

ECHOES OF THE WEEK

European.

The weather on the continent during the past week has been extremely cold. Several persons have been frozen to death in the French provinces.

A party of Polish peasants, who some time ago emigrated from Odessa to Brazil, in the belief that by so doing their condition would be greatly improved, have returned to their homes in a destitute condition. They state that they found it to be impossible to gain a livelihood in Brazil by any means.

The finding of the body of a murdered man in the barracks of the Guards at St. Petersburg, linked with a succession of discoveries of nude corpses in a ditch alongside of the drilling ground has brought to light a series of robberies and murders committed by soldiers of the Pawlowsky regiment and Imperial guards.

The painter Verestchagin writes to the Vienna press that the selling of the "Angelus" and the re-selling to France was a bogus transaction, being part of a trick of American art dealers to enhance the value of the painting. Verestchagin says Sutton, the supposed purchaser, made a similar offer to him which he declined.

An attempt was made on Monday to blow up by dynamite a building in Paris, a city of northern Italy. The scene of the explosion was the house in that city in which King Charles Albert of Sardinia resided in 1848. Although the dynamite was exploded in the building it was only slightly damaged. In the confusion which ensued the culprits succeeded in making their escape.

The Duke of Devonshire, who has for a long time been lying ill died on Monday evening. By his death his eldest son, the Marquis of Hartington, succeeds to the peerage, thus leaving a vacancy in the House of Commons for the Northeast division of Lancashire. The late duke had never really recovered from the shock caused by the tragic death of his son Lord Frederick Cavendish, who on May 6, 1882, shortly after being appointed Chief Secretary for Ireland, was assassinated in Phoenix park, Dublin, with Under Secretary Thomas H. Burke.

Sir Charles Russell, counsel for the plaintiff in the action for libel brought by Mrs. Osborne, wife of Capt. Osborne, against Mrs. Hargreave, wife of Major Hargreave, to-day announced to the court that acting under instructions from Capt. Osborne he withdrew the case. Sir Charles Russell announced in addition that Mr. and Mrs. Osborne accepted a verdict for the defendants. The case first became known to the public through a suit brought by Mrs. Hargreave to secure the return of certain jewellery, or its value, from a firm of jewellers doing business in Gracechurch street. The jewellery in question was a pair of diamond earrings and two pear-shaped pearls, which had been stolen from her residence at Brighton and sold to the jewellers in London. It transpired that in this trial Mrs. Osborne was charged with stealing the jewellery and out of this charge grew the charge of libel which has just been withdrawn. The evidence showed that the class of society in which the parties move is not noted for high moral qualities. Mrs. Osborne now admits that she stole the jewellery, and that she sold it to the jeweller for £550.

American.

The Pacific mail steamship City of Pekin arrived on Monday at San Francisco from the Orient with smallpox aboard. She has been placed in quarantine. The City of Pekin brings no news of importance, but she has on board \$2,000,000 worth of silks.

Another crank paid a visit to Russell Sage's house on Saturday night and demanded \$2,500, threatening to kill the millionaire if the money was not forthcoming. He was promptly put out by Mrs. Sage, who described her visitor as a man anyway between 28 and 35 years of age, well dressed, but with a wild and hungry look.

Two indictments have been returned against Edward M. Field by the grand jury. Both specify grand larceny in the first degree and are based on the complaint made by Frank J. Sprague, who charges Field with the larceny of 350 shares of Edison Electric light stock, which he gave as collateral for borrowed money.

Charles Lemuss has for a score of years been a well known and popular citizen of West Hoboken. He owned considerable property, and having no occasion to work, spent his time enjoying himself. Mr. Lemuss had one failing, and this was a morbid desire to commit suicide. Several years ago he cut open the veins of his left arm with an axe, but he was saved against his will. He has also tried other ways, but without success, and he lived a disappointed man. On Tuesday night Lemuss' son called on him and they spent several hours together. After his son left Lemuss walked out of the back door of his house and stood on the Erie railroad track smoking a

cigar. It was dark and the flagman at the crossing near by did not see him until the headlight of an engine with a long line of freight cars flashed on him standing there quietly. It was too late to save the man and the next moment he was crushed into a shapeless mass and scattered over the railroad for a distance of three blocks. A force of coroner's men spent two and a half hours collecting the remains. Fifty dollars in bills and change has been picked up along the track where Lemuss was killed.

Judge Ingraham has rendered a decision in the suit of the city vs. the New York Elevated Railroad company in favor of the city. A suit was instituted against the Railroad company to collect five per cent. on the net receipts of the New York Elevated Railroad company, which is alleged to be due under the charter of the West Side, Yonkers and Manhattan Railroad company, to which the New York Elevated succeeded. It is said that if the decision is upheld it will cost something like \$10,000,000 to settle with the city.

Canadian.

The Trades and Labor Council of Quebec have petitioned the city council to pay the corporation laborers not less than \$1 per day.

Diphtheria is prevalent in Quebec city. Quite a number of new cases were reported during the week. Scarlet fever of a mild type is also reported.

After morning service in St. Augustin's Anglican church, Toronto, on Sunday, the bailiffs took possession and locked up the church on the orders of the Gooderham family, who have been unable to collect some years' interest on an \$18,000 mortgage on the property.

The sale of lands for arrears of taxes took place at the city hall, Toronto, on Tuesday. One hundred and seventy parcels were put up for taxes, aggregating \$13,000. The properties, nearly all in the outlying wards, were purchased during the boom in real estate at high prices and now in many cases allowed by the owners to be sold for unpaid taxes.

Rev. Dr. Stafford, of Hamilton, the well-known Methodist preacher, died on Monday afternoon after an illness of about four weeks. Deceased was one of the best known clergymen of the Methodist persuasion in Canada, having been pastor of the largest churches of his denomination in the various cities of the Dominion. The reverend gentleman was very popular while resident here.

The agitation for Sunday street cars in Toronto has resulted in the city council passing a resolution to submit the question to a vote of the ratepayers on the day of the municipal elections. Those opposed to the people being asked to vote on such a matter presented to the council a petition signed by 14,000 persons, but notwithstanding this the aldermen, by a vote of 18 to 5, relegated the question to the citizens.

The new Provincial Cabinet was sworn in on Monday afternoon. It is constituted as follows:—C. B. De Boucherville, premier and president of the council; T. C. Casgrain, attorney-general; G. A. Nantel, commissioner of public works; E. J. Flynn, commissioner of crown lands; J. S. Hall, provincial treasurer; Louis Beaubien, commissioner of agriculture; L. P. Pelletiere, provincial secretary; L. R. Massoe, L. J. Tallion, J. McIntosh, ministers without portfolio.

The death is announced of Lieut.-Col. David Wylie, of Brockville, who was widely known as the "father of the Canadian Press." He was a native of Scotland, having been born in 1811, and was for some time connected with the press of England and Scotland, at one period of his history being engaged in the famous Anti Corn Law Circular promoted by Richard Cobden and John Bright. In many respects his career was a remarkable one and has brought him deservedly the respect and esteem of his fellow men.

How Wages are Affected.

The great governing law of wages rests upon the habits of thought and feeling, customs and manners of the masses. So say all the leading economists and thinkers; and in this vein of thought the Syracuse Trade Unionist writes: Where the level of thought is purely physical or animal, groveling with the swine it feeds, occupied in discussing the fighting merits of gamecocks or men, and where the custom exists of working at all hours possible, occupying the hours of holidays and other periods of rest in filth and drunkenness, there wages will be paid to the level that will enable the laborers to enjoy themselves in their own low condition. To disturb this class of men from their sordid contentment by an agitation for more wages and less hours is to lift them up on the level of their manhood to thoughts of better things, and to an organized demand for the same.

The school taught American boy, compelled by the customs of his village to be neatly dressed, and competent to hold his own with his fellows in matters of literary

attainments, will not rest satisfied with the wages that compel him to forego the appetites that the schoolroom created. His wages must give him opportunities of association, of travel, of music, of reading; and these are among the most expensive habits incident to the shorter workday, as is evident from the fact that the lyceum, debating school, lecture room and library received its impetus when the hours of labor were reduced to ten. The mammoth and wonderful circulation which the daily papers of the large cities have obtained is due to the fact that the common people are considering the questions of public moment. The fact that space is given to sports and to crime, and to those things which appeal more to the physical man, is not so much due to the demand of the working people for this kind of reading as to the fact that a large portion of the community—not wage workers—are peculiarly interested in these games, as well as to the fact that, as far as athletic games are concerned, that in all periods of time physical reaction has been popular and enjoyable, and those who cannot enjoy themselves by participation enjoy at least the pleasure of reading accounts of them.

James Hole says: "Inferior habits of living are as much the cause as they are the result of low wages," and John Stuart Mills says: "No remedies for low wages have the smallest chance of being efficacious which do not operate on and through the minds or habits of the people." Reducing the hours of labor acts more directly on the habits and thoughts of the people than any other measure heretofore proposed.

The International Brotherhood of Boilermakers and Iron Ship Builders has decided to publish an official monthly journal. T. J. Curran, of New York, and T. H. Cummings, of Minneapolis, will be the editors. The paper will be printed in New York.

National Trade Assembly 222 K. of L., Silk Workers, has appointed a committee to present a petition to Congress describing the pitiable condition of the silk industry in this country, and asking for relief. It is asserted that although the industry is protected by a high tariff, the workers are compelled to work for starvation wages, \$7 being the average per week, while twelve and fourteen hours is the worktime per day. Arrangements are being made to hold a National Convention of silk-workers in Chicago during the World's Fair in 1893.

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