

Current Events.

Canadian.

Sir Leonard Tilley, Hon. Finance Minister, leaves at once for England on official business, and may be gone some weeks.

Ottawa teachers oppose the proposition to subvert a Chief Superintendent and a Council of Public Instruction for a Minister of Education.

At the London City Council meeting recently, it was announced that Lord Lansdowne would be unable to visit the Western Fair this summer.

The report is that the Ottawa Government have succeeded in arranging satisfactory terms with the Manitoba "Better Terms" Delegation, and they are now returning satisfied.

The old stone portico or arch forming the entrance to Fort Garry grounds at Winnipeg will probably be removed to the new government buildings and preserved as a relic.

Hon. Oliver Mowat has gone to England, to argue the Boundary Award case before the judicial Committee of the Privy Council. It is expected to come up for hearing in June.

One day last week twenty-four thousand musk rat skins were shipped from Kingston by two dealers. Of these 9,000 were sent to England and the balance to the States.

Sir Charles Tupper is to receive an ovation from the men prominently connected with live stock shipping, in Montreal, in a few days, and then he will take his final leave for his official duties as Agent-General in London.

Hon. Senator MacPherson has resigned his position as Minister of the Interior and goes on a trip to Europe at once. His friends say that he is suffering from serious disease and the step became necessary on that account.

The Grand Trunk Railway Company has succeeded in effecting an amicable settlement with the widows and the members of the families of the Humber victims, killed in the collision near Toronto, last January. The total sum paid was about seventy thousand dollars.

Judge Hagarty has received his appointment as Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals in place of the late Chief Justice Spragge, and took the oath of office on Monday. Judge Wilson is now Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench and Judge Cameron Chief of the Common Pleas.

There are fears of Indian troubles in the North-West Territory. Chief Piapot is reported to complain that the reserve given his tribe is too swampy and unhealthy on that account, and his people are fed on too much bacon, and are getting the scurvy in consequence. He wants a new reserve near a river where fish can be caught. The other chiefs are making similar complaints.

Phipps, the Detroit man who shot his wife on the Ferry boat between Detroit and Windsor, is sentenced to be hanged next month. As the sentence is by a Canadian Court, there is a good chance that it will be carried out. Phipps' American friends are much surprised and are doing their best to get a reprieve or something of the kind. The plea is that he had been drinking and his "mind wandered."

United States.

Henry Schneider, a resident of Cleveland, Ohio, aged 63, died from the effects of a rooster's bite on Monday.

The burning of the Harlem railway shops at New York on Sunday last, involved a loss of over a quarter of a million dollars.

Another lynching took place in South Carolina last week. At Winston two hundred and fifty citizens took Henry Swain from jail and hanged him. He was accused of the murder of Mrs. Harrison of that place.

Thousands of acres near Shreveport, Louisiana, which have not been submerged for fifteen years, have been overflowed, and the amount of damage is incalculable. For miles the crops will have to be replanted.

Secretary Chandler has issued an official proclamation, offering the reward of \$25,000 for the rescue of the Greely explorers, but warning unprepared vessels against incurring extraordinary peril in the search, since the United States will not assume any liability or responsibility beyond the reward itself.

Charles Taylor, a negro brakeman on the Texas Central railroad has been in the habit of placing negroes in the first-class cars on which he worked. He was shot near Hempstead on Monday, and his sudden taking off is attributed to this habit. They have a prompt manner of settling vexed questions at rest in Texas!

Accounts from the interior of South Carolina report many cases of actual suffering caused by persons being unable to get food. A local paper says "there has been no year since the war when provisions have been so scarce. There are perhaps, hundreds in Marion county today who cannot get enough bread to eat. The largest liberality must prevail or starvation in some instances must ensue."

Application has been made to the commissioners of the Illinois and Michigan canal for the right of way along the canal for a pneumatic tube to run from Chicago to La Salle, a distance of 100 miles. It is to be eighteen inches in diameter, and is to be used for shipping wheat, packages, etc., by means of compressed air. There are to be stations at Joliet, Lockport and intermediate points. The proprietor claims that he can secure a speed of a mile a minute, and that wheat and corn when put in bulk will travel faster. Permission was granted.

The Gloucester fisherman takes his life in his hand and exposes himself to danger greater than that which confronts a soldier in battle. Since August last eighteen Gloucester vessels have been lost, and with them the lives of 249 men, who have left in that port—already full of mourners—65 widows and 134 fatherless children. Men will brave great perils in the hope of gaining a rich prize, but a Gloucester fisherman makes only a living. There must be some peculiar fascination about a business in which strong men, generation after generation, so fearlessly sacrifice their lives.

A remarkable state of things prevails in the Belle Fourche region of Dacotah, according to a newspaper correspondent. A long-continued feud between the cattle men and the farmers has culminated in the death of all the dogs owned by the farmers on the river, and the burning of the range, and drowning of hundreds of cattle. The stock-men poisoned the dogs to keep them from running their stock, and the farmers being unable to fence to save their property from being destroyed by range cattle set the grass on fire, and the cattle perished in the river, while endeavoring to escape from the flames.

Mr. C. Menelas, a cotton exporter at Savannah and a large planter in Mississippi, who has experimented successfully for several years in the cultivation of tea, expresses the opinion that this industry will in time become so extensive as to do away almost entirely with the importation of tea. He says the greatest trouble in tea culture in this country is not its growth, but its manufacture. The various processes of steaming, firing, assorting and fanning employed in the tea growing countries will have to be learned by experience, and when this is accomplished there will be nothing to prevent the preparation of a tea as fine as the finest from India or Japan.

Here are a number of "Curious American Items" clipped from the *Canadian American*:

Two brothers in Connecticut married sisters, and the first son of each couple was born on the 29th of February.

A Georgia lady has entered suit against her husband for divorce, because he would not give her the combination to his safe.

A careless farmer near Dublin, Ga., found a rat's nest in the matted hair of her horse's tail. The young rats were nearly half grown.

Mrs. Susan Canfield, of Nashua, N. H., has a mania for collecting buttons of odd patterns. She has 1,160 buttons of different kinds on one string.

A Stratford, Conn., woman dreamed that she saw her husband kissing a neighbor's wife. She awoke and struck him in the face breaking his nose.

A clerk in the Massachusetts State Library was so deeply interested in autographs that he cut the signatures of eminent men from old documents stored in the archives.

A pretty young lady of New Lisbon, Ohio, announces herself as the prize in a raffle—a hundred chances at \$1 apiece. She agrees to marry the winner, provided he is under 40 years of age, and bears a good reputation.

One of the reasons given by J. P. Hicks, of Evansville, Ind., in a petition asking for an absolute divorce from his wife, is that she prays God daily he may die, and as he is a firm believer in the efficacy of prayer, he is afraid that her appeal may be answered.

Great Britain.

The *Telegram* says:—"The last blow has been struck at the channel tunnel project in the English House of Commons, the bill authorizing the construction of the tunnel having been voted down. This is a serious matter, as a considerable proportion of the work has been done, and it is of a most expensive character. From a commercial point of view a tunnel between France and England would be of great advantage. It would also be a great convenience to the traveling public, as crossing the channel by boat is not the pleasantest thing in the world, the water usually being choppy. Against all this, however, was the military objection that decided the matter. England's most experienced military men showed that as England's strength depended upon her insular position it would be a great mistake to open an additional means of entrance to her territory."

Personal.

O. H. McCormick, the great agricultural implement maker, died at his residence at Chicago, a few days ago, leaving behind him about ten millions worth of property, all of which he made out of the implement business.

The friends of Knox College, Presbyterian, in Toronto, have been at work for some time to provide it with an endowment. The sum desired is \$200,000 and of this \$154,000 has already been subscribed. There is little doubt but the whole amount will be obtained.

A grand new Roman Catholic edifice has just been completed in London. Cardinal Manning has recently opened, with great ceremony the new oratory dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, at South Kensington. The new church is said to have cost four hundred thousand dollars.

Gen. Sherman, one of the ablest of the American public men, has been the favorite of many of the Republican party for Presidential candidate. He has just written a letter, to be read at the National Convention, declaring himself out of public life, and not therefore a candidate.

The title of D. D. was recently conferred on Rev. Prof. Mowat, of Queen's College, Kingston, by one of the Scotch Universities. Prof. Mowat is a brother of the Premier of Ontario, and was a member of the first graduating class at Queens. He is a Minister in the Presbyterian Church and a gentleman of much religious zeal.

The United States Senate is probably the most important collective body of the

nation, and its members are usually honoured as the most able men available in political life. In regard to church connection the present members of the Senate have been classified as follows: Presbyterians, 27; Episcopalians, 16; Methodists, 12; Congregational, 7; Unitarians, 5; Baptists, 4; Roman Catholics, 4; Jew, 1. Total 76.

D. D. Calvin, Esq., of Garden Island, near Kingston, died at his residence on Sunday, at the advanced age of 86. Mr. Calvin has been for many years one of the prominent business men of Canada, the head of the firm Calvin & Breck, vessel owners and lumber merchants. He represented Frontenac County in the local Legislature and of the County Council when past 80 years of age. Mr. Calvin was a zealous temperance man and attributed much of his longevity and good health to his total abstinence habits.

General.

A telegram from Constantinople states that the town of Bui Bazar, in Asia Minor, has been burned. There were nearly 2,000 buildings destroyed, including 550 dwellings, 544 ware houses, 11 mosques, 15 schools, and many other buildings. Eleven persons perished in the flames.

A Sicilian Murder Club.

Some curious and startling information respecting a criminal association has lately fallen into the hands of the Sicilian police, and the members of which, 104 in number, are to be tried for their lives at Palermo during the first week in May. On the 15th of April, 1883, Signor Antonio Scordato, the Mayor of a small town named Bagheria, situated a short distance from Palermo, accompanied some friends who had been visiting him to the railway station at a late hour at night. As the party was passing by a small wood abutting on the highroad, several shots were fired from the covert, and three of the Mayor's companions fell dead upon the ground.

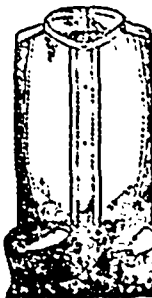
In the course of the inquiries instituted suspicion fell upon four householders of Bagheria, who were accordingly arrested and conveyed to Palermo, where they presently confessed themselves to be active members of a murder club established in Bagheria, and numbering fifty-nine members pledged to exercise the practice of homicide for their common advantage and profit.

Those affiliated to this association were bound to execute private vengeance for hire, their wages in such cases being paid in to the association's cashier for distribution at certain fixed periods. "As, financially, the club flourished exceedingly, it sought to extend its business by establishing a branch in the town of Sicarazzi, where forty five citizens took the oaths and proceeded to carry out the programme of the parent association. It has been ascertained that within a few months thirty persons perished at the hands of assassins belonging to the branch club alone.

Denounced by the four Bagheria murderers above referred to all these miscreants have been seized, and are now lodged in the jail at Palermo.

The Bible is a window in this prison of hope, through which we look into eternity.

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