

THE WEEK'S NEWS

CANADIAN.

The Grand Lodge of the Knights of Pythias has decided to meet next year at Port Arthur.

W. B. Nason, 21 years of age, was drowned while bathing Sunday morning in the lake outside Toronto Island.

The will of the late Mr. George Sharp, contractor, of Hamilton, has been entered for probate, the estate being valued at \$91,000.

The Protestant Ministerial Association of Montreal has decided to hold a series of prayer meetings during the month of September.

The recently destroyed buildings of the Ville Marie convent, Montreal, are to be restored, and the work of rebuilding will probably be commenced shortly.

The rate of taxation for the city of London, Ont., has been fixed at 19 mills on the dollar. The total assessment has been placed at close upon 15 million dollars.

Mr. E. S. Clouston, general manager of the Bank of Montreal, has declined to accept the presidency of the Dominion Bankers' Association, to which he was elected.

The Montreal Witness suggests that a public testimonial should be presented to Sir William Dawson in recognition of his distinguished services in connection with McGill University.

The Government cattle inspectors at Montreal have received a communication from the Department of Marine and Fisheries, informing them that the cattle dues are increased from two to three cents per head.

Commandant Booth, of the Salvation Army, in the course of a lecture which he gave in Winnipeg on Monday night, stated that his father was maturing a scheme for carrying on a war against the liquor traffic all over the world.

A petition signed by Prof. Goldwin Smith, Mr. George Gooderham, Archbishop Walsh, and 5,300 others, was presented to the Toronto City Council the other night in favour of submitting to the popular vote the question of running Sunday street cars. The Council refused to give a by-law for the purpose its first reading.

Mr. Beaubien, Quebec Commissioner of Agriculture, has received a letter from the Under-Secretary of Agriculture of Queensland stating that he has forwarded four cases of oranges, one case of pine apples, and five cases of arrowroot for the purpose of seeing if a trade in such commodities could be established with Canada, now that there is a fast service between the two countries.

BRITISH.

Lord Wolverton is one of the thirty or forty peers who are Gladstonian, and his resignation of the post of Lord in Waiting is regarded as significant.

Cattle men in Glasgow and Liverpool now say that they have no hope of the removal of the restrictions regarding the importation of Canadian cattle this season.

Several Anti-Parnellite members of the House of Commons have received complaints from their constituents for not opposing the Government concessions to the Unionists in the debate on the Home Rule bill.

Mr. John Morrough, anti-Parnellite member for South-East Cork county, has decided to retire from Parliament owing to the attitude of Mr. Sexton and the Freeman's Journal toward the Parnellite faction.

The Pall Mall Gazette says it is the intention of the Government to abandon the financial clauses of the Home Rule bill and substitute new clauses empowering the Irish Legislature to frame its own budget to the amount of five million pounds.

Mr. Renton, the Secretary of the Grand Trunk railway in London, says the shareholders are not likely to object to Messrs. Gould, McIntyre, and others buying a controlling interest in Grand Trunk stock, but he knows nothing personally as to the truth of the rumours.

It is reported that the English Government has sent telegrams to the Sultan of Turkey and to the Turkish Grand Vizier imploring that clemency be shown to the 17 Armenians who were a few days ago sentenced to death for their share in the seditions rioting at Cesera.

A special cable despatch says in England a hundred days of drought has wrought havoc with all the crops except wheat, which is not now largely grown. The hay crop is absolutely ruined. The vegetable and fruit crops are the worst known in many years, and over wide areas potatoes and peas will barely pay the cost of harvesting them.

UNITED STATES.

Owing to the threatening conduct of the lumber shovers, who are on strike at Tonawanda, the town has been placed under martial law.

Ironwood, a village in Michigan, is suffering from an epidemic of typhoid fever. There are from 30 to 50 new cases daily, and from 50 to 60 deaths in the week.

About two thousand persons left New York on Saturday's steamers for Europe. The expected winter rush on account of the World's Fair has not yet manifested itself.

Complete official returns of the Chinese registration under the Geary Act have been received in Washington, and they show that out of 110,000 Chinese in the United States 13, 179 have registered.

A young Englishman was before the Essex Market Police Court, New York, on Saturday morning for being drunk. He gave the name of Charles E. Gladstone, and claimed to be a second cousin of the Grand Old Man.

Chas. H. Berry, a well-known real estate agent, of Springfield, Ohio, says that he had in his employ recently a man who confessed to having murdered Mr. and Mrs. Borden. He said he was a sailor, and that he committed the murders for revenge.

The jury in the Fall River murder case after a brief deliberation brought in a verdict declaring Lizzie Borden not guilty of the murder of her father and step-mother. The verdict was received with great satisfaction by the audience that filled the courtroom.

A man named Edward Thomas, of Charlotte, S.C., has been arrested for torturing his dying wife. He placed red hot coals on her arms that she might, he said, have a practical illustration of the tortures of the

future place of punishment and to make her religious.

GENERAL.

The town of Utzmatlan, in Mexico, was recently visited by a waterspout, which resulted in loss of life and great destruction of property.

Many well-to-do Germans living in Russia, desiring religious liberty, are about to start for Canada and the United States.

According to a special cable despatch from Moscow, the recent robbers of the valuable church ornament of the Tehdora monastery were the monks themselves.

The Pope on Wednesday gave a long audience to Dr. McGlynn, the American political priest, who is now in complete reconciliation with the church.

Reballots will have to be held in one hundred and eighty German constituencies, so that the result of the recent election is still in great doubt. So far the chief gains have been made by the Social Democrats, while the followers of Herr Richter have been wiped out of existence.

A special cable despatch says the failure of the green crops in many districts in France, owing to the intense heat, promises to cause a fodder famine during the winter, and prices are rapidly rising.

Count Kalnoky, the Austro-Hungarian Prime Minister, declares that if the triple alliance had not brought an ideal peace, it was not the fault of the alliance, which was disposed to peace, though often menaced by war.

The Comte d'Haussonville, leader of the Monarchist party in France, at a banquet in Paris on Sunday, called upon all Conservative factions to unite in the general election in support of a programme of public honesty, social defence, and religious liberty.

By order of the Court of Cassation, on appeal, Charles de Lesseps and the other prisoners convicted of fraud in connection with the Panama Canal Company have been released. The court held that the Statute of Limitations covered the offences charged, and that the indictment was irregular.

The trial of the Armenians accused of being concerned in the rioting at Cesera and Marsovan last spring has just been concluded. Seventeen of the prisoners were sentenced to death, and thirty-nine were sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from ten to fifteen years.

The German Government has a good prospect now of a small majority in favour of the Army bill. A special cablegram says this is due to the fact that while the popular districts have by overwhelming majorities elected candidates opposed to the bill, the smaller constituencies have in many instances by small majorities returned candidates favouring the bill.

ANTIQUITY OF BELL FOUNDING.

The Art Known to the Saxons Many Years Before the Norman Conquest.

The art of bell founding is undoubtedly of great antiquity. The Saxons are known to have used bells in their churches, although probably but small ones, for the venerable Bede, writing at the end of the seventh century, alludes to them in terms which seem to show that they were not unfamiliar things. The towers of the Saxon period have bellfries of considerable dimensions in most cases, and, according to the Gentleman's Magazine, at Crowland abbey, in South Lincolnshire, there was a famous peal of seven bells many years before the Norman conquest. The monks at that time and for some time after were the chief practitioners of the art of bell founding—which indeed has been handed down to us. Their bells were rarely without inscriptions, often in very bad Latin, containing perhaps some obscure joke, the point of which is now lost. More often they were of a religious nature, sometimes probably not unmixed with a dash of superstition, as when the bell declares that its sound drives away the demons of the air who caused pestilence and famine, lightning and thunderstorms. As a rule, unfortunately, they put no dates on their bells, a defect which has been in some measure overcome by the researches of many enthusiastic campanologists, but which is likely to keep the early history of bells shrouded in darkness for a long time to come.

To Discourage Treating

It is a common saying among the devotees of the flowing bowl that it is not regular drinking, but "drinking between drinks" makes inebriates; and for this peculiar form of indulgence the treating custom is mainly, if not alone, responsible. The man who drinks because he wants it in a bad way; but he is by no means in as bad a way as the man who drinks when he does not want it—who drinks, that is, because he is asked or because he feels as a matter of courtesy that he must ask somebody else. That is what treating is. A genial good fellow, who does not care a copper for a drink and is not even thirsty, meets another genial good fellow of precisely the same caliber and as an evidence of good fellowship asks him to drink. It would be disastrous to refuse—under the edicts of fashion—and so both take what they do not want, and in many instances would rather go without. But it does not end even there. The treated feels it incumbent on him to return the courtesy extended, and the two again take something they do not want. By that time they have become exhilarated and begin to want—or to think they want—something to drink; and the result very possibly is an orgie. Yet either of the participants would admit, if his candid opinion were asked, that the custom is a senseless one, which has nothing but the fact of custom to excuse it. For this reason the movement against the custom inaugurated in New York by a well-known society leader is eminently hopeful, and we sincerely trust that its good results will be felt in Canada. The worst obstacle to success probably is the ill-repute into which solitary drinking has fallen. Yet this, too, is a matter of custom. Intrinsicly it is no more discreditable for the man who really wants a drink to go and get it alone, than it is for him to go alone to a restaurant for his lunch. We are not sure, however, that it is wise to change the public estimate of solitary drinking. It is a good thing, on the whole, to discourage it, as it is to discourage drinking in any form. Let the reformers who have in charge the abolition of treating bear this in mind, and do the best they can to effect their reform without making solitary drinking any less discreditable than it is now.

LIGHTING FIRES BY FRICTION.

Primitive Methods Still in Use Among Some of the Indian Tribes.

Centuries ago—before the white man had penetrated into the lands of the Klamath, Pueblo and other Indian tribes of the west—wood friction was the method employed by the North American Indians. The same manner of kindling fires can be observed among many of them to-day. No other method is employed by the Eskimos and other northern uncivilized people, and later than 1888 wood friction was used to kindle the fire at the white dog feast by the New York Iroquois Indians and the Onondaga Iroquois of Canada. The operation of igniting tinder by wood friction is varied, but in every instance it is peculiar and shows a considerable amount of patience and ingenuity. The most primitive form of apparatus consists of two pieces of wood, one of some dry, loose-grained timber, which is the piece to be operated upon, and the other, of spindle, of hard wood, which is laid flat on the ground close to the tinder which is to be ignited, and a small hole is cut in it floor from the loose-grained wood. The hard wood spindle is then taken between the palms of the hands, and having first pressed the point against the other piece of wood it is twirled rapidly, causing a gradually increasing friction and grinding out a little heap of wood powder, which falls into the hole referred to. This generates a great deal of heat, and finally the little heap of wood dust begins to smolder, and in a little time enough heat is evolved to produce ignition by spontaneous combustion. Flame is never produced by this operation. The wood or coal must be brought into contact with the tinder and cautiously fanned into a blaze.

Another form is called the "pump or weighted drill," and this apparatus is used "in only two localities in the world" for making fire, viz., among the Chukchia, of Siberia, and the Iroquois Indians of New York and Canada. The apparatus is very ingeniously constructed. It consists of a piece of soft or loose-grained wood, as in the first case, and the "pump" or spindle. The spindle is made of well-seasoned elm or other hard wood. It is usually about two feet long and has a kind of fly wheel about three inches from the bottom. A crosspiece of wood with a hole in the center large enough for the spindle to pass through easily is then adjusted as the "pump" handle. Attached to each end of the handle are cords, which are fastened to the top of the spindle and twisted around it in such a manner that moving the handle up and down will cause it to revolve rapidly in alternate directions, thus creating a maximum amount of friction at the point of contact with the loose-grained wood. This was the kind of apparatus used by the Iroquois Indians at the white dog feast of 1888.

The natives of the East Indies and of Australia use another method for obtaining ignition by means of wood friction. Their method is by "sawing." A V-shaped notch is first cut lengthwise in a piece of bamboo—almost penetrating it. Then another piece of bamboo or other hard wood is shaped like the blade of a knife, and this is drawn backward and forward; after the manner of sawing, until the lower piece is pierced and the heated wood powder falls through.

Dr. R. M. Luther tells the following incident of lighting a fire by this process: "A Burmese found a branch of the oil tree, hewed in it a V-shaped cavity, cut a knife of ironwood, sawed with it across the branch, and in less than three minutes had a coal of fire underneath. This was taken in some dry leaves, wrapped in a bunch of grass and whirled around the head giving a flame in a 'jiffy.' This method, however, does not seem to have been ever used by the North American Indians.

Dull Times in the States.

The uncertainty and unrest in financial and business circles in the United States has called from the Detroit Free Press the following sensible remarks. Though we in Canada are happily relieved from the conditions which are working so disastrously to the business interests of our neighbors, the advice is timely even to us:—"There are admonitions in the present situation which men of the entire country will do well to consider and heed. That there is money stringency and a want of confidence that is even more depressing in its influence is universally realized. Capital is always the first to scent financial trouble and to fortify, so far as may be, against it. In the present emergency the truth of this statement is again exemplified. Capital is decidedly cautious. Money is locked up lest it should be lost or proved unprofitable. Loans can only be secured upon the best of securities, which, aside from their quality, must be much more ample than would be exacted in times of financial plenty and confidence. Enterprises demanding any considerable outlay are deferred for the coming of better times and the employment in every department of industry is reduced to a minimum as one of the most direct methods of economy. It is an old saying that the man who draws good wages is fortunate when times are hard. His capital is not risked, his income is assured and he least feels the depression of the money market. Hence it is that labor does not take alarm so readily as does capital, and too often injures its own cause by failing to appreciate the suggestion of prudence in an emergency like the present. Strikes at such a time cannot be justified except under circumstances which make the inevitable result preferable to the existing circumstances. As is usually and almost invariably the case, the labor market is glutted while the money market is depressed. More men are seeking employment because capital is retrenching by reducing the numbers of employees, and refraining from enterprises which would otherwise reduce the existing surplus of labor. Those who strike for higher wages under such circumstances incur the serious risk of cutting off their present income. Many employers would be glad of an excuse to shut down entirely, while others will decline to meet a demand which can be put aside by getting labor for less money than is paid under agreements made when times were better. While attempting to secure what he considers his right and what might be exacted under more favorable circumstances the striker is in danger of losing not only what he seeks, but what he has. The time is unfavorable to strikes unfavorable to new ventures in commercial and industrial activities, and labor troubles will but intensify the conditions which, menace the wage earner more than any else. Capital locked up loses its profit and

labor unemployed loses its means of livelihood. The former may sustain itself through a period of idleness, but the latter cannot fall back upon itself. Employment is essential to its existence, and if comfortable at all it cannot wisely, at this juncture, make extra demands which tend further to embarrass the business men of the country. Stringent times mean a distributed burden, and the man who works for a living cannot escape it any more than can the man who risks his money in the enterprises which give employment."

Home Rule Prospects.

According to latest reports home rule prospects do not improve. Up to a fortnight ago Mr. Gladstone could always depend upon a majority of forty or over. During the last ten days his majority has been nearer thirty than forty and in one or two divisions he has had a bare majority of the house outside the members of the government. Three members of his party have taken an independent stand and are as often found in the Unionist lobby as in the government, while one seat has been lost, two others are vacant and three or four members are willfully absent or are on the sick list. Lord Wolverton, a member of the government and of the great banking firm of Glyn, Mills, Currie & Co., has resigned and the Irish party has divided into three instead of two factions. The general division now are Mr. Sexton, Mr. McCarthy, retired to a back seat, Mr. Tim Healy and Mr. John Redmond. Mr. Sexton and his friends are chafing at the delay in carrying the bill and Mr. Redmond and his followers are in open revolt at the concessions that have been made to the Unionists. Mr. Healy up to date is with Mr. Gladstone, but thence have the whole National party and a large section of the Radicals voted against the government, which has only been saved by the patriotic policy of the Unionists, who have refused to snatch a victory with the aid of the Irish party. If this kind of thing goes on the government must ultimately suffer defeat, as an occasion is almost certain to arise when the Opposition feel constrained to vote with the Nationalists and against the government in a matter where a principle is at stake. That the bill should be carried to a successful issue if the present state of things continues is practically out of the question.

But the great test will come when the financial clauses are reached, and there are not wanting those who affirm that Clause 9 never will be carried. Already Mr. Chamberlain has discovered an admitted error of nearly £400,000 in Mr. Gladstone's calculations. The great old man, however, is not a bit daunted. On the contrary, he appears by smiling serenely in the face of every obstacle, to be bent upon, more than ever, proving his claim to the sobriquet that the whole world accords him. It is anticipated that the house will sit all through July and well into August and that if the bill is not finished then an adjournment will take place to the last week in October when the sittings will be resumed. If that should happen a proposition to change the annual time for parliament to assemble will probably be acted upon. It has always been a matter of surprise that parliament should sit during the hot months instead of the cold, which are infinitely more adapted for indoor work. If Mr. Gladstone should find it necessary to meet again, as suggested, in October, it is probable the annual date for meeting will be changed to that month and things so turned around that parliament will always take place before Easter. In olden days the legislatures of Canada used to assemble for business before Christmas; it is difficult to understand why they do not do so now. November, December and January are comparatively dull months in an agricultural country and are surely better adapted for sessions of parliament than from February to June, when the spring work requires to be done.

Building Ships of War.

It was not only in their land forces that the nations of Europe made increases last year. According to a report published by the Austrian admiralty department there was an almost feverish activity in building ships of war. In this connection the first place is occupied by Great Britain, whose fleet was in the course of that year increased by the addition of twenty-one ships, representing 141,000 tons displacement, which is more than that of the whole Austrian navy. Most of the other great powers made comparatively notable efforts to emulate England in the endeavor to increase their naval strength, Russia in particular having made a relatively important addition to her fleet. The war vessels launched in the course of the year were exclusively armored ships of the line with a displacement reaching 14,000 tons, as against a displacement of from 10,000 to 20,000 tons to which have been laid down in their place. The armor for the most part consisted of steel or compound plates, and in a few cases of nickel steel containing from 3 to 6 per cent of nickel. In the matter of machinery the use of three screws in some of the larger vessels is worthy of note. The experiments with petroleum as a fuel led to no satisfactory results. Owing to the increased strength of modern armor there was a strong inclination to lessen the caliber of heavy artillery, so that instead of the 100 and 110 ton guns of former years, with a caliber of 45 centimeters, the new guns were at the outside not more than sixty-eight tons in weight, with a caliber of 34 centimeters. This reduction of caliber, in view of the recent improvement in ships' armor, was considered by many to have been introduced at too early a date. There was a great increase in the number of quickfiring guns of medium caliber up to 16 centimeters. The various smokeless powders had only been used with guns of small and medium caliber although their general application was considered to be only a question of time.

Not So Poor as Church Mice.

A Grafton, Vt., special says.—About eighteen months ago John A. McCabe of this place missed two \$20 bills, and, believing they were stolen, watched the man he suspected very closely for some time but could not get the slightest evidence as to his guilt. A day or two ago, while he was cleaning off the top shelf in his store, which he took down to a stogie box, a dollar bill. A search of the nest followed; the two lost bills and two more \$1 bills were found making \$43 in money, besides a check.

SALE OF THE GRAND CASCAPIEDIA.

The Right to Fish Salmon Sold to an American—The Government Will Lose \$60,000.

There is a story going in Montreal among lovers of salmon fishing that the Provincial Government, in selling the lease of the Grand Cascapecadia River for \$6125 to a Mr. de Forest, of New York, were outwitted by the smart Yankees. It is stated that if the Government officials had kept their eyes and ears open the price would have come nearer \$15,000 per annum, as several Canadians were prepared to go that far on condition that the money was not called for before the autumn, as the fishing this year would all be lost to them, the Governor-General using the river up to the 5th of July, and on the 15th, ten days after, fishing in the Cascapecadia is over. The story goes that seven or eight Americans were after the river, and were prepared to go to \$20,000 to secure the privileges. They, however, learned, at one of the Quebec Clubs from some Government officials, that the upset price was \$4000, and that if they did not bid against each other Canadian competition would be light and they would secure the prize for a much smaller sum. The Yankees took the hint, and on the day of sale had Mr. de Forest do their bidding. Opposed to him was Mr. Henry Hogan, of the St. Lawrence Hall, who kept the New Yorker on the jump. Six thousand was bid, and then Mr. Hogan went another hundred, and as his last and another twenty-five over this, and the river and houses were knocked down for 10 years to the Americans. Mr. Hogan was asked this morning by a Star reporter if he thought the privileges had gone too cheap. "Yes, they have," and the Government will lose about \$60,000 to \$70,000 by the transaction. I was prepared to go to \$10,000 per annum for the privileges, but only from next autumn, as there will only be a week's fishing there this season after the Governor-General gives up the river." The Governor-General and family and some friends are there now enjoying good sport.

THE NEGRO AS A MECHANIC.

Now a Free Man, He Dislikes Even the Restraint of Apprenticeship.

Can the negro be trained as a mechanic, or is he by nature adapted to other work than that of an unskilled laborer? The question may, according to the *North American Review*, confidently be answered in the affirmative. While this answer cannot be successfully controverted and while it may have a material bearing on the prosperity of the southern states, yet it involves grave questions, the successful solution of which would tend to a better understanding of the two sections of this great nation. The negro was held in bondage in all the colonies save one before the adoption of the federal constitution, and whether or not he was the prime cause of the greatest war of modern times, it is unquestionably true that he regards his liberation as the result of that struggle. Prior to the war there was a large number of negro mechanics in the southern states. Many of them were expert blacksmiths, wheelwrights, wagonmakers, brickmasons, carpenters, plasterers, painters and shoemakers. They became masters of their respective trades by reason of sufficiently long service under the control and direction of expert white mechanics. During the existence of slavery the contract for qualifying the negro as a mechanic was made between his owner and the master workman. Now the negro being, in his own words, a "freed man," will not consent to restraints. He cannot divest himself of the idea that apprenticeship in its most modified form is a species of slavery for a term of years. He may be assured of the relation of master and apprentice as it exists in almost every civilized country; still he is slow to embrace it. He appreciates the advantages of superior skill, yet his teachings of liberty are to his mind inconsistent with the exercise of absolute and continued authority over him.

Mining in British Columbia.

The annual report of the Minister of Mines for British Columbia is just to hand. The silver deposits which are reported to be of enormous extent in that province have so far yielded practically nothing; but the prospectors are in great hopes of the yield being very large when active mining is more developed. There has been a considerable sum spent in preparatory work; some of the capital being British, there are also Americans operating with their usual enterprise, and other locations are being developed by Canadians. One company has spent \$17,000 in plant, part of it being 3,000 feet of steel pipes, another has put \$9,000 into "bed rock flume." Stamp mills are being erected at many places, and shafts driven, which have given employment to a large body of settlers. In the Kaslo division claims have been bonded for \$334,000, and at Pilot Bay, Kootenay Lake, a smelter and refinery are to be completed this summer on which the outlay will reach \$250,000. It is manifest from these expenditures on development works that there is a great probability of extensive yields in the near future. The bearing of this is very close upon the business of the East. Already large shipments of goods have gone from Montreal, and here to the points where population is settling in the B. C. mining districts, and the successful development of that territory will enlarge the markets wherein our merchants can do business. The production of gold in B. C. reached a lower point last year than has been known for over 34 years. From a total yield of \$4,246,266 in 1863 it has been dropping steadily, until last year the figure was only \$399,525. The number of miners engaged in 1863 was 4400, and last year 1340. Their individual earnings also decreased from an average per man of \$500 to \$298. No wonder the people of British Columbia are looking anxiously for the development of silver mines when those of gold seem to be a vanishing quantity. On the other hand the coal mines of that province are enlarging their output. Since 1874 when 81,000 tons were mined, the quantity has gone on increasing until last year the output was \$26,335 tons, of which 75 per cent was exported to San Francisco, China, the Hawaiian Islands, etc. These large exports to the States have raised a strong desire in British Columbia for some measure of reciprocity by which Canadian coal would be allowed free entry into the States, especially as there are supplies advantageously brought from San Francisco than Eastern Canada.

The condition of President Carnot is serious, and much anxiety is felt as to his recovery.