CANADIAN ITEMS.

Speaker Blanchet on Saturday received information of the death of his brother at Quebec.

The new iron bridge over the Grand River at Brantford, was opened for traffic on Saturday.

Counterfeit five dollar bills of the Canadian Bank of Commerce are in circulation at Brantford.

A factory for the manufacture of molasses from sorghum is to be established in the vicinity of Belleville.

Brown, who was murdered at Aroostook, Maine, was the brother of Hon. C. P. Brown, Provincial Secretary of Manitoba.

Large numbers of night lines for illegal fishing have been discovered in Lake St. Charles, Lake Jacques Cartier, and Snow Lake, Que.

Black leg is reported on contract 15, Canada Pacific railway. One man has been brought to the hospital at Winnipeg, suffering with it.

Logging operations have been conducted on an enormous scale in Essex this winter, and the crop, especially of oak and sycamore, is very heavy.

On dit that his Excellency the Governor-General and the Princess, on the occasion of the inauguration of Guelph as a city, will pay that place a visit.

The contract for rebuilding Carling's brewery at London has been awarded to Messrs. Christie & Green, It will be in full operation again by May 1st.

His Excellency the Marquis of Lorne and her Royal Highness the Princess Louise have consented to become patron and patroness of the Art Association of Montreal.

On Saturday afternoon Dr. Fortin waited on his Excellency the Governor-General, and presented an address on behalf of the Quebec Geographical Society. His Excellency replied in fitting terms.

The Blyth by-law granting a bonus of $3,300 to Gray, Young & Sparling for establishing salt works at that place was carried yesterday by a majority of 67. The works will be commenced immediately.

The secretary of the lottery of the Sacred Heart convent, at Montreal, announces that the drawing has been postponed indefinitely, only one-eight of the tickets having been sold and the money received having been spent.

Grain shippers at Winnipeg are notified that they cannot use the St. Paul and Pacific railway cars to ship their grain to Duluth without a special permit. This practically excludes all but the American firm of Barnes & Co. from shipping.

The new gas company at London having, by a resolution of the Council, received permission to lay down their pipes throughout the city, will commence operations immediately. Gas will then be reduced from $2.50 to $1.50 per thousand cubic feet.

The Montreal papers state that the officials of the Montreal, Occidental and Ottawa railway made a demand for 60 cents freight for conveying to that city the body of Amable Gauthier, a workman who was killed by the train, on the track, some miles out.

The deposits in the Post Office Savings Bank at Ottawa, during the month of February, amounted to $30,251, and the withdrawals to $7,480.37. The deposits and withdrawals of the corresponding month of last year were $9,514 and $7,687.94 respectively.

It is stated that Messrs. F. Lessier and S. Benoit, of La Banque Nationale, at Quebec, were the holders of winning numbers in the great Paris lottery, the former gaining two pieces of magnificently stained and illuminated glass for church purposes, valued at 2,000 francs.

Ten thousand dollars worth of damage was done to plants owned by gardeners on the Lachine canal, by the explosion of dynamite the other day, which broke the windows of the green houses and admitted the frost. Actions will be taken against the contractor owning the premises where the dynamite was stored.

The fish hatching at Petit Cote, below Sandwich, has had a successful season, and will soon turn 12,000,000 youthful white fish into the rivers and lakes of Ontario. The total product was 15,000,000 eggs, but 3,000,000 failed to come to time in point of vatility. The greater portion of the 12,000,000 fry will be deposited in the Detroit river.

At a meeting held at Tilsonburg yesterday to consider the possibility of establishing in the town during the present year a factory for the manufacture of beet root sugar, A resolution in its favour was unanimously carried, and the following gentlemen were appointed a committee to secure stock :—E. D. Tilson, W. S. Law, M. S. Smith, J. B. Bain, George Frost, J. Belwood, J. B. Ronson and F. R. Hawkins.

J. M. Chute, the London music teacher, accused of eloping with a young Westminster girl named Lydia Jackson, and leaving his wife and family, was arrested on Tuesday night, near Wardsville, and brought to London on the strength of a warrant issued at the instance of Mrs. Jackson. The girl was found at an hotel in Wardsville. Chute was brought before Squire Peters next day, and had held a long conversation with Mrs. Jackson, who agreed to withdraw the charge on Chute's paying costs, $26. The girl had refused to give evidence against Chute, who has now returned to his family.

The High Court of Ontario Independent Foresters, now in session at London, after considering the advisability of severing the connection between the Courts of Canada and those of the United States with regard to the payment of certain funds, carried the following resolution :—"Resolved, That the High Court of Ontario separate itself from the United States with regard to the endowment fund; all endowments due up to the present to be paid, but after that to be retained until the High Court of Ontario decide as to the action to be taken at a meeting called for that purpose on the 12th of April." On motion, the Secretary was directed to inform the Most Worthy High Court of this decision.

Small-pox is raging to some considerable extent in the rear portion of the township of Rawdon and Marmora. Several cases have occurred and one or two deaths are reported. From what can be learnt a great deal of recklessness has been exhibited by parties in exposing themselves to the disease and afterwards endangering others. At a meeting of the Corporation of the village of Stirling held on Monday evening, the following resolution was adopted :—"Small-pox having assumed the form of an epidemic in the north part of Rawdon and Marmora, all persons having been exposed to the same in any form are hereby forbidden to be or travel in the Corporation of the village of Stirling on any pretence whatever, and any person so doing will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law."

On Wednesday night the Governor-General's Foot Guards paraded at the drill shed at Ottawa in order that Private G. White, of that corps, might be publicly presented with a medal transmitted to him by the Royal Humane Society of England in recognitism of his brave services in endeavouring to save the life of a brother who was drowned while out shooting. At the request of Col. Ross and the officers of the Governor-General's Foot Guards, the presentation was made by Col. Otter, of the Queen's Own Rifles, of Toronto. In doing so that gallant officer, whose efficient services to the militia of Canada are fully recognized in the capital, made a most eloquent and appropriate address, which was warmly received. Col. Otter paid Private White in suitable terms the compliment which his brave action fully deserved, and acknowledged the honour done his regiment in requesting him to make the presentation. Many officers of the militia, among them Col. Scoble, of Toronto, who were in town in connection with the meeting of the Dominion Rifle Association, attended the parade, and expressed their admiratian at the fine appearance of the Guards, who paraded in full strength, under Col. Ross.

THE ENGLISH MAIL.

Interesting Summary of News.

THE ZULU WAR.

The Zulu disaster continues to excite universal interest, and the papers are full of details, comments and suggestions by correspondents who have had experience of South African affairs.

Lord Napier of Magdala has arrived in London. His Lordship drove at once to the War Office, where a Council of Generals was assembled. The Council represented all branches of the service, and there were present amongst others Admiral W. A. Mends, General Campbell, Commissary-General Wath, and General Radcliffe, R.A.

The Central News says that the arrival of Lord Napier was not generally expected in England, and the announcement was received with considerable interest in military circles. It is reported in military circles that Lord Napier will be appointed to the supreme command in South Africa, and this is, however, authoritatively denied by the *Times* paragraph.

The further official correspondence between Sir Bartle Frere, Lord Chelmsford, and the Home Government on the affairs of Natal comes most opportunely at the present moment. It throws the clearest light on the circumstances and causes which led eventually to hostilities.

The London correspondent of the *Bristol Mercury*, says the correspondent has made a revolution in public opinion showing as it does that the Government was opposed to war, and instructed Sir Bartle Frere not to enter on hostilities on any account. They also resisted appeals for the despatch of more troops, and are thus exonerated from the charge of an aggressive policy. The belief is that Sir Bartle Frere will be recalled from the Cape very probably before a month has elapsed. His conduct in plunging into war, in spite of the urgent remonstrances sent out by Sir M. Hicks-Beach, has placed the Government in a somewhat awkward dilemma. (The Bristol *Mercury* is an Opposition paper.) Of this there can be no doubt whatever, that the Government were the last people in the world to seek for a war in Africa. So far from wishing it, they naturally feel that it has been to them a great misfortune.

The departure of the 3d battalion 60th Rifles from Gravesend was made the occasion of a demonstration, which proved conclusively how warmly popular feeling is engaged on the side of the expedition, and how thoroughly its object is approved. On their march through the town the troops were crowded in upon by thousands of civilians of all classes eager to shake hands with them and wish them Godspeed. The covered structure of the town pier was crowded with an immense number of ladies and gentlemen, by whom the departing soldiers were heartily welcomed and warmly cheered, an attention which they reciprocated with the highest good humour and good spirits. As the tugboat conveying them to the Dublin Castle left the pier, a shout of farewell and goodwill arose which few who heard it are ever likely to forget. It was a stirring scene.

VINEYARDS IN THE WEST OF ENGLAND.

Despite the fun poked at him the Marquis of Bute perseveres with his experiment of vine-growing on his grounds at Costell Coch, near Cardiff. The vintage of the first year was a failure, but a special visit paid by his lordship's gardener to the vine districts of France resulted in some alterations, which made the next growth more successful. The wine then produced was described as of that kind of Burgundy which requires two men to hold the drinker. The vintage has, however, gone on improving until the present result is something equivalent to a fair quality of Burgundy. No estimate has yet, however, been made of the probable cost. The vineyard is situated upon a slope protected from the north and east winds by the heights upon which Costell Coch stands. From this ancient castle, now in process of restoration, a fine view of the Bristol Channel and the Somersetshire coast is obtained. The castle was formerly a look-out place, and is said to have been connected by a subterranean passage with Cardiff Castle. It has been for some years in process of restoration as a summer retreat for the Marquis.

BILLS OF EXCHANGE.

A question of the highest importance to the mercantile community has just been before the Judge of the Huddersfield County Court. The London and Yorkshire Bank held bills of exchange representing £24,000 which had been endorsed to them by a customer against advances to the amount of about £18,000. The customer failed, and the trustee of the estate claimed that the bills, which had not been discounted, should be handed over to him for the benefit of the general body of creditors, and the trustee moved accordingly. The County Court Judge had to decide whether bills pending discount were "securities" within the meaning of the Bankruptcy Act of 1869. On this point his Honour said :—"I can imagine many good reasons why moneys secured by bills of exchange ought to be divisible among the general body of creditors, but then, on the other hand, bills of exchange are the great medium of commerce, and are much favoured by the law; and if a holder of such securities were liable on the bankruptcy of the endorser to deliver them up, such a risk could not fail to impair the value of these securities. Be this as it may, in the absence of any authority the other way, I feel bound to hold that bills of exchange held pending discount are not such securities as the Bankruptcy Act requires the holder to value or deliver up, and I must therefore refuse this motion, with costs."

THE CRISIS IN VICTORIA.

Mr. Graham Berry, the Chief Secretary and Premier of Victoria, arrived in London on Saturday night from Australia, having come home in company with his colleague, Mr. Pearson, M.L.A., on a special mission to the British Government in connection with the constitutional difficulties in that colony.

JUVENILE SMOKING.

In reply to a letter addressed to him by Mr. W. H. Harris, of Birmingham, asking him to aim at legislative action against smoking by juveniles, Mr. John Bright says :—"I don't think the law you recommend would receive support in the House of Commons. We have rather too many laws already, and I prefer to leave such evils as you refer to to parental supervision and to public opinion, and to the effects of better education among the working classes.

The Liverpool *Courier* remarks :—That juvenile smoking is an evil few persons will be found to deny, but whether it is a proper subject for legislative action is a question which is not likely to meet with general assent. Mr. Bright rightly prefers to leave such evils to parental supervision and to the effects of better education among the working classes. But why the working classes? The children belonging to this section of the community are not the only offenders. Even the most careless observer of juvenile life on the streets and in public resorts cannot fail to mark many juveniles belonging to the middle and upper classes as being guilty of the practice of smoking. In Germany boys under sixteen years of age are forbidden by law to smoke; but whether such a legal enactment, either in Germany or elsewhere, is sufficient to check the evil is more than doubtful. Mr. Bright thinks we have had quite enough grandmotherly legislation, and it is hoped that he will try to educate his party to share in his belief.

THE ARMY ESTIMATES.

The army estimates for the coming year show a total of £15,645,700, being a net decrease of £2,145,600. Last year's estimates were exceeded by £2,195,500, voted upon supplementary estimates. As compared with the actual army expenditure of 1877-8, there is an estimated decrease of half a million. The total numbers of men, by the latest returns, and including effectives of all ranks, are as follows :—Regular forces, home and colonial, 197,483; first-class army reserve, 15,085; second-class army reserve, 22,294; militia, 86,453; yeomanry, 10,508; volunteers, 203,213; regular forces, Indian establishment, 64,450.

THE BRADFORD ELECTION.

Mr. Forster has arranged his little "difficulty" with the Bradford Three Hundred, they having substituted "may" for "shall" in their electoral rules, consequently he and a strong Radical candidate, probably Mr. Goodwin, will stand together at the next election.

AMERICAN CATTLE.

An American Diplomatist writes to the *Times* :—"Now that the United States Government has shown its readiness to adopt prompt and decisive measures to prevent the further introduction of diseased cattle into this country, it is to be hoped that the recent action of the Privy Council enjoining the slaughter of American cattle at the point of landing may be at once revoked, or at least suspended until the precautionary measures of the American Government are proved to be futile. The disease, pleuro-pneumonia, is known to be confined entirely to one or two Eastern States; the South-Western States, from which the bulk of the cattle exported come, it is likewise known, are free from it. Being thus strictly local in its character, there is every reason to believe that the American Government, by its own action, will be able to keep it well in hand. The export trade in cattle has now assumed such huge proportions that any interference with it is sure to cause widespread loss, and even ruin, among the farmers of the North-West; and unless such interference can be shown to be justified by the strictest necessity, it is likely to impair the *entente cordiale* at present existing between the two nations to a serious extent.

ADMISSIONS TO BAIL.

In the House of Lords, Lord Airlie asked whether Her Majesty's Government intend to propose any measure for the amendment of the law in respect of the admission to bail of persons who may be committed for trial on charges of fraud. His Lordship instanced the case of Alexander Collie as an illustration of the anomaly which occurred in England in cases of commercial fraud, that when the person charged was guilty, the greater the scale on which his operations had been conducted, the easier it was for him to escape trial. He referred to the law of Scotland, where any one committed for any but a capital offence might demand bail on giving a security for £300, as being in a still more unsatisfactory condition. He pointed out that but for the charge of theft the trial of the City of Glasgow Bank directors could not have been secured. The Lord Chancellor said that there was in preparation a general measure with regard to the codification of the criminal law, making considerable changes in the distinctions which had hitherto been drawn between felonies and misdemeanours. He would make inquiry as to whether the law of Scotland with regard to bail was unsatisfactory in its working.

A SURGEON IMPRISONED.

Sentence of four months' imprisonment with hard labour has just been pronounced by Lord Coleridge, at the Warwick Assizes, upon Mr. Millerchip, a parochial surgeon, for omitting, after many applications, to visit the child of a poor family, who died, it is said, in consequence of this neglect. The patient for whose manslaughter the prisoner was indicted was the infant child of indigent parents; it was eight weeks old, and had been seized with diarrhœa. An order for medical advice was obtained by the father from the Coventry Union, of which Mr. Millerchip was parochial officer, and this order was conveyed to him. He failed to attend, nor did he make any appearance during three or four ensuing days, though the parents swore that they sent to him as many as eighteen messages. The number of these messages was disputed by the defence; but even thus it was allowed that at least fourteen separate calls had been received at the surgeon's residence between Wednesday morning and Saturday afternoon, when the child died. That they reached Mr. Millerchip's knowledge was proved by his servant, who deposed that she conveyed them all, and wrote the most urgent on his visiting slate. Professional evidence was adduced to show that the infant's life might probably have been saved by prompt attention. After deferring for two days his sentence, Lord Coleridge pronounced the severe judgment named above, which may be supposed, says the *Telegraph*, to have been somewhat lightened by the evident regrets of the jury to condemn such a man. It cannot, nevertheless, be considered otherwise than a just punishment: for howeverpoorly paid medical officers may be, and however doubtful the urgency of a case, it was the manifest offence thus to disregard obedience to duty and the repeated cry of this helpless household. The stern language of the Judge deserves reproduction. He said :—"Enough was proved to show very gross and cruel neglect on your part. While I feel that a great debt is due to the medical profession, and while I recognise the large extent of unselfish, noble and unpaid services which they render to mankind, it is necessary—when such cases as these are brought before Judges, where death is occasioned by gross neglect of duty towards the poor who cannot pay for the services of medical men—it is necessary, I say, to mark with some severity the feelings which Judges must entertain of such conduct."

ITEMS.

The *Gazette* notifies that Coleraine and Londonderry are declared new ports in Ireland.

The Preston Town Council are about to establish a free public library at a cost for building and books of £70,000.

Canadian railways have risen under the ides, writes a London correspondent, that Canada will now have the export cattle trade all to herself.

The visiting Justices of England contemplate a general conference in London on April 2, with reference to the working of the new Prisons Act.

A society, under Lord Jersey, has been formed in Oxfordshire, for the administration of proper and systematic relief to all wayfarers, and the repression of habitual vagrancy in the country.

Some heartless person sent a valentine to Peace, the convict sentenced to death for the Banner Cross murder. The foolish missive was forwarded unopened to Armley gaol, where possession was taken of it by the Governor.

The report for last year of the Inspector-General of Recruiting, which has just been issued, states that there was no lack of recruits offering, and that the physique of the men was much improved. The number of enlistments was 28,325.

It is now suggested that a suitable site for Lord Byron's monument would be at the top of St. James' street, opposite to White's Club, and within sight of Mr. Murray, whose name is so associated with the publication of Byron's works.

A boy has died at Bristol through being struck on the head by a schoolmaster. The jury returned an open verdict, but the coroner strongly condemned as dangerous and disgraceful the practice of striking boys over the head as a punishment in schools.

The resolution on the Zulu war, of which notice has been given by Sir Charles Dilke, rests entirely on his own responsibility. He has neither consulted the front Opposition bench nor those who sit immediately around him, though it is well enough known he has a good many supporters.

The Rev. Joseph Rayner Stephens, who was for many years the leader of the Northern Chartists, died at Stalybridge on Tuesday, in his 74th year. He was the son of the Rev. John Stephens, a former President of the Wesleyan Conference, and was for some time a political prisoner in Chester Castle.

The Rev. William Newton, M.A., Vicar of Rotherdam, Yorkshire, went with his other brother, Rev. Horace Newton, the Vicar of Driffield, to skate on a frozen lake in the park, and while skating the two gentlemen came into collison, and the Vicar of Rotherdam fell on to the ice, breaking his left leg in the fall, and sustained so severe a shock that he died soon afterwards.

At Portsmouth, on Thursday, a notorious local character named Margaret Shugard, aged 56, was convicted for the 200th time of drunkenness and disorderly conduct. She has expended a small fortune in fines; but for some time past the magistrates have sent her to prison without the option of paying a fine. In the present case, although she came provided with the customary mulct, she was sentenced to a month's hard labour.

It is the intention of Mr. William Aronsberg, J.P., of Manchester, to establish annual prizes in memory of the late Princess Alice in various charitable educational institutions throughout the United Kingdom. Her Majesty has been pleased to express to Mr. Aronsberg her appreciation of the kindly feeling of sympathy which has prompted him to perpetuate the memory of the late Princess.

Sergeant Davis, of the Royal Marines, was on the gangway of the Black Prince, at Plymouth, he having just returned from abroad, when a heavy squall of wind threw him off, and he fell into the water. The tide was running strong in Hamoaze, and although ropes were thrown to him he failed to grasp them. A passing boat was signalled to rescue the drowning man. Its four occupants rowed vigorously, but after an exciting race, just as they reached him, he sank and was not seen again.

Messrs. Howell and James, lace-men and jewellers, of Regent street, have brought an action to recover from Earl Desart £113 14s 5d, balance of an account for goods supplied to Lady Desart. The defendant pleaded that his wife had no authority to pledge his credit, and that during the time the articles were supplied she had a sufficient allowance to enable her to pay for all articles of attire suitable to her position in life. The jury found for the defendant. Lady Desart owed about £6,000 in all.

The four 100-ton guns purchased of Sir William Armstrong & Co. by the British Government, are (the *Standard* says) to be appropriated to the defence of Malta and Gibraltar, two to each station. They will be mounted behind earthworks, *en barbette*, and a plan has been devised by the Elswick firm whereby the loading of these monster guns can be effected under cover, by manual power. These guns will be brought to Woolwich, and duly subjected to proof before being sent to their final destination. The price to be paid for each gun is £16,200.

On the 22nd inst., Mr. Parsons, gamekeeper to Mr. Hornby, of Hook House, Warsash, and Mr. Simons, M.P., had a considerable sum of money in his house paid to him for tithes, rent, &c. Hearing a noise early on Saturday morning, the inmates believed a burglary was attempted. Mr. Parsons discovered a man on the premises, with whom he struggled, calling his nephew, a lad named Beauchesne, to bring the gun. Beauchesne fired, killing his uncle. He also seriously wounded the supposed robber by beating him with the stock of the gun.

A good deal of interest is being taken in the work of Pere Hyacinthe in Paris. The other day a number of bishops and well-known English divines held a meeting in London, to consider the present position of the movement, and the possible attitude of the Anglican Communion towards it. Amongst the bishops who took part in the proceedings were the Bishop of Lichfield and the Bishop of Edinburgh. Some information given by the speakers was considered important, and it was agreed to hold a public meeting in the metropolis to assist Pere Hyacinthe not only with sympathy, but with money.

At a recent temperance meeting in London, after a few remarks on the past and present state of the temperance cause in the Navy, by Capt. Grant, R. N., Miss Weston gave an interesting account of her work among sailors on shipboard and on shore. Branches of the league have been formed on board 202 ships out of 230 in commission. They could now number four Admirals and many Commanders in the ranks of total abstainers. In the boys' training ships, too, the work had prospered, and on some ships nearly half the boys were total abstainers. The men had to fight a hard battle to stand by their principles. There were many rules in the Royal Navy which made it peculiarly hard for the men to keep the pledge. It was all very well to say that the men should determine not to take up their grog. There were many teetotallers who took up their grog and yet did not drink it. The grog, in fact, was a kind of currency, and a man might sell his grog or get work done by giving it away. Admiral Prevost, who said he had been a total abstainer for more than 20 years, expressed a hope that the Government would see the difficulty in which total abstainers in the navy were placed by the present system of serving out grog, and that some beneficial change would be effected. He had been glad to learn from Captain Grant, who had been one of the first commanders to allow Miss Weston to go aboard his ship to lecture to the men, that the beer canteen in his ship had been done away with and replaced by a coffee canteen by a vote of a majority of the crew. The chairman concluded by urging officers to set an example to their men by abstaining from wine.

The Kind of a Man Cetywayo Is.

(From English Official Correspondence.)

It is no exaggeration to say that his history from the first has been written in characters of blood. I do not refer merely to the long chronicle of his butcheries—from the slaughter of his brothers and their followers, early in his career, down to the more recent indiscriminate and wholesale destruction of all the unmarried women who attempted to evade his orders, given in a sudden fit of caprice, that they should accept as husbands the elderly unmarried soldiers of his army, the massacres being subsequently extended to all the relatives who took away for burial the exposed corpses of the slaughtered women—but I would take his character from his own account of himself; it was sent little more than two years ago to the Lieutenant-Governor of Natal, who, on hearing of the massacre of the girls, wrote to remind him of what had very recently passed between him and the representative of the Natal Government, Sir T. Shepstone, in the way of promises of more merciful rule on the occasion of his installation as King, expressing a hope that the Lieutenant-Governor might learn from him that the reports which had reached him were incorrect. Cetywayo replied, "Did I ever tell Shepstone? Did he tell the white people I made such an arrangement? Because, if he did, he has deceived them. I do kill, but do not consider yet I have done anything in the way of killing. Why do the white people start at nothing? I have not yet begun. I have yet to kill; it is the custom of our nation, and I shall not depart from it. Why does the Governor of Natal speak to me about my laws? Do I go to Natal and dictate to him about his laws? I shall not agree to any laws or rules from Natal, and, by so doing, throw the great kraal which I govern into the water. My people will not listen unless they are killed; and, while wishing to be friends with the English, I do not agree to give over my people to be governed by laws sent to me by them. Have I not asked the English Government to allow me to wash my spears, since the death of my father, Umpandi, and they have kept playing with me all this time, and treating me like a child? Go back and tell the English that I shall now act on my own account, and if they wish me to agree to their laws I shall leave and become a wanderer, but before I go it will be seen, as I shall not go without having acted. Go back and tell the white man this, and let him hear it well. The Governor of Natal and I are equal. He is Governor of Natal, and I am Governor here.

A bill before the Legislature of Pennsylvania is designed to authorize hotel-keepers to post in a conspicuous place lists of guests who leave without paying their bills.

THE WAR IN ZULULAND.

Full Particulars of the Disaster at Rorke's Drift.

NEW YORK, March 8.—The London papers received to-day give particulars of the Zulu massacre. The Zulus 15,000 strong, with a supporting column of 50,000, attacked the rear guard of the British army, which was camped in a valley. They advanced rapidly in regular battalions eight deep, keeping up a steady fire until within assailing distance, when they ceased firing and hurled their assegais, the Zulu weapon of war. The British kept up a steady telling fire and great numbers of Zulus dropped dead but without checking their progress. The Zulus executed a flank movement and surrounded the camp. The men had emptied their pouches and found it impossible to replenish them as the Zulus had obtained possession of the ammunition waggons. The affair then became one of absolute butchery. The officers and men were "assegaied" as they stood. They made no charges. The Zulu host came down with the weight of its battalions and literally crushed the body which could only defend itself with the bayonet and very soon it had not even room to use that. The Zulus picked up the dead bodies and hurled them on the bayonet points of our soldiers, thus simply beating down all defence. The work of destruction was complete, and within two hours from the time the Zulu skirmishers were seen there was not a living white man in the camp. The ammunition, guns, commissariat supplies, waggons, oxen and all the material of the column fell into the hands of the enemy. Fortunately two cannons were spiked by Captain Smith of the Royal Artillery who was "assegaied" while in the act of spiking. All the ammunition and some waggons were taken and the Zulus destroyed whatever was left behind.

The Zulu army was completely organized. It advanced first throwing out skirmishers, then as the battalions came down in a mass used their rifles while at long range with considerable effect. When near enough to use their own more familiar weapon, the assegai, they threw in two or three showers. All this time they were advancing steadily and rapidly. The great wonder was that so few men—for there were only about 600 men in camp excluding the natives who ran, and not including Col. Durnford's mounted men under Capt. Barton who did fight—were able in the open, and with no protection of cover to keep off for four or five hours the large numbers of Kaffirs that must have attacked them. The line of Zulus which came down the hills to the left was nearly three miles long, and must have consisted of over 15,000 men, while a body of over 5,000 remained on the top as reserves, and took no part but simply drove off the captured cattle, waggons, and plunder. When these men moved they took most of their dead bodies with them in our waggons, mixed with the debris of the commissariat waggons, the contents of which, flour, sugar, tea, biscuits, oats, &c., were scattered about and wasted in pure wantonness. On the ground there were also dead horses, shot in every position, mutilated mules, stabbed, while lying thick upon the ground in lumps were the bodies of the white men with only their boots on, perhaps an old pair of trowsers or part of their coats with just enough showing to indicate to which branch they belonged.

The impression in Natal is that this engagement on the part of the Zulus is not attributable to generalship, but that an army of invasion was making for Natal, and accidentally came across the rear guard of Col. Glynn's column. Our troops were allowed to cross the river at various points. Col. Glynn's main body was enticed by a feint advance away from its material. The main body of the enemy, supposed to be under Giarras, the favourite induna of Cetywayo, swept down on the baggage guard. In many cases our dead soldiers lay with fifty or sixty rounds of empty cartridges alongside them, showing they had only died after doing their duty.

FATAL EXPLOSION IN A MINE.

Nineteen Persons Killed in a Yorkshire Pit.

LONDON, March 5.—An explosion occurred in the Deep Drop pit, near Wakefield, to-day. Nineteen persons were killed.

THE AFGHAN THRONE.

Conflict Among the Pretenders to the Succession—Yakoob Khan Victorious.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 6.—A telegram from Tashkend states that afterthe death of Shere Ali at Mazar-i-Sherif a bloody conflict broke out among the followers of the various pretenders to the Afghan throne and the partisans of Yakoob Khan were victorious. It is reported that Yakoob Khan and two other pretenders had taken refuge at Herat.

DESTITUTION IN GERMANY.

Sad State of Affairs at Berlin and Mannheim—The Poor Barely Keeping Soul and Body Together—The Gutters Searched for Food.

NEW YORK, March 5.—It appears from foreign advices that the distress in German cities, especially in Berlin, grows direr from day to day. The Berlin *Vorwärts* reports that in three months there have been three thousand seizures in the capital for arrears of taxes, that more than double that number of Berlin tradesmen are in bankruptcy or on the verge of it, that the great army of unemployed workmen have kept themselves alive, if such an experience may be called life, by clearing snow from the sidewalks, that 257 men recently applied for a vacant clerkship worth $3.45 a week, and that a doctor who advertised for a housekeeper received 450 applications. In Mannheim the misery is frightful. Men once stalwart roam about the streets and search the gutters in the hope of stumbling on something that can be converted into warmth or food.

THE ITALIAN REGICIDE.

Insanity Pleaded on Behalf of Passanante—A Telling Speech in Court.

NAPLES, March 7.—In Passanante's trial yesterday the prisoner made repeated efforts to divert the course of the trial into a discussion of the principles he professes. Once, when called to order, he excited great amusement by declaring that if he was not allowed to speak he might as well go away.

To-day counsel for the prisoner asked that the trial proceed in the absence of the prisoner, as he was overcome by the excitement of yesterday's proceedings. The request was refused, and the accused appeared weeping and endeavouring to screen himself behind a pillar from the gaze of the public. After hearing the testimony, the report of the medical examiners, showing that Passanante is sane, and the speeches of counsel, the jury returned a verdict of guilty, and the prisoner was condemned to death.

Passanante, when asked if he wished to appeal, replied : "No; I wish to die soon." His counsel will ask the King to commute the sentence of death.

NAPLES, March 8.—The public prosecutor, in his speech during the trial of Passanante, dwelt with great emphasis on the alleged proofs that Passanante was not a madman but an instrument chosen by a secret society to assassinate the King. The prisoner's counsel made an impassioned speech, declaring his client was the victim of a corrupt state of society, that his mind was unsettled by unlimited freedom of speech, etc., which reached its climax under Signor Cairoli's administration. If, he said Passanante was given time to recognize his error, he would be the first to cry, "*Viva il re.*" The speech was loudly applauded.

Boston has long talked of a tunnel to Charlestown, and it is now proposed to build one on shore, float it to the site chosen, and sink it into place.

ONTARIO ASSEMBLY.

THIRD LEGISLATURE—FOURTH SESSION

WEDNESDAY, March 5.

INSPECTION OF INSURANCE COMPANIES.

Mr. WOOD moved that this House will, to-morrow, go into Committee to consider the following resolution :—The salary of the Inspector of Insurance Companies shall not exceed two thousand dollars per annum, and it shall be lawful to provide from time to time such assistance as may be found necessary; and towards defraying the expense of the office of the Inspector, a sum not exceeding three thousand dollars shall be annually contributed by the insurance companies inspected by such Inspector, and consisting of all companies required to be licensed under the Ontario Insurance Act, and also of all Mutual Insurance Companies; and this sum shall be assessed *pro rata* upon the gross amount insured by each company during the preceding year, such sum to be paid upon the issue of the annual license, or at such other time as the Treasurer may direct, and the Treasurer's certificate shall be conclusive as to the amount each or any company is to pay.

The motion passed.

THE BOUNDARY AWARD.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on the Bill respecting the northerly and westerly parts of Ontario (Mr. Mowat), and reported it without amendment.

CONCURRENCE.

On the motion for concurring in the item $3,350, as reported from the Committee of Supply,

Mr. WHITE moved that the item be referred back to Committee of Supply with instructions to strike out $800 salary of official secretary, and reduce the contingencies from $950 to $500.

Mr. MOWAT admitted that the official secretary was a student in a law office, but said he worked up to midnight in order to fulfil his official duties.

Mr. WILLS pointed out that the expenditure in the Lieutenant-Governor's office had been increased by the present Government, and expressed a doubt as to any increase of business in connection with it since 1875.

Mr. BETHUNE said that the amount involved was a mere bagatelle, and it was impolitic to have much discussion in regard to it. As a matter of taste, it was inadvisable to press the reduction of the contingencies.

Mr. LAUDER alluded to the apologetic tone of the remarks of the hon. member for Stormont, indicating that he was conscious that he had a weak case. He (Mr. Lauder) reminded the Government that the House was pledged to economy, and it was proper to begin at the highest office. The question was not one of taste at all, but of right.

The House divided, and the amendment was lost on the following division :—

YEAS—Messrs. Baker, Barr, Bell, Boulter, Broder, Calvin, Code, Coutts, Creighton, Deacon, Flesher, Grange, Harkin, Kean, Lauder, Long, McDougall, McGowan, Meredith, Merrick, Monk, Morris, Mostyn, O'Sullivan, Parkhill, Preston, Richardson, Rosevear, Scott, Tooley, White, Wigle, Wills—35.

NAYS—Messrs. Appleby, Ballantyne, Baxter, Bethune, Bishop, Bonfield, Chisholm, Clarke (Norfolk), Clarke (Wellington), Cole, Crooks, Currie, Deroche, Ferris, Finlayson, Fraser, Gibson, Graham, Grant, Harcourt, Hardy, Hargraft, Hay, Hunter, Lane, Lyon (Algoma), Lyon (Halton), McCraney, McLaws, McLeod, McMahon, Massie, Master, Miller, Mowat, O'Donoghue, Pardee, Patterson, Paxton, Robinson, Ross, Sexton, Sinclair, Steininger, Springer, Striker, Watterworth, Widdifield, Williams, Wilson, Wood—51.

The item was then concurred in.

HURON AND ONTARIO SHIP CANAL.

Mr. WIDDIFIELD presented the report of the Select Committee on the Huron and Ontario Ship Canal. He stated that he had always been an advocate of the scheme, which had now been before the public for twenty-four years. He detailed the various surveys and reports that had been made in connection with the project, and said the conclusion arrived at was in favour of its practicability. He thought the canal would be of vast benefit to the Dominion, if it could be constructed at reasonable cost. It would be made the channel for carrying the products of the North-West to the markets of Europe. He referred to the rapid growth of Chicago and Milwaukee immediately after they became ports for the grain shipments of the West, and if a portion of this trade could be induced to come *via* our canals, no doubt we might secure a portion of the carrying trade itself. Another advantage to be gained from this work would be the opening up and development of our own North-West Territory, the grain-producing portion of which was alone equal to a district six times the size of Ohio. He believed that the canal might be serviceable from a military point of view, in order to give communication between the lakes. He had found that a cargo for Liverpool, starting at Chicago and going *via* New York, would have to traverse 4,600 miles, whereas by the Ontario and Huron canal the distance would be only 3,736 miles.

Mr. CALVIN contended that it was madness to talk about building costly canals in the present age of universal railways.

Mr. MORRIS thought it the duty of the Government to take advantage of the magnificent water ways of the country. He did not intend to follow the hon. member for North York is his argument, but he hoped that the request of the Committee as to the grant might be passed. He thought the report might be received and referred to the Printing Committee.

Mr. DEROCHE thought there was a good deal more in this scheme than people generally imagined. He would support the Government in making a grant for a preparatory survey.

The report was received.

CONCURRENCE.

On the motion for concurrence in the item in the report of the Committee of Supply, of $2,800 for the clerk of the Executive Council and deputy to the Attorney-General,

Mr. DEACON rose to move an amendment. He contended that it was very desirable, and indeed that the country demanded that the strictest economy should be observed in the payment of the salaries of officials; and he held that the salaries paid by the Government were entirely too large, and should be reduced. He, therefore, moved in amendment, seconded by Mr. Scott, "That the said resolution be not now concurred in, but be forthwith referred back to the Committee of Supply, with instructions to reduce the item of $2,800 for the salary of the clerk of the Executive Council and deputy of the Attorney-General to $2,500." In supporting the motion he said that when this official was appointed in 1870 by Sandfield Macdonald's Government his salary was only $1,600, but it had since been increased to $2,800, and this, in his opinion, was entirely too large, and should be reduced to $2,500. He hoped, therefore that the amendment would carry.

Mr. MEREDITH moved in amendment to the amendment that all the words in the proposed amendment after the word "that" be struck out and the following substituted therefor:—"In the opinion of this House the salaries of Ministers should be fixed at $3,500, with $1,000 additional for the Premier; that the salaries of the deputy heads of the departments should not exceed $2,500, and that all other salaries of the departmental officers, for which appropriations had not already been made and which are in excess of $800, should be reduced by 10 per cent. of the amount thereof, but not so as to reduce any such salary to an amount below $800, and that the said resolution be forthwith referred back to the Committee of Supply with instructions to reduce the items under the head of Executive Council and Attorney-General's office accordingly."

Mr. MOWAT warmly opposed the amendment proposed by the hon. member for London, on the ground that no reduction should be made in the salaries of officials, because they were already so small that they could not, in justice to the officials, be reduced any lower. He contended that, in order to maintain efficiency in the public service, good salaries should be paid to the officials; and he characterized the conduct of gentlemen opposite as partizan, unstatesmanlike and disgraceful. (Cheers from Government benches.) He opposed this motion, and would oppose all similar resolutions. It was unfair and unjust to take advantage of the present low prices of food to make an effort, for party purposes, to reduce the salaries of officials.

Mr. MORRIS said that the voice of the country demanded the strictest economy on the part of the Government, and he held that not only the salaries of the officials should be reduced, but also those of the heads of departments. Any person who looked around could see that the salaries of municipal officials were being reduced all over the country, and under these circumstances he thought the Ontario Government should also reduce the salaries of both officials and Ministers of the Crown. He was prepared to maintain this position before his constituents, feeling assured that he would be supported by them for the course which he had pursued. (Applause.)

Mr. WOOD opposed the amendment on the ground that it was unjust and unreasonable to reduce the salaries of a few officials in that House. In his opinion it would be right and just to reduce the salaries of the Dominion officials as the tax upon the people for the payment of such salaries was direct, but by reducing the salaries of the Ontario officials by sixteen thousand dollars the item which would be saved would be so small that no person would feel it; and it only meant that the interest on the surplus would be slightly increased.

Mr. SCOTT alluded to the speech of the Attorney-General, who had wa