

General News.

CANADIAN.

The Grand Lodge of Canada Good Templars met in Toronto on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Bush fires have started in the vicinity of Elginburg, and the farmers are fighting the flames with water. It is anticipated that they will be able to prevent the fire spreading to the forest.

At Lynden, a deaf and dumb boy about sixteen years of age named John Dunham, while walking on the railway track to his work on the 20th inst., was struck by a passing train and instantly killed.

A young man named Alexander Strang, carpenter, engaged on the Summit House addition, was accidentally drowned while bathing on the 20th of June.

The Dominion License Commissioners at Brantford have instructed their inspectors to at once commence prosecuting transgressors of the liquor law. Three cases against city hotel-keepers at their instance are to be tried before the police court.

Stanley J. Weaver, who is serving a term for burglary in the penitentiary at Welland, Ont., broke gaol on Monday. He was captured at Buffalo by Detective Morgenstein, and returned to the authorities at Welland.

Contrary to general expectation, the opening of the Ontario and Quebec Railway has been postponed from the 1st July till about the 8th or 9th, to allow of a complete inspection by Government inspectors. Ballasting is about completed.

A runaway horse near Milford, Prince Edward county, on the 23rd inst., threw a young lady, daughter of James Williamson, violently out of the buggy to the ground. She sustained injuries which, it is thought, will prove fatal.

Albert Forsyth, aged about 50, a farm hand with Mr. Fell, four miles from Brantford, has committed suicide by hanging himself with a chain, used for tying cattle, to a rafter in the attic.

FIRES.—A fire at Maganettawan on June 21st destroyed Mr. Christopher Theodore's house and contents. No insurance.—At Belleville, on June 23rd, at 3 o'clock in the morning a fire broke out in a stable on Coleman street, in which were three valuable horses belonging to J. K. McCarger, and one horse owned by Mr. Lossee, all of which were burned. The flames spread to the house adjoining, tenanted by Mr. Lossee and owned by Mr. James Hill, which with its contents was destroyed. McCarger's loss is about \$2,000, on which he has an insurance of \$800; Lossee's loss, \$600, insured for \$200; Hill's loss \$1,400, insured for \$800.—About eleven o'clock last Saturday night, a fire broke out in Wilson's hotel, Evanville, caused by the explosion of a lamp. The fire spread rapidly, consuming the following buildings in the same block: Howard & Co.'s store, Brennan's hotel, the dwellings of R. A. Mathewman, solicitor, John Loughran, and Mrs. John Stack. The loss is not known, but will be considerable.—The loss by the Port Arthur fire is \$25,000; insurance, \$14,000. Only one man was burned, Mr. McPherson, a commercial traveler from Winnipeg. The guests lost a good deal of property, the fire breaking out at 3 a.m.

UNITED STATES.

There was a terrific hailstorm in the section of Moundville, W. Va., on June 22nd, and crops and buildings were badly damaged.

Alice M. Wells, of Boston, while viewing machinery in a large grain elevator in Chicago on Friday last, was caught and crushed to death.

Monday night a mob battered down the doors of the gaol in Vincennes, Ind., took Oliver Canfield, who murdered Mrs. Mollie Gherkin, and hanged him to a telegraph pole.

The Arizona arrived in New York on Tuesday with a batch of 531 Mormons from Europe. Of these 26 are returning elders, and the remainder are converts, principally Scandinavians.

Tomatoes and cucumbers are so plentiful in Florida that hundreds of acres of them are being ploughed in, because they are not worth the cost of picking.

Not very long ago tomatoes were known as love apples, and regarded as poisonous. Last season the canning establishments of the United States put up 52,322,952 cans of tomatoes.

The strike in the Hocking Valley coal region is general, and serious trouble is feared. Thirty detectives have arrived from Chicago to protect railway property. It is believed the militia will be called out.

At Gretna, La., on June 23rd, while Catharine Barrett and Agnes Kerner were going to the cemetery in a boat the craft capsized. Miss Barrett was drowned, but Miss Kerner was rescued by a colored boy.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

Mr. Childers, Chancellor of the Exchequer, will attend the Egyptian Conference as the representative of the financial interests of his Government.

The gallery began to creak during the service in the Methodist church at Angelsea, in Wales, on Sunday last, and a panic ensued. Scores of persons jumped from the high windows, many of whom were trampled upon and severely injured.

At a recent meeting of Orangemen in Armagh, it was resolved that the Orangemen of the whole country shall attend the anniversary meetings at Newry on July 12th.

Irish Nationalists are still agitating the question of providing a fund to pay a regular salary to Nationalist members of Parliament. It is proposed to levy a tax on all Nationalist voters.

The contemplated visit of the Emperor and Crown Prince of Austria to Pola to see the naval manœuvres has been abandoned for fear of dynamite plots.

It is said the Princess Wilhelmina will be proclaimed successor to the regency under Queen Emma in case of the King's death. The Cabinet has determined to refuse to share tutelage with any German branch of the royal family.

There are alarming reports of cholera at Toulon. It is said 200 deaths occurred on the 23rd, and the city is in a state of panic. The Government has ordered the barracks to be evacuated, and sanitary precautions are being rapidly taken.

The Porte has 15,000 men ready to send to Upper Egypt. It is intended they shall disembark at a port on the Red Sea. This is due to the news that there is imminent danger of the Mahdi's movement spreading into Hedjaz.

The river Vistula has risen sixteen feet, and the streets of Warsaw and of a hundred villages are flooded.

More than half the city of Pisagua, in Peru, is burned, including the commercial portion.

Tales and Sketches.

HOW SQUIRE LAWSON SIGNED THE PLEDGE.

BY MATTIE JEAN SUTTON.

When I hear men of respectability and influence arguing against the temperance pledge or prohibition of the liquor business, I think of the story of Squire Lawson and "Boozy Sal." The Squire lived in a small town in Ohio, in the early days of the temperance movement. He kept wines in his cellar, and was a moderate drinker. Himself and family were eminently respectable people, and his opinions were received by the villagers with proportionate deference. In the due course of events, a Good Templar Lodge was organized in the town, and rapidly increased in members. This produced much excitement, indignation and ridicule among those engaged in the sale of liquors, and those who drank, the Squire among the rest. This influence alone prevented many from joining the Lodge. "What the Squire says" and "What the Squire thinks" was heard on every side among the opposers of the reform.

On a certain evening a popular temperance lecturer spoke in the church. The Good Templars were out in full force. So were the opposite elements, and the house was full. In one of the side pews facing the pulpit and in full view of the audience sat Squire Lawson. The lecturer was eloquent, enthusiastic, pointed and scathing to the liquorites.

At the close many in the house were willing and anxious to take the pledge. Mr. Jones, a prominent Good Templar, laid it upon the table, and offered to all who had not signed the opportunity to do so.

"But before that is done," continued the lecturer rising, "I will extend to any one in the house the invitation to reply to anything or everything I have said this evening."

"Shiftless Dick," for years a drunken vagabond, but now "clothed and in his right mind," rose from his seat. "I did not rise," he said, apologetically, "to answer anything you have said; to my mind it is unanswerable. But I wish to help the cause along. I want to urge these young men to take