

PURELY CANADIAN NEWS.

INTERESTING ITEMS ABOUT OUR OWN COUNTRY.

Gathered from Various Points from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Barrie has a few vacant houses. Owen Sound is to have a new lighthouse. Severn Bridge has a siege of scarlet fever. Grimsby has repealed its early closing by-law.

Barrie has recently had a number of burglaries.

Berlin has voted to establish a new public park.

The Conestoga Methodists are renovating their church.

Queen's College re-opened Tuesday with a large attendance.

Work will be commenced on the Stratford postoffice at once.

A man was trying to sell a white donkey in Barrie this week.

Brockville shows an increase of 382 in population this year.

Pickpockets are operating in Ottawa with considerable success.

Paris has decided to grant no more exemptions to manufacturers.

A ship load of lumber is going from Dorchester Port, N. B., to Buenos Ayres.

A bear weighing 300 pounds was killed Sunday at Bob's Lake above Westport.

The Brockville Carriage Company has already turned out 2,000 light cutters this season.

During the year ending Sept. 30th 462 prisoners have been confined in Hamilton jail.

Nine rafts of lumber have gone down to Quebec from the Upper Ottawa river this summer.

One day the citizens of St. John, N. B. paid in nearly \$80,000 for taxes to save the discount.

During the past year 615 prisoners have been incarcerated in the county jail at Stratford.

From two potatoes planted last spring Jas. Salter, of Orillia, has in return 112 full sized spuds.

A Hamilton woman was fined \$15 last week for plucking two flowers in a cemetery in that city.

The Catholics of Brockville will have a bazaar next week from which they expect to raise \$7,000.

W. T. Campbell, formerly cashier of the G.T.R. at Ingersoll, died in the Chatham hospital this week.

The architect of Knox church, Mitchell, has a claim against the contractor for \$2,000 on account of errors.

Several islands around Port Severn have been sold, and the owners will put up summer cottages next spring.

The capital stock of the Brunette Saw Mill Co., Victoria, B.C., has been increased from \$200,000 to \$300,000.

John Dunlop, a well known farmer of Hibbert, near Cromarty, was found dead in bed on Saturday morning last.

James Lee, the pickpocket, was let go at London because the jail authorities don't want a sick man on their hands.

Mr. Thos. Flynn, market gardener, of the Gore of London, was successful in growing peanuts on his farm this summer.

It is calculated that the cut on the St. John's River, N.B., this year is about 30,000,000 feet less than the average.

Brantford has now a population of 15,553, an increase of 99 during the past year. There are less than 30 vacant houses in the city.

Two Moncton, N.B., young ladies recently raided an apple orchard. Another drove a tramp out of the house at the point of a revolver.

Price Bros.' saw mill at St. Thomas, Montmagny, Que., destroyed by fire in the month of May, has been reconstructed and has commenced operations.

The wife of Joseph Truskey, who is condemned to die on December 14 for the murder of Wm. Lindsay, frequently visits her husband in the Sandwich jail.

Joseph Hartley, a Winnipeg laborer, three months ago came into possession of a fortune of \$50,000. He died in the hospital on Thursday from excessive drinking.

A London woman answered an ad. for a new hat fastener, and received two rubber bands, with instructions to fasten them to the hat and run them round under her ears.

The movement to buy the river front on Sandwich street west from the Grand Trunk Railway for a park is meeting with general approval in Windsor. The price is \$45,000.

Quebec takes the lead in the supply of timber, her output of sawlogs amounting to 5,000,000 feet broad measure, and of square timber to three and a quarter million cubic feet.

Post Office Inspector Hawken has gone to Lake Temiscamingue to establish a post office five miles inland from the lake, half way between Baie des Peres and the Temiscamingue colonization road.

At the fall show in Ilderton the W.C.T.U. got complete control of the grounds for a substantial consideration, kept all games of chance out of the grounds, and supplied meals—"all you can eat"—for 15 cents a meal.

A letter passed through the mail recently in Winnipeg with the following unique address:—"The Principal, Chief Post Office, Mackenzie, Manitoba, for Quebec, North America, United States, near Philadelphia, in California."

At the Chatham Police Court Wednesday a man named George Douglas was charged with robbing Chas. McKeagan of \$25. Mr. W. Douglas, Q. C., prosecuted, and Mr. B. Douglas defended the accused. The first named Douglas was discharged.

Mr. J. Dearness, school inspector, East Middlesex, has received a diploma of honorable mention from the Board of Lady Managers of the Columbian Exposition for his management of the educational exhibit of the Province of Ontario at the World's Fair.

THE PRODUCTION OF WHEAT.

The Fall in Prices Due to the Bounty of Nature Rather Than to the Enterprise of Man.

We have referred to the great over-production of wheat in recent years as the immediate cause of the tremendous fall in prices; but it remains to explain how the glut has been produced. That it is due to the bounty of nature rather than to the enterprise of man is clear from the fact that it is mainly attributable to production in the United States, where the wheat area has decreased during the last ten years, while the population has been augmented by about 12½ millions. In 1884 there were nearly 39½ million acres under wheat in that country, while the average area during the three years ending with 1893 was under 37½ million acres, and this year it is estimated by the Department of Agriculture at only 33 million acres. But the yield was phenomenal in 1891, extraordinary in 1892, and well up to the average in 1893 and 1894. It is certain that the crops of 1891 and the two following years were greatly underestimated by the Department of Agriculture. What has been learned of the distribution of these crops appears to show conclusively that they averaged at least 15,000,000 quarters more than the average annual production of the three preceding years. This season's crop, again, according to all commercial estimates, is quite up to an average in quantity, and much greater than the figures of the Department of Agriculture intimate.

To this superabundance in America there is to be added a new one in the Argentine Republic, whence over two million quarters of wheat were exported in 1892, and over four and a half millions in 1893, while this year's total is expected to reach seven million quarters. Previous to 1890 that country had only in one year exported as much as a million quarters, and the rapid increase of her surplus, coming on top of the extra reports from the United States, good crops in Europe since 1891, and great crops in India since 1892, has materially helped to bring prices down. In Argentina we have the only instance of a country in which the growth of wheat has greatly extended in recent years. Argentine statistics are little better than rough guesses but so far as they are to be relied on they show that the wheat area, which was only 490,000 acres in 1880, had expanded to 6,000,000 acres in 1893. In spite of the low prices ruling since the crop of the later year came into the market, a great increase in wheat growing is reported for the present year.

The explanation of this surprising advance in wheat production given by Argentine authorities and the British representative at Buenos Ayres, is that it is due partly to the high gold premium which has prevailed for several years, and partly to the settlement of the country by a large number of Italian immigrants, who are content to labor from sunrise to sunset, and even by moonlight, for a bare living. They spend hardly anything, it is said, upon imported merchandise, which the gold premium makes dear, while they sell their wheat at gold prices and pay nearly all their expenses in the depreciated paper currency, which is said to go almost as far as ever in payments which they have to make. If this is to be taken as the main explanation of Argentine farmers being in a position to extend their wheat industry when prices are unremunerative to growers in nearly all other countries, their enterprise is built on a very insecure foundation. English farmers, at any rate, cannot grow wheat at 20s. a quarter. A thrifty Scotch farmer in Essex a few years ago astonished the readers of an agricultural paper by giving figures to show that he could grow wheat at a profit to sell at 30s. a quarter; but he disposed of the straw as well as the grain, and he still holds to 30s. as his minimum. It is incredible that the world can long be supplied with wheat at present prices, unless a series of "lean years" occurs to cause a recovery in value, it will, in all probability, be brought by a considerable reduction of the wheat area.

Gauging a Man's Character.

Here are the directions an experienced married lady gives to young ladies who are anxious to get at the characters of men who make serious advances to them:—"For a man's birth look to his linen and fingernails, and observe the inflections of his voice. For his tastes, study the colour of his ties, the pattern and hang of his trousers, his friends, and his rings—if any. For his propensities, walk round and look carefully at the back of his head, and remember, girls, never to marry a man whose neck bulges ever so little over his collar. If you want a successful man, see that he has a neat foot; he will move quicker, get over obstacles faster, than a man who falls over his own toes and trips up other folks with 'em, too. For his breeding, talk sentiment to him when he is starving, and ask him to carry a band-box down the public street when you've just had a row. To test his temper, tell him his nose is a little on one side and you don't like the way his hair grows—and if that won't fetch him nothing will."

A Corrected Bill.

Householder—"Did the master plumber make the corrections in that bill I returned to him?"
Collector—"Yes, sir, and he found an overcharge of two dollars."
"Aha! Just as I said."
"Yes sir; but it took him about an hour to look up the items,—and he charges five dollars an hour for his time. Three dollars more, please."

Anxious.

She—"Oh, Charlie, papa is going to give us \$100,000 when we marry."
He—"Is that so darling? Well, suppose we get married a few months sooner than we expected."

MOTHERS IN FICTION.

In Real Life Mothers Hold a Foremost Place in the Affection and Regard of Men.

If it is true that the dramatist and the novelist hold the mirror up to nature, how does it come that we find so few admirable mothers in their works? In history and biography, as in real life, mothers hold a foremost place in the affection and regard of men. From the days of the Gracchi to the present moment maternal love and filial affection have been esteemed the noblest of all the virtues, and yet how seldom do we see them portrayed in fiction? The dramatists as a rule make their mother characters wicked or silly, and the novelists too often hold them up to ridicule. In all of Shakespeare's thirty-seven plays there is only one really admirable mother, the Countess Rousillon in "All's Well That Ends Well." Tamora in "Titus Andronicus," the Queen in "Cymbeline," Lady Capulet and the Queen of Denmark are dreadful or despicable creatures, while Queen Constance, Queen Elinor, the Duchess of York, and Volunzia in the historical plays are entirely too robust and far from lovable.

But the novelists are the greatest sinners in this respect, the feminine writers of fiction being no whit behind the masculine. In Jane Austen's six novels there is not one estimable mother. They are either weak and foolish, or proud, or vulgar. No reader can esteem, much less love, any one of them, and they are only objects of contempt or of neglect to their own children. Miss Austen admired her own mother highly, but though she put her father and brothers in some of her stories, there seems to have been no place for her mother or any of the good mothers she must have known. Charlotte Bronte is quite as blamable as Jane Austen. In her three novels there are four or five mothers, and of these Lady Ingram and Mrs. Reed are cruel and unmotherly, and the others are weak or depraved. In two of George Eliot's novels we find three or four mothers whom we love or respect—Mrs. Garth in "Middlemarch" and Mrs. Poyser, Mrs. Bede and Mrs. Irvine in "Adam Bede," but this ends the list. As an offset to them there are Mrs. Tulliver and Mrs. Deane in "The Mill on the Floss," Mrs. Transome and Mrs. Holt in "Felix Holt," and Mrs. Harleth in "Daniel Deronda." In her other novels there are no mothers at all. Thackeray depicted a most charming and lovable woman and mother in Laura Pendennis. She is a creation before whom we can all go down on our knees as Philip Firmin and Pen himself could. So, too, Pen's mother is a true woman most exquisitely drawn, and one has nothing to say against Lady Castlewood, subsequently Mrs. Colonel Esmond, of Virginia. But over against these stand the old campaigner, Mrs. MacKenzie, Mrs. Gashleigh, Mrs. Hobson Newcome and the dreadful mother of Barry Lyndon. There are also Blanche Amory's mother, good enough in her vulgar way, but not a pleasant person to meet, and the unendurable Mrs. Sedley.

When we turn to the novels of Charles Dickens we find no end of weak, insipid, and ridiculous mothers, and not one that is entirely admirable. Mrs. Copperfield is aimable but weak; Mrs. Rudge good but vulgar, and Kit's mother of the same class. But these do not atone for the Jellabys, Micawbers, Nicklebyes, Kenwigs, Skewtons, Merdles, Clenams, Heeps, Guppys and the rest. We laugh at some and despise others. It is said that he portrayed his own mother, or certain of her traits in Mrs. Micawber and Mrs. Nickleby. It is a pity he could not have found one loving and lovable English mother somewhere among his friends or among the creatures of his imagination. Bulwer Lytton has given us one delightful mother in Mrs. Caxton, but that is all. Charles Reade, who particularly prided himself on his knowledge of the female heart and character, has also portrayed one. Mrs. Little in "Put Yourself in His Place" is a splendid creation, but he ends with her. Lucy Dodd is whimsical, Gerrard's mother unreasonable, and Lady Barrett a criminal. One might think that Goldsmith, describing the simple life and pleasures of an English parsonage, might have drawn the character of a perfect mother, but he does not. Mrs. Primrose is not an admirable woman in any sense. She is the very embodiment of self-conceit and vanity. In Scott's splendid gallery there are some noble pictures of women—devoted, loving, faithful—but not a single mother whom we can admire. Mrs. Ashton in "The Bride of Lammermoor" is bad and cruelly selfish, and she is the only notable mother in the collection.

Why there should be this absence of the highest mother character in our best fiction is difficult to say, or why mothers should be such particular objects of ridicule. But the fact is assured. Perhaps some future convocation of mothers will take this subject up and see to it that the mothers have their just deserts in fiction as well as in history.

ALMOST SUFFOCATED.

A Child Falling Out of Bed Saved the Whole Family From Death.

A despatch from London says:—"Mrs. W. C. Hiscott, her two children and her father, Mr. John Crone, had a very narrow escape from asphyxiation at their home on Cartwright street early on Monday morning. When a neighbor was passing the house his attention was attracted by Mrs. Hiscott's cries, and running to her assistance he found her in a semi-unconscious condition. The strong odor of coal gas in the house soon told him what the trouble was, and he at once summoned his wife. A little vigorous work on her part and some fresh air soon brought Mrs. Hiscott and her children to their normal condition, but they were not so fortunate with Mr. Crone. He had inhaled more of the poisonous vapor than the others, and nearly an hour elapsed before he was restored to consciousness. One of the children fortunately fell out of the bed, and this awakened Mrs. Hiscott sufficiently to show her what the trouble was. With great difficulty she crawled to the front door in her night dress and her cries attracted the neighbor as stated above."

EGGS AND POULTRY.

A Market for Eggs in the United Kingdom at Good Prices.

The Dominion Government has issued a report on the poultry industry and egg trade which will be found most useful to poultry raisers and interesting to the general reader.

As to the egg trade, the statistics furnished by Mr. George Johnson, Dominion statistician, show that the export is large and increasing. The most important market, of course, is the home one, but the trade returns of 1893 show that, besides supplying her own market, Canada exported in that year 6,805,432 dozen of eggs, of a value of \$868,007; live poultry to the value of \$61,127, and poultry dressed and dressed to the value of \$20,840. The principal customers of Canada, with which the others can not compare, are Great Britain and the United States, the former taking the bulk of the trade. In 1893 Canada exported to the United Kingdom 4,104,632 dozen eggs, valued at \$538,944, while to the United States she sent 4,021,637 dozen, valued at \$510,594. Up to 1890 the United States was the best customer of Canada, but the McKinley tariff of 1891 caused a great falling off, as the following table will show:

	Doz. Eggs.	Value.
1882.....	11,728,518	\$1,793,167
1883.....	14,683,061	2,581,279
1884.....	14,698,338	2,356,313
1885.....	14,029,474	2,095,437
1886.....	14,465,764	1,893,672
1887.....	13,682,914	1,930,844
1888.....	15,255,558	2,262,815
1889.....	15,370,061	2,345,715
1890.....	14,917,912	2,065,086
1891.....	8,095,675	1,177,831
1892.....	4,021,637	510,594

In 1888 our exports to Great Britain amounted to 2,379 dozen of eggs valued at \$202; the following year it had dropped to 98 dozens valued at \$18. The effect of the McKinley law is seen in the three years 1891, 1892 and 1893. Canada finding that she was losing the United States' market turned her attention to England and exported as follows:

	Doz. Eggs.	Value.	Poultry and Game.
1891.....	649,476	\$ 84,589	\$1,002
1892.....	3,987,655	592,218	3,340
1893.....	4,104,632	538,944	5,304

Showing that all that is needed is to press trade in that direction, for England has demand for all the eggs we can send. The supply is drawn from France, Russia, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Portugal, Spain, Morocco, United States and Canada. France headed the list last year with 35,121,740 dozen, Germany next with 27,513,400 dozen, Belgium next with 19,857,680 dozen. The United States sent only 421,250 dozen, the total import amounting to 111,394,190 dozen valued at \$18,480,276. France supplied nearly one-third of the whole quantity imported and Germany comes next with about a fourth of the value, Belgium following with nearly a fifth. It will be seen from this that there is a great market for eggs in the United Kingdom at good prices, which should be an incentive to egg dealers in this country to bestir themselves to secure a greater share of the trade. The report furnishes full information, giving particulars of the trade with all countries, the tables showing at a glance the trend of the traffic.

Memorized the Bible.

There have been several instances of men with such marvelous memories that they knew not only by heart the New but also the Old Testament, and in one case, at least, the whole Apocrypha as well. An old beggar at Stirling, Scotland, known over sixty years ago as Blind Alick, knew the whole of the Bible by heart, inasmuch that if a sentence was read to him he could name book, chapter and verse; or, if the book, chapter and verse were named he could give the exact words. A man tested him by repeating a verse and purposely making one verbal inaccuracy. Alick hesitated, named the place where the passage was to be found, and at the same time pointed out the verbal error. The same man asked him to repeat the ninety-ninth verse of the second chapter of the book of Numbers. Alick almost instantly replied: "There is no such verse; that chapter has only eighty-nine verses." A monk who resided at Moscow in the fifteenth century could repeat the whole of the New Testament. Daniel McCartney was a complete concordance of the New Testament and of most of the Old Testament. Prof. Hoyt (of Hebrew) recited a large number of passages from the Scriptures, as asked for, and satisfied his audience that he knew where every passage was. Lord Cartaret knew all the Greek Testament by heart from the first chapter of Matthew to the last chapter of the Apocalypse and could recite it verse by verse as if he had the book actually before him.

Ambergris.

Ambergris, or gray amber, is a secretion found in the intestines of diseased sperm whales. Sometimes, in warm climates, it is found floating on the sea, or thrown up on the coasts.

Centuries ago, when first discovered, it was thought to be the solidified foam of the sea, or a fungoid growth of the sea, similar to the fungi which grow on trees on land. It is only within a comparatively short time that its true character was discovered. It is supposed now to be practically a biliary calculus; certainly every whale in which ambergris has been found has been sick; and it is believed that the sickness has been due to the presence of ambergris. When ambergris was first introduced into Europe it was used in medicines, in flavoring wines and in making perfumes. Now it is used for the last purpose only, though in the East Indies it is still an article of the pharmacopoeia. Ambergris, when first taken from the whale is of a deep gray color, soft to the touch, and of a disagreeable smell. When exposed to the air, it hardens, loses color, and develops a sweet, earthy smell. It is worth about sixty dollars a pound.

AT A LEVEL CROSSING.

THREE KILLED BY A RAILROAD TRAIN IN BUFFALO.

The Two Children of John N. Scatcherd and Their Aunt, Miss Wood, Hurled Into Eternity—The Little Girl, who was Driving, did not see the Engine and all Were Killed.

A despatch from Buffalo says:—"While driving across a railroad track on Sunday afternoon the carriage containing the two children of John N. Scatcherd and Miss Emily S. Wood, their aunt, was struck by a freight engine and the three occupants killed. At 5 o'clock Miss Emily S. Wood and two daughters of John N. Scatcherd went for a drive along the Niagara boulevard. Miss Wood was one of the best-known society women in Buffalo. Mr. Scatcherd is a millionaire, the best horseman in Buffalo and the Republican state committeeman from the 31st district. The children who went with Miss Wood were aged 11 and 5 years respectively. The eldest girl was driving, and Miss Wood was reading aloud from a newspaper. Seeing the belt line passenger train approaching at the Parkside crossing the girl whipped the horse over ahead of it. A Central freight train going east escaped the notice of the occupants of the carriage. The engine struck the carriage and threw it clean up on the pilot, breaking it to pieces. The two girls were almost instantly killed, and Miss Wood died soon after being removed to a nearby house. Mr. and Mrs. Scatcherd are nearly insane from grief. Mrs. Scatcherd is a sister of John Farley, Q. C., of St. Thomas. Her husband is well known in Western Ontario, and has a brother engaged in the cattle business near London, Ont."

THE LATEST FAD.

A Gigantic Sixth Race of Men is to Descend Upon This Country.

It is essentially an age of fads, and the latest is to the effect that a gigantic sixth race of men is to descend upon this country. These visiting magnates are to be thirty-three feet high, on an average. Both men and women will have three eyes with which to look down upon ordinary mortals. The third eye will be in the centre of the forehead, as there would be hardly room for it anywhere else except in the back of the head, where it would come in handy in detecting the others making game of them. Besides possessing advantages of towering stature and extraordinary powers of vision, the man of the sixth race will be able to live much cheaper than the average mortal to-day, otherwise there would be danger of his eating us out of house and home. His food will be aesthetic and inexpensive. As for clothes, he will not, according to the views of theosophists, have to expend a dollar on them all the year round. When he wants a dress suit all he will have to do will be to intimate his wish to the singularly responsible and versatile intellect with which he will be endowed and, presto! coat, vest and trousers will adorn his elongated figure in an instant and fit him to a dot. This may effect the clothing business to some extent, but it can't be helped. These people will be, doubtless, interesting, but they are hardly a desirable class of immigrants. They should not be sprung upon us too hastily. Indeed, we have many peculiar people that we could do without and we don't care to take in many more, just at present. Why can't those people appear in China and take part in the present war? They ought to be able to bring things to a conclusion. We don't want them; at least just yet. We have lots of big men of our own. That is, of those who think they are.

The War Chest of Europe.

In his article on "The War Chest of Europe," published in the Nineteenth Century, Prof. Heinrich Geffcken says that Germany has a war treasure of \$30,000,000 in coined gold lying in the Julius Tower at Spandau, while France, Russia, England and the other great powers of the world have locked up in their war chests all the gold they can lay their hands on. Prof. Geffcken has not been able to make an estimate of the total amount of currency thus put out of the reach of the world's trade, but it is undoubtedly large enough to have a very serious restrictive effect. A still more serious result of the preparation for war in time of peace is the permanent war debt rendered necessary by heavy payments for army, navy and pensions. The war chest and the war debt taken together constitute the most serious obstacle now in the way of popular advancement. No form of land or commodity monopoly, bad as many of them are, is so oppressive to the earner as the restriction of the medium through which he must exchange his products—if he do it at all—when this restriction is accompanied by an increasing burden of interest which must be paid out of his earnings. This system of oppression is peculiarly modern. It is a result of the military imperialism which has taken the place of European feudalism. Incidentally it affords the favorites or the masters of government the most scientific method of robbing the people ever devised. And it is undoubtedly the most effective.

Bullet-Proof

"Madam," said Meandering Mike, when in response to his request for food, she offered him pie, "do ye remember a year ago when ye gave a sufferin' feller creature a pie?"
"I believe so."
"Madam, I'm that man."
"Was it good?"
"Good! It saved my life. There was an unfeelin' farmer that fired a box of tacks right fur my heart at short range. I had yer pie buttoned up inside my vest, an' here it is—full of tacks, ez ye kin see fur yerself. It ain't near worn out, an' I won't need another ter take its place fur a year yet."