

THE USEFULNESS OF HEMP.

In a recent issue we referred to an article in the Chicago Tribune which stated that during the present year no less than 903 murders had been committed in the United States and that only seventy of the murderers had suffered the extreme penalty of the law.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE DARIEN CANAL.

The recent despatch of Secretary Blain to the United States Ministers at the different European courts, claiming the political control of the Canal that is proposed to be built across the Isthmus of Darien, is causing considerable discussion in the European, American and Canadian press.

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Windsor, N. S., must be a very queer place or the Windsor Mail must be a very queer paper. From a late issue of that journal we learn that Windsor does not possess a reading room or a literary club of any kind for its young men.

IRISH AFFAIRS.

Now that the first shock of surprise after the arrest of Parnell and his colleagues has passed away, sober second thought on the part of fair minded men condemn the arrest as illegal and tyrannical.

THE ITALIAN KINGS VISIT TO VIENNA.

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was afraid, and took advantage of his little brief authority to strike down an opponent over whom circumstances gave him power, and of whose arguments he was afraid.

MR. BURBRIDGE INTERVIEWED.

(From the St. John Sun.)

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LOCAL MATTERS.

Personal.

The Advocate announces that Hon. Peter Mitchell is expected at Newcastle this evening. The Hon. gentleman will receive a warm and hearty welcome from his numerous friends in the county.

An Aged Squaw.

Mary Ginnish, a squaw, and resident of Bart Church, aged 97 years, departed this life on Wednesday last and her remains were taken to their last resting place with great pomp on the following Friday.

Diphtheria.

Agnes Cherry, daughter of William Cherry, of Chatham, died at 8 o'clock p. m., on Sunday last. Another member of the family is very sick with the same disease.

The Late Accident on the Mississippi.

The reason assigned for the foundering of the steamer Gilchrist, near Day's report, Iowa, on the Mississippi, was an account of which appeared in our issue, is said to be an overloaded boiler. About thirty lives are said to have been sacrificed and many of the victims were scalded to death by escaping steam from the boilers.

Agricultural.

The price for provisions and fall produce is on the rise. Dry codfish sold this week from \$3.50 to \$4.00 per quintal, and green codfish from \$3.50 to \$4.00 per bbl. There was one instance of codfish selling for \$2 per quintal. Carque herring were selling from \$4.00 to \$4.50 per barrel. Turnips are \$1.00 per barrel, and potatoes from one dollar to \$1.25 per barrel. Cabbage was from 80 cents to a dollar per dozen heads. Oats were selling for 48 cents per bushel. Spring pigs were selling for \$2.00; an Island cow, nine in number, brought from \$15 to \$20 per head. The rise in fall produce is owing entirely to the failure of crops.

STAR BRIEFS.

Diphtheria.

Silver shot.

Oyster fishing.

Get your houses banked.

Gen't put away your dusters.

Have your shovels prepared for the next snow storm.

A million dollar fire is reported to have occurred at Maunila.

Yesterday being All Saints Day, several stores were closed.

The demand for smelt nets is so great in New York that applicants from Chatham have to be refused.

We have learned that the post office at Millerton has been created a month or more ago.

Mr. Hodd came up with 55 barrels of oysters. More good fishing is expected.

The Mississippi continues to rise, and thousands of acres of farm land are under water.

The British steamer Calliope has been lost on the Spanish coast and only one person saved.

His Excellency the Governor-General will leave Ottawa on Friday for Quebec en route to England.

"Wild Brigs," owned by A. Morrison Esq., has arrived from the Sydney mines with a full cargo of coal.

An old building situated on the corner of Frost and Pleasant Streets, that has not been inhabited for two years, was torn down on Halloween.

Mr. Peter Trainer killed a pig the other day which weighed 456 pounds for which he received nine cents per pound.

It is stated that Earl Cowper, Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, will at an early date be relieved at his own request of the position, and will be succeeded by Earl Spencer.

The Marquis de Bassano, constant general at Quebec, is said to be at the head of a gigantic scheme for promoting emigration from France to the North West.

The cholera spreading in the East and advancing toward Europe. It has already made considerable ravages in Aden, and has reached Mecca where the Mussulmans are imploring their Prophet.

Donald Loggie shot, with silver snipe, a number of wild fowl down the river, and presented them to his many friends.

In the trial growth of sugar beets, farmers about Sherbrooke are realizing an average of \$50 and under exceptional cultivation \$75 per acre.

A cargo consisting of forty thousand cases of coned salmon has been shipped from Victoria, B. C., for London, England. It is valued at \$185,000.

The Sky lovels at Hamilton broke its third place last Saturday morning. The water is sweeping over the entire town. The bottom is 200 feet wide, and widening. Losses will aggregate \$50,000.

The London Times says the time has now come when Lord Derby may be expected to take his position among the leaders of the Liberal party, and the responsibility for the inception and conduct of the policy he supports.

CATTLE IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

According to official sources, the number of head of cattle in New South Wales at the beginning of 1880 was 2,914,210, while Victoria had 1,129,358. The total number for the whole of the Australasian colonies is 7,878,556. As to sheep, the figures are stupendous. New South Wales had no less than 29,043,392, or the whole of the group—seven colonies—65,914,236. It is probable that at the beginning of the next year the number of sheep owned by Australians will be little short of seventy millions.

CRIMINAL RECORD.

At Danesbury, Michigan, on Friday last, Dr. Hall was convicted of the murder of his wife by poison.

On Friday morning the Treasurer of the Beaver Company, Rochester, Pa., on opening his safe, was knocked down by two unknown men, and \$13,000 county funds was abstracted. The robbers escaped.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26.

The Grand Jury to-day returned indictments against Capt. Howgate for forging the name of R. H. Rochester, treasurer of the Western Union Telegraph Company, to three receipts, aggregating \$36,000.

A RAILWAY IN THE TREE TOPS.

The Petaluma (Cal.) Argus says: "It may not be generally known outside of the neighborhood where it is situated, but it is nevertheless a fact, that in Sonoma county we have an original and successful piece of railway engineering and building that is not to be found in the books. In the upper part of this county, near the coast may be seen an actual road—held in the tree-tops. Between the Clipper Mills and Stuart's Point, where the road crosses a deep ravine, the trees are sawed off on a level, and the timber and ties laid on the stumps. In the centre of the ravine mentioned two huge redwood trees, standing side by side, form a substantial support, and they are cut off twenty-five feet above the ground, and cars loaded with heavy saw logs pass over them with as much security as if it were framed in the most scientific manner.

THE TROUBLES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Great centres of population have dangers all their own. Last winter a snow-storm blockaded the railways leading into London, and being accompanied by an unusual degree of cold, unprepared London was nearly brought to destruction for want of the essentials of food, fuel, light, and liquor. The food supply ran down rapidly, and as London only supplies itself from day to day, and realizes in a way peculiarly its own the force of the petition give us by day our daily bread, famine began to peer in here and there in the back slums, which life is a hand to mouth affair. The supply of water got short, and the great brewers' wells were brought into requisition. Coal dwindled down, and the gas supply was shortened, while thousands who live on a morning and evening supply of coal had to do without. Three or four days more would have caused the deaths of thousands of thousands of children. Now, New York, another great city, but immeasurably behind London, is threatened with all the evils attendant upon a short water supply, owing to the last summer's drought. A week without rain, and disease would scatter itself through all the city. Civilization has its own created dangers.

THE CHANNEL TUNNEL.

Sir Garnet Wolsley recently published a letter condemning, on military grounds, the building of the Channel Tunnel between England and France. We however learn from late English papers that the letter is not likely to have much influence on the fortunes of that enterprise. On any purely military question the opinion of one who was until two or three years ago "our only general" would be entitled to great weight. But the question of the desirability or otherwise of a Channel Tunnel is not one which military men are alone, or even specially, qualified to decide; and all the objections which Sir Garnet Wolsley would no doubt raise have long ago been amply discussed and shown to be unimportant compared with the great advantages which may be expected from the completion of a submarine road between England and France. The main, if not the only serious argument against the scheme is the danger of invasion to which we might be exposed, and in the opinion of many military critics not less eminent than Sir Garnet Wolsley himself no general in his senses would risk sending a force into a trap where they might be driven without the possibility of escape.

MELBOURNE, Oct. 29.

The steamer Calcutta, hence for Sydney, foundered at sea during a gale. All on board, twenty-two in number, perished.

A Russian journal is very irate at the friendly demonstration in Yorktown between the two Republics and England. It has always been a cause of regret to the Canadian friends of the United States that that country had such warm and friendly relations with a power so despotic in its principles as Russia. The alliance was a most unnatural one, from whatever side looked at.

MARRIED.

At the residence of the bride's father, Beverly Cottage, Torryburn, on the 31st ult., by the Rev. H. McKeown, Beatrice Macgowan, daughter of William Jones, Esq., to David Harlowe, Esq., of Canterbury, England.

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(From the St. John Sun.)

"The law and the profits. Mr. B.—Well, the law, any way. The profits are almost as uncertain as the law itself. And with this somewhat doubtful statement Mr. Burbridge was about to close an interesting interview, when our reporter remarked that he had spoken of Hon. Mr. Mitchell, and enquired as to Mr. Mitchell's movements.

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"I am glad you have recalled Mr. Mitchell's name," said Mr. Burbridge, "for I would like to thank Mr. Mitchell, publicly, for valuable assistance rendered to us in prosecuting enquiries in connection with matters not of a private or personal character. Mr. Mitchell's presence in Montreal is invaluable to New Brunswickers. He knows everybody, and almost everything. He is hand in glove with the Syndicate, being the agent through whom all railway supplies are purchased. While doing an immense amount of business he always finds time to devote to any one from the Maritime Provinces who has business in Montreal, and spares neither time or money to make their stay agreeable. I am safe in saying that he is doing all in his power to secure for the manufacturers of the Maritime Provinces a fair share of the supplies for the Pacific Railway, and he could do far more if our people would only rise to the magnitude of their opportunities. Another Montreal gentleman who never fails to show the utmost attention to St. John people, is Colonel A. A. Stevenson—one of the biggest hearted and least selfish men I ever met. By the way the Colonel is coming to St. John during the winter and some of us propose to give him a warm reception."

SEMI-ANNUAL EXAMINATION.

The semi-examination of the Convent School took place on last Friday, and owing to the lateness of the hour in which it concluded, prevented a report being inserted in our last issue. This school is divided into two departments: the primary department, which includes the first four grades, is taught by Miss Dunn, who is assisted by a Sister of the Convent. The second department contains the pupils belonging to the next four grades, and is conducted by Miss Quinlan, who is assisted by another Sister.

EDITORIAL CLEANINGS.

THE OLD FORT AT ANNAPOLIS.

This Canada of ours is dotted with old forts, each of which has a history. There is an old fort down in Annapolis, near to the most famous spot in all this Canada of ours, it having the unique experience of having been the most assaulted spot on this continent. It was taken by force five times by the English. It was then abandoned or restored to the French four times. It was unsuccessfully attacked by the English three times, and by the French and Indians twice. It was taken, sacked, and abandoned twice—once by pirates, and once by revolutionary forces from the United States in 1781. It is going to ruins. We are a curious people, and seem not to be influenced by the spirit of antiquity which hovers over the dead warriors who served our forefathers, to a greater degree unmindful than even our neighbours. Go down to Richmond, Virginia, and see the grand cenotaphs which loving women of the South and loving women of the North have erected in honour of their dead scattered over the battle-fields of the South in the civil war. The spirit which has reared these pyramids is worth cherishing.

FEVER IN INDIA.

A terrible fever epidemic has broken out in Umritsir, in India. Over two thousand persons were carried off in the eleven days ending 1st October, about one-half being children. The pestilence is attributed to a recent heavy rainfall. The Punjab Government are taking measures to repress the disease. Umritsir is a large and populous city, is the sacred capital of the Punjab, and contains a rich temple, which is the chief seat of the Sikh religion. The name of the city signifies a "pool of immortality."

AMERICAN COTTON MANUFACTORY.

In the past ten years, while Great Britain has made a slight gain in the amount of her cotton manufacture, the gain of the United States has been more than 100 per cent. The amount manufactured in the United States in 1880 was, in round numbers, 950,000,000 pounds; in Great Britain, 1,400,000,000 pounds. The gain of the United States has been so rapid that if the same proportion shall be kept up, her consumption of the raw product will exceed that of Great Britain in less than ten years.—American Paper.

DIVORCE IN THE UNITED STATES.

A Boston lecturer has gathered some interesting figures on the subject of divorce. In 1849, Connecticut increased the cases of divorce to nine. Between that year and 1864 the number of cases per annum rose from 129 to 428—one separation for every hundred marriages. During the past fifteen years it was one to every ten. In Vermont the proportion is one to every fourteen, in Massachusetts one to twenty-one. In England there is one divorce to three hundred marriages. Free Love, Spiritualism and Mormonism are credited with the lax

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