

# THE WEEK'S NEWS

## CANADA.

Montreal had 26 fires last week.

Canadian natural gas is now supplied to a limited number of patrons in Buffalo.

The Manitoba Legislature is to meet on February.

Minister Martin and McMillan of Manitoba are at Ottawa.

Archbishop Tache, who is on a visit to Montreal is very ill at the Grey Nunnery.

Manitoba flour is quoted at \$2 per barrel higher in Washington state than the home product.

An Oswego man has bought 20,000 bushels of potatoes in Perth, Ont., for the Philadelphia market.

The weather has been so phenomenally mild in Southern Alberta that in sheltered places trees are budding into leaf.

The mining business along the line of the Kingston and Pembroke railway is dull this season, and phosphate is very scarce.

Thirty-four seal hunters from Newfoundland passed through Montreal the other day on their way to Behring sea, via Vancouver.

Madame Frenette, of Cape Sante, Quebec, has just presented her liege lord with twins, being eight children inside of five years.

An extensive phosphate deposit is said to have been discovered in Loughboro' Township.

A number of Jewish refugees from Russia arrived at Winnipeg the other day, and others are to follow.

Kingston city council is a tie politically, and the inaugural meeting on Monday to strike committees was a series of tie votes, no business being done.

E. M. Lott, Mus. D., London, England, has been elected to the professorship in music, rendered vacant at Trinity University, Toronto, by the death of Dr. Strathly.

A blank sheet was presented at the Recorder's Court in Montreal on Monday, and the Recorder was presented with a pair of white gloves.

Rev. H. Ware has been appointed missionary evangelist of the Baptist denomination to work among the churches of Ontario.

Sir Richard Cartwright has accepted an invitation to address the annual banquet of the Merchants' Association of Boston, Mass., on Jan. 20th.

The Protestant parsonage at the famous village of Oka, Que., would have been destroyed by the fire the other night had it not been for the strenuous exertions of the entire Roman Catholic population.

There were 937 buildings erected last year in Montreal, of a total value of \$3,308,606, a falling off of 96 buildings and \$299,896 in value as compared with the previous year.

Maggie Rose, a girl in the employ of the London Lunatic Asylum, has recovered \$500 from Dr. Buck, the medical superintendent, for accusing her of the theft of \$9 and telling the young man to whom she was engaged, which resulted in the match being broken off.

The amount cleared at the Montreal clearing house in 1890 was \$473,984,000, against \$454,528,000 in 1889. Of the 61 cities and towns in Canada and the United States where there are clearing houses, Montreal stands third.

An Indian named Slumach was hanged last week at New Westminster, B. C., for shooting a half-breed named Louis Bee, on Lilloet slough last September. Slumach was 75 or 80 years old. Death ensued in less than four minutes after the drop fell.

## UNITED STATES.

A Chicago despatch says the oatmeal companies have finally agreed to form a trust.

Twelve flint glass firms in Pennsylvania have formed a combine with headquarters at Pittsburgh.

The loss by the burning of Dobson's carpet mills in Philadelphia on Friday night is over \$1,250,000; insured for \$1,000,000.

The annual report of the treasurer of Harvard University shows the invested funds of the university to be \$7,121,854.

George Bancroft, the venerable historian, died in Washington on Saturday. He was over 90 years of age.

The American Brewery Association, of San Francisco, has been organized in opposition to the English syndicate which recently bought all the breweries in San Francisco.

A society has been formed in south-western Kansas by farmers for protection against lard and investment companies.

A warrant is out for the arrest of Rev. A. W. George, of Leeds, N. Y., charged with being implicated in a criminal operation upon Lotta Townsend, a 20-year-old girl.

At St. Louis on Sunday Mrs. Mollie Barry gave her 8-year-old daughter Maggie a dose of rough on rats, and then took a large quantity of the poison herself. The mother has died and the child cannot live.

Last week in Chicago 132 Knights Templar suffered the loss of a piece of cuticle, which was transferred to Sir Knight John Dickerson, to heal a wound in his thigh caused by the removal of a cancer some time ago.

The hostile Sioux are coming in to Pine Ridge agency. General Miles has placated them by offering to send a delegation of their Chiefs to Washington in order that they may lay their complaints before the "Good Father."

Three Indian boys ran away from school at Kingfisher, Oklahoma, the other day to escape chastisement and were frozen to death. Several hundred Indians are looking for the school teacher with the object of revenge.

The other day McFarland, a negro barber, was arrested at Lincoln, Neb., charged with murdering John Sheedy, a wealthy gambler. He confessed the crime and said Sheedy's wife hired him for \$2,000 to do the job. Mrs. Sheedy, it is said, wanted to marry another man.

In Washington on Tuesday the House Ways and Means Committee ordered a favourable report on the bill imposing a discriminating duty of ten per cent. on all teas imported from countries which discriminate against the United States. This measure, which is not likely to pass this session, is aimed against Canada.

## GREAT BRITAIN.

The Zetland-Balfour relief fund now amounts to £32,000.

The body of the Duke of Bedford was cremated in accordance with his wish.

The Sheffield houses engaged in American trade are suffering greatly from the McKinley tariff.

The London Star says Mr. Parnell has definitely abandoned all idea of resuming the leadership of the Irish Parliamentary party.

A shipment of coal has been received in England from Australia.

James Sinclair, fourteenth Earl of Caithness, died on Tuesday. He was born in 1821, and succeeded his father in 1855.

Plan-of-campaign tenants in Kilkenny have freely resumed paying their rents since the Nationalist split occurred.

It is believed Mr. Parnell has received informal assurances from Mr. Gladstone of his intentions regarding another Home Rule bill.

A crowd of school children at Nantwich, England, were charged upon by an infuriated cow and a large number of them were injured.

There are rumors in London that Sir George Stephen and Sir Donald Smith are interested in the reconstructed Baring firm.

An English syndicate will buy out the manufacturers of spools, bobbins and shuttles in the States.

Mr. Garret Byron (Nationalist), member of the British Parliament for West Wicklow, has been declared a bankrupt.

The London Daily News says in view of the fact that Mr. Dillon is liable to imprisonment, his election as leader of the Irish party would be a solemn farce.

The London Post says that unless Mr. Blaine is conscious of his weakness he would show more alacrity in consenting to arbitration in the Behring Sea dispute.

Mr. John Morley ridicules the idea that Home Rule is dead, and declares it is the duty of the Liberals to forward the movement.

Despatches from Glasgow confirm the report that the railway strikers are without further resources, and are bound to submit to the companies in a short time.

A crowd of about 500 Russian Hebrews, men, women, and children, have landed at Dover with the intention of emigrating to the United States.

Money was abundant in London last week, and there was no demand for discount. Business on the stock exchange continues to expand.

The late duke of Bedford's income was over £300,000 a year. He was the richest man in the peerage except the Duke of Westminster.

Mr. Timothy Harrington has sued the Dublin *Insuppressible* for libel for having said that he did not promptly forward funds intended for the relief of evicted tenants.

In the opinion of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain it is impossible to devise a Home Rule scheme which would prove alike acceptable to Englishmen and satisfactory to the Nationalist leaders.

The authorities of the British Museum have discovered among a collection of papyrus rolls the text of Aristotle's treatise on the Constitution of Athens, which has hitherto only been known in detached fragments.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain thinks Mr. Gladstone ought to take the country into his confidence in regard to his new lynch for the Irish disease, so that it can judge whether it is a genuine specific or a quack remedy.

Heavy snowstorms have again occurred in many parts of Europe, interrupting traffic and causing great distress. In North Africa the small town of Sebden is blockaded by snow, and as the attempt to supply the inhabitants with provisions was unsuccessful, it is feared they are starving to death.

## IN GENERAL.

The terrible scourge known as black death is devastating Western Siberia.

France is sharing in the general snow blockade in Europe.

Baron Wissmann, the German explorer, is said to have developed signs of insanity.

Emin Pasha is said to be engaged in constant hostilities with the Arabs south of Lake Victoria.

The principal of the National school for girls in Berlin has been arrested on a charge of criminal intimacy with his scholars.

The Pope has appointed a commission to study the religious condition of the South American Republics.

It is stated that Empress Victoria Augusta will accompany Emperor William in his visit to England next July.

Freezing weather has again set in in Germany and is causing much alarm in shipping circles.

Advices from India state that an expedition is being prepared against the notorious Black Mountain chief, Hasheem Ali, who refuses to submit to British authority.

Two doctors in Nantes, France, have tried with apparent success the experiment of injecting the blood of a goat into the veins of consumptives.

The Imperial Government, in order to relieve the distress, have opened works at Mizenhead, where thousands of men and women of all ages are already employed.

The census returns show that the population of St. Petersburg is 956,226.

The Japanese House of Parliament in Tokio, which was opened last November by the Mikado, has been destroyed by fire.

The St. Petersburg *Nova Vremya* urges the Government to seize the extensive tableland of Central Asia to prevent its occupation by the British.

Sadulla Pasha, the Turkish ambassador to Austria, who on Thursday last attempted to commit suicide in Vienna, died on Monday from his self-inflicted injuries.

A Rome despatch says the negotiations between England and Italy regarding Kassala have been broken off. Italy refuses to agree to abandon the Soudan stronghold.

Prof. Koch last week made known the composition of his tuberculosis lymph and the method of its manufacture, giving at the same time his views as to its effects.

Horseshoes of compressed paper have been introduced into the artillery and cavalry of the German army. The shoe is made of sheets of parchment paper cemented with a preparation of turpentine, Spanish white lac and boiled linseed oil. The separate layers are stamped out, cemented and consolidated by a hydraulic press. When dry the shoe is rasped to fit each horse.

## The Truth About Ireland.

### BAD FARMING.

All visitors to Ireland who possess agricultural knowledge, are unanimous in stating that the soil of Ireland on the whole is not half cultivated. The system of agriculture is often very bad, and laziness is common in the South and West. Very small farms are the cause of much of this laziness.

In the *Fortnightly* for 1886, a painstaking investigator reported that, on the small farms in Kerry, two days' work per week was about the average. Mr. R. Dennis, a political work, "Industrial Ireland" (Murray, 6s.) speaks strongly as to the lack of industry in some parts of Ireland, and the poor farming generally. He shows what can be done to greatly increase the returns. His book is full of valuable information and suggestions. Hurlbert, an American Catholic, in his great work, "Ireland Under Coercion" (Houghton, Mifflin and Company, Boston), gives (p. 364) an instance in the South of Ireland, where a man who used his brains in farming, and was also industrious, told him "on the same land with my neighbors, I double their production;" and he gave evidence of the truth of what he said.

If all the farmed land was properly farmed, and the increase was only one-half what Hurlbert's informant found it to be, that would, on 15,000,000 acres of farmed land, mean an increase to the national income of about \$150,000,000. Surely that would be vastly better than decades of agitation with its resulting crime!

### THE FISHERIES.

Dennis says (p. 44): "A coast line of about 2,000 miles, broken into a large number of excellent harbours, waters teeming with fish, a race of hardy fishermen, all these natural advantages for carrying on a great fishing industry, exist in Ireland. Yet these great natural advantages are thrown away. Scotland with less fruitful seas, supports by her fisheries 140 per 1,000 of her population. Ireland supports less than 4 per 1,000." On his data there are about 500,000 supported by the fisheries in Scotland only about 20,000 in Ireland. Fishermen estimated to number nearly 100,000, come from other countries and do well round the Irish coast. If, during this generation, one-tenth of the exertion wasted on sterile political agitation had been diverted to developing the fisheries the 20,000 would have been increased more than ten-fold.

### QUARRIES AND MINES.

Dennis shows that these are greatly neglected. He states that there is "a vast body of coal just as accessible as much of the coal now worked in Great Britain, and a vast body of iron ore yielding an exceptionally high average, but that not a single ton of iron ore is smelted in Ireland. The best black marble in the world is found on the shores of Lough Corrib." All sorts of valuable stone are to be found, but, speaking generally, they are "practically unutilized."

Hurlbert (p. 118) was astonished that nothing had been done with the beautiful salmon and rose-coloured granite, lying alongside tide water in great cubic blocks, ready with a small outlay, for shipment. Ireland abounds with neglected mineral resources.

### CAPITAL AVOIDS INSECURITY.

In London there is never less than £100,000,000 waiting for investment. Capitalist will invest in Egyptian funds yielding 3 1/2 per cent., but not in Ireland, with nominal security, but combined with insecurity. What a sorrowful reflection—that in Mohammedan Egypt, with the horse Mahdi hovering on the borders, there is better security for foreign capital, than in the South and West of Christian Ireland!

The Land Act of 1881 partially confiscated \$250,000,000 invested under the Inland Revenue Act, with the security of a government title. After that object-lesson, supplemented by the general working of the Land Act, the League agitation, and the general insecurity to property, person and life, resulting therefrom—there is no hope for the present of private British capital being invested in Ireland. If the Home Rule agitation were formally abandoned, and the security for property, person, and life, permanently raised to the English level, British capital would flood that half-developed country—its vast resources would be utilized, and within a few years the National income would be doubled. But the flourishing trade of Irish Patriots would then painfully realize the true inwardness of the cry of the Ephesians "Sirs, by this craft we have our living."

Practically by the combined action of the Home Rule agitation, and long-continued general insecurity, Ireland loses at least \$300,000,000 per annum. As its population now is about 4,700,000, this is roughly, on an average, about \$3.15 per family of five.

If the labour and means which have been devoted to agitation during the last seventy years, had been employed in developing the resources of Ireland, it would now have been one of the most prosperous countries in the world, with less than one-half of its present amount of crime.

### Progress in China.

The progress of individual independence in China is illustrated in a recent decree from the Emperor dealing with the remonstrance of a censor against his Majesty's extravagance in erecting certain buildings for himself while distress prevails among the people in north China. The Emperor explains that the buildings in question were originally laid out Kien-lung, who bestowed them on his mother as a mark of filial respect and love, and who "did there, on three separate occasions, respectively offer the august lady congratulations on her birthday." They were, in fact, destroyed when the Summer Palace was burned. To show the Emperor Dowager that he was not unmindful of her great services to the State, the Emperor proceeds, he decided to repair the buildings "in the hope that her Majesty might take pleasure therein, and proceed thither for recreation and enjoyment. It was likewise our intention to follow the example of the Emperor Kien-lung, and on the occasion of her 60th birthday to go out there accompanied by the court, and offer her our congratulations. The works were not undertaken for our own pleasure, as we not distinctly announced in our decree of March, 1885."

"Whence then," demands the Emperor, "these remarks that the fact of our going on with these repairs was there is a sign of weakness in our empire, and that we are suffering throughout the empire with a weakened virtue?" The censor was handed over to the proper Board for punishment.

## KILLING SEA OTTERS.

How the Aluts Conduct the Chase in Canoes on the Open Sea.

The first land we made after leaving Cape Scott, the northern extreme of Vancouver Island, was on the seventh day out. In appearance it was only a dim blurred outline showing against a misty horizon, and, although dismal enough in aspect, was, however, terra firma. By a consultation of the chart it was found to be the high land on Sannak Island. This island, the largest of a group of the same name, with its surrounding reefs, rocky ledges, and islets, is nevertheless the richest hunting ground in Alaskan waters. Parties of hunters from the mainland to the north and east, and the innumerable islands to the east and west, may be found here at all seasons of the year, living in tents of skin or canvas or hastily constructed barabaras (rude huts of earth and dried grass), diligently watching for the rare intervals of weather when the sea is sufficiently smooth to warrant their putting out with some prospect of a successful hunt for the sea otter and seal.

It is only at a time when the sea is smoothest that the hunters may set forth with any promise or hope of success, and in the inhospitable and boisterous weather of this section of Alaska such days are of the rarest occurrence, weeks and even months often passing ere the hunters have an opportunity of trying their skill.

### WITH BOW AND SPEAR.

The long-looked-for quiet day having at length arrived, the party, after a brief invocation of the mightier spirits, embarks, fully equipped, two and two, in their bidarkas. A bidarka is a sort of canoe made of the skin of the sea lion or hair seal stretched over a light wooden frame, and, though seldom exceeding twenty-five feet in length by thirty inches in breadth, and weighing less than 100 pounds, yet so strong are they that, exclusive of a crew of 300 pounds, goods aggregating as much as 800 pounds are often carried in them. With the exception of two circular holes equidistant from either end from each other, in which the occupants of the frail craft squat, the bidarka is completely decked over.

Clad in their kamleikas, waterproof shirts of whale, seal, or bear intestines, the bottoms of which they fasten around the combings of the hatches, their sleeves secured tightly to the wrist, and the opening for the head drawn up closely about the neck, whole seas might wash entirely over both boat and occupants without a drop of water getting inside. This is a necessary precaution, as, though smooth and calm enough at the start, it is quite possible, and even likely, owing to the long distance which they have to go, that the party may meet with heavy weather ere they reach the land. As an additional security, when the sea is too heavy to make headway against, they collect in groups of three or four canoes, and, lash-safety. When any

### RIDE OUT THE STORM.

in side, which it sometimes does through the seams of the skin, it is pumped out by means of a small wooden tube which the native sucks full, then by removing his finger, which he has placed over the lower end of the tube, to retain its contents until clear of the bidarka, the water runs out into the sea. The operation is continued until the boat is dry.

Once started on a voyage, the peredovchik or leader assumes entire command, and silence falls on the little flotilla. When in his opinion they are nearing the vicinity of their quarry he makes a sign, and immediately, without a word being uttered, the canoes separate, forming a huge semicircle, each bidarka from fifty to a hundred yards distant from the next, and the occupants keeping always a vigilant lookout both on the surface of the water and the other boats.

As soon as a hunter sights the glossy head of an otter he raises his paddle and points in the direction in which the animal was seen. The scattered bidarkas then close up so as to form an extended circle about the spot indicated, and still in silence await the reappearance of the otter. This is sure to be in about ten minutes, as at the end of that interval he must come to the surface to breathe, going down again after remaining there a few seconds. Should he come up

### WITHIN THE CIRCLE.

of boats they gradually close in, beating the water with their paddles to bewilder the animal and to keep it within the ever-narrowing ring. Occasionally, however, the otter, after diving, alters his course, and appearing at a distance without the line, the canoes are thus compelled to charge their base before finally securing the prize.

As soon as the pursued animal shows himself within spear's throw the earnest hunter, rising to his knees, hurls a shaft at it. Lodging in its skin near the head, we will say, the otter immediately tries to dive. In view of this trait the spear is constructed in just such a manner as to retard its progress as much as possible. To that end the head is set so loosely in its socket that the recoil of striking causes the shaft to detach itself, leaving the head securely embedded in the flesh. Wound round and round the shaft is a fine cord or line of braided sinew some three or four feet in length. One end of this is attached near the base of the barbed ivory head, while the other culminates in a bridle, each end of which is secured to either

Naturally, with all this to prevent his rapid escape, the otter shortly comes to the surface, pretty well exhausted with his exertions, and at no great distance from where he was first struck. As he makes his appearance, spears, arrows, and darts are now carelessly launched at his devoted body. The poor animal dives rapidly, and frantically endeavors to escape, but worn out from his tiresome efforts and bleeding wounds, his motions have less energy and vigor, and he soon floats up to receive his death stroke. The carcass is then skinned in the water, care being taken not to dislodge any spear or arrow heads from the skin, which is taken into one of the bidarkas, when, if the weather be still propitious, the hunt continues.

On the return of the party to land each otter skin is inspected by the chief in the presence of all hands, and the ownership of the different skins ascertained by means of the points embedded therein, each of which is marked with the owner's sign or brand. Curiously enough, the weapon nearest the tail carries off the prize, whereas he who virtually was the means of the animal's destruction, receives but from \$8 to \$10 from the owner, according to the value of the skin.

## The Behring Sea Difficulty.

While practically there is nothing new to record regarding the Behring sea difficulty there has been any amount of talking and writing. The Republican journals over the border are very indignant at Canada's action in entering suit in the Supreme Court at Washington in order to test the legality of the seizure of the sealing schooner *Saquah* in 1887. They declare that it is an insult to Secretary Blaine and call upon the court to refuse the motion for permission to file the papers in the case on the ground that a court of law has no jurisdiction over a matter that is being considered by the department of State. The democratic and independent papers, on the other hand, declare that the British Empire has paid the United States judiciary a great compliment by seeking its opinion on a subject so full of difficulty and intricacy. There can be no doubt that the letter is the right and proper view to take. If the verdict of the judges is against the British and Canadian claim, the United States case will be strengthened rather than weakened. If the decision should be opposed to Secretary Blaine's contentions, he will still be entitled to having made the best of a bad case and a case, by the way, not of his creation, but left over by his predecessor in office, Mr. Bayard; while the members of the Supreme Court Bench will have covered themselves with glory, in the eyes of the world, by having proved themselves possessed of minds in which justice rises superior to all other considerations, however weighty. Many and frequent have been the sneers hurled at the United States judicial system. Its representatives have won an opportunity such as they never had before, and may never have again, to vindicate that system and confound its traducers.

The war scare in connection with the Behring sea matter has entirely disappeared. As a fact, there was never any cause for its existence. The Philadelphia correspondent of the London *Times* cabled over that the United States No. 3 Pacific Squadron was at once to be increased by 23 vessels, 300 guns, and 3000 men. There was no foundation for the statement whatever, but it gave rise to some bold and caustic remarks that must have convinced Secretary Blaine, President Harrison, and their anti-English friends that the amusement of twisting the lion's tail might be carried a wee bit too far.

### Free Trade Relations.

Simultaneously with the announcement that the negotiations which have been pending between Newfoundland and the United States for preferential trade relations have fallen through, as the result of representations made to the Imperial Government by the Canadian Executive, comes the statement that negotiations have been opened through the Imperial Government between Ottawa and Washington looking for improved commercial relations between Canada and the United States. The negotiations are being conducted in a thoroughly Conservative spirit, and the probability is that the most that will be accomplished during the present year will be the appointment of representatives by each government on a commission of inquiry to ascertain how far it would be safe to go without interfering with the existing political status of this country. While these overtures for friendly intercourse are going forward a fire-eating Texan has introduced a resolution in the United States Congress declaring the conduct of Great Britain in taking the Behring Sea matter before the U. S. Supreme Court is prejudicial to the comity of nations and a derogation of the dignity of the Government and people of the United States. Poor comity! Poor dignity!

### A Queer Scene.

A remarkable scene occurred not long since in an Anglican church at Cardiff, Wales. The story is that the minister took what he felt to be a reasonable opportunity to reprove the members of his church for their non-attendance at Sabbath morning worship. He impartially included his own family. "Whereupon," to his astonishment, "up jumped one of the traduced maidens. She spoke of a man who, when he first woke, could not rise unless his hot water was brought and the tower was placed under his nose. She related how boots had to be cleaned, fires lighted, and the breakfast prepared, and then went on to describe how the worthy clergyman required his book, and his coat, and his gloves, and his hat, and his stick, and—his cake, and his wine, before he was ready to start to his work. This was all detailed with minuteness and volubility. The reverend father kept no servant, and there was the household work to be done, and besides he insisted upon a hot dinner served with punctuality. Under these circumstances, the lady pleaded, was it possible for her to get to worship on a Sunday morning? The sympathies of the audience were with the daughter."

American residents in Shanghai, China, have imported 30 dozen pair of American quail, while Californians are introducing the Mongolian pheasant.

Useless and hurtful memories can be crowded out by filling the mind with better things. Much of such recollections are mere idle reveries that can be swept away by the fresh breeze of enthusiasm, activity, and duty. Happy memories, kindly feelings, noble ideas, generous plans, may so fill the heart and employ the mind that there will be neither room nor place for mournful and futile reminiscences.

The testimony of Drs. Thorburn and Winnett, two Toronto physicians who have just returned from Germany, whither they went to study the Koch cure, will tend to settle the minds of Canadians as to the merits of this new remedy, concerning which such conflicting reports have lately been circulated. Both doctors highly praise the remedy, of which they expect great things in the future; both assert that every position taken by Dr. Koch is being sustained and verified, as for instance, that the remedy is a certain means of diagnosis, that in cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, though benefit may be derived from the treatment in the second and even third stage, the chances of cure are with those who have not passed the first stage, and that in lupus or tuberculosis of such parts as can be reached from without so as to remove the dead matter without virtually was the means of the animal's destruction, receives but from \$8 to \$10 from the owner, according to the value of the skin.

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