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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

A seam of fine hard coal, nine feet four inches in thickness, has been struck at a depth of 500 feet at Nanaimo, British Columbia.

It was brought out in the debate in the British Commons that the United States had sent no communication to the British Government regarding Capt. Condon, the Fenian prisoner; that he was not imprisoned at Spike Island, nor had he ever been handcuffed or chained.

Miss Elizabeth Thompson, the painter of the "Roll Call," has obtained an order in the Queen's Bench division to expunge from the register of the Stationers' Society the copyright of her famous picture, which had been assigned to Messrs. Dickinson & Co. for £1,200, in ignorance of her having no copyright in the picture which she sold for £100 to Mr. Galloway, who subsequently sold it for the same sum to Her Majesty.

The *Temps* publishes a despatch from Legation, dated March 7th, stating that a republic has been proclaimed in Servia, the Obrenovitch dynasty deposed, and Prince Milan escorted to the frontier.

De Lesseps and his co-directors of the Suez Canal abruptly dismissed Sir Daniel Lange from his position as representative of the English interests in the Canal Company's directorate.

In the House of Commons, March 7th, the appropriation for the purchase of the Suez Canal shares passed to the third reading. The Government were severely attacked by Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Lowe of the late Cabinet, because of the publication of the private letters of Sir Daniel Lange to Earl Granville, the then Minister for Foreign Affairs, which were written under obviously patriotic influences, and which occasioned the abrupt dismissal of Sir Daniel from his position as representative of English interests in the Canal Company's directorate. Mr. Gladstone declared that the Government ought to use their influence to obtain the reinstatement of Sir Daniel Lange.

The army estimates for 1876-7 were issued at London a few days ago. They show a net increase of £603,900. The total amount of the estimate is £15,281,600, from which is to be deducted £1,292,100, estimated Exchange extra receipts, making the net charge for army services 1876-7, £13,989,500. The total number of men upon the home and colonial establishment, exclusive of India, for 1876-7, is 132,884, against 129,281 in 1875-6, being a net increase of 3,603. The expenditure is accounted for under the following general heads:—1. Regular forces, £5,061,700; 2. Auxiliary and reserve forces,

£1,337,100; 3. Commissariat and ordnance store establishments, &c., £5,397,000; 4. Works and buildings, £845,100; 5. Various services, £395,400; making a total for effective services of £13,036,300. The vote for the non-effective services is £2,245,300, making a grand total of £15,281,600.

The solution of the Egyptian financial question received a serious check in the House of Commons on the night of the 6th inst. Recent negotiations at Cairo resulted in an arrangement of which the keystone was the establishment of a National Egyptian Bank, England, France, and Italy to be represented on the board by one Commissioner each. England's hesitancy in this matter has been the subject of diplomatic correspondence. Mr. Cartwright asked what were the intentions of the Government in the matter. Mr. Disraeli replied that England had refused the Khedive's request to appoint a Commissioner, because such appointment would appear to involve commercial relations between the British Government and the National Egyptian Bank. If the request had been for the appointment of a Commissioner to collect revenues and apply them to the redemption of the debts, the request might have been entertained.

King Victor Emmanuel opened the Italian sessions of the Parliament on the 6th. His speech treated of the prosperous condition of the country, the perfectly friendly relations with foreign States, and the recent visits of the Emperors of Germany and Austria. He expresses pride at the progress and efficiency of the army and navy. In connection with the Bosnian insurrection, he says: "I have deemed it expedient to participate in the negotiations between the great powers with the object of aiding in the re-establishment of tranquility in the East, and assuring the welfare of the Christian population. The Sultan received the proposals favorably." The remainder of the speech treats of domestic matters entirely.

A despatch received by a New York paper from London, England, says:—"The Carlist Committee in London is, apparently, making no preparations for demonstrations in honor of its chief. A requiem mass is to be sung for the repose of the souls of the gallant Carlist dead next Thursday, at the Church of the Holy Family, Siffon Hill. Don Carlos is said to owe \$5,000,000 here. The Modena legacy will enable him, when in Austria, to keep up an agitation against Spain, like that waged by George V. of Hanover against Prussia. Carlos' money will, at any rate, prevent the possibility of his coming to the fate of that unfortunate descendant of the Crusader kings, Leo XIII. of Khorassan, by birth a Commanus and a Lusignan, who this week departed life in a

hospital in Milan in a state of utter destitution, leaving a widow and six children dependent on public charity. Leo Commanus was deprived of his throne by Russia. He received an allowance, which he apparently squandered. He was wounded at Solferino when serving as major in the French army, and was buried on Monday last without a shirt, his body being huddled between four boards roughly nailed. *Sit transit gloria regum.*

A Vienna despatch says horrible accounts of Turkish cruelties continue to arrive from Bosnia. 200 Turks attacked the Christian inhabitants and plundering the shops, murdering many.

The *Bombay Gazette* that it is stated by the *Bombay Gazette* that during the manoeuvres performed originally at Delhi, had the practice, namely, ally drafted for the 15th instance, the capture of Delhi by the attack, —been carried out, the natives of the country, mistrusting the intentions of the Government, would have fled from the place.

Mr George Smith hopes to be able to start on the 17th of this month to resume excavations at Nineveh. Every effort will be made not to discontinue the work until all the remaining fragments of the Library of Assur-bani-pal are exhumed. The most important fragments those relating the early legends and mythology of Babylonia, lie in the neighborhood of the trench opened by Mr. Smith when last on the spot, and the completion of the series of tablets translated by him in his "Chaldean Account of Genesis" may therefore be looked forward to with certainty.

A despatch from Fort Laramie, of the 8th inst., states that a large party of mounted Indians made a sudden attack upon Custer City on the 4th, and succeeded in driving off all the loose horses grazing in the suburbs of the city. The Indians also attacked an emigrant train at Pleasant Valley, nine miles from here. A party of sixty started in pursuit of the Indians, who have gone towards the Red Cloud agency. Chas. Holt, Sioux City, was killed. A war is anticipated with the Indians now.

A Paris despatch to the *Times* states that Disraeli's announcement in the House of Commons, of England's refusal to nominate a Commissioner in connection with the proposed Egyptian National Bank, has caused the bank scheme to fall through.

The Royal Academy has elected Right Hon. Mr. Gladstone Professor of Ancient History.

A despatch to the *Standard* says:—While the Egyptian steamer *Samanoud*, with troops on board for Massowah, was at Suez her boiler exploded and twenty four men were killed.