

# THE WEEK'S NEWS.

CANADIAN.

The Bell telephone patents have been sustained in Mexico.

An Indian arrested at Fort MacLeod a few days ago was thought to be Deerfoot, but he turns out to be Bad Dried Meat, probably a near relation.

Fishing at Saddle Lake, N. W. T., was a failure last season owing to water insects eating the nets to pieces every night. There were plenty of fish but they could not be caught.

Principal Grant, of Queen's University, believes that when all the canvassers report next week it will be found that the quarter of a million required for the jubilee endowment fund has been subscribed.

Complaint has been made to the Dominion Government that a man who escaped from gaol on the American side of the "Soo" was pursued by American officers into Canadian territory and forcibly taken back.

A biological examination of samples of Ottawa city water made in Toronto has demonstrated that the water is unduly infected with bacteria, though it is not settled definitely whether they are typhoid fever germs or not.

The Toronto Board of Trade decided to apply to the Dominion Parliament for amendments to their Act of Incorporation giving them power to compel the attendance of witnesses in cases of arbitration and to enforce awards.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has declined to nominate a bishop for Nova Scotia, as the Provincial Synod will not guarantee the ratification of his nominee, and the Synod will therefore have to make another effort to elect its own bishop.

The New York World says that what Manitoba wants worse than anything else is a new climate. New climate yourself? Manitoba will be ploughing before Dakota, Montana or Minnesota find out where they left their fences last fall.

It is proposed by leading members of the Bar of Montreal to call an indignation meeting at an early date to protest against the neglect of the Local and Dominion Government to remedy the present unsatisfactory condition of the administration of justice.

The following new post offices were established in Ontario on Jan. 1st: Anson, North Hastings; Blackwell Station, Lambton; Emmonde, Renfrew; Les Mesnures, Muskoka; Perry Station, Monck; Spanish River Station, Algoma; Yonge Mills, South Leeds.

It is reported that the Prince Edward Islanders are indignant over the failure of the Dominion Government to maintain regular communication between the island and the mainland, which is declared to be this winter more incomplete and irregular than for many years.

A scheme for establishing a penal colony in the North-West Territories adjoining the Athabasca River, with a view to the development and settlement of that region, is proposed by Warden Bedson, of Manitoba Penitentiary and endorsed by Mr. Moylan, Inspector of Prisons, in his annual report.

The first special flour train from Minneapolis by way of the Sault Ste. Marie and Canadian Pacific railway reached Montreal, having made the journey in five days despite the heavy snow and severe cold. The train left immediately for Boston, where it is expected to land the flour on the seventh day after leaving Minneapolis.

The Postmaster-General says that the convention for a parcel post service between Canada and the United States had been signed by himself and Postmaster-General Vilas and only requires the signature of President Cleveland to make it legal. The terms agreed upon were satisfactory to both Governments and it had been arranged for the service to be inaugurated on March 1.

When one of the politicians imprisoned for bribery in Prince Edward County had completed his term in gaol he was given an oyster supper by the gaoler, and was driven in state through the town, the sheriff and the police magistrate taking part in the proceedings. Such is the statement of the Conservative journal at Picton. It is to be hoped the story is not true; for if it is, it would appear that officers of the law are doing their best to make bribery respectable.

The burglary in Montreal on Saturday was certainly one of the most extraordinary on record. Not content with carrying away three iron safes—one large one worth \$1,800—the enterprising burglars made away with books, bookcases, desks, chairs, letter-presses, counters, and even the flooring, including the joists. When the proprietor of the ransacked premises came upon the scene in the morning he no doubt felt grateful that the ceiling and walls were still left to him. In such a case even the smallest mercies are greatly to be appreciated.

At a tea meeting in a New Brunswick parish there were some unusual features provided. In one corner of the church an enclosure was prepared, within which two young ladies were sawing wood into stove lengths. In another corner were two young men making a patch-work quilt. All for a single admission. Tickets ten cents. It is a wonder that in order to make the leap year effect complete, the young pastor—was not shut up in another corner and a detachment of young ladies engaged to afflict him with proposals of marriage.

The practices in many matters in the various provinces are curiously divergent. In Nova Scotia and British Columbia there are divorce courts, but there are none here. In Nova Scotia street cars may be run on Sunday, as driving, according to the courts is not servile labour; in Quebec they may be run to carry people to church; in Ontario they must not be run under any circumstances. In British Columbia Sunday newspapers are published, and the closing of saloons on Sunday is a matter for municipal and not provincial regulation. Here Sunday is observed unanimously, except, as the law provides, by Indians. Here the Legislature regulates the municipal franchise. In New Brunswick the city council fixes the voting qualification.

FOREIGN.

It is reported in Berlin that Italy is preparing to send 150,000 troops to Galicia in the event of war.

The crofter agitation in Scotland and the anti-tithe movement in Wales are rapidly growing more serious.

The ship Britannia, from the Mediterranean, with 850 people aboard, is now six days over-due at New York.

The doctors have decided that if the Crown Prince of Germany dies, his disease is of a fatal character, but if he recovers it is not incurable.

Many of Mr. Parnell's followers, including the two Heals and Mr. Dillon, object to their leader's proposed policy of abstaining from obstruction.

The Paris Univers has a report from Rome that the English Cabinet accepts Papal mediation in regard to Ireland on the basis of Mgr. Persico's report.

A gigantic Christmas tree was sent from Potsdam to the German Crown Prince at San Remo, so large that it had to be cut in two for transportation, each half filling a freight car.—Ex.

Out of 63 palatial residences in Paris inspected by a Government sanitary engineer, 47 were found to have such defective plumbing that the health of the occupants was constantly threatened.

The Pope has advised the Irish bishops and priests visiting Rome to use their influence to restore respect for the law in Ireland, as the Irish people could not obtain what they asked by violence.

If the records of her baptism in Knockmahon, Ireland, are correct, and if she lives until the 5th of April next, Mrs. Bridget Doody, of Mineral Point, Wis., will be 116 years old. She has outlived all of her ten children, the youngest of whom was born when she was 58 years old. She is in pretty fair health, and seems likely to live for several years.

At a dinner at the Mansion house, London, three foreign consuls were present whom the Lord Mayor wished to honor by drinking their healths. He accordingly directed the toast master to announce the healths of "the three present consuls." He, however, mistaking the words, gave out the following:—"The Lord Mayor drinks the health of the 3 per cent. consols.

The experiment of giving halfpenny dinners at the Birmingham schools has been so successful that farthing dinners have been tried and nearly succeeded. Two hundred and twelve thousand farthing dinners were given last year at a cost of less than 39,100ths of a penny. The attendance at the schools has been greatly increased, and the good effect upon the temper of the children has been astonishing.

The strength of the Russian troops assembled ready for action in the western provinces toward the end of December is reported by a German military paper as follows:—In the first line, close to the frontier, there are stationed eight army corps, one each at Riga, Koono, Plotak Lomsha, Petrohof Warsaw, Ivangorod Lublin, Rovno Shtomir, Kief Meskibooshye and Kishnef. The second line is made up of three corps, one each at Bialystok Minak, Tcheringoo Orei and Karkof Poltava. The third line consists of five corps, one each at Reval Novgorod, Petersburg, Moscow, Joulav and Kazen Soratof. Each of these sixteen corps counts 44,500 men, or, altogether, 712,000 men. There are further nine divisions of cavalry on a complete war footing and receiving already war pay, close upon the frontiers towards Germany and Austria—namely, one each a Kovno, Wilna, Lomsha, Alexandrov and Tchenstock of looking toward Germany, and at Lublin, Samostye, Dubno and Kief looking toward Austria. The four divisions stationed at Romny, Tchovgovyef, Jelisavetgrad and Kishnef can be transported to the frontier in a few days. These thirteen divisions count 3,600 horses each, or, altogether, 46,800. Each division is supplied with two batteries. The whole force consists, therefore, of 757,000 men, of which eight corps and nine divisions of horse, or 356,000 foot and 35,400 horse form the first line. Railroads with double tracks connect the second and third lines with the first—that is, they can be moved forward so rapidly that they can be in the encampment of the first line simultaneously almost with the forward movement of the latter.

## Treacherous.

A reporter for the Pall Mall Gazette recently conversed with Mr. Barlett, superintendent of the London Zoological Gardens, about his experience with the hippopotamus. According to Mr. Barlett's account, this curious animal makes an interesting pet, although—as is the case with some human animals—its temper is rather uncertain. It would be straining a point to call it thin-skinned, since its skin is two inches or more thick, but there are times, to say the least, when it seems to be uncomfortably touchy. Obach, the first hippopotamus that came to the gardens, was presented by the Viceroy of Egypt in 1851. He died in 1879. For some reason or other the brute got attached to me. I believe it was because I talked to him whenever I saw him.

We were the greatest of friends, and he was so docile that I used to ride on his back. In 1852, I was engaged in mounting a specimen hippo for the Crystal Palace, and went into Obach's den to make some measurements. Thinking no evil, I was busy with my tape, when it suddenly slipped, and the brute turned around on me with a furious snort, gnashing his jaws fiercely. I rushed for my life, and escaped through the rails; the keeper, who was with me, did the same. It was a very near thing, indeed, for both of us.

At present we have only one hippopotamus here,—the daughter of Obach,—who was born in 1872. Well, one day a stray dog strolled casually into the gardens and stopped before the rails of the hippo's outside enclosure.

The day was warm, the pool was tempting, so the dog wriggled through the rails and sprang into the water to his doom. The hippo rose to the surface, and, roaring, took the dog into her great jaws and crushed him to bits.

Another narrow escape was that of a keeper who came home to the gardens very late one stifling August night. He was slightly tipsy and very hot, so he stripped off his clothes and plunged into the pool. Unfortunately, the hippo was also in the pool, dozing away in the dark solitudes.

The keeper of course, thought that he was locked up in a cage. He did not discover his mistake till his hands came in contact with the back of the huge amphibian. The hippo swam after the man, but was not quick enough. The keeper just escaped, and when he wanted a bath afterward, he took it elsewhere. Had the brute got at him, only his mangled remains would have been found to tell the tale.

When our baby hippo was born the mother was terribly savage. I was afraid she would kill herself and her baby as well. We were compelled to feed them through the ventilator, and never dared to go into the house.

## FARM.

NOTES.

Protect tender roses and plants.

Plenty of good fuel, remember.

Fatten or sell the surplus stock.

Extra feed for pigs and poultry.

Protect fruit trees from the "nibblers."

Guard grain against the rats and mice.

Don't use the torturing check-rein.

A clean, well-ventilated cellar.

Milk for young pigs and calves should be fed warm.

Farming land in Connecticut, except in the vicinity of cities, has not increased in value in the last thirty years.

Where hens are not changed from one locality to another, they will lay a great many more eggs in the course of a year. Even the active leghorns form an attachment to a certain place.

If a farmer has plenty of patience, and is willing to give close attention to details in the care of stock, he can make more money for food consumed from sheep than from any other stock.

It ought to be settled beyond dispute that it pays to provide good shelter for all the stock on the farm. The surest plan, as far as possible, is to provide for this ahead of time when it may be wanted.

The Wisconsin Dairymen's Association met at Ripon, January 25 to 27, inclusive. These meetings always attract attention, not only in the state, but are attended by dairymen from surrounding states.

At the Ontario Agricultural College, an experiment in feeding eighteen head of store cattle with twelve pounds of hay, thirty-five pounds of turnips and nine pounds of wheat bran per head daily, and also the same amount of hay and roots but with different kinds of grain, resulted in the lowest cost of production on the bran ration.

The Maryland Farmer says that while thousands of dollars have been made in growing cranberries, large fortunes have been lost in similar ventures. Only the wealthier owners, who have expended vast sums of money in improving and equipping their property, can calculate with any degree of certainty on a paying crop of fruit every year.

There are no secrets in sheep raising. It has to be done by feeding. The sheep have to eat something, and that something has to be sweet feed, grass, grain, vegetables, fruit, or anything that is wholesome and nutritious, but must be abundant and un-failing. Weeds, brush and briars will keep sheep alive, but don't ask sheep to grow mutton on such pastures, no, nor wool.

The Dairy Associations of the Scottish shires of Dumfries and Wigton have decided to make a joint endeavor to secure for next season the services of a first-class Canadian instructor in cheese-making. This is a compliment to Canada; but it will be a more particular compliment to Ontario, for it is to this province that the associations will look for their expert. It is not a little remarkable that the Dominion should be invited to instruct the Mother Land in cheese-making.

The average cow, well cared for, says an agricultural writer, should make 200 pounds of butter a year—one of less capacity should not be tolerated—a good cow will make 300 pounds a year. We will call three acres sufficient to keep one cow a year, which is a large estimate. Two acres should suffice; in fact, Hiram Smith, the celebrated Wisconsin dairyman, comes pretty near keeping a cow on one acre. But two or even three acres to one such cow as noted above will prove cow keeping to be a better business than can be done on any wheat land in the country, particularly when it is considered that in the cow business the farm is getting better and better every year, instead of poorer and poorer as in the wheat business.

Between the North and South Forks of the Red River and the 10th degree of longitude is an extensive range of fertile country about 34 miles wide by 167 miles long, containing 3,657,360 acres. It is claimed by Texas under the name of Greer County, and by the United States as a part of the Indian Territory, and is also known as "No Man's Land." Belonging definitely to no organized community, it is governed by no laws, and has long been the resort of desperadoes of all kinds. The land has never been sold by any proper authority, and the thousands of settlers there—stockmen and ranchers—hold their possessions by squatter sovereignty. The President has just issued a proclamation warning all persons whatever against selling or otherwise disposing of any of said land or exercising or attempting to exercise any authority over it; and also warning "all persons against purchasing any part of the territory from any person or persons whomsoever." An enormous amount of land swindling has already been perpetrated by locating Texas land grants in "Greer County," and selling the certificates to greenhorns, and this proclamation should have been issued over two years ago. More than three years ago the Eye Opener warned rural readers against this fraud.

## Prince Ferdinand.

Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria looks upon his duties in a different way from his predecessor. Prince Alexander considered it treason enough for abdicating that Russia insisted upon it, and he held that in so doing he was best serving Bulgaria. Prince Ferdinand would "rather leave his bones on the battlefield than abdicate," because this latter would be abandoning and ruining Bulgaria. The present ruler possibly overestimates his personal importance to the principality, yet he has doubtless been of real value in furnishing to it a head, and thereby giving a head, and thereby giving a greater semblance of public order and security. The report that the powers contemplate a combined boycotting or "blockade" of Bulgaria in case Ferdinand should not resign, although exceedingly doubtful, yet recalls the process made ready for refractory Greece when that little kingdom persisted, at great expense, in preparing to fight. There would probably be no difficulty in disposing quietly of Prince Ferdinand could the surrounding powers only agree why they want it. In the lack of such agreement, and of any common notion what to do next, Prince Ferdinand seems justified in holding his place, even if only as the man in possession.—N. Y. Times.

## CHINA'S GREAT CALAMITY.

(Shanghai Correspondent London Standard.)

It needs no small stretch of the imagination for people in England, perfectly acquainted as they are with the gigantic river which was, centuries ago, and fittingly, denominated "China's sorrow," to comprehend the extent of its latest visitation on the beautiful Province of Honan. The news of the full extent of the disaster even here is only now being ascertained, although the breach in the embankments by which the treacherous waters of the Hoang Ho, or Yellow River, are sought to be kept within bounds, occurred as far back as the 20th September, and it was known that in the first wild rush of the rain-swollen waters many cities, towns and villages innumerable were submerged and countless thousands of persons of every rank drowned. But, as is usually the case, the officials in charge of the river at first attempted to minimize the extent of the disaster in their memorials to the Throne. A higher functionary, however, was directed to report the full facts of the occurrence, and his story gave a very different aspect to the tale. About one sixth of the entire area of the "garden of China," as Honan is styled, is now converted into a vast lake, with here and there a pagoda top or the gable of some higher wall rising over the increasing waters to mark the site of what were, a short time ago, prosperous cities of many thousand inhabitants. The rest of the country is overrun with the wretched refugees who were fortunate enough to escape with their lives, though with nought else. In hundreds of instances men who three short moons ago were men of wealth, to-day sit gazing on the inland sea, "stunned, hungry, stupid and dejected, without a rag to wear or a morsel of food to eat." The inundations commenced at a little distance from Kai-fung Fu, one of the largest cities of the Province, and in one instant some four miles of the solid embankment of stone, brick, sand and clay were swept away, with innumerable moles and fascines. In the districts of Ching-chow and Chden-chow no less than

THREE THOUSAND LARGE VILLAGES

are stated to have been engulfed in a very few moments, and scarcely any of their ill-fated people had time to save themselves, as the breach occurred in the night time. The extent of the disaster will be better understood when I say that an extent of country much larger than the Principality of Wales and much more thickly populated, is now a sea, and all the inhabitants either drowned or fled. The people so terribly visited cannot number far short of the whole population of Ireland, as the Province includes about twenty-five millions, with an area of sixty-five thousand square miles, and the waters of the river now cover between eight and ten thousand square miles. The accounts daily published in the native and foreign papers and in the Peking Gazette, reveal the most horrible suffering for the survivors, who are perishing of famine. I am told that in hundreds of instances on the present occasion the people, when the water rushed into the cities sweeping walls, houses and everything before them, refused to stir, and met their deaths with that wonderful indifference which characterises the Chinese in some cases—for the Celestial is nothing if not a fatalist of the most pronounced and unreasoning type. According to the best and most trustworthy authorities which I have been able to consult, the loss of life will not be numbered by thousands or ten thousands, but literally by hundreds of thousands, while the

STARVING PEOPLE MUST AMOUNT TO MANY MILLIONS.

who are utterly beggared and who are depending for subsistence upon the charity of others. The Emperor has already contributed one hundred thousand taels out of the Privy purse, besides ordering two million taels out of the Imperial Treasury towards the relief of the sufferers. The Chinese and foreigners have contributed liberally toward the fund.

I do not think that there is any English map which gives all the towns and cities which have been destroyed, but a few of the principal are Ching-chow, Wei-Si, Chung-mu, Yenlu, Fu-Kao, Si-hai, Tain-chow, Chochia-Kow, Tai-Kang, Taiping, and Ying-chow, the latter being in the Ngan-hwuy Province. The country around these cities, which are situated in a great plain, was, just before the calamity, in a most prosperous condition and covered with rice fields, mulberry groves and other products by which the industrious people subsist. The present flood is the most serious one that ever occurred since the mythical and defiled Emperor Yü is recorded to have drawn away into their old bed the tributaries of the terrible river hundreds of years before Western civilization or history began. It has changed the positions of several places with regard to the Hoang Ho. Kai-fung fu (spelt on the maps Kiafong) is now to the north of the river, which partly returned to its old bed—that discovered dry in 1858. At Kia-fung fu the river took a northeasterly bend; it now flows southeast, having as a matter of fact, swallowed up the Kwei or Little Yellow River, through which a portion of the waters of the main river now enters the sea through the Province of Kiangsu, and no longer waters Shantung. The submerged district consists of the great and fertile plain occupying the eastern corner of Honan and the northern portion of Ngan-hwuy, and the depth of the water averages from ten to thirty feet. Recent reports stated that a portion of the water of the Yellow River was working an outlet for itself into the Yanktze Kiang, but this has since been found to be incorrect, and what is a most

EXTRAORDINARY NATURAL REVOLUTION

is now found to have taken place. For nearly two months the immense volume of water of the Hoang Ho has not reached the sea, but is engaged in converting the great plain mentioned once more into the vast inland sea that is chronicled by the historians of China as having existed in the time of the mythical Imperial engineer referred to, and as having been compelled by him in those remote ages to recede into the dimensions of a river, which he enclosed in the predecessors of the present great embankments by which it was forced to flow into the ocean. Indeed, if tradition is to be believed, the dykes and fascines which have lately collapsed with such awful consequences are, in some instances, the veritable works of Yü and his immediate successors. The inroads of time, no doubt, had weakened these gigantic embankments, and the heavy rains which preceded the calamity also helped to bring it about. But the chief cause, I am inclined to believe, of the disaster is the gradual change in the conforma-

tion of the coast of the Gulf of Pechili, into which the Hoang Ho flowed and which has been constantly but slowly rising up. But no doubt the action of salt which has always been carried in great quantities by all the rivers in China, has had something also to do with bringing about this extraordinary and calamitous result. That this change was not unforeseen by the Chinese officials is shown by the fact that some months ago it was actually suggested that the river should be diverted to its former bed by opening the embankments at Kai-fung fu. The disaster had

GREATLY DISTRESSED THE IMPERIAL FAMILY

in Peking, and the Emperor and Empress-Mother have shown the greatest solicitude for the sufferers. The Peking Gazette says that the "Empress-Mother has neither slept nor eaten for days" in consequence. Steps have been taken to raise the enormous amount of money for works which, it is hoped, will have the effect of directing the river into the old channel once more, and a member of the Grand Council, a very august functionary, has been despatched from Peking to the scene and ordered to travel night and day. The amount required is estimated at the lowest at ten million taels, and it is believed by some foreign engineers here that it will take years to do the work, if it can be done at all. Amongst the measures by which the Imperial advisers suggest raising the necessary funds are, stopping the purchase of arms and munitions of war throughout the Empire, paying the Manchu and Chinese Banner troops in rice instead of money (which will, if attempted, lead probably to a revolt), stopping the coolie pay allowed to all provincial armies, and levying additional taxes upon certain articles of ordinary use. The entire military force of the Province is also placed at the command of the officials employed in the work, so as to lessen the amount to be paid for labor. To increase the difficulties of the undertaking, the materials necessary are not obtainable at the river, but must be brought from a distance. But the work of getting the river again in hand is only of secondary importance, and the resources of the country are taxed enough for the present by the demands upon their charity for the millions of famine-stricken people who will perish if not promptly aided.

## Our Big Friend in the Sky.

The phenomenally cold weather of which we have just had a taste, and which has been attended by such frightful circumstances of suffering and disaster in the Northwest, is well calculated to impress the fact that, but for outside aid, coming to us out of the depths of space, we should be unable to exist upon this globe of ours for a single week. When the continent has been buried for many weeks in snow, and icy blasts from the Frigid Zone come to assist in chilling the atmosphere below the point of human endurance, it is to the sun alone that we can look for rescue from the frost. This must have seemed overwhelmingly evident to those railroad passengers in Dakota who, huddling together in a single car, hugging the stove, and covering themselves as best they could with garments, blankets, mail bags, and whatever would serve to keep in the heat of the body, looked forward despairingly to the return of the sunshine. Mother Earth had no warmth in her bosom for them, and two children in the party actually froze to death. In summer the sun makes those same plains, over which they passed with terror and great suffering, pleasant with grass and flowers; and yet, so narrow is the margin of heat supplied to the earth, that a few months later, when the globe has rolled its northern face slightly away from the sun, man must fight a battle for his life with the encroaching frost.

We get a very striking idea of the actual situation which we occupy if we make for ourselves a microscopic picture of the sun and earth. Let a fiery globe as large as an orange, blazing with intense heat and light, represent the sun. Then a little particle, about one fortieth of an inch in diameter—a mere speck of dust, smaller than the smallest pin's head—will represent the earth. Let it float at a distance of twenty-six or twenty-seven feet from the miniature sun and slowly revolve around it. Suppose all the surrounding space to be airless and terrifically cold as all interstellar space is, and we have before us the actual condition of things in the solar system. The little earth, but for the kindly rays of the neighboring sun, would quickly freeze to death. It turns all its sides in rotation toward the sun and gets them warmed. It preserves a little heat in its atmosphere and by the aid of the vapor that the sun raises from its oceans, and yet it is half the time shivering at the touch of frosty space. First one hemisphere and then the other is turned to the warming blaze of the solar hearth, and the side that is turned away must temporarily suffer for the comfort that the other side enjoys. If the earth didn't turn on its axis it would be baked on one side and frozen on the other. It is engaged in a constant effort to keep warm.

And what if the sun should withdraw its rays? What if the fuel of the solar furnace should run low? What if gravitation and atomic motion should go on strike? Let the astronomers torment their imagination with such things. While the sun shines we prefer to think of it as never growing dim. And next summer people will be wondering why in the world it is so hot.

## When to Expect a Thaw.

If clouds drive up high from the south, expect a thaw.

If shooting stars fall in the south in Winter, expect a thaw.

In Winter, if the fences and trees are covered with white frost, expect a thaw.

Very heavy white frost in Winter is followed by a thaw.

White frost on three successive nights indicates a thaw.

Hogs rubbing themselves in Winter indicates an approaching thaw.

When in winter pigs rub against the side of their pen, it is a sure sign of a thaw.

When little black insects appear on the snow, expect a thaw.

If the trees are frosty and the sun takes it away before noon, it is a sign of rain.

If there be an abundance of hoar frost, expect rain.

The preparation of the trousseau of the future Empress of China is under full headway, although the wedding will be in 1889. Thousands of hands are now busy, and it will be the greatest ever made. The hats are particularly numerous.