THE WEEK'S NEWS.

HOME.

Seeding operations are progressing rapidly in Southern Manitoba.

Colonel Ray, ex-M. P. for Annapolis, has been appointed a member of the N. S. Legislative Council.

Scientific men of Ottawa are prssing the Government to give better accommodation to the Geological Museum.

A request has been sent to Sir A. P. Carron to hold the military review at Quebec on the occasion of the Queen's jubilee.

An enquiry will be shortly made in the House of Commons as to the cost of the horses purchased in Canada for the English army, taking losses into account.

The Dominion Government is said to have definite information that the Canadian Pacific railway will have a line of steamers sailing on the Pacific during the present year.

Medals and diplomas have been granted by the Colonial Exhibition Commissioners to a number of Canadians who assisted in organizing the Canadian exhibit by loaning works of art.

The report published in English newspapers the other morning that a Canadian loan of fifty million dollars would shortly be floated is officially denied by the Dominion Government.

Indians in the Quebec district have their hands full just now making baskets and beadwork for the exhibitions to be held this year at Saltaire and Manchester, England, in honor of the Queen's Jubilee.

Mr. Wylde, the Canadian Commissioner now in the West Indies endeavouring to promote closer trade relations with the Dominion, writes encouraging reports of success to the Finance Department.

Dr. Geo. M. Dawson, son of Sir William Dawson, will have charge of the Yukon Valley expedition which is to exploit the gold deposits of that district and try and define the unsettled boundary of British Columbia and Alaska.

Hon. Mr. Foster, as a result of his visit to the Pacific coast last year, has perfected a scheme for considerable permanent improvements to navigation in Canadian waters in that quarter, which will be carried into effect during the coming season.

Application has been made to the Quebec Legislature for an act Act of incorporation for a company to construct a railway around the Island of Montreal and an elevated railway from the centre of the city of Montreal to the summit of Mount Royal.

About one hundred men will be required to fill vacancies in the North-West Mounted Police caused by the retirement of time-expired men. Recruiting will be commenced almost immediately, and a sergeant will shortly begin operations in Toronto.

The advisability of using the Canadian Pacific railway as a link in a direct postal route to the East, by which a great saving in time would be effected, is understood to be under consideration by the Imperial authorities, with every prospect of favourable decision.

In reply to a deputation from the Hamilton Ministerial Association and the Prohibition Club, the city license commissioners promised to make a reduction in the number of liquor licenses issued, but refused to strike off the list fifty license holders who had been convicted of violating the law.

AMERICAN.

The M ssouri is still overspreading its banks. The people have all taken refuge on the buttes, in tree tops and hay stacks.

It is said that Lawton, the New York broker, who absconded a few days ago with nearly a million, married a rich widow a few days before his departure.

Chicago vessel owners are almost crazy over the revival of the lake carrying trade and the advance in freights. The outlook for next season was never more flattering.

Edward Whelan, the twelfth known victim of the Buffalo hotel fire, died the other night. All of the injured are doing well except four, who are not expected to recover.

Larry Donovan, the Brooklyn Bridge jumper, announces that he will on May 8th jump the Niagara horseshoe falls and swim the Niagara falls rapids, covering a longer distance than was accomplished by Kendall, the Boston policeman.

A correspondent at St. John, Dak., states that the reports of serious difficulties with the half-breeds in that settlement are without foundation. The dispute over the payment of taxes has been referred to the authorities at Washington, and the half-breeds will abide by their decision.

A boarding house at Bessemer, Michigan, was burned the other morning, twenty-one miners sleeping in the second storey being imprisoned in the flames. Twelve were burned to death, their bodies being charred beyond recognition. The others escaped through the windows, several being seriously injured.

Mr. Howard Vincent, M. P. for Centre Sheffield, intends proposing that in consequence of the Jubilee an addition should be made to the title of the Queen in compliment to the colonies, and suggests she shall be entitled Queen of Great Britain, Ireland, Canada, Australia, South Africa and all the British Colonies, and Empress of India.

FOREIGN

The Bank of England has reduced its rate of discount from 3½ to 3 per cent.

Li Hung Chang has given orders that railroads in China must be built by native labor.

John K. Cross, formerly a member of Parliament for Bolton, hanged himself in London.

It is semi-officially denied in Paris that Russia has made overtures for an alliance with France.

Veterinary Surgeon Matthews, of the Horse Guards, will shortly leave England for Canada to assist Colonel Goldie in purchasing horses for the British army.

General Salette, successor to General Gene in the command of the Italian forces at Massowah, has issued an order expelling all journalists from within the military lines.

The policeman arrested in St. Petersburg on suspicion of being concerned in the plot to assassinate the Czar attempted to commit suicide and mortally wounded himself.

A Servian paper announces the forming of an alliance between Austria and Servia against Russia. If the latter makes war on either of the former both will take the field.

Among the numerous rumors in Berlin are reports that the Grand Duke of Baden will be made King of Baden, and that Prince Bismarck will be created Duke of Lunenburg.

Rumour has it that Prince Bismarck is forcing on a quarrel between France and England over the Egyptian question for the purpose of coercing England into joining a central European alliance.

Three engineer studentships in her Majesty's dockyards have been placed annually at the disposal of the Secretaries of State of the principal colonies, including the Dominion, by the British Admiralty.

Eighty-five men were entombed in a colliery in South Wales last week, and it is feared all will perish, as the mouth of the tunnel by which escape was possible is blocked by *debris* caused by the explosion.

The ninetieth anniversary of Emperor William's Birthday was celebrated last week with immense enthusiasm in Berlin, while banquets and receptions were given by the German ambassadors in London, Paris and Vienna.

A riot has occurred in Tunis over the enforcement of a new municipal law requiring the burial of the city's dead within its limits. The Jews consider the law an interference with their creed and have closed all their places of business.

The Labor Problem.

The *Workman* of Cleveland, Ohio, some short time ago put the "Labor Problem" in the following terms, which are full of common sense and evidently in accordance with the hard facts of the case:—

"It is a waste of time to rail at capitalists and monopolists; they are, like the wage-slave, creatures of the system they found. We are responsible for that system as much as they, and they have only done as ninety-nine out of every hundred of us would have done if we had had the chance. They are no worse than the average man; and should we put an end to the whole of them, the conditions would produce a new set fully as bad, if not worse, than the old one before a year had gone by. What we are after is to construct a better system. The time has passed when mere destructive criticism is of any real value. It is easy to find fault, the real need of the hour is constructive statesmanship."

Yes, the need of the hour is "constructive statesmanship," and of that there is precious little going. It is all very well to say that this, that and the other arrangement is wrong, that wealth is badly distributed, and that it is too bad that some should have so much while others can scarcely manage to live. But what are you going to do with it? Nine-tenths of all the employers of labor to-day were at one time working-men. It will be the same thing fifty years hence. Why did they cease to be what they were and become what they are? It is all nonsense to say that it was their "luck" or their roguery, or their unrighteousness. Perhaps they have received more than their just share. But how are you going to prevent it? Certainly not by adopting resolutions against capital or by passing laws which will fix a minimum of wages, make the three hooped keg have five hoops, and the five cent loaf be sold for a penny. The bad workman and the good will never occupy a pecuniary level, and never ought. The drunken sot who works only three days in the week and spends all his wages in the tavern, may rail at capitalists and sober men as long as he likes, but he'll have to be a hewer of wood and a drawer of water to the end of the chapter; and more than that, he ought to be, if he does not change his ways. When working-men spend more for intoxicating drinks than they do for bread or clothes, they will continue to be the "wage slaves" they complain they are. Why not? The sober, industrious, skillful working men are continually rising, are the captains of industry, and in many cases the leaders of thought. And ought they not? We think they ought, and is quite sure that if many others took the same course as these have taken, they would be wonderfully different from what they are to-day, and wonderfully better in every respect. The bar-room and the tobacco pipe muddle too many brains and empty too many pockets to make one wonder that things are as they are.

No Wonder They Should Wish to Get Married.

Very many instances come to our knowledge in which girls who have been brought up in affluence, and indulged in every luxury, find themselves in reduced circumstances, and compelled to earn their own living. To such poverty brings peculiar hardships. In the first place it is extremely difficult for them to obtain situations in which the compensation is sufficient to keep soul and body together. The pride which has been instilled into their minds from early childhood has to be humbled. Stern necessity imposes upon them trials which it is hard to bear. A truthful account of the sufferings which many persons of this class have to undergo would read like a work of fiction. Is it surprising, then, that we see young ladies of refinement and culture, whose pecuniary circumstances have become greatly changed, marrying men apparently but imperfectly qualified to make their lives happy? It is common to hear such matches sneered at, and the remark is often made of some such girl, somewhat contemptuously, "She has married a home." We do not say that such a basis of marriage augurs well for the happiness of the contracting parties; but it may afford protection and comfort; and these, to an educated and proud young woman, are much. To us it has ceased to be a matter of wonder that such matches are often made. Ill-assorted as they may be, they are among the natural and inevitable consequences of our reckless modes of speculation, which stake fortunes and the happiness of families on most precarious chances. Fathers and sons may risk much; for if reduced in their circumstances they can "rough it" through the world; but we submit that it is incumbent on parents, as among the most imperative of duties, to make a reasonable provision for their comparatively helpless daughters, which shall not be subjected to the ordinary hazards of business.

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The Federal Life Assurance Co'y.

(Toronto Globe, March 5th, 1887.)

The report of the Federal Life Assurance, of Hamilton, which appears in another column, should afford satisfaction to all who are interested in that company either as stock-holders or policy-holders. To stock-holders it indicates such success in increasing the company's business as must soon place a satisfactory margin to their credit, and to policy-holders it indicates public confidence in the company and a successful future. That the Homans plan, which is a specialty with the Federal, is increasing in popularity as it becomes more widely known and better understood, is also indicated by the fact of the very rapid progress made by the company. A new business in excess of three and a quarter millions at its early age is truly marvellous. It is claimed by the Federal that no system practiced by any other company doing business in Canada gives guaranteed insurance at so low a cost.

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