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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

His Excellency, the Governor-General, gave a State dinner at the Rideau Hall on Wednesday evening (25th) to Major General Smyth.

A joint meeting of the City Council and the Ottawa City Agricultural Society, was held in Ottawa on Monday evening, the 23rd ult. for the purpose of arranging for the exhibition of 1875, Mayor Featherstone, in the chair. The plans of grounds and buildings were submitted and approved. In order to meet the expenses of building the Mayor proposed the issue of debentures to the amount of \$25,000. Hon James Skord believed the counties in Central Canada would also contribute, and local committees in each of the counties were struck. \$5,000 from each county is expected; from adjacent counties in Quebec as well as in Ontario.

Lieut.-Colonel Ross, the officers and honorary members of the Battalion of the Governor General's Foot Guards entertained Major General Smyth, the Commander-in-chief, at dinner at the Rideau Club on Tuesday evening. The guests present to meet the General were the Hon. the Minister of Militia, Colonel Fletcher, Scots Fusilier Guards, Military Secretary to the Governor General, Lieutenant Colonel Powell, D.A.G., Captain Anderson, R.E., Capt the Hon. Miles Stapleton, A.D.C. The string band of the regiment were in attendance and played a select programme of music.

In the Ontario Legislature on Tuesday 24th ult. Mr. Crooks brought down an order in Council approving of the agreement entered into at the late Emigration Convention held at Ottawa. The provinces contribute as follows:—Ontario, \$2,500; Quebec, \$2,000; Nova Scotia, \$1,000; New Brunswick, \$1,000. The arrangement is to continue for five years.

The Nova Scotia Legislature has been dissolved. The nominations have been fixed to take place on the 10th and the voting on the 17th.

It is said that Hon. L. A. Wilmont, of New Brunswick, has been appointed arbitrator on behalf of the Dominion, on the matter of the boundary line between Ontario and the North West Territory, and Chief Justice Richards has been appointed arbitrator on behalf of Ontario. A distinguished foreign jurist, whose name has not yet been announced, will be appointed an expert between the two Governments.

Thirty discharged soldiers left Winnipeg, Man., Nov., 19th by teams to Moosehead, thence to their homes in Ontario and Quebec; thirty more were to follow the following day. They all appear to be well satisfied with the amount of mileage allowed them by the Government. Many of them expect to return in the spring.

We notice that the London Times advocates the commutation of the sentence of Lepine. It says:—"The political acts of the malcontents of Red River have been wholly forgiven; and the death of Scott was so inextricably associated with the political objects of the rebellion that statesmen can not regard it as an ordinary murder. Lepine's death would add brutality to brutality, and stain the history of Canada with a blot which the children of those most crying for his execution would be ashamed of."

The locks on the Grenville Canal are finished. A large force of men will be kept on this winter to deepen and widen the canal, so that it will be ready for steamers next summer.

The river St. Lawrence has not been so low in forty years as it is now; and the water in the Ottawa is lower by twenty one feet at present than it was last spring.

The Victoria Colonist in speaking of the arrival of miners from Cassiar, the new El Dorado of British Columbia, says that all the miners have money. The results have been good, and everyone agrees that a country more extensive and richer than Cariboo has been discovered. John Giscome, one of the Charity Company on McDanoo Creek, says that the Deloire country will exceed Deese and Thibert Creeks in richness; that there is any quantity of ground that will pay from \$10 to \$15 a day to the land. Nearly all the men will return, which is an excellent sign. The climate in the Deloire country is superior to that of Deese Creek and surroundings.

The water rose in Lake Erie six or seven feet, on the 23rd inst., and burst the locks on the Welland Canal, at Port Colborne. The storm which raged there was the most severe ever experienced in that part of Canada.

The Globe announces that the favorable condition of the market has been availed of by the Premier who has purchased 40,000 tons of steel rails at the low price of \$45 per ton, delivered in Montreal.

A fearful tornado passed over Tuscomb, Ala., on Sunday night the 22nd. One half the town was laid in ruins, two persons killed and several wounded.

Colonel Scott is going to apply to the U. S. Congress, at its next session, for \$70,000,000 to complete the Texas Pacific Railway.

The Sioux Indians are very observant. One of Spotted Tail's followers, who speaks a little English, seeing one of the servant girls of the hotels in New York take of her chignon, exclaimed, "How, white women raise her own scalp! Indian no good here."

The Spanish Government has expressed willingness to pay an indemnity to the United States in the *Virginius* case, settling the difficulty on the same basis as that which satisfied the British Government.

Dean Stanley has been elected Lord Rector of St. Andrew's University by a majority of four votes over the Marquis of Salisbury.

A bill signed by 106 deputies of the Left has been introduced in the Lower Chamber, providing for a grant of \$20,000 annually to Garibaldi.

It is announced that the memoirs of the late President Juarez of Mexico, containing important revelations concerning Bazano and Maximilian, will soon be published.

In view of the Arctic expedition about to be fitted out by the British Government, Lady Franklin has renewed her offer of a reward of \$10,000 for the recovery of the official records of Sir John Franklin's expedition.

The conversion of the Dowager Queen of Bavaria to Rome is now followed by that of Herr Harlesz, who is the Chief Counsellor of the Consistory, and the actual head of the Protestant Church in Bavaria.

Pall Mall Gazette has a special despatch from St. Petersburg, stating that Russia is desirous of enlarging the scope of the new Conference on international usages of war by making the resolutions applicable to a wider territory. The South American States will be invited to participate. It is also hoped that the United States of America will be represented at the Conference.

Late advices from Cape Coast Castle, say it was rumored King Koffee, of Ashantee, had been deposed, and was succeeded by his nephew. This change would have the effect of uniting all the tribes on a friendly footing, and restoring them to their former alliance to the King of Ashantee. The general of the Coast is improving. Heavy rains had fallen.

A body of Carlists attacked San Marcial to day, but were repulsed with heavy loss. Another large force of Carlists has again surrounded Irun, and approached within 50 yards of the walls of the city. They opened a heavy fire to-day, to which the garrison replied with artillery.