

THE WEEK'S NEWS

CANADA

Hon. H. L. Macdonald, Commissioner of Public Works for P. E. Island, is dead.

The Barnum Wire and Iron works expect to remove from Walkerville to Toronto about April 1st.

Hon. James McShane was on Monday elected mayor of Montreal by over 5,000 majority.

During the fine weather of last week several farmers near Calgary sowed wheat as an experiment.

At Winnipeg, on Monday, the thermometer registered 32 below zero, and at Qu'Appelle 42 below.

Rev. Dr. Stevenson, the well known Congregational minister, died in Montreal on Monday morning.

Seventy-nine insurance companies have been licensed to do business in Canada under the Insurance Act.

There were 42 failures in Canada during last week, as compared with 47 for the corresponding period last year.

Archbishop Tache is very ill, and it is reported the doctors do not expect him to recover.

Mr. James B. Boyle, public school inspector of London, died in his office Tuesday night, aged 77 years.

Permissions have been granted for the formation of two new companies for the Royal Grenadier of Toronto.

Parker & Popham, wholesale clothing merchants, Montreal, assigned on Tuesday with liabilities of \$78,000.

An organization has been formed in London, Ont., under the name of the London Temperance Union, with the object of promoting the cause of national prohibition.

Gilbert Lockhart, aged eighteen, fell from the upper window of his father's house, 240 College street, Toronto, on Monday night, fractured his skull and died instantly.

Quebec wants the cattle trade, and is making big offers of facilities to outbid Three Rivers' attempt to get the business from Montreal.

Owing to the delay that occurred after the murder of John Heslop, of Ancaster, before any alarm was given, no trace of the murderers has yet been found.

At the annual meeting of the Imperial Federation League of Canada, held last week at Toronto, Sir Leonard Tilley was elected president. Addresses were delivered by Mr. D'Alton McCarthy and Rev. Principal Grant.

A Manitoba deputation has waited on the Minister of Agriculture to ask that the Government devote funds to the purpose of assisting Canadians in Dakota to settle in Manitoba. Favorable consideration was promised.

A Montreal despatch says a young man was robbed of \$40,000 worth of real estate deeds and \$40 in cash at a house of ill fame in that city by two girls, who decamped for Chicago, where they have been arrested.

At the annual meeting of the Ontario Cricket Association in Toronto, it was decided to revive the tie system, and to have the winners of the groups play off the championship at some place selected by the association.

The Winnipeg Board of Trade, at its annual meeting adopted a resolution condemning the Dominion Government for the manner in which it has dealt with the improvement of the Red River navigation scheme.

Count de Rossignac, who is at present in Ottawa, is more convinced than ever that the establishment of a beet-root sugar factory at Whitewood, Man., would pay if machinery could be brought into the country free of duty.

The collector of customs at Victoria, B. C., has reported the seizure there of a whole case of cigarettes, ingeniously covered with a layer of hen fruit, and entered as eggs, which are free of duty. The package was sent from Seattle, Washington.

Last March Mr. James Jackson broke through the ice at the Narrows, near the Rama Indian reserve, and was rescued by two Indians named John Wesley and James Naniquishkong. Ex-Mayor Slaven, of Orillia, interested himself in the case and secured Royal Humane Society medals for the brave Indians, and the presentation has just been made on the reserve.

Mr. G. H. Croxden Powell, the English publicist, who is at present in Ottawa, referring to the cattle trade, says out of the 40 million people of the British Isles there are fully 30 millions who depend on foreign countries for their meat supply, and anyone who interferes to prevent the supply from Canada will have a serious reckoning to make with a very large electorate.

GREAT BRITAIN

A fight occurred at an anti-Parnell meeting at Kilrush on Sunday.

The report that Mr. Gladstone intended to retire is pronounced unfounded.

The Cork Steam Packet Company strike has ended in defeat of the strikers after a fight of 14 weeks.

The Crimes Act has been put in force in the town of Carlisle and revoked in portions of Sligo County.

Rev. Joseph Parker, of the London City Temple, has denounced Mr. Gladstone's Religious Disabilities Bill.

The paupers at Limerick, Ireland, have refused to go to work in place of the municipal labourers now on strike.

Mr. Parnell and Mr. Justin McCarthy have agreed not to hold Sunday meetings in Ireland for the present.

It is stated that Mr. Gladstone has congratulated Secretary Balfour on the success of his efforts to relieve the distress in Western Ireland.

Mr. Parnell intends pushing his campaign in Ireland more vigorously than ever. He will shortly address a monster meeting in Limerick.

George Fleming, who had donated £1,000 for the furtherance of Gen. Booth's scheme, was suddenly taken ill while addressing a meeting in its favor and died almost immediately.

The London Standard interprets Mr. Parnell's speech at Ennis to mean that Messrs. Dillon and O'Brien have consented to unite with him in exhorting guarantees from the Gladstonians.

There is a strong crusade against the Mormons in Nottingham, which is the centre of the polygamous sect in England. The House of Commons was called upon to interfere.

A London despatch announces the death of Very Rev. Hayes Plumtree, dean of Wells.

Mrs. Richard A. Proctor, is endeavoring to raise \$25,000 by lecturing in order to erect an observatory with telescope to the memory of her husband.

Bartholomew Sullivan was hanged at Tralee the other day for the murder of Patrick Flahrive in County Kerry in August last. Flahrive was killed because he was going to cut crops on an evicted farm.

In St. James' Hall, London, the other night Gen. Booth, of the Salvation Army, inaugurated the carrying into effect of the scheme of social regeneration set forth in his book *In Darkest England*, and the Way Out.

UNITED STATES

Mrs. Roches has just died at Kalkaska, Mich., aged 111 years.

The number of dead in the Mammoth mine at Youngwood, Pa., has been swelled to 130.

The socialists of Chicago demand that only union labor be employed in the World's Fair work.

A syndicate of Boston commercial men has been formed to test the legality of the McKinley tariff.

Secretary Blaine has definitely stated that the United States will not accept reciprocity with Canada confined to natural products.

The famous explorer, Lieut. Schwatka, was fatally injured the other day at Mason City, Iowa, by a fall.

Joseph Bond, colored, has lain in bed in the sulks for 27 years and is now approaching death, all because his mother sold her farm against his will.

In Minneapolis on Sunday, Rev. Neville Fanning, Congregational, had just finished a sermon on "Is Life Worth Living?" when he fell down and died of apoplexy.

The Chippewa Indians on the Red Lake reservation in Minnesota are dancing and the people are greatly alarmed. Troops have been asked for.

Mrs. Lucy Wixom and her twin sister, Mrs. Wood, have just died in Oakland and Ionia counties, Michigan, respectively, aged 91 years.

United States officials claim that numbers of Chinamen are being smuggled in from Port Arthur in sleighs, and an agent is at West Superior, Wis., watching for the Celestials.

Dr. Sullivan Whitney, the first American physician to manufacture homeopathic remedies, died at Newtonville, Mass., on Wednesday at the age of eighty-three years.

Hog cholera is raging in McPherson, Marion and Silene counties, Kansas. Hundreds of animals are dying daily and farmers are shipping hogs to market, many of which are said to be diseased.

North Nebraska and South Dakota are enveloped in a terrific storm. At Deadwood the mercury is 20 degrees below zero, at Lead City 30 below and Galena 40 below. Many herds of cattle have been lost and the settlers will suffer.

In a wrestling match at Hopkinton, Mass. on Tuesday, Michael Maloney was thrown by Charles Hiferty, his head striking the floor and fracturing his skull. He died in a few hours, leaving a wife and three children.

A colony of Hebrews from Russia, comprising 160 families, will arrive in St. Paul and Minneapolis this week. They were sent to the United States by Baron Hirsch, who donated a large sum of money for the purpose.

Miss Lent, a young school teacher of Winnebago City, Minn., a few days ago chastised one of her pupils, and the parents of the punished girl were so enraged that they maltreated Miss Lent to such an extent that she died yesterday. The pupil and her father and mother are now in gaol on a charge of murder.

Russell C. Caulfield, a farm hand, has confessed to having choked to death a young girl named Nellie Griffin, whom he secured from the public school at Coldwater, Mich., on the plea that he wanted her to go into a family. After choking the girl to death he buried her clothes under a cow shed and calmly went to bed. He is now in jail at Charlotte.

In the United States Supreme Court on Monday it was decided to grant the British Government leave to file an application for a writ of prohibition in the Behring Sea matter, the court holding that it had undoubted jurisdiction.

Edward Bosanquet, son of a wealthy banker of London, Eng., was bitten by a rattlesnake near Dayton, Fla., on Sunday morning while hunting and is beyond hope of recovery. The snake struck him on the inside of his left leg above the ankle.

The annual report of the New York State assessors says the farms in the State are constantly depreciating in value, farms are becoming less valuable, sales are infrequent, and the mortgages are frequently to the full value of the farms.

Charlotte Scott, the coloured woman who contributed the first five dollars paid toward a monument for Abraham Lincoln in Washington, and whose name is on that account inscribed in bronze on the base of it, died last Saturday.

Mrs. Henry Wilson, near Morton, Kansas, was left a widow two years ago with three children to support. Becoming destitute and fearing starvation, she attempted to kill the children and herself. The eldest, a boy of 12, escaped with his throat cut, but the mother and two little ones perished in the house, which the woman set on fire.

IN GENERAL

It is reported the German Government is about to rescind the law prohibiting the importation of American bacon and hams.

A Wisconsin missionary, who is laboring in Asia Minor, reports that 1,500 people died of cholera in six weeks in the Town of Marash.

Eyraud, the Paris murderer, was guillotined on Tuesday morning. He showed neither fear nor remorse, and refused all religious ministrations.

Severe weather still prevails in Greece. Fifteen men have been frozen to death while endeavoring to re-open communication with snow-blocked villages in the Morea.

The Italian Ministry was defeated on a vote in the Chamber of Deputies, and Prime Minister Crispi has placed his resignation in the hands of the King.

The colonies of Australia have asked the Home Government to accord them the privilege possessed by Canada of negotiating commercial treaties with foreign countries under the sanction of the Foreign Office.

The Papal Congregation of Rites has decided not to beatify Columbus. A prominent member of the Congregation told a journalist of Rome that Columbus was a perfect gentleman and an excellent Catholic, but not a saint.

The Roman Catholic Anti-Slavery societies of Europe will hold a general meeting next week in Brussels to consider the present condition of the African slave trade, and particularly the Red Sea traffic in children for harems.

The Paris *Figaro* publishes an interview in which the Pope is represented as saying that to support a good republic is to fight against a bad one, and that as the formation of a Catholic party in France is impossible the Catholics ought to support the Government.

A body of infantry forming part of the garrison of Oporto, along with a number of civilians, started to establish a republic in Portugal recently, but their enterprise was soon snuffed out. There was a fight, seven people being killed and a large number wounded.

It is announced by the physicians Bertin and Picq, of the Nantes faculty, who recently injected 15 grammes of goat's blood into the thighs of two patients, that in the case of both patients there has been an abatement of the fever. One of them, a woman, whose temperature prior to the injection was 102, shows a decline of two degrees.

THE TRUTH ABOUT IRELAND.

The Different Races in Ireland.

People are apt to speak of the Irish as being of one race—one nation, but this is the very reverse of the truth. The characteristics of the people vary greatly in different parts of Ireland. There is a marked difference in self-reliance and intelligent industry, between the genuine Ulster men, and the inhabitants of the South and West. This has resulted in the greater prosperity of the former, which has actually caused some jealousy among the Nationalist politicians.

To thoroughly comprehend the repugnance of the inhabitants of Ulster to being ruled by their opponents, it should be stated that there have been positive threats in the leading Nationalist paper against "the lineites," i.e., the Protestants of Ulster, when once Home Rule is achieved. Flax is only grown in Ulster, which partially accounts for its prosperity. And this prosperity their opponents are envious of, instead of exerting themselves and doing the like.

Dennis shows in his valuable work that flax can be profitably grown in the other three provinces, and that all that is wanting is intelligent industry. He says "less than 15,000 tons of flax are grown, and it is worth £700,000. There is no reason why the yield should not be trebled. The soil and climate of Ireland cannot be excelled for the production of flax. But it requires at all stages skilled treatment. It fetches £50 per ton now; it ought to fetch £70, which is the average value of the Belgian variety. Ireland imports from abroad £3,000,000 worth of flax."

Arthur Young says that there are four different races in Ireland. There is (1) what he calls the Spanish, that is, the descendants of people originally from Spain to be met with in a portion of the South of Ireland; (2) the Scotch in Ulster; and (3) the descendants of English settlers; and (4) the original Celtic race. During the centuries that the Danes troubled Saxon England, they did the like to Celtic Ireland, and many settled on the coasts. This makes a fifth race as contributory to the population. The pure Celtic, that is, those without any admixture of foreign blood, are believed to form only a small proportion of the people. Let any one read a list of Nationalist names in any of the public movements or troubles, and he will find that not one-half are Celtic Irish.

In the course of time, the various races have so intermarried that there are few that are of pure blood. Speaking generally, at the present time, there may be said to be only two races, namely, the Celtic, i.e., those in whom the Celtic blood predominates; and the Anglo-Saxon, i.e., those in whom the Anglo-Saxon blood is the principal element. Practically, the first are almost entirely Catholic, and the latter to a similar extent Protestant.

The Artist Meissonier.

Jean Louis Ernest Meissonier, whose death was announced last week, was easily at the head of his school of painters, if not the greatest artist of the day. He was born in Lyons, the year being given by different authorities as 1813 and 1815. He went to Paris while still a youth and entered the studio of Leon Cogniet, exhibiting his first picture in 1834. "The Little Messenger," which he showed in 1836, attracted attention by the delicacy of its execution and its perfectness of detail. Thereafter he devoted himself to this branch of art, soon rising to its mastery. He was elected to the Academy of Fine Arts in 1861. In 1867 he was made a commander of the Legion of Honor, to which he had been admitted as a knight in 1846. At the Paris Exposition of 1855 he received a grand medal of honor. Although he painted slowly, creating a masterpiece each time, his working life was so long that a collection of 147 of his paintings which was exhibited at Paris in 1884 represented only about two-thirds of his productions. This collection, although it did not include some of his most famous pictures, was insured for 18,000,000 francs. Among his most famous works are "The Chess Players," "The Quarrel," "The Reader," "Napoleon in Russia," "The Sergeant's Portrait," "A Charge of Cavalry," and "The Emperor at Solferino." The "Charge of Cavalry" brought 150,000 francs and in 1887 his "Friedland—1807," one of a series of three pictures representing the career of Napoleon, brought at the Stewart sale in New York \$66,000, the greatest price ever paid for a picture at auction in the United States. "The Quarrel" was bought by Napoleon III for 25,000 francs, especially for presentation to Prince Albert who, while on a visit to the Tuilleries with the Queen, had particularly admired it. The etcher's art has made many of his smaller pictures familiar, as the minuteness of his work lends itself readily to reproduction by the needle.

THE DECLINE OF RURAL NEW ENGLAND.

In every period of American history the influence of New England has been marked and out of proportion to its size and population. In religious thought and activities, in great moral and social movements in literature and scholarship, in inventive genius and the skilled industries, in the pulpit, at the bar, on the bench, and in legislative halls, New-Englanders have always stood in the front rank and have contributed largely to the worthiest American achievements.

Now, the bulk of this population, until very recent years, has been rural rather than urban, and the towns themselves, large and small, have been made up of the country-born and country bred, while almost the entire stream of emigration that has flooded and fertilized the North-West has had its source in the hamlets and farms. It would be easy to show that the quality of this output from the rural districts has been even more remarkable than the quantity. Hence came Webster, Choate, Chase, Greeley, Cushing, Bryant, Whittier, Beecher, Hopkins, and a long list of notables that will occur to every reader. It may therefore be fairly claimed that what New England has been and what it has done, at home and abroad, through its citizens or through its colonists, has come in long measure from the country districts.

Thus the prosperity of this region concerns not merely New England, but the country at large. The testimony of many reliable witnesses and my own observations, covering more than twenty years, convince me that the outlook for the future is very unsatisfactory.

Fifty years ago almost every farm was cultivated by the owner, who had every interest in its most careful tillage, in making permanent improvements, and in the care of buildings, fences, and woodland. Hired labor was the exception, for the large families were quite competent for all the farm-work, the indoor as well as the outdoor with a surplus which went to the aid of less fortunate neighbors, and sent brains and muscle to the city or to the opening West. Not all farmers were equally industrious, frugal, and successful, but there was a large body of landed proprietors, homogeneous in race, substantially on an equality socially, and alike interested in the present and future welfare of the community. In this respect there has been a great change in the last twenty years, and one which is going on more rapidly every year. The land is passing into the hands of non-resident proprietors, by mortgage, by death of resident owner, by his removal to the village or manufacturing centre, or his emigration to the West.

It is also held in fewer hands, not as a general thing to be managed and worked in large estates, but to be rented from year to year.

The new proprietor has bought the farm at a small price, as compared with its former valuation, and has no interest or pride in it or its management, except as an investment. So in every township there is an increasing body of renters, as a class unreliable, unsuccessful, shifting, and shiftless. Their interest in the property and the community is temporary, their tillage such as they suppose will bring the largest immediate returns with the least care and labour. It goes without saying that such farms and all their appurtenances are in a state of chronic decline. These renters are often bankrupt farmers, or young men without the pluck and thrift to become farm-owners, the courage and push to go to the West, or the qualities in demand in the manufacturing towns.

Many farms are without resident cultivators, and in all probability will never again be homesteads. The New Hampshire Commissioner of Agriculture reports eight hundred and eighty-seven such farms, and these are only a small part. I know a district where eight contiguous farms have been thus abandoned, and taking the farm on which the writer was born as the centre, a circle with a radius of five miles would inclose twenty farms abandoned within the last few years.

Some of these have good buildings, stone fences, apple and sugar orchards, and all have made comfortable homes. On some of them a few acres of the best land are tilled, while the rest produces a lessening crop of hay used for pasture. The fine old orchards, uncared for, are wasting away, a lilac or a few rose bushes struggling for life in the grass show the site of the old garden, the buildings are falling to decay, and homesteads that have fostered large and prosperous families for generations are a desolation and will soon be a wilderness. In some districts the old country roads are becoming impassable from the growth of bushes and the cessation of all repairs. An eminent New England judge told me last summer that public sentiment in these districts will not allow a jury to find damages against the authorities in case of injuries to travellers from such defective highways, on the ground that the diminished population cannot keep them in repair.

The abandonment of this rough country and the transfer of its population to more fertile regions or more remunerative employments may be no financial loss to the nation, but it robs New England of a hardy yeomanry, with whom the love of natal soil and home and simple life has been almost a religion.

Not only is the area of cultivated land decreasing in this way, but the land-owners are sensibly narrowing their tillage. The land is growing poorer, partly from natural causes and partly from less careful working and the marked decrease in the amount of live stock kept upon it. The fact is, farming does not pay, especially if help must be hired to do a large part of the work.

The farmer finds himself the victim of all the evils of a protective tariff without its supposed benefits. The promised home market he has found to his cost, if not his ruin, in delusion and a snare. If manufacturing centres in his vicinity have raised the price of some of his products, they have advanced the cost of labour in a greater degree, and drawn to themselves the best brain and muscle from the farms. He is being heavily taxed for the benefit of the whole list of these assistant industries that rob him of his working force, while the competition, intensified by labour-saving machines suited to the large prairie farms of the West, and stimulated by lavish gifts of land to settlers and subsidies to railroads, ruinously reduces the prices of his products in his natural home market. He buys Western flour and Western corn for his own consumption at a cheaper rate than he can produce them with hired labour, and

by reason of the long winter is unable to compete with the West and South in cattle-raising for the Eastern markets at his door. Confining his attention to the few crops that, from their bulk or perishable nature, are not subject to the destructive competition of the West, the ordinary farmer merely lives and pays current expenses, while his less shrewd and careful neighbour falls behind each year, and sooner or later will be sold out of house and home.

Naturally, there is a decay of heart and hope that blights growth and prosperity. Many farms within a hundred miles of Boston, and not five miles from excellent railroad facilities, will not sell for the cost of the improvements. The New Hampshire Commissioner of Agriculture gives a long list of farms with "fairly comfortable buildings, at prices from two dollars to ten dollars per acre," and a shorter list at higher prices. The Vermont Commissioner gives a list at from three dollars to five dollars per acre, and nearer to railroad or village, with better buildings, five dollars to ten dollars. "all at no great distance from market and adapted to doing business."

Outside of the large towns and business centres the population is stationary or dwindling with greater or less rapidity according as the district in question is more or less exclusively rural. Then the percentage of young people and children is much smaller than fifty years ago. The old-fashioned large families are the rare exception, and the young folks are early drawn away from the old homestead. In my native town the school districts have been reduced from twenty-one to eleven, and many of these enlarged districts have only half or fourth the pupils of the original divisions. The real decline of the native stock is greater than the decrease in numbers would indicate, for there is a decided increase in the foreign element, which, with all its virtues, is not qualified to strengthen and perpetuate the old New England type of character and spirit. Nor is this state of things confined to a few obscure places among the mountains, for some of the historic towns founded by the Puritans are undergoing the same process of decline or change of population. Many of the large towns, deprived of the former stream of recruits from the country, are fast changing from Anglo-Saxon to Celtic, and from Protestant to Catholic.

In the last thirty years the colleges have been strengthened in endowments and appliances, and are doing a better and wider work than formerly; the larger towns have excellent schools, and well-attended academies are strong and well attended. But, with the rural districts far removed from these advantages, there is no provision for secondary education. The ungraded district school, with its brief school term, is the beginning and the end of local opportunities. The unendowed academies of forty years ago, then filled with young people, are dead and have left no successors. It is true, some young people resort to the high schools and endowed academies but secondary education here is far less general than in the former time, while many are lost to the college and higher education whom a good local academy of the old type would stimulate to an extended course of study. In one of the most picturesque districts of New Hampshire is an endowed academy that thirty-five years ago had an annual attendance of more than four hundred, and sent to college each year thirty boys, to say nothing of a dozen girls as well and widely trained for whom no college opened its doors. The same school has less than one-fourth the old number of students and graduates. It is fair to say that the decadence of this school is partly due to the larger advantages offered by better equipped rivals, but the main cause of decline is the dearth of young people in its natural region of supply, and the diminished interest in higher education.

Many churches have dwindled into insignificance, or have been blotted out altogether owing to deaths and removals, with no corresponding additions. In scores of towns houses of worship are closed, to all appearance finally, or are used for non-religious purposes, while others are in the hands of Catholics, or are too far gone to decay for occupancy of any sort. In many towns enough church members in substantial doctrinal accord might be found to form one strong and influential church, but for minor points of doctrine and practice, and so, divided, they live at a dying rate, of little consequence to their adherents or the community. The whole truth would not be told if it were not added that this religious desolation is also largely due to lack of sufficient interest on the part of members and outsiders to support church work and attend religious services. Not that the faith of the fathers is repudiated for newer or more liberal ideas, but that apathy on the whole subject is often the prevalent spirit. The home mission societies regard some of these towns in as much need of missionary work as the rudest frontier settlements.

I am told by persons who have spent their lives in these rural towns that there is a decline in public spirit, and a visible growing away from the pure democracy characteristic of primitive New England. For example, the old school district is no longer a body politic in New Hampshire. A town committee manages all school affairs.

All the statements of this paper are particularly applicable to the large extent of rougher hill country New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut, but in a lesser degree and with various modifications, to other districts remote from large towns. It is possible that some of these conditions may be improved when industry and population are rearranged and adapted to the changed circumstances, but I cannot escape the conviction that the decline is permanent. Even if the late movement to attract Swedish immigrants to these abandoned farms is successful, neither we nor our successors will see here again a rural community of the old type—keen, active, intelligent, sturdy, and independent, of strong moral and religious fibre, an unrivalled capacity for popular government, and an inborn and bred taste for hard work, plain living, and high thinking.—[Professor Amos N. Currier, in *Popular Science Monthly*.]

Always wash baby's mouth and gums every morning with water in which you have put a pinch of borax. It keeps the mouth fresh and sweet, and prevents that uncomfortable affliction, a sore mouth, with which so many poor babies are troubled when their mouths are not kept perfectly clean.

"Are they heirs-at-law?" inquired an attorney of one of his clients interested in an inheritance. "At law?" was the explosive response. "Well, I should say they were. They've busted the old man's will all to thunder."