DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

The House went into Committee on the resolutions respecting the Civil Service Act.

Mr. Mulock referred to the method of holding Civil Service examinations. He suggested that there be one officer in Ottawa who would prepare questions and send them to the local examiners at various points throughout Canada. The local examiners would send the results to the central examiner, who would prepare and publish the reports of the examinations at the earliest possible moment. Under the present system months had elapsed before the candidates knew whether they had passed the examination or not. He also spoke strongly in favor of appointing teachers as local examiners. He thought the examiners should be appointed for each examination, and opposed the idea of appointing permanent examiners, who would become a regular charge on the Government.

Mr. Chapleau said he could not see his way to adopting these suggestions, though that referring to the teachers was worthy of consideration.

Mr. Casey spoke strongly in favor of having all the appointments made by a Board which would be independent of political influences.

Mr. Foster advocated a non-political system of appointment.

The Committee rose and reported the resolutions.

A Bill to give effect to the arrangement for sale by the Public Works Department of the Dundas and Waterloo Road was introduced and read the first time.

Mr. Pope, moving the second reading of the Bill respecting infectious or contagious diseases affecting animals, explained that it provided better and more ready means of collecting the penalties for the infraction of the law.

The Bill was read the second time on the understanding that only this stage should be taken to-day.

Mr. Pope, moving that the House go into Committee to consider the resolutions on the subject of the proposed Colonial and Indian Exhibition to be held in London in the year 1886, under the Presidency of the Prince of Wales, explained that Canada had been asked to guarantee £10,000 toward meeting any deficit that might result from holding this exhibition. India had guaranteed £20,000 for the same purpose. It was expected that the Exhibition would fully pay expenses, and that the Government would lose nothing. In the Amsterdam Exhibition, the Government had to pay $5,000 for space. In this Exhibition the space cost nothing.

The resolution was considered in Committee and reported.

Sir John Macdonald, moving the second reading of the Bill from the Senate respecting explosive substances, explained that it was based on the Imperial statute, and was directed to those who caused explosions with the intention of causing loss of life or injury to property.

Mr. Blake said he noticed there were considerable changes in the form, if not in the substance, as compared with the Imperial statute, and asked that when the House went into Committee the mover of the Bill should be prepared to show what the provisions of the Imperial Act were.

Sir John Macdonald—Certainly.

The Bill was read the second time.

Sir H. Langevin, moving the second reading of the Bill to amend the law respecting bridges, booms and other works constructed over or in navigable waters, under the authority of the Provincial Acts, explained that it was to remedy a defect in the law which prevented the Dominion Government from compelling the proprietor of a work built under the Provincial authority to make alterations without which navigation would be interfered with.

On motion of Mr. Chapleau, the Bill to amend the Act respecting the Department of Secretary of State was read the second time and passed through Committee on the Whole.

On the order for the second reading of the Franchise Bill, Sir John Macdonald said he could not hope to get it through before six with the obstruction offered. (Laughter.)

Mr. Mills—The gentleman has been thirteen years getting the Bill thus far before the House. He can hardly complain if he does not get it through all its stages in an hour.

Several other unimportant measures were advanced a stage.

On the motion to adjourn, Sir Richard Cartwright said: A telegram has just been put into my hand from an alderman of Kingston—"The officer commanding 'B' Battery declined issuing rations to the wives and children of the men gone West. Subscriptions are being taken up, and the City Council is intervening to prevent starvation." I have no doubt the officer acted according to the customary rules of service, but I would mention to the First Minister what I am sure he knows, that the wives and children of the men of "B" Battery, unless considerable indulgence is extended to them, will be under very considerable distress without the allowance which is all that their hubands and fathers are entitled to receive, and I submit that under the circumstances of the case there is no fear of any mischievous precedent arising if some reasonable indulgence is shown to these poor people. The First Minister, I am sure, will see that steps are taken to prevent the wives and children of these men from being compelled to depend upon the charity of the men of the city of Kingston.

Sir John Macdonald—The matter will be taken into immediate consideration. It involves the consideration of the cases of all the militiamen who have gone to the Northwest. However, it will be taken into immediate consideration.

At a special meeting of the Free Presbytery of Edinburgh, the libel charging Dr. Stuart Muir, Leith, with holding heretical views on baptism; with worshipping in a way condemned by Scripture and the Confession of Faith; with approving of Popish or superstitious doctrines and practices, and with foolish and irreverent conduct, was found relevant. Dr. Muir was in consequence suspended—pending the further settlement of the case—from exercising any ministerial functions. An appeal to the Synod was taken by Dr. Muir, who in the Presbytery had found no supporter.

Water in the flooded Comstock mines ebbs and flows with the regularity of ocean tides, the Virginia (Nev.) *Chronicle* says.

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

Mr. Awrey moved concurrence in the amendment made in committee to the Bill to incorporate the Niagara Falls Railway Company.

Mr. Merrick moved in amendment that the Bill be referred back to committee with instructions to add the following clause: That the said company shall not exercise any of the powers that this Act contains until authorized by an Order in Council to that effect, which will first have received the sanction of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario.

The amendment was lost by 35 nays to 26 yeas.

Mr. Ermatinger moved that the amendments be not now concurred in, and that the Bill be referred back to the committee of the whole House with instructions to add the following section: That the said company shall not exercise any of the powers in this Act contained until authorized by an Order in Council in that behalf, and this order shall not issue until six months after the Board of Commissioners appointed by an Act of this Legislature for the preservation of the natural scenery at Niagara Falls have reported to the Lieut.-Governor.

Hon. O. Mowat said the policy of the Government was that the Bill shall not interfere with the park scheme. He said the Government could not shelter themselves under the report of the Commissioners, and he reminded the House that the company could not constract the railway without an Order-in-Council.

The question was put and the amendment lost by 26 yeas and 37 nays.

Mr. Gibson (Hamilton) moved in amendment that Hamilton be given a second member. There was no other constituency in the Province having a claim anything like Hamilton for a second member. He was willing to take two members for the city at large, or the city to be divided East and West or North and South.

Mr. McMahon said he would join issue with the member for Hamilton.

Hon. O. Mowat—I entirely agree with the views expressed that Hamilton has been well represented hitherto. During the whole time this Government has been in office it has been well represented, and I am sure its representation could not possibly be improved. I am sure that I should like to have the support of two members from Hamilton, and I know that the present member for that place is confident that if an additional member were granted it would lead to two Reformers being returned. We have been acting in this measure on non-political grounds, and we have acted with respect to giving additional members just as we have acted in respect to not interfering with county boundaries. After pointing out that Hamilton would not be entitled to two members, he concluded by remarking that he should be compelled to oppose the amendment.

The amendment was lost on the same division as the last, with the exception that Mr. Gibson (Hamilton) and Mr. Awrey voted in favor of the amendment.

Hon. O. Mowat presented a message from His Honor the Lieut.-Governor transmitting the following supplementary estimates

Civil Government	$ 107 00
Legislation	300 00
Miscellaneous Criminal and Civil Justice	5,435 00
Education	9,010 00
Maintenance of Public Institutions	11,505 00
Agriculture and Arts	5,075 00
Experimental Farm	3,500 00
Maintenance and repairs of Government and Departmental Buildings	2,650 00
Public Buildings	27,306 00
Public Works	9,750 00
Colonization Roads	5,500 00
Charges on Crown Lands	2,000 00
Refunds	10,000 00
Miscellaneous	24,646 50
	$116,784 50
Expenses of Legislation, Public Institutions Maintenance, and for salaries of the officers of Government and the Civil Service for the month of January, 1886	$30,000 00

Hon. O. Mowat stated that the Government had decided to have an investigation in regard to the management of the Central Prison. So far as the information of the Government goes there was no foundation for the rumors at all, but at the same time, as the rumors have been given currency to a large extent, they thought it best to have an investigation. Mr. Massie himself had expressed a great desire to have the investigation.

Mr. Meredith hoped that the prisoners and guards would be allowed to give their evidence without any restraint, and expressed himself as satisfied that an investigation had been ordered.

Scientific and Useful.

An enterprising French vineyardist has rescued his vines from the ravaging phylloxera by the simple expedient of keeping a flock of hens among them.

Let any one who has the care of horses these cold, frosty mornings, deliberately grasp in his hand a piece of iron; indeed, let him touch it to the tip of his tongue, and then let him thrust the cold bit into the mouth of the horse if he has the heart to do it.

The principal use of rosin in medicine is to form plasters and ointments; in plasters, for its adhesive or sticking qualities and drawing, and in ointments and salves, partly for the same, and also for the purpose of hardening or thickening them. It is seldom used internally.

Deputy Surgeon-General Tuson first used sulphur fires in India as a prophylactic measure against cholera. These fires were made at fifty yards apart, and kept alight during the whole time that the fair was at its height. Not a single case of cholera occurred; a remarkable circumstance, since cholera had generally broken out at previous fairs.

It seems rather difficult to make any new discovery in medicine which Frenchmen do not claim to have known all about for at least a decade. Thus, at the February meeting of the Société de Biologie, M. Rabuteau said that the properties of hydrochlorate of cocaine were known before 1870, that in 1872 M. Laborde had shown its tonic effects and M. Demarnes pointed out its anæsthetic powers in a thesis.

The importance of wholesome potable water for cities is shown in Vienna. Since the introduction into that city of water drawn from the Styrian Alps a constant and very considerable decrease has been observed in stomach and intestinal troubles, and cases of typhus fever have become rare.

FRANCE AND CHINA.

Result of the Recent Fighting—Peace Proposals.

A last night's Paris cable says:

It is stated that Gen. De l'Isle desires Col. Herbinger to be punished for his hurried retreat from Langson.

Gen. Boulanger, the French commander at Tunis, has been ordered to Tonquin to assume chief command.

The bases of the treaty between France and China are that the Chinese shall evacuate Tonquin, that the French shall occupy Formosa until a treaty of peace has been executed, and shall forego the indemnity from China, and that a treaty of commerce shall be concluded, giving trade advantages to France. M. Ferry considered the terms acceptable with few modifications. The French defeat at Langson occurred beforehand.

The following telegram has been received from Admiral Courbet: The French fleet, under Admiral Lange, attacked Pheng Hoo on Sunday morning, bombarding the forts defending the harbors of Pong Hou and Makunk. The forts and guns were dismantled in three hours, when two powder magazines exploded, setting fire to the village of Makung, which burned for twenty hours. The fleet was not injured. The marines landed and marched to Makung on Monday and occupied the village on Tuesday, after several battles, in which only five Frenchmen were killed. The Chinese garrison, numbering 1,500, suffered heavily. The French are in the best of spirits, and will occupy Litsitah on Wednesday.

Gen. de l'Isle telegraphs from Hanoi on Wednesday: Gen. Negrier is making favorable progress toward recovery. The evacuation of Langson seems to have been slightly hurried, especially after the success of our counter attack, which was made without serious loss. No further reason is given concerning the rapid evacuation of Dong Dong. The Chinese only appear desirous of re-occupying their former positions to the northward of Decquan and Deovan. The situation is better than the overdrawn accounts of the past four days led me to believe.

TAMAI CAPTURED AND BURNED

By the British Troops with a Loss of One Killed and Several Wounded—Graham's Further Movements.

A last night's London cable says:

Since the unfortunate surprise of Gen. McNeill's command, Gen. Graham has shown extraordinary vigilance. He leaves nothing to be independently carried out by others that he can possibly superintend himself. He is everywhere, and is fast regaining the confidence which was a little shaken by the disastrous occurrences of the commencement of the campaign. News received from Suakim shows that he is proceeding against Osman Digna with great caution, being fully aware that he is dealing with a powerful and wily foe. His great want has been water, and this has led to exasperating delays, but he has by this time, in all probability, fought a decisive battle somewhere between Tamai and Tamanieb, and news of the result is awaited with the greatest anxiety. If he succeeds in defeating the Mahdi's lieutenant he will make no attempt to follow him to the hills, but will return to Suakim. Gen Graham will probably occupy Tokar after capturing Trinkitat. He will also send an infantry force to Handub to protect the workmen who are to lay the first section of the railway toward Berber. If Tokar is captured it will be the final blow to Osman Digna, as that town is his storehouse and treasury.

A special from Suakim says that Gen. Graham commenced an advance on Tamanieb this morning. He had not proceeded far before he found the enemy strongly entrenched just beyond Tamai. Gen. Graham attacked the Arabs, and a battle is now proceeding.

General Graham telegraphs as follows: "Tamai Spring, noon.—Our forces advanced at 8 o'clock this morning, and occupied the village. We encountered slight opposition. We found very little water, and that little of a very bad quality. I shall return with the whole force to the first zareba. Four soldiers were wounded in occupying the village, two of them belonging to the Australian contingent."

A despatch filed at Tamai at 2 o'clock this afternoon says Tamai is in flames. The British loss in occupying the place was one killed and sixteen wounded.

The advance to Tamai was made over broken ground and through deep ravines. Few rebels were about and they retired after the exchange of a few shots. After burning Tamai, the British returned to McNeill's zareba. The cavalry will return here. The enemy's loss was slight. The men are in good health and spirits. Gen. Graham intends to push the railway as far as Handoub and to remove his camp thither. It is feared the scarcity of water at Tamai indicates a similar want at other places.

A balloon used in taking observations yesterday burst during a gale.

Strange Murder.

As a means of suicide the small venomous serpents of Oriental countries have always been in vogue—the asp of Cleopatra recurring to every one's memory as a prominent example. In certain parts of Bengal there is said to be a race of gypsies, one of whom for a fee will furnish a small cobra to any applicant, "and no questions asked." A man who desires to commit murder procures one of these reptiles and places it within a bamboo just long enough to let the head protrude a trifle at one end, and the tail at the other. Armed with this deadly weapon the murderer creeps softly to his enemy's tent at dead of night, cuts a hole in the wall, and introduces the bamboo. The tortured reptile, careless upon whom it wreaks its animosity, strikes its fangs into the sleeper, then is withdrawn, and the assassin steals silently away.—*Gentleman's Magazine.*

Olive Logan, who has resided in London for many years, says she knows there are swans in the River Thames over 150 years old. The Boston *Post* doesn't doubt it, but did not think Olive could remember so far back.

A lady in Indianapolis potted by mistake a small morning-glory plant last fall, which soon afterward bloomed and has been in flower every morning during the winter. Make a memorandum of this for next frost-time.

ARE THE CHILDREN BEWITCHED?

The Strange Malady Which Afflicts a Pennsylvania Family.

A Reading, Pa., telegram says: A strange story of superstition and witchcraft, which is verified by some of the best-known people in the neighborhood, comes from Windsor Castle, a small village situated along the foot of the Blue Mountains. John Fink, a farmer, has five children, who have become afflicted with a strange malady, and the entire neighborhood believes that they are bewitched. The afflicted children are: Caroline, aged 21 years; John, aged 16; Louisa, aged 14; Sallie, aged 11, and Millie, aged 7. Residing near the Finks is an elderly woman who has been looked upon with suspicion by her neighbors for some years, and she is believed to have bewitched the children. The latter say that the old woman manifests herself in the form of a cat, though no one else is able to see it. They are frequently thrown into violent paroxysms and are seized with terrible spasms, which pass from one to the other. They frequently cry out beseeching God to release them from their terrible spell. They imagine that the cat is endeavoring to jump into their faces to scratch their eyes out. Then they tear at their throats and rush into the open air, as they say the imaginary old woman is trying to squeeze the life out of them. Next they weep and cry out that she is biting them. They become exhausted after these spells and their friends fear that unless they are cured soon they will die. Dr. Hatfield, the family physician, says it is a case which he cannot solve. Dr. Hagenman, of this city, the recognized witch doctor throughout Eastern Pennsylvania, visited the children. He laid his hands on them, going through all the incantations. After his visit the children became worse. The house is continually surrounded by crowds of people, who drive to the place from miles around.

Arsenic in Domestic Fabrics.

With regard to arsenic, there are opportunities of observing what may be classed as experimental proofs, such as could not possibly occur in illness arising from sewer gas. This further proof consists in the frequent alternate recurrence of illness and recovery—illness on exposure to, and recovery on removal from, arsenical surroundings, followed by final recovery on substitution of a non-arsenical fabric in place of that containing the poison. Change of air is in all probability often credited with the benefits arising from removal from some unsanitary condition of residence, office, or workshop. The effect on men employed in hanging or removing arsenical wall papers is another proof of their injurious quality—men have frequently to leave their work unfinished, being too ill to continue under the poisonous influence. Arsenic in domestic fabrics is so easily dispensed with that there is no valid reason for the continued use of these poisonous colors. Several paper stainers have for years conscientiously excluded all arsenical colors from their works, yet have still maintained their position in the open market, thus deciding the question both as to cost and to quality of non-arsenical wall papers. It is an interesting question to medical men and chemists, how it is that these minute quantities of arsenic, or of some combination of arsenic with other ingredients, when breathed, should be so injurious, when larger quantities can be taken into the stomach as a medicine with advantage. This question, however, is of no consequence to the patient. His course is simple enough: having found out the cause of illness, get rid of it, and be thankful it can be got rid of at so small a cost. Arsenic also is found in the dust of rooms papered with arsenical papers, thus proving the presence of arsenic in the atmosphere. —*Chambers' Journal.*

The Russian Forces East of the Caspian.

According to the best available information, the following is the present distribution of the Russian forces east of the Caspian: At Merv, Yulatan and Sariyazi, Col. Alikhanoff has 3,000 Russian troops, 1,000 Turcoman horse and sixteen guns. At Sarakhs there are 2,000 men, but a portion of these have been moved to the Murgab. At Pul-i-Khatun and Zulficar there are detachments of Cossacks, a body of 150 of these horsemen at each place. At Pul-i-Khishti, on the Kushk, there are 500 trained Sarik Turcomans. The garrison of Ashkabad, which is normally only 4,000 men and twenty-four guns, will be increasd to 8,000 when the reinforcements of 6,000 men sent from the Caucasus have arrived. These are at present only *en route* to their destination. At the same time it is believed that an attempt will be made to reinforce the Merv garrison from Khiva and Turkestan.—*London Standard.*

The Oldest Scotch Judge.

Lord Deas, the oldest judge on the Scottish Bench, who has just resigned office, was for a considerable time quite unfit for duty, so that his retirement has not come by any means unexpectedly. Lord Deas belonged to the old school of Scottish judges. In his conversations across the bench he would use the broadest northern dialect, and even in his set speeches words that shocked the refined ears of the modern bar would occasionally slip out. A good story is told of him in the Parliament House in connection with this matter. On one occasion an advocate (now a judge himself) was endeavoring to prove an issue before him. Lord Deas, at last losing all patience with the argument, broke in with, "Mr. ——, do ye ca' that an 'ishy?" "No, my lord, I call it an issue."

The World's Four Richest Men.

It is estimated that the following are the incomes in round numbers of the four men who are reputed to be the richest in the world:

	Vanderbilt.	Duke of Westminster.
Capital	$175,000,000	$80,000,000
Per year	7,500,070	4,000,000
Per month	670,000	300,000
Per day	15,000	10,000
Per hour	800	450
Per minute	18	7
	Mackay.	**Rothschild.**
Capital	$275,000,000	$200,000,000
Per year	13,750,000	10,000,000
Per month	1,000,000	850,000
Per day	35,000	25,000
Per hour	1,500	1,000
Per minute	25	20

WASTE PLACES OF THE WORLD.

Some Popular Mistakes set Forth—Life Sustained in Places Believed to be Sterile.

The Russian explorer Prejavalsky said, after his recent journey in northern Thibet, that an enormous amount of animal life was supported by the scanty herbage growing on these bleak, half sterile plains that form the highest plateau in the world, some 13,000 feet above the sea. He said the wild yaks there must number millions, and that a full-grown yak weighs from 16,000 to 18,000 pounds. Nature's chemistry evolves these great masses of flesh from the poor herbage of a region so lofty that its lakes are frozen over until nearly June, though they are 600 miles nearer the equator than we are.

Explorers tell us that not only does animal life abound, but that man can live in some of the most desolate parts of the globe. It is a mistake to suppose that the Sahara desert is merely a useless sandy waste. Much of it lacks not so much cultivable land as industrious hands to make the vast expanse of withered oases blossom again. The Mussulman sect known as the Senousians has for years been digging wells, irrigating the land and turning many hundreds of barren acres into gardens. Twenty-four years ago it planted its headquarters in the desert near the western border of Egypt, built reservoirs, began plantations, erected convents, and now a population of 8,000 people live at Jarabub, where the soil has been restored to fertility by their labors. There are large areas in the Sahara that need only rain or irrigation to cover them with verdure. Through these regions pass the caravan routes, along which the 50,000 camels engaged in the Saharan commerce bear their burdens.

Mr. Anderson, the civil engineer who last year completed sixteen years of explorations in South Africa between the Orange and Zambesi Rivers, says that the rain that falls for a few weeks every year in the great region known as the Kalahara desert covers the blackened verdureless plain with splendid vegetation. Game is abundant there, especially lions, leopards and ostriches, and he has counted in this desert twenty-two lions in a troop, and has seen 200 ostriches in one flock. Beasts and birds find sustenance in this region where only a few Bushmen hunters live. Far northeast of them on the semi-arid steppes of Kordofan and Darfur millions of sheep and camels exist on the scanty pasturage of that desert region. The earliest Arctic explorers found in the little Spitzbergen archipelago—where, it is believed, no human being had ever lived—herds of reindeer upturning the snow with their hoofs and noses to get at the lichens on which they fed. Many reindeer live as far north as Littleton Island, and several scores of them were killed by the Hayes and Polaris expeditions. Musk oxen, or their traces, have been found along the shores of the great frozen sea as far north as explorers have attained. Lockwood, far north of the supposed limits of animal life, found traces of this wonderful quadruped, which grows fat on the tender shoots of the Arctic willow and ploughs up the snow for moss and lichens.

Of all parts of the earth the Antarctic regions alone are comparatively destitute of life. Few species of living things in the vegetable or animal kingdom can endure the rigor of the South Polar region. No terrestrial quadruped inhabits the land within the Antarctic Circle, and whales and seals are the only mammals that enter its area. Summer in the Arctic regions, with its abundant life on land and in the air and sea, presents an animated and a cheerful scene compared with the utter desolation that reigns perpetually in Antarctic waters.

A Tower of Silence.

Outwardly the Tower of Silence, as the Parsis call the building in which they deposit their dead, resembles a circular gaswork, says the "Saturday Review." It is open at the top, and the wall is of the hardest stone, faced with chunam or plaster. The corpse of a Parsi, by some curious custom, the origin of which is unknown, is exposed to the view of a dog three or four times while a funeral sermon or oration is being pronounced. A certain set of men termed nasesalars or corpse-bearers then convey the body to the Dokhma and place it on a circular platform inside, subdivided into rows of receptacles, or what might be termed open or immovable coffins. The smallest, or inner circle is allotted to children, the next to females, and the outward, or largest circle, to males. It is calculated that in the space of one hour or so after a funeral the flesh is stripped from the bones by the vultures. All impurities fall into a receptacle below, and, after a certain time, when the skeletons are thoroughly dried by the heat, they are thrown, rich and poor, old young, into a common pit. In the rainy season the Tower inside and out is thoroughly cleansed by the rainfall, and means are taken to drain off the moisture and convey it to wells dug outside the Tower. That these precautions are excellent from a sanitary point of view, and that nothing offensive is perceived by any of the senses, may be admitted. But we can hardly go quite as far as Mr. Monier Williams, who is of opinion that decay by worms may be as revolting to Pasis' notions as the swoop of vultures down on the bodies of loved relations and friends is to us. Whether cremation is destined to make any progress or not in England, it has little to fear from the rivalry of a Tower of Silence.

Longevity in the Scotch Highlands.

In the Registrar's notes for the last quarter of 1884 we find that in the parish of Moy and Dalarossie one of the deaths recorded was that of a woman 100 years old. In Kirkhill one of the five deaths recorded was that of a female 94 years of age—the oldest inhabitant of the parish—and another, that of a male 86 years of age. In Glenelg only one death took place, that of a pauper, aged 92. In the southern district of Gairloch the death of a woman 97 years of age was registered in December. In Reay, Sutherlandshire, the last entry in the death register is that of a woman 104 years of age.

Mrs. Nellie Grant-Sartoris passed her husband in mid-ocean as he was returning for her. She became alarmed over the telegrams concerning her father's health and did not wait but came alone.