

on the head waters of the Mississippi River, in Ontario, on the 14th of December last. This was one of the largest specimens of the *wapiti* ever seen in Canada. This gigantic deer was found all through Ontario at one time, but for many years no single specimen has been seen on this side of Manitoba and the Saskatchewan. The horns of this splendid animal measured six feet in width, and were seven feet in height from the skull to the highest point. It is to be stuffed and placed in the Government museum.

A GROUND SHARK, caught in St. John Bay, was on exhibition in the Portland Fish Market and attracted much attention. It was about six feet long and ten inches thick. The sharks are called the monsters of the deep. Their skin is covered with very small spines, of a boney hardness, and this, when dried, becomes a sort of natural file or sand paper, used for polishing ivory, &c. They have not gill covers, but have five slits or openings on each side of their cheeks, through which the water passes. They are, indeed, tyrants of the sea; the most ferocious of them is the White Shark, which has its vast mouth furnished with triangular movable teeth, which increase with age. In the young ones there is but a single row, but in full-grown sharks there are six. "They will swallow anything," says Professor Rymer Jones, "from a tin can and canvas to fat pork and anchovies." In the stomach of one taken in the harbour at Sydney, were found a ham, several legs of mutton, the hind quarter of a pig, the head and fore legs of a bull-dog with a rope around its neck, a quantity of horseflesh, a piece of sacking, and a ship's scraper. The Greenland shark does not attack men, but is a great enemy to whales, which it kills, gorging itself with the flesh and blubber.

DROWNED.—A son of Rev. G. O. Reid, of Berwick, Kings County, was drowned at that place by falling through the ice while skating.

MONTREAL GARRISON ARTILLERY.—We are indebted to Lieut. Cole, of this popular corps, for the sketch which we publish to-day. Last week we gave full particulars of the target practice on St. Helen's Island.

FOOTBALL MATCH ON SKATES.—A novelty at this time of year in the shape of a football match on skates was witnessed on Saturday evening at the Grand Allée Skating Rink, the combatants being nine each of the Crescent and Quebec clubs.

ESQUIMAULT EXPRESS.—Considerable attention was attracted to a novel and ingenious conveyance which passed through St. James street and up Beaver Hall Hill, en route to Prendergast's. It was an ordinary sized toboggan, drawn by a fast horse, the shafts being firmly riveted to the toboggan, and on it were seated two young gentlemen well known in the city. They "dubbed" their curious vehicle the "Esquimault Express," and certainly the rapid pace at which they sped along earned it the appellation. The mode of conveyance was said to be very comfortable, and must have proved exciting in the highest degree.

DOG TRAINS.—The dog in Manitoba is considered of more value and importance than is usually attached to that animal in a more civilized country. "In order to reach places at a distance the dog train is our only and most reliable source of travelling at the present time. In general five dogs constitute a team, and they are valued at from fifty to one hundred dollars, the harness when manufactured by a saddler is worth twenty-five dollars per set, or five dollars for one single harness. A dog team when in good order with a driver and one passenger will average between sixty and seventy miles per day, and when loaded will haul six or seven hundred weight. Our streets just now present a noisy and a lively appearance, from the large number of dog teams at present in training with all their gay trappings and fixtures on, preparing for their different journeys, and with the shouting of the dog-punchers, or drivers, the barking of dogs, the jingling of bells, &c., creates quite an uproar in our usually quiet little town."

ON THE RINK.—Our front page represents a characteristic Canadian scene in winter. Three girls are moving on their silver sandals, two being experts, and the middle one evidently a beginner. The carriage of the bodies, and especially the attitude of the beauty on the right of the picture, are artistically depicted.

SKATING CARNIVAL.—Our picture represents a group of skaters, in fancy costumes, at the Victoria Rink, Montreal, on Thursday, the 20th inst. The carnival this year was very successful, the dresses being in exceedingly good taste, and several of them quite novel. We are glad to learn that the Victoria Skating Club was never more prosperous than it is this year, and certainly the entertainment of last Thursday gave proof of both good management and zeal on the part of the director and members.

FRENCH NATIONAL LOTTERY.—On the platform before the organ in the Trocadero building was a small numbered wheel, containing figures from 1 to 12, but with only one opening, to determine the series of the winning tickets for the grand prizes. Another wheel had twelve sides, each numbered from 1 to 12. In front of the platform was the bureau of the Commission. M. Marteau, the director of the drawings, read and explained the mechanism of the machine. The galleries applauded, anxious to see the entertainment begin. Three men stood behind the wheel. Upon two taps of an ivory hammer, two

of the men advanced, and one of them put the series wheel in motion; the others that of the mere numbers. The big prizes were first drawn, and No. 978,599 of the fourth series won the chief prize—a valuable set of plate by Odier, worth 5,000*l.*, while the second prize, a magnificent *parure* of diamonds, by Boucheron, worth 4,000*l.*, was secured by No. 167,257. Neither of the holders of these tickets was present, and there was no applause whatever. The drawing went on for several hours, the wheels revolving 75 times an hour, until the first 300 grand prizes were drawn. This was the number drawn daily till the whole of the "grand prizes," which number 1,277, and are worth over 140,000*l.*, were drawn. These settled, the minor prizes were drawn, but these took up less time, as there was no drawing whatever for any particular series—the number of the ticket presented by the large wheel alone sufficing for the whole of the twelve series. The total number of prizes amounted to more than 82,000, and represented a value of 350,000*l.* The first lot is said to have been won by a journeyman currier, and the fourth, a *rivière* of diamonds, by an insurance clerk. Only a few of the prizes were claimed by the actual spectators, one of whom, a lady, fainted with the excitement.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.—We have already fully described the ceremonies attendant on the opening of Parliament. Our present sketch shows the arrival of His Excellency at the grand entrance of the Parliament Buildings, a quarter of an hour after the arrival of Her Royal Highness.

LOST IN A DRIFT.—In the snowstorm last week a carter and his two sons and two horses were nearly lost in snow-drifts on Little River Road, while returning to Quebec from Lorette; assistance was, however, sent them from a neighbouring house, when the man and boys were dug out and taken indoors, the storm being too severe to remove the horses till morning; they were found still alive, but are scarcely expected to be fit for work again.

THE CIVIL SERVICE BOARD.

WILLIAM HENRY GRIFFIN, Esq., Deputy Postmaster-General, and Chairman of the Civil Service Board.—*The Canadian Parliamentary Companion*, an acknowledged authority on the subjects of which it treats, records the following dates in the official life of the newly elected Chairman of the Civil Service Board: "He entered Imperial public service as a clerk in the Office of the Deputy Postmaster-General, 21st April, 1831; promoted to be Surveyor of Post Offices, east of Kingston, 1st May, 1835; appointed Secretary of P. O. Department on its transfer to Provincial control, 1851; Deputy Postmaster-General of Canada, 12th June, 1857; Deputy Postmaster-General of the Dominion, 30th May, 1868; appointed a Commissioner for the reorganization of the Civil Service, 1868; was also a member of the Civil Service Commission, 1862; was a member of Board of Audit from its first establishment, 1858, and of the Board of Customs, Excise and Stamps, from 1864; negotiated the Postal Convention with the United States, 1875; is President of the Civil Service Building and Savings Society, and Chairman of the Civil Service Board." The story of Mr. Griffin's life is the history of the rise and progress of the Canadian Post Office. Coming in early life with his father, Dr. George Griffin, of the 32nd Regiment, to Canada, and commencing his official career before he was twenty, and at a time when the Civil Service scarcely existed, he has grown up with the country, and has had no small share in the labour which has made Canada what it is to-day. There are comparatively few men now in public life who can remember the dissensions which culminated in the rebellion of 1837. Mr. Griffin was at that time actively engaged in endeavouring to reduce to a minimum the irregularities in the postal service, which the disturbed state of the country rendered to some extent unavoidable. In the steady progress which more peaceful times have facilitated, the wonderful development of a large institution like the Canadian Post Office is apt to escape notice, and one has to recall the slow, cumbersome stages of a quarter of a century ago, and then gaze upon the post-office car of the present day, to realize what a vast change in the facilities for interchange of correspondence has been brought about in the last twenty-five years. Mr. Griffin is now, we believe, the senior member of the permanent Civil Service. His name has been more than once mentioned in connection with some mark of distinction from the Imperial Government, and if nearly fifty years of faithful service can give a Civil servant a claim to such distinction, we know of no one in whose behalf such a claim could be more strongly urged than in that of the Deputy Postmaster-General of Canada. Sir Rowland Hill received a K.C.B. and pension of £2,000 a year for a service less than one-half that of Mr. Griffin.

EDOUARD JOSEPH LANGEVIN, Esq., Under Secretary of State, and Secretary to the Civil Service Board.—Although a much younger man, both in point of age and length of service, than the Chairman of the Civil Service Board, Mr. Under-Secretary Langevin has already won a high reputation as an able, laborious, and painstaking official. As Clerk of the Crown in Chancery of the late Province of Canada, and, later on, of the Dominion, and as Deputy Registrar-General of the Dominion (discharging the duties

of both offices at one and the same time, for a considerable period), he early gave promise of much official ability; but it was not until he was placed as the sub-head of one of the largest and most important of the Public Departments under the Dominion Government, that the public had an opportunity of judging fully of his solid business qualities and acquirements. The late M. Etienne Parent, the veteran publicist, who was Mr. Langevin's predecessor, as Deputy in the Department of State, and who was no mean judge of men, early recognized Mr. Langevin's worth as a public officer, and was the first to suggest his name to the Government as his successor—a suggestion twice made, and finally approved of and adopted—Mr. Langevin being gazetted as Under-Secretary of State in July, 1873. Since then Mr. Langevin has continued to win new laurels, from all sides, as was amply evidenced on the occasion of the presentation of an oil portrait from gentlemen of the Civil Service to Mr. Langevin, in June, 1877, when Mr. Secretary Scott (who presented the picture) paid a graceful tribute to the services and talents of his then Deputy Minister, and again on his leaving office, in October last. Space would not permit of our dwelling at any length on the fruits of Mr. Langevin's official career. Let it suffice that he has, in less than six years, established his Department on a firm and solid basis—second to none for good order and general efficiency. Mr. Langevin is a member of the well-known Quebec family of that name, of whom Bishop Langevin, Vicar-General Langevin, and Honourable Postmaster-General Langevin, C.B., have not been unworthy scions. He was born in the "ancient capital," October 1st, 1833; educated at the Quebec Seminary; adopted the profession of a notary public, and was duly admitted in 1858. During the Trent affair he raised and commanded a company of the *Voltigeurs de Quebec*, of which regiment he subsequently became major. He entered the Civil Service in January, 1865, as Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, and he is now at the top of the ladder, so far as that service is concerned, but we hope that the day is not far distant when the country may experience the benefit of his able business knowledge and sound judgment in some more exalted position. Mr. Langevin married, in 1877, Elizabeth, second daughter of Hon. Chief Justice Armstrong, of St. Lucia, West Indies.

THE DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

MONDAY, Feb. 17.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—The debate on the address was opened by Mr. Brecken, of Prince Edward Island, who moved its reception, and commented, in the course of his remarks, on the various features of the Speech from the Throne. Mr. Tassé, the junior member for Ottawa, seconded the Address in a most eloquent French speech. We shall publish the portraits of these two gentlemen in our next issue. Mr. Mackenzie followed, and after the customary complimentary remarks on the preceding speeches, criticised several features of the Address, and referred to the meagre list of proposed legislation. The Premier concluded the debate in a brief speech, in which he expressed himself as pleased on the whole with the remarks of the leader of the Opposition. The Address was then passed *en bloc*, and the reply formally introduced and adopted.

TUESDAY, Feb. 18.

SENATE.—The Address was moved and seconded by Hon. Mr. Cornwall and Hon. Mr. DeBoucherville, respectively. The reply came from Hon. Mr. Scott, leader of the Opposition in the Upper House. Hon. Messrs. Armand and Bellerose then expressed their disappointment and dissatisfaction at the absence of a French speaking member of the Cabinet in the Senate.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Hon. Mr. Anglin moved for copies of correspondence between the Clerk and the late Speaker of the House respecting appointments to vacancies in the House of Commons. The Speaker, he said, was appointed by the House to act not only while Parliament was sitting, but in the interim, and until a new Parliament was elected, so that at no time could the House or the country be without a Speaker, except in event of death. He had looked into the matter very carefully, and had been convinced, as he was now, that he had the right, and that it was his duty, to have made those appointments.

Sir John A. Macdonald dissented from this view, and was supported by Hon. Mr. Cockburn, a former Speaker, who held that Mr. Anglin's attributions ceased with the defeat of his party in September. Hon. Mr. McDougall did not approve of Mr. Anglin's course, but asserted his entire adherence to the principle of the Speaker's rights not being encroached on by the Government.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 19.

Owing to the grand ball at Rideau Hall in the evening, the session was a short one, and occupied with questions of appointments and dismissals.

THURSDAY, Feb. 20.

The whole session was exclusively devoted to routine.

FRIDAY, Feb. 21.

SENATE.—Mere routine.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—The Clerk read the address of condolence to Her Majesty on the death of the Princess Alice, from the Senate.

Sir John Macdonald moved that the House do join with the Senate in the address, and that it be forwarded through His Excellency the Governor-General to Her Majesty.

Hon. Mr. Mackenzie seconded the motion. Hon. Mr. Masson rose to speak in French to the motion, but had only uttered a few words, when he fell to the floor in a fainting fit. This caused considerable sensation in the House. The hon. gentleman was, by the aid of some of the medical members, soon sufficiently restored to be able to leave the chamber.

The rest of the sitting was taken up with routine work.

SATURDAY, Feb. 22.

Recess.

Baudry's paintings in the Grand Opera are being rapidly spoiled by the action of the gas. The damage will be still more evident after the paintings have been washed, an operation which will very soon become necessary.

WHO would believe that in this year of grace, 1879, an American lady could be detained in a Paris pension against her wish, simply because she has not the written permission of her husband, now in America, to leave the said pension? And yet this is absolutely true, and all the efforts of the American Minister, the Consul-General, and several other friends have thus far been unavailing.

THE Prefecture of the Seine has published the two first volumes of the descriptive catalogue of the objects and works of art belonging to the city of Paris which ornament the various municipal buildings in the capital. These two volumes form the beginning of two series—one relating to secular and the other to ecclesiastical buildings. From this catalogue it appears that the municipality have expended £120,000 since 1816 upon their churches, which are little more than a fifth of the total number in Paris.

HUMOROUS.

ACCORDING to Joseph Cook, Boston has eight miles of grog shops. No wonder her streets are so crooked.

YOUNG SWELL: "I should like to have my moustache dyed." Polite barber: "Certainly; did you bring it with you?"

A STUDENT inquiring for Prometheus Unbound at a certain bookstore recently was informed that they only kept the bound copies.

THOMPSON says you may talk of your water cures, your movement cures and your blue-glass cures; but there is nothing like the sinecure, after all.

WHEN a boy does something funny and you laugh at it, he will invariably keep doing it twenty or thirty times more till you have to knock him down with something.

"We don't know everything," remarked the professor, "and we don't find many that claim to, except now and then one or two in the sophomore class."

"WHAT is the usual definition of conscience?" asked a man of his pastor. "A man's rule for his neighbour's conduct is about the way it comes out practically," was the reply.

SOME one called him lazy and it roused him. "Lazy! You don't know what you say. I don't vas lazy. I vas work so hard as I can. I guess I know vat I vas about. A man can be so lazy as he bleases off he wants o, sin't it?"

THERE is nothing so efficient in breaking up corner loafing as an saves trough well trimmed with melting icicles. The cultivation of the icicle should receive more general attention by residents of main streets.

STRANGE there are men occupying high positions in business and society in this city, not knowing how to read. This remark is suggested by seeing the number of intelligent-looking men utterly unable to decipher the mystic legend, "Please shut the door!"

AN exchange tells of a young man who swore off smoking, and was worth ten thousand dollars in five years. There's some mi-take here. We know a young man who has sworn off fifty times in five years, and isn't worth a cent.

A NEW HAVEN policeman has been fined two days' pay for taking off his boots on going to sleep. If it was on his beat, it served him right. A policeman ought always to keep his boots on when he sleeps on his beat, lest he should take cold and deprive the force of a valuable officer.

So many people are shot where the doctors are unable to find the ball, that it is suggested that a thread be attached to bullets, with a spool in the rear of a cylinder of a revolver, so that the doctors can take hold of the thread and pull the bullet out. Many valuable lives would be saved that way.

A PERSON who was recently called into court for the purpose of proving the correctness of a doctor's bill, was asked by the lawyer whether the doctor did not make several visits after the patient was out of danger? "No," replied the witness, "I considered the patient in danger as long as the doctor continued his visits."

AN agent who had sold a Dutchman some goods was to deliver them at the residence of the purchaser. The Dutchman gave him the following directions: "You shoost goes behind de obur-h; den you turns up de right for a while till you come to a house with a big hog in the yard. Dot's me."

To classical student: "You ask 'if Atlas supported the world, what supported Atlas?' The question, dear sir, has often been asked, but never, so far as we are aware, satisfactorily answered. We have always been of the opinion that Atlas must have married a rich wife and got his support from her father."

TELL us not in mournful numbers that this life is but a dream, when a girl that weighs one hundred gets outside a quart of cream—and then wants more.—*Elmira Gazette*. Life is real, life is earnest, and the girls know what they need, but on cream they are the dullest set to show their grit and greed. No enoore.—*New York News*. Let us, then, be up and doing, with a heart for any fate; but never let us go a wooing girls that want a second plate. How's that?—*Newsboy*. Lives of such girls all remind us, as we float adown the stream, that the boys who come behind us will have to pay for lots of cream. N-o-x-t-l-Yonker's Gazette. Be not like dumb driven cattle, be a hero in the strife; never with her mother battle, save the ice-cream for your wife. Proceed!