

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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Mr. Roche's amendment to the license act was defeated on Wednesday by a vote of 24 to 9.

The striking coal-miners of Pictou County returned to work yesterday, Manager Poole having compromised with the men.

Sir Donald A. Smith has given the Winnipeg rowing club a four hundred dollar cup to be rowed for.

Poor Newfoundland. Her seal fishery, upon which her people so largely depend has, this year proved a comparative failure.

The cartage agents of the G. F. and C. P. Railways in Montreal, have struck, and general business in that city has been completely demoralized.

A flood at New Edinburg, Ontario, has been averted by blowing up the ice in the Rideau River for a mile and a half below the falls. Dynamite has its uses as well as abuses.

The Protestants of Montreal are vigorously protesting against the adoption of a bill which is now before the Legislature of Quebec. The bill proposes that the crucifix shall be substituted for the bible in making oaths in courts of law.

The twenty-third of April being St. George's day will be generally observed by Englishmen and English societies. Mr. Harris of the Halifax nursery has a large stock of beautiful roses such as the sons of England love to wear on the anniversary of their patron saint.

The ice in most of our outlying ports has broken up, and numerous coasters arrive daily, but large quantities of drift ice in immense fields and bergs are knocking about the eastern shores of the Province, making navigation somewhat slow and risky.

Messrs. Henderson & Potts, the enterprising paint manufacturers of this city, sustained a heavy loss last week in the destruction by fire of their factory, storehouse and dwellings, valued at \$25,000. Owing to the inflammable nature of the material in store, the flames were uncontrollable and little of value was saved.

It has been suggested that a new gold coin, the "Victoria," of the value of fifty shillings be struck in commemoration of the Jubilee. It is somewhat remarkable that the sovereign should be the largest gold coin bearing the Queen's head, and a coin worth twelve dollars and a half might be useful as well as symbolical.

Sir George Stephen and Sir Donald Smith have each presented the city of Montreal with \$500,000, to be used in the construction and endowment of a hospital to be known as the "Royal Victoria Jubilee Hospital." The city has agreed to furnish a \$50,000 site. The hospital is to be opened to all comers. These philanthropic knights are certainly entitled to their spurs.

Quebec province is, financially speaking, in a bad way. Its consolidated and floating debt now amounts to upwards of \$25,000,000, while its assets are but \$10,000,000. The provincial income is a little more than \$3,000,000, but last year it had a deficit of \$256,000. Public buildings and railways absorb a large proportion of the expenditure, but Mr. Mercier's government expects to keep these services within proper bounds.

The Nova Scotia Steel Company have leased the Vale Colliery from the Acadia Company and are now at work taking out coal. The Vale coal has proved the most suitable for steel manufacture, and much inconvenience arose from the attempt to use other coals. We hope the Steel Company will meet with no difficulty in operating the mine. With a sufficient supply of coal we may expect to see the Steel Works running night and day.—*Eastern Chronicle.*

The heavy gale which prevailed for three days last week was one of the heaviest that has been experienced in Nova Scotia for many years. At times the wind attained a frightful velocity, and it has been estimated that a current of air 1500 miles in length swept over Halifax, and the same is true of most other places in the Province. On our fishing banks much damage was done to vessels, and in all the ports along the coast are to be seen Nova Scotian and American crafts, which have put in for repairs.

The city of Quebec is to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee on the 24th and 25th of May by a great military demonstration. The programme includes a grand review of from eight to ten thousand men on the plains of Abraham, a triumphant march through the principal streets, a general illumination with pyrotechnic displays on the evening of the 24th, with a monster excursion and a very tony concert on the following day. This would be a good time for Nova Scotians to visit the fortress city, although it is well worth a visit during any season.

Mrs. Martha Ryckman, of Lambton County, Ont., has been arrested on the charge of poisoning her sister-in-law. The prisoner likewise stands charged of having previously poisoned seven other relatives through whose deaths she came into immediate possession of legacies. Several of the bodies have been exhumed and traces of poisoning from strychnine and arsenic have been discovered. Mrs. Ryckman is a woman of sixty years of age and is a member of good standing in the Methodist church, and both she and her family are regarded as good and highly respectable neighbors.

The Provincial Legislature, which has disposed of the bulk of the work of the session with commendable despatch, is now engaged in discussing the repeal resolutions which were introduced by the Provincial Secretary. In these, it is admitted that the vote of the 22nd February virtually reversed the verdict given by the people on the 15th of June last. It is likewise indicated that repeal will again be made a live issue, unless new and more satisfactory financial arrangements can be made with the federal government.

Mr. J. R. Lithgow makes six distinct offers to the person or persons who can prove to him from the bible: first, that the Sabbath was observed before the time of Moses; second, that the Sabbath was not first made known with the giving of the manna; third, that Sunday is the weekly Sabbath day of the scriptures; fourth, that Sunday work is a violation of the fourth commandment; fifth, that there were more rigid observers of the Sabbath than the Pharisees; sixth, that his own views of Sunday are contrary to Scripture. Mr. Lithgow offers as a prize in each case \$1,000, in all \$6,000. We expect to carry off at least \$5,000 ourselves, so those who hanker after the other \$1,000 had better send in their proof without delay.

The annual advertisement of the North American Life Insurance Company appears in another column. The management and the officers of this generally popular company are to be congratulated upon the splendid showing made in the last annual report, evidently indicating that the North American keeps abreast of the times in providing the easiest and simplest methods whereby the public can confer upon themselves the priceless boon of the protection afforded by safe life insurance. Our Canadian life companies are making rapid headway, and the Canadian public are finding it greatly to their advantage to patronize well managed institutions whose investments are used to build up our own industries. The provincial boards of the North American, as well as its head office management, are composed of many of the best known and most influential men in Canada.

The following despatch was printed in the New York papers on Wednesday evening: "London, April 20.—The official despatch of Lord Salisbury sent on March 24, to Sir Lionel Sackville West, the British minister at Washington, with regard to the fishery dispute, is made public to-day. The despatch states that the British government, understanding that the action of the United States in denouncing the articles in the treaty of Washington with regard to the Canadian fisheries was in a great degree the result of disappointment on the part of the United States for having been called upon to pay £1,000,000 under the Halifax fishery award, offers to revert to the old condition of affairs without pecuniary indemnity, which it trusts will commend itself to the American government as being based upon a spirit of good-will and generosity, which should animate two great kindred nations, whose common origin, language and institutions constitute as many bonds of amity and concord."

The New York elevator company has sustained a heavy loss in the destruction by fire of two of its docks.

Virginia is wrestling with her debt in an extra session of the legislature. That debt has been so much trouble that we wonder it has never occurred to Virginia to pay it.

Boodle politics has gone to such a pitch in New York City that candidates for the State Senate pay \$30,000 for a nomination. The salary of the place is about \$800. It is this which makes Senators sell to both sides.

The American exhibition, which is to open in London next month, is entirely a private enterprise. Neither the President or government of the United States recognize it officially, although all patriotic Americans desire its success.

Mark Twain's bookkeeper has disappeared, carrying away with him thirty thousand dollars, belonging to the humorous author of "Innocents at Home." In Mark's next work he will probably crack a thirty thousand dollar joke at his own expense.

President Cleveland last week directed the allotment of lands in severalty to the Indians on the Warm Spring Reservation in Oregon. This distribution, the first under the Indian Land Severalty Act of the last Congress, is made to males and females alike.

A Richmond despatch states that a package of 430 \$1,000 Virginia State bonds was received from a New York broker, for redemption. They were all found to be forgeries. As they had been sold in New York market the forger realized nearly half a million dollars by his operation.

The art collection of A. T. Stewart has gone the way of his other accumulations. The immense business which he built up with rare sagacity and energy has disappeared. His whole fortune, indeed, is broken up into fragments. It is a comparatively few years since he died, and yet notwithstanding his remarkable career his obliteration is almost complete.

President Cleveland is said to have given the following reasons for not celebrating his fiftieth birthday: "Vanity, vanity, it is all vanity. If a man really feels that his birth was a stroke of luck to him, let him rejoice by all means; but I don't think he has any right to disturb the town about it, and I don't think it would be modest to ask all the rest of the world to rejoice in an event which had so little interest for them."

Sarah Bernhardt, the actress, is reported to have cuffed the ears of a New York waiter for keeping her waiting for an order. If Madame Bernhardt will give up the stage and take contracts to repeat the same operation throughout the country whenever called upon, she will make more than in the acting business. There are thousands of people aching to see the cuffing punishment meted out to similar offenders.