

# THE WEEK'S NEWS

CANADA.

Mrs. Malo, the mother of Mrs. Hooper, is seventy-two years of age, and has been the mother of twenty-four children.

A committee has been formed in Montreal for the purpose of raising a fund to present a testimonial to Rev. Father Chiquin.

Sir Narcisse Belleau celebrated in Quebec recently the eighty-fifth anniversary of his birth. He is still hale and hearty.

The extra clerks of the Privy Council Department, who had been without any pay for nearly two months, got their cheques on Saturday.

The safe in the Dundas, Ont., postoffice was blown open on Thursday night, and \$350 in registered letters, stamps, and cash were stolen.

A writ for \$9,700, which had been issued against Messrs. Boyd, Ryrice and Campbell, of Montreal, for an infraction of the Customs laws, has been paid.

A Citizens' Municipal Association has been formed in Montreal by a number of leading taxpayers, to aid in securing the nomination of proper persons to serve as Mayor and aldermen.

The American Public Health Association, composed of sanitarians from Mexico, the United States, and Canada, will hold its next convention in Montreal in September.

A World's Fair special train had a narrow escape from a serious collision at Hamilton, Ont. Considerable damage was done to the rolling stock, but fortunately only two persons were injured.

During the course of his sermon on Sunday, in the Dominion Methodist church in Ottawa, Rev. Dr. Benson created a sensation by denouncing dancing, which, he said, was inconsistent with a Christian life.

Father Stark, of Brantford, Ont., who was reported among the victims of the Battle Creek disaster, is safe in Chicago, where he is enjoying the Fair.

Mr. Hugh John Macdonald denies having received any official notification regarding the acceptance of his resignation, but the sooner it is accepted the better pleased he will be.

A branch of the Machinists' Association, which is a very strong body in the United States, although numerically small in Canada, has been started in Canada with a membership of about fifty.

Before the session of the Protestant Teachers' Convention, held recently in Montreal, Dr. S. P. Robins, eminent educationist, read a paper advocating the teaching of agriculture in the Public schools of the province.

A despatch from Montreal says the Commercial Cable Company announces that telegraphic communication has been established with New Caledonia, the rate from Toronto being two dollars and seventy-six cents a word.

Major-General Cameron, the commandant of the Royal Military College at Kingston, Ont., lost twelve prize messenger pigeons last Friday night, some of which were imported stocks. He places his loss at two hundred dollars.

Sir Charles H. Tupper, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, has had forwarded to the Queen, through the Dominion Privy Council, the names of several Canadian officials who gave him valuable assistance in preparing his case for the Behring Sea arbitration.

The celebrated Purcell will case, which involves the title to several large bequests to Roman Catholic charitable institutions, is at present before the Supreme Court at Ottawa, with a host of legal talent looking after the several interests involved.

The Dominion Government, it is understood, has notified the United States authorities that while the Dominion cannot officially recognize any arrangement whereby the United States inspectors may supervise immigrants in Canadian ports, it will not interfere with any arrangement which the United States may make with Canadian steamship and railway companies.

BRITAIN.

While Mr. Herbert Spencer is in feeble health, he is still able to dictate for some hours each day to his secretary.

Sir Andrew Clark, the celebrated London physician, was stricken with paralysis on Thursday, and is in a very serious condition.

The British Admiralty has contracted for the construction of three torpedo destroyers, designed to exceed in speed anything now afloat.

The Most Rev. Robert Knox, D. D., Protestant Archbishop of Armagh, and Primate of Ireland, has died from heart disease.

The Lucania, of the Cunard line, which arrived at Queenstown, broke all previous records, and during the voyage she averaged twenty-one knots an hour.

Mr. Justin McCarthy has issued an appeal on behalf of evicted tenants in Ireland. He believes that the reliance of the Irish race upon Mr. Gladstone's promise will be justified.

The London Lancet, the medical paper against which Dr. Leslie Keely brought a libel suit because of comments on his bicarbonate of gold treatment for drunkenness, announces that the action has been abandoned, Dr. Keely paying the costs.

The London Times publishes an article condemnatory of the policy of Sir George Dibbs, Premier of New South Wales, in allowing the first section of the Australian and British Columbian cable to fall into the hands of the French Government.

Mr. Andrew Benner, a farmer at Ridgeway, Ont., found \$7,000 in the old house on the farm, which was undergoing extensive repairs. He deposited the money in a bank in Buffalo, and was arrested yesterday charged with having stolen the money.

The accident to the Canadian Pacific steamer Miowers at Honolulu and the long delay in learning the cause of her detention are referred to in the London Times, which urges the necessity of the immediate laying of the proposed British cable between Australia and Canada.

UNITED STATES.

Dr. John C. Peters, the well-known authority on cholera and germ diseases, died in New York on Saturday.

George Chiva, a member of the French

Legation at Washington, made two attempts to commit suicide on Friday night, while on the verge of delirium tremens.

The Dalton gang a few nights since appeared at Cushing, O. T., and attended an oyster supper given by the ladies of the church. They left their arms outside, patronized the tables liberally, and behaved like society gentlemen.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union of Osceola, Neb., has resolved itself into a White Cap Committee, and on Saturday night inflicted terrible floggings on five young women whose morals did not meet the approval of the union.

Commercial reports state that business in the United States is most seriously depressed by the policy of obstruction resorted to by a minority in the Senate at Washington. Manufacturers and wholesale houses, in view of the uncertainty, refuse to operate, and thus business in many lines is practically paralysed in regard to future supplies.

There was a riot at Blarney castle in Midway Plaisance, in the World's Fair, on Saturday evening. A number of Irish sympathizers tore down the British flag from the top of the castle. The flag was at once replaced, and when a second attempt was made to tear it down the Irishmen and the Columbian Guards had a tussle, which a one-time threatened to become a general riot. Order, however, was finally restored, and three of the hot-headed Irishmen were arrested and placed in goal.

GENERAL.

Lord Vivian, British Ambassador to Italy, died in Rome on Saturday of pneumonia.

Theodore Hebert, the sculptor, who was born in 1829, died in Paris on Sunday.

The Marquis of Conyngham has arranged to sue for a divorce on the ground of adultery.

The Maharajah Dhuleep Singh, who was born in 1838, died yesterday in Paris, from the effect of a paralytic stroke.

The English Mediterranean fleet visited Spezzia yesterday, and were given a very cordial welcome by the Italian authorities.

There are now five hundred political prisoners in the goals in Rio Janeiro, and their executions, after private trials, are said to be frequent.

Emperor William has sent to King Charles an autograph letter, congratulating him upon the birth of an heir to the Roumanian throne.

It is expected that one of the chief naval engagements of the Brazilian revolution will be fought off the coast of Uruguay in a few days.

The German socialists intend agitating for direct suffrage in elections for members of the Landtag, the same as in elections for members of the Reichstag.

Two students of St. Petersburg, suspected of having murdered a Nihilist for giving information to the Government, have been sent to Siberia for twenty years.

The Sultan has bought from a French servant, for five thousand pounds, Turkish, two epistles that are ascribed to the Prophet Mahomet, and are believed to be authentic.

The Marquis of Dufferin placed on Field-Marshal MacMahon's coffin a beautiful wreath from Queen Victoria, and Colonel Talbot laid one beside the Queen's from the Prince of Wales.

It is reported that the Brazil revolutionary party under Admiral Mello will establish a Provisional Government, which, it is hoped, will obtain recognition from the foreign powers.

The condition of Prince Bismarck has so much improved that Princess Bismarck has been able to visit her daughter-in-law, Countess Herbert Bismarck, who is expecting her confinement at an early date.

The column sent out from Fort Victoria to operate against King Lobengula's Matabele warriors met the enemy on October 16th, and an engagement, was fought, which resulted in the defeat of the natives.

The son of General MacMahon, who was buried on Saturday, received a telegraphic despatch from ex-Empress Eugenie, saying:—"I share your grief. Convey my sentiments to Madame MacMahon."

Within five years there have been five different Ministers at the head of the War Department in Germany, and it is suggested that these frequent changes argue some defect in the Emperor's knowledge of men.

Gen. Tulloch, commanding the forces at Fort Victoria, Mashonaland, has declined an offer made to him by the Bendigo (Australia) militia to furnish a hundred men to assist in the operations against the Matabeles.

Signor Giolitti, at a banquet on Wednesday, stated that Italy's financial deficit had been reduced by five hundred and fifty million lire, and that the Government would put a progressive tax upon incomes exceeding five thousand lire annually.

News has been received in Brussels from the Congo State that the Belgian forces have captured Kirundu, an Arab stronghold, near Stanley Falls.

It is reported from Aldershot that the Duke of Connaught has rather astonished the principal staff officers by his knowledge of the details of organization and equipment, and that there is every prospect of his proving himself by no means a second-rate commander.

The Grand Dukes Sergius and Paul and the Grand Duchess Elizabeth had intended to go to Paris for a fortnight on leaving England, but a telegram from the Czar obliged them to alter their plans, as his Majesty deemed it inadvisable that any members of the Imperial family should visit France at present.

Mr. Stead is promoting a project to start a model newspaper in London, of which he will be the model editor. The basis of the scheme is that 100,000 people shall subscribe 26 shillings each, in return for which they will each receive bonds for twenty shillings. Then if the paper gains a circulation of 100,000 Mr. Stead will pay the subscribers 5 per cent. on their investment, and if the circulation is 200,000 he will pay 10 per cent. His contribution to the capital will be twenty shares. Mr. Stead goes on the principle that the more a humbug asks the more he is likely to receive. The words are full of men who would undertake to publish a newspaper in Timbuctoo on such terms, they are few and far between, however, who would venture to ask the public to take them into such a partnership.

## ELECTRICITY ON THE PYRAMIDS.

### How Arab Guides Were Frightened by a Party of Scientists.

In his autobiography the late Sir W. Siemens relates the following anecdote: An Arab called his attention to the fact that when at the top of the pyramid of Cheops, when he raised his hand with fingers outspread, an acute singing note was heard, the sound ceasing as soon as he let his hand fall. "I found his assertion," he writes, "to be true. As soon as I raised one of my own fingers above my head I felt a pricking in the fingers. That this could only be caused by an electrical phenomenon was proved by the slight electric shock felt on trying to drink out of a wine bottle.

"So I wrapped a full bottle of wine that I had with me in the damp paper, and thus converted it into a Leyden bottle, which was soon strongly charged with electricity by the simple device of holding it high above my head. The Arabs had already become distrustful on seeing small lightning bolts, as it were, issue from the wine bottles held up by myself and companions, and now held a brief consultation. Suddenly, at a given signal, each of my companions was seized by the guide who had led him up, who now tried to force him to go down again.

"I myself was standing at the very top of the pyramid when the sheik of the Arabs came to me and told me through my interpreter that the Arabs had determined that we were at once to leave the pyramid because we were practicing magic and it might damage their chance of their earning a living. On my refusing to obey orders the sheik caught hold of my left hand. I had awaited this moment, and held up my right hand with the bottle in the attitude of a magician, afterward lowering it slowly toward the point of the sheik's nose.

"When quite close to that feature I felt a violent shock run through the bottle to my own arm, and was certain that the sheik must have received the equivalent. At any rate, he fell senseless on the stones, and a few anxious moments passed before he rose suddenly with a loud cry and sprang down the gigantic steps of the pyramid with long strides. The Arabs, seeing this, and excited by the sheik's constant cries of 'Magic! magic!' released my companion and followed their leader, leaving us complete masters of the pyramid!"

## The British Harvest.

An English correspondent writes as follows: "What we have grown this year we have secured in prime condition, including not only the small crops of grain, but also the great crop of potatoes, now for the most part harvested. The threshing machine shows that the yield of grain is even more than it was expected to be in two-thirds of England, while it is good or fair in the north of England and Scotland, and excellent in Ireland. But very little wheat is grown in Scotland or Ireland, and nearly all the counties which grow that cereal extensively suffered severely from the dry weather of the spring and summer. The total area of the wheat crop in Great Britain and Ireland this year was only 1,952,476 acres, and the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands last year produced only 3424 acres, so that the total for the United Kingdom will not exceed 1,956,000 acres. At twenty-five bushels an acre, which is a full allowance, the product of this area will be 48,498,000 bushels. Now, our population at the middle of the current cereal year will number about 38,611,000 and the consumption per head, including seed, is six bushels, so that the total consumption may be put at 231,665,000 bushels, and we shall have to derive from imports and extra reserve stock about 183,000,000 bushels. The average yield for the nine years ending with 1-92 was 29.59 bushels an acre. Barley will probably yield about 30 bushels, as compared with a nine-years' average of 33.66 bushels, and oats, about 55 bushels, against an average of 33.63 for the period just named. The barley area this year in Great Britain and Ireland was 2,244,885 acres, and that of oats was 4,420,116 acres. Potatoes are abundant; roots are short; and hay is the shortest crop ever known. The averages estimated above would have to be put much lower if it were not for the fair crop of the north of England and Scotland, and the good ones of Ireland."

## Women in Scotland.

The Scotch census return, to which Sir G. O. Trevelyan has prefixed a useful and very welcome analysis of its general results, affords one or two remarkable bits of evidence. There is hardly a single occupation from which across the border women have been wholly excluded, and there are some occupations, generally deemed unsuitable for the gentler sex, to which they have been admitted in very large numbers. For example, there are 87 women employed on railways, 59 on roads, 19 in shipbuilding, 116 in gas-making, 103 in the iron and steel manufacture, 43 in the tin and steel trades, and 391 in stone, clay, and road-making. The result is that 556,564 women are engaged in competing with 1,220,388 men for a livelihood. In the commercial class of the population alone there are twice as many females engaged as there were in 1881, and the only class of which females form a smaller proportion than they did in that year is the agricultural, which has been deprived of the services of over 20,000 of their number. This exception is doubtless to be ascribed to the dying custom of employing women and girls to do the roughest field work. Moreover, against 52,644 women who are described as working on their own account, there are no fewer than 11,662 who are employers of labour. It would seem that in the land which was electrified two hundred and fifty years ago by the furious apparition of Jenny Geddes, woman has at length achieved her perfect emancipation.

## Great Britain's Debt.

The debt of the United Kingdom is in round numbers \$3,355,000,000. Comparisons are made with the debt as it was in 1689, just before the reign of William III., when it was only \$3,221,000, and with the beginning of Victoria's reign, when it had reached the enormous total of \$4,251,000,000. Under Victoria this great total has been reduced some 21 per cent. Something over \$33,000,000 was paid off in the year ending March 31 last.

The first census in Britain was taken on March 10, 1801.

## The Time Without a Watch.

Actual and repeated experiments have shown that the nearest hour of the day or night may be ascertained in the following very curious way:

Make a small running loop in a piece of sewing thread about a foot in length, place a shilling in this loop, see that the coin is accurately bisected by the thread, and then draw the loop tight up, so that the shilling is firmly slung at one end of the thread. Put on a solid table a glass tumbler with a fairly wide mouth. Rest your right elbow on the table in a firm and easy position so as to avoid any shakiness in your hand, hold the other end of the thread between your first finger and the "ball" of the thumb (i.e., the fleshy joint of the thumb), so that the thumb nail is underneath, and a few inches above the middle of the mouth of the glass.

Now, if you keep your hand quite steady, the movement of the coin (which is hanging inside the tumbler) will become less and less until the shilling is motionless. Then, in half a minute or so, a very slight and regular vibration will commence, the coin oscillating from side to side like a pendulum, and gradually increasing the length of movement until it gently strikes the side of the glass. This strike goes on in the most regular and automatic way, first on one side of the glass and then on the other, until, say, eight strokes have been struck: the vibrations of the coin then diminish in length, until the suspended shilling again becomes motionless and hangs in the middle of the tumbler. You look at your watch and find that 8 o'clock is the nearest hour. I have tried this over and over again, without bias or any intention of influencing the swing of the coin, and also being ignorant of the time, and when my hand has been steady the right time has invariably been struck.

There is something very curious about this phenomenon. Whether the thread is influenced by the pulse in the "ball" of the thumb or whether there is some unconscious transference of "intention" from the brain to the thread, I do not know; but in any case the matter is sufficiently interesting to be worthy of a critical test by persons who feel carefully and without bias carry out this singular experiment of telling the time.

## KLEPTOMANIA.

### A Physician Consulted on this Subject to His Sorrow.

Sicily, the classic haunt of brigandage, seems ambitious of showing that highway robbery does not quite exhaust her methods of breaking the eighth commandment. Some days ago, in Palermo, a well-dressed, pleasant-mannered young man was ushered into the presence of one of the leading alienists and proceeded, on painfully matter-of-fact lines, to state the object of his visit. His dear wife had during the few months since their marriage developed the most distressing, most incorrigible habit of kleptomania. Not only in public shops and in private visits, but even in her own house, she could not keep her hands off other people's property, which, however, on coming to her real self some hours afterwards, she invariably returned to their owners. Medical treatment had hitherto failed to wean her from that habit, and in his despair he brought him of the Palermitan expert, whose success in such cases had come to his knowledge. The consultant, having put a few questions which were intelligently answered, expressed his willingness to take the young lady in hand, and appointed an hour on the following day when her husband was to bring her to him.

True to time the pair arrived, and the lady had hardly been introduced to the consultant when her beauty and frank, engaging manner imparted a quite peculiar interest to her case. During the interview she conducted herself like a high-bred woman of the world, except for the unfortunate failing she labored under of pocketing articles of value when she thought she was unobserved. Among these the vigilant eye of the consultant missed a photograph framed in brilliants (the gift of a patrician parent), and also a beautifully modeled statuette of pure gold. He also remarked that just at the moment of bidding him good-day she relieved him in the quickest and most graceful manner possible of a valuable cravat pin which became "secreted" about her person with the suddenness of magic. "You see yourself," groaned the afflicted husband in an aside to the consultant, "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 of the case and advise me what to do." To-morrow came and with it the appointed hour, and the consultant waited and is still waiting for the "well-dressed, pleasant-mannered young man" and his stolen goods. He was as cleverly swindled as Gil Blas was by Don Raphael and Camilla, "niece of the Governor of the Spanish colonies in the Philippine Islands."

## A THRILLING TALE.

### The Experience of Mr. H. H. Powell, of Woodstock in the Battle Creek Calamity.

Mr. Powell was in the front day coach of the west-bound train, next the smoker. Fortunately he occupied a seat in the front part of the car. The second coach ran under the first, the latter completely telescoping and settling down on top of it when the trains came to a standstill. Both cars were smashed literally to pieces. Mr. Powell was one of the three who were able to get out. Most of those in the rear end of the car were killed instantly, others were taken from the wreck before it was burned. But horror of horrors, it was not realized until the morning that under this car another one with all its human freight had perished in the flames. Mr. Powell is satisfied that no one in the second coach escaped. In taking victims from the wreck of his car they heard cries and groans, but did not realize that they came from another car beneath the first one. In the morning two sets of trucks told the tale. Mr. Powell declares that he can scarcely tell what happened or how he got out. It was all over so quickly and the sight so horrible as to daze and bewilder those who were in the awful tragedy. He is pretty badly shaken up and is slightly injured on the thigh and side, but how seriously he could scarcely say. He believes the number of dead will be about 70.

One of the peculiarities of the cocooned palm is that it never stands upright.

## PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS.

### Interesting Items About the World's Leading People.

The love of music amounts almost to a passion with the Countess of Dunraven. When living at Adare she always sings in the village choir.

A niece of Abraham Lincoln, Miss Mattie Todd, is postmistress at Cynthiana, Ky. She was appointed by President Hayes and has held her place ever since.

Henri Rochefort expects to be arrested shortly by the French Chambers. In that event he will desert London and return at once to his home in Paris.

When the vines on the house lately occupied by Phillips Brooks in Boston, were trimmed the other day, many passers-by picked up leaves as mementos.

The English royal family never have cars furnished them free by railroad companies when they travel. The queen pays her own fare, like the humblest passenger.

Dr. Frederick A. Cook, who was with the last Peary expedition, and has just been doing some summer exploration in Greenland on his own account, anticipates great results from Peary's present journey.

Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes is looking well for his years. The other day he visited the Boston court house, and when he saw his son standing at the door made a respectable bow and said: "How do you do, Mr. Justice Holmes?"

Prof. Henry Drummond, the Glasgow teacher, says the universities in the United States are something the country has reason to be proud of, and their chairs of philosophy are, as a rule, worthy the admiration of Europe.

Miss Frances E. Willard has won the affection of all the poor people of England by contributing her watch for the relief of the suffering coal miners and their families. Lady Somerset contributed \$500 for the same cause.

Clarence E. Long, who is quite short, as he is but 10 years old, won a medal at the Columbian prize shooting match at West Pullman, Ill., by firing seventy-five shots without a single goose egg! He is the son of a crack shot, who taught the young idea how to shoot.

Oscar Wilde has been detected wearing a red rose on the lapel of his coat. The sun-flower has apparently had its day, so far as he is concerned, but it is pleasant to feel that, come what may, Oscar is himself a flower that will, under no circumstances, "blush unseen."

The Queen of the Belgians is reputed to be one of the best living performers on the harp. When recently her chief lady-in-waiting became a nun, the queen as sponsor, presented the postulant at the altar, and then played a solo on the harp, to the great delight of the sisters who thronged the concert.

Mrs. Flower, wife of Gov. Roswell P. Flower, of New York, is a regular contributor to many charitable institutions, which she aids to an aggregate extent of \$250 a week. Mrs. Flower is as shy as a school girl, and her modesty has prevented her from having herself photographed. Her portrait is now being painted by an Albany artist.

Archbishop Redwood, of New Zealand, who preached in Baltimore last Sunday, is an accomplished and enthusiastic violinist. He carries with him on his travels an old violin of celebrated make, and last Saturday evening he took this highly-prized instrument from its case to entertain Cardinal Gibbons with "Home Sweet Home" and other melodies.

In a pathetic letter to a friend in Hungary, Kossuth writes: "I am weighed down by the burden of years and my eyesight grows dim. I can now see only outlines and not details. I cannot read, and when writing only get at the characters which I trace. Nevertheless, impelled by a sense of duty, I completed the third volume of my memoirs a few days ago."

Prince Komatu, a near relative of the imperial family of Japan, with his wife, is about to begin a journey to Europe to pay his respects to the various crowned heads there. In all probability he will also visit this country. The prince is a young man, not more than 30 years old, and an officer in the Japanese navy. He was formerly attached to the Japanese embassy in Berlin.

An English author describes W. S. Gilbert, the author of "Pinafore" and "Patience," as a tall, well-built, handsome man with grayish-white hair and mustache, and lively bright eyes. His bearing, he continues, would lead a stranger to suppose him to be a military officer rather than a bar-rister, but when he talks, one recognizes at once the crisp, smart manner of conversation characteristic of the alert practitioner at the bar.

Richard A. Proctor, whose grave in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, now rests, thanks to George W. Childs, beneath a fitting memorial stone, lies near a distinguished company of such men of good repute as Henry Ward Beecher, Jno. Brougham, Lester Wallack, Wm. J. Florence and Fitz Greene Halleck, one of the sweet singers of a "good" generation. A goodly company of well-known people witnessed the reinterment of Proctor, popular astronomer, was born in England, and died in New York in 1888.

## Railways in Palestine.

There is now a great railway system in the course of construction which will girdle the Holy Land from one end to the other. A French company has secured a concession for a line from Beyrout to Damascus, and has already commenced work on a narrow-gauge road. An English syndicate is now building a railway from Haifa to Damascus, which will be about 40 miles long, starting from Haifa finding its way along the northern base of the range of Carmel to the plain of Esbaron, through the valley east of Nazareth.

Leaving Mount Tabor, it will cross the River Jordan on a trestle, and then to the point known as Majmech, where the little Jordan joins the greater rivers. At this point the road will border on the southern shore of Galilee, and almost without a curve along the famous wheat region, biblically known as the Plains of Bashan; thence to the southern gate of Damascus.

The road will undoubtedly prove of the greatest interest to Syria in an agricultural and commercial way, finding a means for placing upon the Eastern market the rich products in which that section abounds.

## AN OTTAWA NOTE

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