

THE NEWS OF THE WEEK

THE VERY LATEST FROM ALL THE WORLD OVER.

Interesting Items About Our Own Country, Great Britain, the United States, and All Parts of the Globe, Condensed and Assorted for Easy Reading.

CANADA.

Wheat reached the remarkable price of \$1.12 at Fort William.

Canada's trade returns show an excess for the current year of \$38,715,904.

The cornerstone of the new Canadian Pacific Railway buildings at Vancouver was laid on Tuesday.

Passenger rates to Alaska from Vancouver have dropped, the fare to Dyea and Skagway being now \$25.

The Molsons Bank, Montreal, started their \$125,000 stone block on Hastings street, Vancouver, on Tuesday.

A coroner is investigating the supposed murder of Geo. Bayard, an elderly French-Canadian, near Montreal.

Work has been commenced on the first factory to use electric power developed on the Canadian side of Niagara Falls.

The management of both, the great railway systems at Montreal deny that there is any trouble with the telegraphers.

The Kingston Board of Trade favours the plan of harbor improvements for Montreal to be made by the Dominion Government.

A Hamilton deputation to Montreal complained of discrimination in passenger rates against Hamilton in favor of Toronto.

Three million whitefish fry are being placed in Lake Huron, near Point Edward, on the Canadian side, by the Sandwich fish hatchery.

Mrs. Mary Sloan of Hamilton was given carbolic acid by her daughter in mistake for cough medicine. She is in a precarious condition.

One of the C.P.R. surveying parties on the proposed new line from Toronto to North Bay has reached a point within eight miles of Barrie.

Allan Robinson is in the hospital at Kingston with a fractured skull. He was struck by a stone from a sling in the hands of a companion.

The first fatal accident in connection with the reconstruction of the Victoria Bridge, Montreal, occurred, John Britton falling into the river and drowning.

Members of the Canadian posts of the Grand Army of the Republic are being invited to enlist in the United States army for active service or fortification work.

Lorenzo Stevens, a London bailiff, went to seize an organ at Mrs. Margaret Piper's house. Someone poured boiling water on his head. Mrs. Piper was arrested and bailed.

General Manager Hays held out little hope of the G.T.R. interesting itself in stockyards in Hamilton. The G.T.R. already carries 92 per cent. of all the cattle brought to Hamilton.

Mr. L. A. Hamilton, the Land Commissioner of the Canadian Pacific Railway at Winnipeg, expects a very busy season, particularly in regard to the work in Southern British Columbia.

Mr. J. A. Sheedy, of the Illinois Bridge Works, Chicago, has been appointed master of bridges and buildings on the Grand Trunk Railway system, in place of William Crawford, of London, resigned.

There was deposited in the Post-Office Savings Bank of Canada, during March, \$236,677, and withdrawn \$247,779, leaving a balance on hand of \$15,522,912 on the 31st March, compared with \$15,534,415 on the 28th February last.

At Hamilton a jury sought to give a man named Geoghegan \$800 damages for injuries received while employed by the Grand Trunk but as the verdict also admitted that Geoghegan could Meredith gave judgment for the company.

At a special meeting of the St. Thomas City Council a by-law was passed granting the Board of Education \$36,000 to rebuild Central and Balaclava Street Schools. A by-law to grant a bonus of \$20,000 to the Lake Erie & Detroit River Railway will be submitted to a vote of the ratepayers.

Acting Mayor Hubbard, of Toronto, was interviewed by a deputation of United Empire Loyalists on Tuesday. They desired to have flags floated on the civic building on May 18, Loyalist's day. Flags will float over the public buildings in Ontario, and the Minister of Education has given orders to the teachers to instruct the pupils in United Empire Loyalist subjects.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Forty-one lives are thought to have been lost by the fire in Whitwick colliery in Leicestershire.

The report that the Cunard line steamers Umbria and Etruria, have been sold to the United States is denied.

Robt. Chapman, who was with the Foot Guards at Queen Victoria's marriage and who served through the entire Crimean campaign, died recently at London.

Great Britain has secured a decisive coup in China, a British syndicate having got a 60-year concession of an enormous coal and iron deposit, 250 miles by 40 in extent.

In London the rush of applicants for enlistment in the United States army or navy, continues between forty and fifty English and Irish sailors or soldiers having applied for enlistment at the United States consulate on Monday morning.

UNITED STATES.

E. S. Willard, the English actor, is

still ill in bed at Chicago, but is gradually improving.

Rear Admiral John C. Walker, retired may be the successor of Theodore Roosevelt, as Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

Two workmen were killed and three seriously injured by the falling roof trusses on the walls of the State armoury at Newbury, N.Y., on Monday.

The father of the late Margaret Mather the actress, intends to contest his daughter's will, which left everything to her lawyer, Horatio C. King, who says the estate will not pay the debts.

The New York Board of Aldermen unanimously adopted a resolution on Tuesday requesting the heads of the various city departments to grant leave of absence on full pay to all city employees who enter the volunteer army.

Thos. Mead Bram, the murderer of Captain Nash of the barkentine Hercules, was again proved guilty at Boston. The verdict carried with it the words, "Without capital punishment," under a law enacted since the first trial.

GENERAL.

Hayti will not help Spain in procuring supplies. Spain has no coal in Hayti.

All vessels arriving at St. John's, Nfld., report rough experiences in the ice fields.

An attempt has been made to assassinate the Nawab of Dir, near Chitral, India.

Operations of the Anglo-Egyptian forces against the Dervishes have been suspended until July.

Ex-Prime Minister Crispien, who recently resigned from the Italian Chamber of Deputies has been re-elected.

The report that ex-President Crispien of Venezuela has been killed in battle with the insurgents is confirmed.

Prime Minister Melie, of France, in a pre-election speech at Remiremont yesterday, eulogized the foreign policy of France.

The President of the Haytian Republic, and that of Santo Domingo, have agreed to submit to the Pope their boundary dispute.

A decree published at Vienna, on Wednesday, forbids the importation of American fresh fruits. The action is the result of the San Jose scale scare.

A Berlin paper gives currency to the statement that Spain is negotiating for a loan in England, offering England a tenure of the Philippine Islands until the loan is repaid.

Subject to further regulations, the governor of Shan Si Province, China, has granted a concession to an Anglo-Italian syndicate to work the coal and iron deposits in that province.

It is stated in Berlin that Spain, unable to wait until her orders for guns at Krupp's cannon factory are executed, has been trying to purchase guns elsewhere in Germany. She has not been able to secure any yet, as the Government looks askance at all such propositions.

WILL BUILD TO HUDSON'S BAY.

This Will Be the Ultimate Objective Point of the Dauphin Railway.

A despatch from Winnipeg, says:—

Resolutions were introduced in the Legislature on Tuesday to aid the Winnipeg and South-Eastern railway from Winnipeg to a point on the Rainy River to the extent of 88,000 a mile, and also to similarly aid the extension of the Lake Manitoba Railway and Canal Company's line from Sifton to Saskatchewan river, the bonds to bear 4 per cent. interest, and the Government to have a first mortgage on the lines aided as security for the payment of the interest. In connection with the last mentioned line, the Government is to receive 256,000 acres of land in lieu of bonds bonded over to the old Hudson's Bay Railway Company in 1886, for which no security was obtained. Eighty miles of the Winnipeg and South-Eastern are to be built this year, and the balance to Rainy River next year.

Sixty-five miles of the line to Saskatchewan is also to be built this year and the balance next. Both are treated primarily as colonization roads, but the ultimate end in view is a line to Lake Superior in one case and to Hudson's Bay in the other.

A gentleman prominently connected with Wm. McKenzie says:—"The Dauphin railway is going to Hudson's Bay, of that you may be assured. The line will be built in sections year by year, and the country colonized as construction proceeds, so that it will be self-supporting by means of local traffic from the very outset."

UP GOES THE PRICE OF BREAD.

Montreal Bakers Announce an Increase Commencing This Week.

The price of flour having gone up 35 cents per barrel, the Montreal bakers will raise the price of bread this week one or two cents a loaf. The bakers state that for some time the price of flour has not been compatible with the price of wheat, nor the price of wheat on a par with the price of flour.

THE END NEAR.

The Rev. Stephen Gladstone Requests Prayers for His Father.

A despatch from London, says:—During the services of the Hawarden church on Sunday morning the rector, the Rev. Stephen Gladstone, a son of the old statesman, requested the prayers of the congregation for Mr. Gladstone. The rector was much affected as he made the request in behalf of his father, and his hearers also showed emotion. The request is taken to mean that the end is very near.

THE RESOURCES OF CUBA.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE PEARL OF THE ANTILLES.

What Can Be Done on a Thirty-Three Acre Farm—Commerce of the Island—Resources and Population—Minerals and Metals Found in Plenty—A Land Flowing With Milk and Honey.

Now that Cuba is hoping for her freedom it may be interesting to inquire into the resources of the country and ask what may be her prospects for prosperity, when she is no longer restrained and overtaxed by the greedy government of Spain. The area of Cuba is about 42,000 square miles. Its greatest length is 760 miles, and its breadth ranges from 20 to 135 miles. Perhaps there is no space of earth the equal in size to Cuba that can begin to compare with her in the production of those things that are useful to man.

Antonio Morales, a noted authority has prepared a table showing the variety and quantities of the staples that can be raised on a tract of thirty-three acres in Cuba. A farm of that size in one year produces thousands of pounds of sugar, coffee, tobacco, cacao, (chocolate), cotton, indigo, corn, rice, sage, bananas and yuca. With its mild climate, its exuberant vegetation and the eagerness of the earth to respond to the slightest efforts in the way of culture, Cuba offers an ideal home for the man in love with the agricultural life.

THE COMMERCE OF CUBA.

Even under the blighting rule of the Spaniards, has been great. In 1893, before the curse of war fell on the island, Cuba exported 718,204 tons of sugar and produced 815,894 tons. Its exports of molasses to the United States alone in that year were 7,654 hogsheads. Of rum the exports were 9,308 pipes. In 1893 the Cuban exports of leaf tobacco were 227,865 bales. Of manufactured cigars 147,865,000 were exported and of cigarettes 39,581,493 packages. These are only the main exports. They show what may be done with the exhausted soil and climate of the island when its people were in a condition of virtual slavery at a time when chattel slavery had been abolished only seven years. Cuba's chief industries were growing in spite of the drain upon her before the present war began, for in 1894 her total production of sugar was 1,054,214 tons, an increase of 238,320 tons over the preceding year.

THE NATURAL RESOURCES

of Cuba are infinite, one may say, in variety. Of her area only 10 per cent. is under cultivation, 7 per cent. is not reclaimed, and 4 per cent. is under forests. Great tracts of the island are practically unexplored. She had in 1894 a population of a little more than 1,500,000. Of these nearly one-third have been starved to death during the present war. Cuba could support in plenty a population of 10,000,000. Her forests are stocked with the finest wood in the world—wood, several species of which are as hard as iron, turning the edge of the ax and remaining imperishable under water. There are found woods invaluable for the dye industry, ebony, cedar, fustic lance-wood, mahogany, rosewood, jooma, acana and many others. There are fifty varieties of palm. Her fruits are valuable and little cultivated. The climate is admirably suited for the olive; and the orange, the lemon, the pineapple and the banana are indigenous.

THE MINERAL RESOURCES

of the island are great, yet the mineral industries are in their infancy. Almost all the metals are found in Cuba. There are gold, silver, mercury, copper, lead and all the forms of asphaltum; antimony, magnesia, coppers, gypsum, red lead, ochre, salt, arsenic, talc and many others. Copper is abundant in all the metamorphic rocks of Cuba. It is true that coal is yet undiscovered, but under a free capital would flow into the island and there is no doubt that true coal would soon be found to replace the bitumen that is now used and which is found in springs and mines in great quantities.

Cuba is rich in marble, awaiting the capital of the speculator. Great deposits of this rock are found and in the Isle of Pines there is marble of a quality as fine as the best of that material used by the sculptor. Beautifully colored marble and jasper are common. On the coasts are immense deposits of rock salt, and there are also unlimited quantities of the

PUREST WHITE SAND,

capable of being converted into fine earthenware. Even the illustrious Humboldt was amazed at the richness and variety of the mineral wealth of Cuba. How much of this wealth has been utilized may be gathered from the fact that at the end of 1891 the total number of mining titles issued in Santiago district was 296. Of these 138 were iron, 88 manganese and 53 copper. As a pastoral country Cuba was more productive a century ago than she is now, but her pastures are broad, and rich and the possibilities are unlimited. Cuba, with her grand natural pastures, was just beginning to raise fine Durham and Devonshire stock when the ten-year war desolated the country and put a stop to the industry. The millions of acres of free land in Cuba are ready for the agriculturist, the cattle, sheep and hog raiser, the cotton and fruit grower, the miner and the reducing plant, and even for the silk grower and manufacturer.

THE MULBERRY TREE

grows to perfection in the island. Silkworms, according to Dr. Auber, are more prolific and productive in Cuba than in any other country on the face of the globe. Here is a land prepared to yield up utilities that will add immeasurably to the happiness of the world; waiting to blossom into a gar-

den and to swarm with population; to develop almost every art of peace; to be converted into an industrial microcosm, in the macrocosm of the world at large. Cuba is waiting the hour when the capitalist, assured of peace and uninterrupted growth, may safely enter and reap the harvest which nature has prepared for man in the misruled, throttled and neglected Pearl of the Antilles.

ANGLO-SAXONS SOLID.

Opinions Collected From Various Parts of the British Empire.

The London Daily Mail, under the caption "Anglo-Saxons Solid," on Wednesday morning prints opinions collected by its correspondents in many parts of the British Empire respecting the action of the United States. In the introduction to the opinions the paper says:—"The solidarity of Anglo-Saxon sentiment is, perhaps, the most noticeable feature that the Spanish-American dispute has brought into prominence." The paper gives extracts from the Canadian and Newfoundland press favourable to the United States; The Shanghai correspondent says:—"The feeling here is strongly pro-American. The Shanghai Mercury declares that America is acting in the interests of peace, civilization, and good government. The North China Daily News and the Daily Press are also favorable to the American cause." The Singapore correspondent says:—"The Free Press declares that the interposition of the United States is practically the penalty inflicted by civilization for failure. The Philippine Islands will probably share in the liberation. Their people are little known, but they are highly intelligent. They are quite capable of guiding their own destinies. The flag of an American admiral would be hailed in the Philippines as the symbol of new-world liberty." The reporter of the Daily Mail in Sydney, N.S.W., says:—"The Spanish-American dispute is not fervently discussed here, but the press and public sympathy are with the American side. One hundred New South Wales men have visited the American Consul and offered to enlist in the service of the United States." The press of Kingston, Jamaica strongly upholds the righteousness of America's cause and quotations in proof of this are given. In Malta public feeling is on the side of the United States. The Bombay correspondent says that the Indian press is unanimous in recognizing the right of the United States to intervene in Cuba, and wishes the Americans success. In Rangoon the press and public warmly support the United States.

WILL FIGHT ON THE SEA.

Flying Squadron to Sail to Meet the Spanish Fleet Now at Cape Verde.

A despatch from Washington says:—Appreciating that Havana is the key to the military situation in Cuba, Rear-Admiral Sampson, commander-in-chief of the North Atlantic squadron, has confined the blockade he has instituted to ports connecting by railroad with that city. Rear-Admiral Sampson has also taken measures to blockade the port of San Juan, Porto Rico, and within the next few days official announcement of this blockade will be made. Naturally officials will not say that Rear-Admiral Sampson has moved against Porto Rico, but there is reason to believe that some of the ships have been sent to San Juan, and the American flying squadron has been held in reserve for the difficult work of placing hors de combat the Spanish fleet now at the Cape Verde Islands.

Secretary Long was in conference on Friday with the Naval War Board, discussing the next move the Government should make. This was the first time Secretary Long has been present at a meeting of the board. He listened attentively to the discussion of the naval experts, and entered into it with a decision and judgment that was well appreciated by the officers with whom he conferred. As soon as war is formally declared by Congress, it is confidently expected that orders will be sent to the flying squadron to proceed to sea for the purpose of giving battle to the Spanish squadron now at St. Vincent. Before the battle takes place, however, Commodore Schley's fleet will be reinforced.

BIG BLAZE AT VANCOUVER.

Stimson's Wharf and Other Buildings Destroyed.

A despatch from Vancouver, B. C., says:—About 1 o'clock on Thursday morning the water front was visited by the most disastrous fire that has occurred in this city since the great fire that destroyed Vancouver in 1886. Stimson's wharf was destroyed, also part of the buildings of the New England Fish Company, of Boston, and several C.E.R. cars filled with valuable freight. Further, the fire burned up two hundred tons of hay, wagons, and contractors' outfit for the Yukon railway. McKenzie and Mann, contractors, tin and other cannery supplies were also burned. The damage amounts to thousands of dollars.

DERVISHES GIVEN A REST.

General Kitchener Has Suspended Operations Until July.

A despatch from Cairo, says:—General Sir Herbert Kitchener, the commander-in-chief of the Anglo-Egyptian forces, has ordered all the newspaper correspondents back from the front, and operations against the dervishes have been suspended until July.

HOLDS THE TRUMP CARD.

BRITAIN HAS SECURED GREAT COAL FIELDS IN CHINA.

A Triumph in Diplomacy—A Valuable Tract in the Shansi Province Conceded in a syndicate of Englishmen.

The London correspondent of the New York Evening Post turns from the all-absorbing topic—the Spanish-American war—long enough to wire the following to his paper regarding what is going on in the far East:—"The British policy of the open door, in pursuit of which the British Government recently sought, and still desires, the co-operation of the United States, has this week made a decisive coup in North China. A group of English capitalists among whom may be named Baron Rothschild, Earl Mayo and Mr. Causton, the last of whom is associated with Cecil Rhodes in the South African Chartered Company, calling themselves a Pekin syndicate have secured, after a long diplomatic tussle between England, Russia and France, a sixty-year concession of the enormous coal and iron fields 250 miles by 40, in the Shansi province. The value of the concession may be gauged by the fact that Baron von Richthofen estimated that the anthracite alone from it would meet the coal consumption of the world for over 2,000 years, while the British railway now under construction through this region gives a new artery of free commerce in China, and vastly increases Britain's hold on North China.

A BRITISH TRIUMPH.

"By securing Wei-Hai-Wei British diplomacy scored a triumph, but mainly a naval triumph. By securing these concessions in Shansi, Lord Salisbury and Sir Claude MacDonald, the British Minister at Pekin, have shown the reality of the policy of the 'open door,' for they did it in the face of the most active opposition of Russian diplomacy at Pekin, aided by France. With a bountiful supply of the best coal on the spot, Great Britain holds a trump card in the commercial game in the North Pacific.

ITALY IN IT.

"It is not a little significant that in the pursuit of this policy of the 'open door' Lord Salisbury solicited, and obtained the active diplomatic support of the Italian Government, while it is noteworthy that Charles Rudini, the Italian Premier, is himself a member of the syndicate, and is now in Shansi. In connection therewith Lord Salisbury, who is expected back again at the Foreign Office from the South of France in restored health, himself initiated the diplomatic negotiations which resulted in this concession. Their success doubtless proved the best possible tonic after the influenza, from which he now has almost completely recovered. "There has been some silly newspaper talk this week about Lord Salisbury's illness having been diplomatic in character. This is absolutely untrue. His illness was so real as to compel immediate rest, but never once has he allowed himself to consider his retirement either from the Prime Ministership or the Foreign Secretaryship. He retains both positions.

BRITAIN FULLY PREPARED.

Announcement By Sir Michael Hicks-Beach in the House of Commons.

In the course of his budget statement in the House of Commons on Thursday, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said:—"Such an event, so important towards us, as a probable war between members of the great family of civilized nations must cause anxiety to us, however remote it might seem from anything connected with our own immediate interest. If war comes we must all pray that it will be brief. (Cheers.) "I have carefully considered the matter, but I can see no reason to consider that we need anticipate anything which will injuriously affect materially our revenue or our expenditure. "But in any case," the Chancellor of the Exchequer explained, "our resources and the soundness of our financial policy will enable us to bear successfully any strain, however great, that might be put upon the endurance or patriotism of our country."

BRITAIN WOULD LEARN.

Captain Lee of Kingston, Ordered to Watch U. S. Army Manoeuvres.

A despatch from Kingston says:—Captain Lee, of the Royal Military College, has received instructions from the British Government to leave for Washington Saturday, and proceed to Cuba with the United States troops. The English military authorities are desirous of being informed of the manoeuvring of the American military men, and have selected Captain Lee to look after the information.

MANILA PANIC STRICKEN.

Spanish Families are all Leaving the Philippine Islands.

A special despatch from Singapore says: That the steamship Leo XIII. from Manila, has arrived there crowded with Spanish officials and well-to-do Spanish families, who are escaping from the rebellion which is spreading rapidly in the Philippines. They report that Manila is panic-stricken.