and certain efforts which were being made in the direction of chimerical. What was so recently, however, only an idea has become a fact. A sea route to Siberia has been discovered, and the discovery has by those best qualified to judge been deemed an event of high importance—one of the most important in modern times.

Towards the end of July last two ships with a small tug for the river work were despatched from London, their instructions being that they should penetrate the Kara Sea, enter the estuary of the Yenisei and proceed as far up the river as possible. The two ships, with the little tug, made the voyage bravely, without any accident, from London to Karaoul, 160 miles up the Yenisei, in thirty-nine days. The voyage was accomplished in this space of time in spite of strong and continuous northeasterly winds and heavy ice floes which occasioned no little delay. They remained at Karaoul nineteen days and took twenty-six days to return to London. The entire trip, it will thus be seen, covered eighty-four days, or two months and twenty-three days.

Yeniseisk, the capital of the province of the same name, is about 1,500 miles up the Yenisei from its mouth, or about 1,350 from Karaoul. The town has a population of from eight to ten thousand and is the centre of trade for a large part of the interior. At Karaoul the ships halted and the cargoes were transferred to the riverine boats in return. Making allowance for the distance between Karaoul and Yeniseisk, the calculation was that when the ships had reached London the rich cargoes which they had taken from the Thames in July would just be finding storage at the docks of the Siberian city.

The immediate practical result of this latest expedition, the first of a really commercial character, is the virtual establishment of a sea route to the very heart of Siberia, which means the establishment of a new trade outlet and probably a most prosperous trade centre. Of course, it is well known that the Kara Sea is not navigable at all seasons of the year; but as a result of this voyage the conclusion has been reached that if Siberia-bound vessels do not leave British ports later than the first week in August they will have sufficient time to reach Karaoul, exchange their cargoes and accomplish the home voyage the same season. It has been further determined for vessels of heavy draught, from the peculiar character of the estuary of the Yenisei. It is broad as well as long, studded with numerous islands, and swept continuously almost by northeasterly winds. The water, it was believed, was shallow, and from these various causes the conviction had been arrived at that the navigation of the estuary would be perilous to vessels of any draught. This delusion, which proved fatal to the expedition of last year, has also been dispelled. On this last occasion the two merchantmen, with the little tug, sailed up the estuary nearly two hundred miles, exchanged cargoes with a flotilla from the upper reaches of the river, and sailed home again. The conclusion is not unwarranted that there is no serious hindrance to navigation in the ordinary conditions of the estuary of the Yenisei.

How has this revolution been brought about? Like most other results of a similar kind, it is the fruit of much labor and personal self-sacrifice. Originally engaging the time and attention and the means of one man, the scheme came to interest many persons of means and influence; but from first to last it has been distinctively a private enterprise. Capt. Wiggins is to be credited with the paternity of the idea; and since 1874 he has made fifteen voyages to give his idea practical shape. At first he worked on his own means, and when these were exhausted, assistance began to come to him from outside sources. Latterly a sort of syndicate was formed, and prominent among Wiggins' friends and helpers were Mr. Albert Gray and the Milburns, the great shipping firm of Newcastle and London. In April of last year an appeal was made in the shape of a confidential circular inviting subscriptions. Money came in from private individuals all over the country, and Wiggins was able to set out in his little ship Labrador, although a little too late, as experience proved, to make what some were pleased to think would be not only the final experimental trip, but one which should settle the question of the feasibility of a sea route to Siberia. Wiggins reached the Kara Sea and sailed to the mouth of the Yenisei. In none of his former voyages had he encountered so much ice. He feared to penetrate the estuary. At the mouth of the estuary he waited for the riverine boats waited for the Labrador. The result was that they never met. Total want of funds at the beginning of the year forced Wiggins and the Labrador to South America, but the voyage was so arranged that if a fresh expedition were arranged for the present year, the captain, his boat and well-trained men could be on hand. Unhappily, however, the boat met with an accident and had to be laid up in dock. When the expedition which had ended so fortunately was arranged, Wiggins was unable to come on and take charge.

The captain, it is understood, is greatly chagrined because he has failed to seize the prize which was so nearly within his grasp. There are many who sympathize with him. It ought, however, to be some consolation to the captain that the two ships which traversed the Kara Sea were in charge of old Labrador mates, and that his brother was in command of the tug. Besides the work is not all over. He has the possible glory of future years before him. The enterprise is and ever will be associated with his name, and if he has not made the final discovery he has the satisfaction of knowing, and of knowing that the world knows it, that but for him the discovery would not now be made.

What is the value of this discovery? Its value is mainly commercial. There are people who now are disposed to belittle the value of Siberia. Good enough, they say, as a place of exile for Nihilists, but that is all. Such was not the opinion of Capt. Wiggins during his voyages. Such is not his opinion

now. Such has never been the opinion of his friends. And such is not the opinion of some of the men best acquainted with the regions which this new sea route promises to open up. To one of the promoters of the undertaking Baron Nordenskjöld recently wrote: "Allow me to express my most cordial compliments and well wishes to the energetic and foresighted promoters of the undertaking. I am persuaded that its success will at once be regarded as an event rivaling in importance the return to Portugal of the first fleet loaded with merchandise from India. Siberia surpasses the North American continent as to the extent of cultivatable soil. The Siberian forests are the largest in the world. Its mineral resources are immense, its climate, excepting the Tundra and the northernmost forest region, healthy, and as favorable for culture of cereals as any part of Europe." This may be a somewhat rose-colored picture, which time and further discovery may dim. But it is the language of a man who knows more about the region of which he speaks than any other man in Europe or America. And it is undeniable that in those very regions through which the Yenisei runs there are gold fields which might be profitably worked, and corn lands which are only awaiting the facilities of transit to compete with India and Southern Russia, and possibly even North America. The future, of course, will be greatly dependent on the attitude which the Russian Government may assume. If no hindrances are offered from this quarter a new field of enterprise has been thrown open to the world.

Barbaric Splendor.

W. S. Caine writes from India of his visit to the maharajah of Baroda: "We were taken to the old palace in the heart of the city to see the treasure room. Two huge chests, carefully muzzled, used for hunting bucks, were on the palace steps. The regalia of Baroda is valued at £3,000,000 sterling. We were first shown jewels worn by the maharajah on state occasions. These consist of a gorgeous collar of 500 diamonds, some of them as big as walnuts, arranged in five rows, surrounded by a top and bottom row of emeralds of the same size; the pendant is a famous diamond called 'The Star of the Deccan'; an aigrette to match is worn in the turban; then followed strings of pearls of perfect roundness, graduated from the size of a pea to that of a large marble; wondrous rings, necklaces, clusters of sapphires and rubies as big as grapes. The greatest marvel of all is a carpet about 10 by 6 feet, made entirely of strings of pure and colored pearls, with great central and corner circles of diamonds. This carpet took three years to make and cost £200,000. This was one of Khande Rao's mad freaks, and was intended to be sent to Mecca to please a Mohammedan lady who had fascinated him; but the scandal of such a thing being done by a Hindoo prince was too serious, and it never left Baroda. We were also taken to see two guns, weighing 280 pounds each, of solid gold, with two companions of silver, the ammunition wagons, bullock harness and ramrods all being silver."

A New Penal Colony.

Following the example of England in former days, Germany is said to be considering the advisability of transporting certain classes of her criminals to the newly acquired German possessions in East Africa. The scheme provides that when taken to Africa, the convicts are not to be kept under punishment, but are to be furnished with allotments of land, and with the means of cultivating them. Credit for the project, which is finding very general favor with the members of the Reichstag, is given to the philanthropic and innovating young Kaiser. Certainly, the scheme is open to the objection that bad men whom the restraints of civilization cannot hold in check are likely to be less careful in observing the rights of their fellowmen when no longer under the influence of these restraints. And this is true of men hopelessly and altogether bad. But oftentimes a man's surroundings are more to blame for his conduct than the perversity of his own heart; and, were he given a new chance in a different environment he would gladly attempt the work of reforming his life. It is a fact of history that not a few of the Australian colonists who now stand well as reputable and prosperous citizens are the descendants of convicts whom the British authorities transported a generation ago to that far-off island. The attempt is at least worth trying.

Cruelty to the Indians.

According to a despatch from Pine Ridge, the centre of the Indian uprising, the United States troops have not been showing that mercy towards the helpless that is generally expected of civilized men. The despatch reads: "The Indian women and children ran to the south, the battery firing rapidly as they ran. Soon the mounted troops were after them, shooting them on every side." This action is in striking contrast with the conduct of General Middleton during the late Northwest rebellion. Before opening fire on Batoche the General sent a message to Reil asking him to place all the women and children in one place, so that the troops could avoid injuring them. There is, however, reason to suspect the correctness of the above despatch, for in Gen. Brooke's telegram of Dec. 30, it is stated that, "the women and children broke for the hills when the fight commenced, and comparatively few of them were hurt and few brought in; 39 are here, of which number 21 were wounded." It is to be hoped that when the full accounts are received it will be found that no such cold-blooded slaughter as that described in the Pine Ridge despatch ever took place. Such an atrocity could not be excused in savages much less in men claiming to be civilized and Christianized.

Grounds for Divorce in Italy.

We subjoin a few of the reasons given for claiming legal separation on the part of married couples in Italy: One man called his wife's sister a thief. A husband had beaten his wife's pet dog. Another constantly chewed tobacco. A third cut off his wife's curls without her consent. A fourth refused to take his wife out for a walk. A fifth compelled his wife to sit up talking with him after midnight when she would have preferred going to sleep. One lady refused to sew on her husband's trousers buttons. Another lazily stayed in bed till noon every day. A third would not let her husband go near the fire on a cold winter's day. A fourth "lady" dragged her husband out of bed by his beard. A fifth went strolling round the town instead of attending to her domestic duties. —[Carriere di Napoli.