

WEEKLY SUMMARY

The new Commissioner of Public Works in Chicago is named O'Connell.

New Zealand is to have a world's fair next November.

The Riviera is thronged with Americans just now, the place being at the height of the fashionable season.

There are 676 clerks in the service of the Dominion Government who have reached the age of three score years and ten.

Congressman Madden of Chicago advocates a canal water-way to the Gulf of Mexico to obviate the railroad rate problem.

It is reported that the Canadian insurance companies have been investing largely in foreign securities, particularly those in the United States.

Secretary Bonaparte of the American Navy refuses to excuse such employees from work on Saturday, as do not keep the Christian Sunday.

The Moroccan Conference ended on April 7th, after the formal signing of the treaty. The Duke of Almodovar entertained delegates at a farewell dinner.

The constitutional democrats and liberal elements in Russia have swept the country at the recent parliamentary elections.

A world's postal congress was formally opened at Rome April 7th, by King Victor Emmanuel and Queen Helena of Italy. Delegates were present from all parts of the world.

A wireless message has been transmitted across the Atlantic from Glenariff near Cork, Ireland, to Manhattan Beach, near New York. The message was sent at the rate of twenty words a minute.

James J. Gray, one of the most rising young Catholic Irish-Americans of Chicago, has just been appointed Clerk of the Circuit Court, by the choice of the thirteen judges forming the Court. He has served a term as assessor and is a Master in Chancery.

William Pigott, the oldest known Ontario printer, who published a newspaper in Dundas, Ontario, some sixty years ago, has been elected vice-president of the "Old-Time Printers' Association" of Chicago.

Lava from Vesuvius killed hundreds of people and one town is destroyed and others devastated. Copious rain-falls at last brought relief and the situation is brighter. King Victor Emanuel and Queen Helena of Italy give aid to the afflicted.

The Winnipeg street railway strike was ended by the men getting an advance in pay of one cent per hour. The men wanted two cents. The men will be allowed to retain membership in the union, but there is no recognition of the union by the company.

A bill is before the American Congress to restrict immigration to the United States by raising the head tax from \$2 to \$5, and requiring that each male shall possess \$25 in money and each female \$15. Each immigrant over 16 years of age must be able to read in some language.

Many of the French hierarchy are candidates for parliament in the elections next month. The present majority of the Republicans is sure to be largely diminished, as not only the Church, but the old nobility, will seek representation. Brittany is sure to send a strong anti-republican delegation, including the Bishop of Nancy, Monsignore Turigaz.

The all-absorbing topic of conversation here is the probable increase in the price of liquor in Ontario. The Whitney Government in fulfillment of anti-election promises, is on the point of raising the liquor license from \$350 to \$700, and if this takes place the Licensed Victuallers' Association have decided to raise the price of alcoholic drinks.

Mrs. Thomas F. Ryan, wife of the New York multi-millionaire, during the past few years, has given more than \$2,500,000 towards the advancement of the various charities maintained and controlled by the Roman Catholic Church in the United States, besides many contributions to non-sectarian institutions. Mrs. Ryan's munificence covers the building of at least one hundred new chapels.

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schools, churches, hospitals, homes for Sisters of Charity and homes for the aged and infirm.

A movement has been started in New York to form a National Association for the Catholic men of America. John D. Crimmins of New York, Mayor Dunne of Chicago, Congressman W. Bourke Cockran of New York, Justice McKenna of the United States Supreme Court, Countess Leary, and other wealthy and influential Catholics, have offered their aid to the movement. The idea is to form a Catholic Young Men's Christian Association.

The promised administration act respecting education was brought down in the local legislature by Hon. Dr. Pyne. It proposes larger education grants and more Normal schools. It also provides an Advisory Council with seventeen members representative of all branches. The Supplementary Estimates to contain a special grant to the Rural, Public and Separate schools, and additional powers to educational boards to acquire and appropriate lands.

Great interest has been excited by the action taken by the Government of the Dominion in council assembled, in officially accepting the British offer to them to take over the maintenance of the dockyard of Halifax, which in the future will be entirely under Canadian control. Two new forts are now built by Canada, or rather their construction is being continued by Canada.

The interest in Cobalt lasts, but the snow prevents any actual prospecting work being done. The great rush, however, is expected to set in soon. The value of real estate has gone up rapidly. Two well known Toronto men have refused \$12,000 for land which but a very short time ago cost them \$1,000. There are 2,000 people in Cobalt now and only one police officer, who has kept order wonderfully well. He is an Irishman from Toronto, named Caldwell.

The new British Education Bill introduced in the House of Commons last week aims a death blow at Church schools, and withdraws government support from all sectarian institutions. A storm of protest is raised by clergy and all in favor of church schools. It is fathered by a Mr. Birrell. Under the proposed scheme religious education, however, may be given in hitherto unprovided schools if they are taken over by educational authorities. The attendance of pupils will not be made compulsory and no part of the expense shall be borne by the rates. The bill passed a first reading.

TOPICS OF AN OLD-TIMER

(Continued from page 1.)

those they thought unfriendly or desired to punish and their influence was all-powerful, as the judiciary was considered too weak and yielding, regardless of the rights of the people. In this way the people were harassed to death, and had constantly to be on the alert to defend themselves against the powerful corporations. At last a man arose, whom the Republicans nominated for Governor, that was elected and heeded the baronial crowd in their den, the city of Sacramento, and made them tremble. This was in the seventies, and Newton Booth was the name of that Governor. Like T. D. McGee in Canada, he was a student of "Junius" and Edmund Burke. He declared no man was so powerful as to be above the law nor so weak as to be beneath the law, and he acted accordingly.

One of those sharp and unscrupulous lawyers attempted to steal the city of Oakland in its youth, through political influence and partially succeeded. He was in the habit of examining, and clouding titles and in this way amassed and made a great fortune. He was shot at several times, but never was hit. A San Francisco paper told this little story of him, which illustrated the case so well that it has made many a man smile:

"An Englishman who had made a fortune in San Francisco, returned to the land of his birth with the intention of settling down there on a piece of land which he might call his own and end his days there with a happy family group about him. He made selection of a beautiful place on the borders of a beautiful lake, which he thought would suit his fancy and enable him to enjoy life independent of land thieves and sharp-acting lawyers. He was very particular as to the safety of the title. The parchments were produced and gone over and with the greatest of care. 'Gentlemen,' said he, 'these parchments appear to be all right only for one omission. I find no quit-claim deed there from Horace W. Carpenter.' 'Who is Horace W. Carpenter?' No such person has any claim here,' said the conveyancer. 'He is a lawyer in San Francisco,' said the intending purchaser, 'and no one is safe in buying property without having his quit claim attached, and I don't buy any property anywhere, even here in England, without it.'

These statements give the reader an idea of social conditions in California until Newton Booth's time, about thirty years ago; they existed later, but not in so flagrant a form. Law was slow, expensive and exceedingly uncertain, as perjury was quite common, as common as it was in England when men paraded in Westminster Hall with straws in their shoes to show they were for hire as perjured witnesses.

The Chinese poured into San Francisco in thousands in the early days of the State and became a great nuisance, working as they were for small wages and throwing white men and women out of employment. A man arose for this emergency, a little



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Corkonian sailor named Denis Kearney. He held meetings on the Sand Lots of San Francisco, and declared "the Chinese must go!" He organized the state against the Chinese and elected men to Congress to advocate the views of the workingmen's party of California. The prejudice in the East against the desires of this party was very great and the Chinese had the support of all the so-called humanitarians. But if an exclusion law had not been passed the people of California would have taken the law into their own hands and driven the Chinese out. San Francisco was the chief sufferer from the Chinese evil and San Francisco was the most vigorous in pushing the agitation. Kearney was a very plain man, but he soon had influence enough to determine the character of men that were sent to the legislature. In 1878 a Convention was called to amend the state constitution and it produced a very radical code that frightened not only the Chinese, but also the capitalists and monopolists and corporations of the State, many of whom deserted California and took up their residences in New York, like D. O. Mills and others. I was nominated for a delegate to that convention along with two others, for Sacramento county, by the Workingmen's Party, but the two old parties were so alarmed that the Democrats and Republicans united in nominating a ticket to defeat us, which they did, with the three best and most influential men they could find in both parties in the county; but so strong and radical were the sentiments of the people that the Constitutional Convention produced the most radical state constitution in the United States.

The Irish were always a great power in San Francisco. When I reached there in 1870 the Mayor was an Irishman named Frank McCoppin. He was nicknamed "the man of the faultless physique," as he was considered to be physically perfect. His wife was a daughter of a previous mayor, named VanNess, and after whom the most beautiful avenue in San Francisco was named. The Chief of Police was an Irishman named Lees. Many of the Supervisors or Aldermen were Irishmen. Who was sheriff then I forget, but at the next election Matt Nunan, a San Francisco brewer, who was a native of Limerick, was elected to that office and gave general satisfaction. San Francisco had the distinction then of sending an Irishman to the United States Senate, a lawyer named Eugene Casserly, a man of character and eminence. It also had John Connors in the other branch of Congress, and a very active member he was. Another man with a prominent Irish name—Coughlan—was also a California representative at Washington.

While I was in California during the seventies one of the Governors was named Irwin, whom I presume is an Irish name. But most wonderful of all, there was one state legislature that had six Murphys in it, not one of whom was born in Ireland, although one of them first saw the light of day in Quebec. Another was born in Missouri, another in Australia, another in Massachusetts, another in Maine, and another in San Francisco. One in name and one in fame were the sea-divided Murphys. Murphy is a great name in California. Besides these I have mentioned, there was Murphy the great land-owner, with "cattle on a thousand hills," Murphy of the Big Trees, Murphy of San Raphael, and Murphy of Murphy, Grant & Co., the most extensive wholesale dry goods firm in California, and whose daughter married an

English nobleman. This particular Murphy was also distinguished by being made a papal marquis.

Some of these rich San Francisco men were generous towards the reigning Pope, and made him large contributions of California precious metals, among the first of whom was one J. D. Oliver, a merchant, who was also made a papal marquis.

In the present crisis there is one Irish Catholic who has distinguished himself greatly. It is ex-Mayor D. J. Phelan, who lost \$5,000,000 by the great disaster, but contributed \$1,000,000 towards the relief fund. He is chairman of the Relief Board, as well he may be. His father before him was a merchant of that city who had amassed a great deal of wealth, like a great many others. I think Mr. Phelan had just contributed \$1,000 to Mr. Douglas Hyde for the Gaelic League. He is the most generous man known to us.

The most conspicuous man whose life was sacrificed in the late disaster, was that of a Sullivan—the chief of the fire department—who died like a hero.

Mr. Douglas Hyde, who has just returned from San Francisco, had the following to say of the people of that city, when he read of the great disaster: "My heart bleeds and aches and all the life and joy has gone out of my visit to America when I think of that awful thunderbolt of destruction which out of a clear sky has plunged our friends in the West in misery and ruin—the best, kindest, most generous, greatest-hearted Irishmen and Americans that I have met."

WILLIAM HALLEY.

Death at Erinsville

The late Mrs. William Kidd, who departed this life recently at her home, near Erinsville, was born in the County Wicklow, Ireland, eighty-two years ago. The deceased and a younger sister, emigrated to Canada in 1849. She became a teacher and taught in Chippewa, Croydon, and Centerville. She was married to William Kidd in 1860. Mr. and Mrs. Kidd lived the early years of their married life on a farm, three miles east of Enterprise. Twenty-three years ago they moved onto the farm occupied by the family in the neighborhood of Erinsville. That the deceased was beloved and respected by her friends and neighbors was amply testified by the large number who attended her funeral. Mrs. Kidd is survived by her husband, her two sons, Joseph and John, and her two daughters, Mrs. James McKeown and Mrs. William Murphy.

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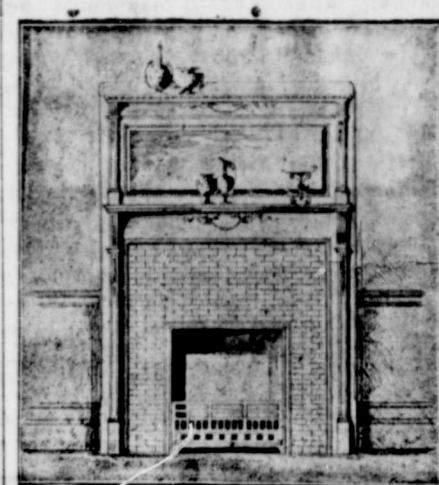
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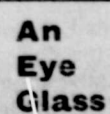
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