THE WEEK'S NEWS

CANADIAN.

Mr. Robert McGreevy, who has been in the Ottawa gaol for some time, has been liberated on bail.

The mate of the steamer Omaha, which was going into Port Dalhousie, had both legs broken by being hurled against the bulwarks during the storm on Friday night.

The Province of Manitoba has issued two hundred and five thousand pounds sterling four per cent. debentures at par through the National Bank of Scotland for public works.

It is rumoured in Hamilton that a bill will be introduced next session in the Ontario Legislature providing for the division of the city into two electoral districts.

A farmer named Mr. John A. Crawford, of Berridale, near Burk's Falls, Ont., was caught in a threshing machine and fatally hurt.

A daring but unsuccessful attempt at highway robbery was made on Mr. Lewis Clow, of Kingston, Ont., on Monday while driving into the city.

The early-closing by-law which was passed in Ottawa on the 9th inst. is particularly objectionable to the city milliners, who say that, law or no law, they intend to remain open after the hour named.

Henry Elliott, steward of the steamer City of Nanaimo, was drowned at Victoria, B.C., on Tuesday. The deceased was formerly of Toronto, where his mother and sister still reside.

Two of the British farmer delegates have returned to Ottawa from their trip through Manitoba and the North-West, and were greatly struck by the agricultural capabilities of the country. They will present a favourable report to those intending to emigrate.

Professor Wallace, of Edinburgh University, was in Ottawa the other day, on his way home from a visit to the crofters of Killarney and Saltcoats, in the North-West. He says there is no truth in the report that the crofters are in a starving condition, and he will recommend the Imperial Government to continue the crofter emigration system, with some slight changes, which time has shown would be desirable.

Three men who were at work on Thursday in a confectionery store in Hamilton were severely burnt by the explosion of a soda-water generator.

Mr. Alexander Smith, manager of the Merchants' Bank, Napanee, has been superannuated, and will be succeeded by Mr. T. E. Merrett, formerly of Kingston.

A movement is on foot among leading Canadian Catholics to have an apostolic delegate appointed, with jurisdiction over the whole Dominion, to whom all questions of dispute between Catholics may be referred.

The Constitutional League held a convention at Kamloops, B. C. on Tuesday, at which delegates from a dozen mainland districts were present. The majority was adverse to the separation of the mainland from Vancouver island.

The officials of the London Asylum Boards report that the hospitals are still quite full, and the applications for admission far exceed the number of beds rendered vacant by the discharge of cured patients.

Two Grand Trunk railway trains collided at Woodstock doing great damage to the rolling stock, but no one was injured. The brakes on one of the trains would not act on account of a coating of sleet on the rails.

According to the Confederation Act, when a Governor-General leaves the country the Commander of the Forces in British North America must be sworn in as administrator, and a proclamation forthwith issued. It appears that on the departure of Lord Aberdeen for the World's Fair Gen. Moore was duly sworn in, but, by some blundering in the departments at Ottawa, no proclamation was issued.

BRITISH.

The Queen has approved the appointment of the Earl of Elgin as Viceroy of India.

The Infanta Eulalia of Spain, who recently visited the United States, is now visiting incognito in London.

The bullion in the Bank of England decreased £316,000 during the past week. The proportion of the bank reserve to liability, which last week was 45.52 per cent., is now 45.68 per cent.

Mr. Charles Jenner, F.P.S., has given to the Tennyson family a bust of the late poet laureate, executed by Mr. Thomas Woolner, which will be placed in Westminster Abbey.

The Socialist Williams, who led a number of unemployed workingmen to the London Mansion house on Friday and sang with them the Marseillaise, was fined five shillings in the Police Court on Saturday morning.

Fully twenty thousand miners are now at work in Nottinghamshire and Warwickshire and the situation in the coal districts of those two counties has practically resumed its normal condition.

The religious marriage between Lord Terence Blackwood, son of the Marquis of Dufferin, and Miss Flora Davis, daughter of Mr. John Davis, of New York, was celebrated Monday in the English Church of the Holy Trinity in Paris.

It is announced that the Czarewitch was formally betrothed on Sunday evening to Princess Victoria, the second daughter of the Prince of Wales.

Mr. VanHorne, who is at present in London, says that the success of the Australian line of steamers emphasizes the necessity of an improved Atlantic line.

The Prince of Wales has sold several hackney stallions, bred in the Royal stables near Sandringham, to the Indian Government.

It is generally thought in Ireland that the Parnellites, who have shown their power in Dublin, will win several seats at the next elections.

The Queen will leave Balmoral about the middle of November and reside in Windsor Castle until the latter part of December, when the Court will proceed to Osborne for two months.

Advices received at Johannesburg show that Chief Khama, who is assisting the British South Africa Company's forces against the Matabeles, has arrived at Tati with fifteen hundred followers.

Archduke Francis Ferdinand, who is expected to arrive in England next week, will pay a flying visit to the Queen at Balmoral. It is expected that he will be given the Grand Cross of the Bath.

A test case, which caused much excitement among the Hebrews of the United Kingdom, was ended Monday at Aberdeen, where two rabbis were charged with cruelty to animals for slaughtering a bullock in accordance with their ancient custom. After hearing much expert evidence, the Magistrate dismissed the case.

The London Times, commenting on the action of the Opposition in the United States Senate to prevent the repeal of the silver bill by a resort to continuous sessions, says that the determining of an economic question by an appeal to physical endurance is little removed from the medieval ordeal of battle, and the Daily Chronicle says that communities must hasten to get themselves represented by athletes.

UNITED STATES.

A court-martial has been ordered to convene at Annapolis, Md., to investigate charges of hazing against several cadets.

Emma Goldman, the New York Anarchist, has been sentenced to one year's imprisonment in the penitentiary.

Word has been received at Tuskahoma, I. T., of a terrible triple murder which was committed about forty miles west of there. The victims were Choctaws.

There were sixteen cases of smallpox reported in New York during the week ended at noon on Saturday.

A verdict of criminal neglect has been brought in by the jury that investigated the Mansfield mine disaster at Michigan.

The enormous amount of travel brought on by the one per cent. mile rate for Chicago Day at the Fair has been without parallel in the history of railroading. The roads will now adopt a one-cent-a-mile rate for the rest of the Fair.

The special committee of the World's Fair Management, recently appointed, has decided to keep open the Fair beyond the end of the month, as long as the weather will permit and the people attend in sufficient numbers to make it profitable.

There was a very serious fire in Baltimore, Md., on Friday night, by which the Brush Electric Light plant was totally destroyed. The fire extended to the penitentiary, and the turnkeys refusing to unlock the cells, fearing an escape, until they were prevented going to the rescue on account of the flames, many of the prisoners, before being set free by the firemen, were seriously, if not fatally, injured.

GENERAL.

Eight thousand striking miners in the Charleroi district, Belgium, resumed work on Wednesday.

A hurricane is prevailing in the Baltic sea, and it is feared that damage will be done to shipping.

The insurgents in Rio Grande do Sul surprised and defeated the troops of the Brazilian Government on Thursday.

Field-Marshal MacMahon, Duke of Magenta, the celebrated French General, died Tuesday in Paris, at the age of eighty-five years.

Count Blucher, while writing in his Wartzow estate, was shot dead by a discharged gardener, who then committed suicide.

A telegram received in London says that everything in Rio Janeiro tends to the restoration of monarchy, and it is now virtually only a question of terms.

During a Mahometan festival in Fez Morocco, a few days ago, several Europeans were assaulted and seriously injured by the fanatical Moors.

A portion of the British Mediterranean fleet visited Taranto yesterday, and were received by Admiral Corsi, in the name of King Humbert and the Italian navy.

The Brazilian armed cruiser Sete de Setembro, which was bound for Rio to join Admiral Mello's force, ran ashore near Praia Grande and all the crew were captured by Government troops.

The Brazilian Government has agreed to withdraw all the guns from certain forts in Rio Janeiro on the assurance of the representatives of the foreign powers that they will not permit the bombardment of the city.

Admiral Avelan commander of the Russian squadron visiting Toulon, and the fifty officers of the fleet accompanying him, arrived in Paris Monday morning and were received with frantic enthusiasm by the populace.

During the recent bombardment of Rio Janeiro by Admiral Mello the fire was directed toward the heart of the city, and many persons were killed and wounded. A panic prevailed, and business houses were closed for two days.

Advices received in Berlin allude to the Czar's determination to preserve the peace of Europe, and suggests that the Czarewitch is about to visit London and Berlin for the express purpose of convincing the English and German Governments that Russia's policy will remain permanently peaceful.

A Madman's Freak.

The excitement in Paris over the coming visit of the Russian squadron has driven at least one man mad. On Monday morning the policeman on duty at the gate of Courcelles Levallois observed a gentleman taking a promenade upon the old fortifications. He was completely naked and gesticulating wildly. The officers asked him to come down from the wall, but he only abused them and blasphemed. He said he was a son of Jesus Christ, the Sovereign of the world, and did not intend to take orders from anybody, much less a policeman. His name, he continued, was St. Gerome, and he was a master mason, just as St. Joseph was a master carpenter. His mission there was to wait the coming of the Russian squadron, which according to the latest programme as issued by the Council of Ministers, was timed to arrive in the dyke under the great wall that morning. The hour, in fact, was at hand, and he wished to be amongst the first to give Admiral Avelane a warm and a patriotic welcome. The two officers had by this time succeeded in reaching the naked gentleman, and, throwing a cape over him, they conducted him before the commissary, who in turn sent him to the infirmary.

WHOLESALE TEMPERANCE REFORM.

How an Island in the Sea of Japan Turned Over a New Leaf and Prospered.

In the northern part of the Sea of Japan, some forty miles distant from the large island of Ezo, lies a tiny island called Okushiri. Its soil is fertile. Trees of varying proportions cluster thickly over its surface. The agriculturist and the lumberman might find profitable occupation there. But the chief pursuit of the people is fishing. Every spring great shoals of herring approach the coast, and the fish are easily captured in such quantities that this one bountiful dispensation of nature suffices to feed and clothe the inhabitants from year's end to year's end.

Living thus in ease and plenty the people might be expected to develop qualities usually incidental to such circumstances, and they appear to have fallen pretty freely into the vice of drunkenness. In 1885 there were some 260 souls in the island. They possessed only four fixed nets. They lived in houses thatched with coarse grass; they had scarcely any roads, and they could boast only a single school. Yet they consumed annually $3,000 worth of sake in addition to shochu and other strong drinks. In short, these common fisher folks spent upon intoxicating beverages more than $1 per month for every unit of their number, including women and children. The same ratio of intemperance applied to the whole of Japan would signify an annual expenditure of $500,000,000 on intoxicating beverages alone. In the face of this reckless outlay for liquor the people often suffered severely from hunger and cold during the winter, the price of rice ranging very high in the midwinter months and dwelling houses being ill adapted to exclude the inclement atmosphere. The local authorities prevailed upon them to adopt a system of storing provisions against times of scarcity, but their sources, reduced by payments on account of sake, were insufficient to accomplish anything effective in that line.

These circumstances induced some bold men among them to openly denounce the excessive use of alcoholic beverages as the cause of all the people's sufferings, and to preach the necessity of applying to useful purposes the funds thus squandered. The crusade provoked violent opposition, but in 1884 the inhabitants were induced to enter into the following agreement:

"Covenant made by the people of Okushiri Island concerning the sale and purchase of alcoholic beverages and the use of the same in the island of Okushiri.

"This land which we inhabit is a lonely island in the Pacific Ocean. Its inhabitants, numbering ninety families, find almost their only means of amusement in drinking alcohol. Nine out of every ten are addicted to sake, the sums annually spent upon which aggregate a heavy amount.

"Debtors are unable to meet their engagements, and some are even compelled to depend on official aid for supplies of food. We are threatened with misery and some extraordinary measure is necessary to save us. Frugality must be the rule of our conduct, and every kind of excess must be avoided. We, therefore, hereby resolve to abstain from the luxury which we relish above all others, namely, sake, so as to terminate the importation of the liquor into the island. The money hitherto devoted to the purchase of sake shall be applied to lay in stocks of rice and other grain as a provision against future want, on the one hand, and to increase the capital available for fishery purposes on the other.

[SIGNATURES OF THE PROMOTERS.]

"Dated July, 1884.

"Article 1.—We, the inhabitants of Okushiri Island, jointly and severally, in accordance with the covenant hereby signed, do pledge ourselves to abandon wholly the sale, purchase, and use of alcoholic beverages.

(Signed) 117 OKUSHIRI ISLANDERS.

The consequences of this covenant were very marked. It was rigorously observed. Even Government officials, whatever their rank, had to give up sake drinking when they visited the island, and, as a matter of course, every dramster who could not reform was compelled to take his departure. Order thenceforth reigned completely, and prosperity came with rapid strides. The population increased five fold in five years and the capital invested in the fishing industry ten fold. Reed thatches were replaced by shingles. Four large granaries were kept full of rice, and, in addition, each house had a store of its own. It is stated that there is now stored in the island rice sufficient to support the people for three or four years, even though the herring fishery should fail entirely. Roads have been constructed in places where nothing of the kind existed before. The principal school has been greatly improved, and several branch schools have been established.

New lands have been brought into cultivation, and hemp to the value of $2,000, is grown annually for the manufacture of fishing nets, which, before the signing of the covenant, had to be imported entirely from the mainland. Statistics also show a marked decrease of crime, and so famous did the success of the experiment become that a large community of settlers in the neighboring island of Ezo pledged themselves to a covenant similar to that of Okushiri, and with similarly happy results. Finally, we may add that when the five years originally contemplated by the covenant expired it was renewed for another term of five years, despite the opposition of an influential local official.—[Japan Mail.

A Stowaway on a Troopship.

The rare incident of a stowaway being discovered on one of Her Majesty's ships occurred at the commencement of the present Indian trooping season. Her Majesty's ship Serapis left Portsmouth on September 7 with the 7th Dragoon Guards and a number of women and children on board. After the ship had got well out to sea it was found that there was a lad on board who apparently belonged to nobody. On being questioned he stated that he had smuggled himself on the ship at Portsmouth and wished to go to India for the winter as England was too cold. He gave his name as James Sullivan, of Liverpool, and his age as under 13. At Malta, on the 13th, he was sent ashore and placed in the care of the military authorities with a view to his being sent back to Portsmouth by the first returning troopship. He soon made acquaintances amongst the soldiers, who listened eagerly to his exploits, for he boasted of having crossed the Atlantic many times in a surreptitious manner, and having visited Australia once.

COLLISIONS NEVER COME SINGLY.

A Common Superstition Among English Engineers and Other Railway Men.

Of the superstition of sailors, fisherfolk and others we have all heard, but that such a distinguished characteristic should have attached itself to railway men would not appear to be generally known. It savors somewhat of the anomalous that such a preeminently practical class of men should be the victims of credulity regarding the supernatural. Such, however, is the case, says a writer in London Tit Bits.

I recently had occasion to interview a prominent railway official, and in the course of the conversation that ensued that gentleman incidentally alluded to two collisions which had lately occurred in the neighborhood, following up his remarks with the announcement that the local men would be in a state of subdued excitement and "flurry" till a third mishap took place. Such is the superstition of the railway man. Upon expressing considerable astonishment I was assured that this kind of thing was notorious among railway men in general, and in this particular instance it was known that the circumstances of the two previous accidents were the chief topics among the workmen in all departments, who were also counting on the possibilities of a third disaster. Curiously enough a touch of realism was lent to the information just imparted by the explanation that the second of the two collisions referred to was due to the driver of one of the engines—a reliable servant, with an honorable record with some forty years' service—who being, it was believed, so disturbed over the "omens" of the first occurrence and so engrossed with what he felt would be two other catastrophes that he committed the slight error of judgment which caused his locomotive to crash into another coming in an opposite direction. The statement is given as the conviction of one who spent upward of a quarter of a century among men of all classes, and who has known the driver alluded to for a long period of years. So came about a second collision. Surely superstition could go no further than this. But here is a tragic sequel—a sequel which, unfortunately, will in all probability do much to strengthen the reprehensible beliefs of these men. Two days after the interview above mentioned, within fifteen minutes' drive from the scene of the second collision, an express mail failed to take the points, a portion of the train with the tender of the engine was violently thrown across the rails and one stoker killed. This is what the railway men will term their "third mishap." "There's the third," they say, and now perhaps they will breathe freely for a season.

Fiction in Literature.

The popular literature of to-day contains too many love stories of a certain sort. The mutual attraction of the sexes is the sole theme of a large majority of the books that come from our printing presses. The books to which we refer are not those which are distinctly immoral in tone and impure in suggestion. They are novels in which the love of men for women and women for men is treated as though it constituted the only element of interest in human life. There can be no objection to the portrayal of love between the sexes when it is done with reasonable fidelity to the facts. But the novels that disregard the wide diversity of elements which go to make up human life, and dwell on love and marriage alone, fill the minds of young girls with a set of false ideals that frequently do infinite harm in later life. Fiction has an important place in literature, and must continue to hold it. But the young folks should read more healthy fiction and less morbidness and mawkishness. Young women whose parents and guardians keep them well supplied with wholesome novels are not likely to cultivate an appetite for trash. Novels of action or of character, filled with the breeze of healthful human nature, are plentiful, if one will but choose them. The master storytellers, whose eminence the present generation of novelists, fertile though it be, cannot hope to equal, wrote such tales in abundance. There are many writers of to-day who, though they cannot approach the skill of Dickens, Scott, Thackeray, Balzac, Hugo, Hawthorne and George Eliot, are yet producing books of absorbing interest; books in which love plays its rightful part and does not usurp sole dominance; books which picture life in its varied phases, with a hundred times greater truth and charm than the silly and sentimental love story. These are the novels that are worth reading. There is no good reason why American young women should read rubbish.

A New Kleptomania Dodge.

An amusing case of "Kleptomania in the Consulting Room" is related by a correspondent of the Lancet. Some days ago, in Palermo, a well-dressed, pleasant-mannered young man who was ushered into the presence of one of the leading specialists in mental disease, explained that his "dear wife" had during the few months since their marriage developed an incorrigible habit of kleptomania. After listening to the distressing details, the doctor requested the visitor to bring the patient. During the interview she conducted herself like a high-bred woman of the world, except for the unfortunate failing she laboured under—pocketing articles of value when she thought she was unobserved. Amongst these was a photograph framed in brilliants, and a statuette in gold. The doctor also remarked that just at the moment of bidding him good-day, the sufferer relieved him of a valuable cravat-pin. "You see yourself," groaned the unhappy husband, in an aside, "how possessed she is with the thieving instinct. Oh, my poor unfortunate wife, I will bring you back all the missing articles to-morrow at any hour you may appoint, when you will kindly give me your opinion on the case, and advise me what to do." "To-morrow" came, but the "well-dressed, pleasant-mannered young man" and his afflicted wife have been seen no more.

Uses of Linden Bark in Russia.

The bark of the linden tree plays a singularly important part in the domestic economy of the Russian peasant. It is made into a sort of matting which is used for bags of all kinds, the best and heaviest being reserved to contain flour; and also into sandals, which are so universally worn that some 10,000,000 pairs are required each year. For sandal-making strips of the bark of saplings are employed, and as it takes the bark of about four saplings to form a single pair, the destruction wrought by this one industry can easily be imagined. The young trees are stripped in spring or early summer when they are full of sap.

NOTES ON SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

The processes commonly resorted to for imparting a waterproof quality to cotton cloth have proved only measurably successful, besides being somewhat complicated and troublesome. The latest and most effective method, as recently described, is claimed to be free from the objections heretofore encountered, and consists, mainly, in first drying the fabric thoroughly in a dry heat and then spreading it lightly over a smooth surface. With a brush this is painted over with a thin coat of boiled oil, which, after having become perfectly dry, is treated to a second coat—and a third if necessary—plenty of time being allowed between each for the effect of the operation on the fabric to become perfect. After the last coat has been applied, if the surface remains sticky, a mixture of one-fourth pound of shellac to a pint of water gently heated until near the boiling point, adding to this a small quantity of liquid ammonia, is painted over the surface. For a yellow waterproof, yellow ochre is employed, and for a black cloth, lampblack is found serviceable. The coloring matter, it is said, can be used in mixture with the shellac.

The preservation of pictures has now become in London, it would seem, as the result of some very ingenious experiments, a regular scientific proceeding, if the accounts given are to be relied upon. It is simply placing the surface of the picture, be it of canvas or paper, in a vacuum, thus protecting it from the usual atmospheric action which is so deteriorating. In carrying out this plan the picture is enclosed in a metal frame or vase, covering the back and sides, and projecting from the sides like an ordinary frame. In the edges of this case a plate of glass is inserted, just as in an ordinary frame, and hermetically sealed to the metal. The air is then withdrawn from between the surface of the picture and the glass, and thus the picture is in a vacuum. It is asserted that the effect of this plan is to completely protect pictures from the action of dampness, air, gases, and other causes that operate to destroy paintings exposed or framed in the ordinary way.

An interesting departure in engineering is the introduction of marine engines for land service, and the plan is commended by so good an authority as the Age of Steel. One of the great electric illuminating companies, it appears, has adopted them in its work, and concerning their economy in respect to space and power it is reported that the land engine takes up some ten times as much space as a marine engine and the marine quadruple-expansion engine has ten times the heating surface of the land engine. Further, the new quadruplex two-crank expansion engine is twice as powerful as the triple-expansion three-crank engine, occupies also 30 per cent. less room, and carries regularly 210 pounds of steam; the land engine carries only 80 or 90 pounds of steam, and gets one horse-power out of from four to ten pounds of anthracite coal, while the quadruple-expansion marine engine develops one horse power out of one and a quarter pounds of Welsh coal, that is, according to these data, the land engine requires from two to four times as much coal as the marine engine to produce the same power.

The latest reported improvement in lamp is a device intended to obviate the objectionable shadow thrown on the ceiling by most regenerative lamps, and to overcome some other features which detract from the value of the principle. The difficulty of the shade thrown upward is met by forming the upper part of the lamp of etched ornamental glass instead of having a metallic dome, as is ordinarily the case. A good illumination is thus obtained without the loss of any downward light—two streams of hot air are supplied to the burners, one being heated by means of the regenerator, which is of cast iron, the other being warmed in its passage through the lamp casing. Another point dealt with, in this construction, is the deposit of carbon on the ceiling, which is usual with such lamps; this is practically reduced to nothing, first by the small amount of gas burned per hour and the perfect combustion obtained, and next by the products of combustion being emitted from the lamp laterally instead of being projected upward towards the ceiling. This arrangement has the merit of simplicity, and the effect is very satisfactory.

A successful application has been made, it appears, of the newly invented road concrete, some time ago described in the papers of Germany, and its usefulness in various directions seems to be assured. Curious enough, shavings and planing mill chips, either of common or fancy woods, and which may be stained before use if desired, are mixed with cheese—or rather casein—calcined magnesian limestone, glycerine, silicate of soda, and a little linseed oil, and this combination of substances is forced by hydraulic pressure into moulds where it is allowed sufficient time to harden. When dry the composition is strong and solid, and can be sawed, planed, polished, and varnished. Among its various proposed uses are ornamental panels and wall surface coverings, &c.

A plan of heating mills has been introduced by which heated air is delivered from a large fan into flues in the walls, registers from each flue delivering the air into the different rooms, this air being heated by the waste gases from the boiler. The products of combustion pass from the boilers through economizers for heating the feed water, next through a regenerator for reheating the steam exhausted from the high-pressure cylinder, and on its way to the low-pressure cylinder, and then passes through air pipes, where it heats the cold air for heating the buildings, then passes to the chimney. If heated air is not wanted, but only cool air for ventilation, the gases from the boiler are turned by a damper into the chimney without entering the heater; and if the gases are not sufficient to heat the air as desired, additional heat is supplied by radiators of steam in this heater. The temperature of the air is raised about fifty degrees by its contact with the hot gases.

In pruning all saw cuts should be made just so close to the trunk or to a side branch as to leave no dead projection, but not so close as to cause a stoppage of the ascending sap through drying of the wood laid bare by the cut. Yet another common fault is that of letting large wounds remain exposed to the drying winter winds without any protection of varnish or paint. There is nothing better or easier to apply than common gas tar for covering such wounds. It is better for having been first heated to boiling to thicken it.