A FRIGHTFUL CALAMITY.

Probably 150 Min s Killed in the Abersychan Explosion.

Later cable news from London says: The cause of the explosion in the Abersychan mine was the flooding of pits adjacent to that in which the explosion occurred. By the flooding of these pits gas was dislodged and forced into the pit where work was in progress, and there it was ignited and exploded. There must have been a great quantity of gas, as the explosion had tremendous force. It was heard at a distance of a mile. All the gearing in the shaft was thrown into the air as if from the mouth of a volcano, and simultaneously a vast, bright volume of flame shot upward, followed by a dense, heavy column of smoke.

The first party of rescuers organized endeavored to penetrate the pit through the old workings. They got far enough to be able to see groups of the dead, but they could not reach them and were compelled to retreat by the suffocating volumes of smoke that rose in that direction. Upon the first appearance of a diminution of smoke the rescuers went down the main shaft and reached the scene of the catastrophe. They reached a large number of miners yet alive, but all very badly burned, and they brought out sixty dead bodies, nearly all so mutilated that the recognition of their identity is impossible. The latest estimate of the dead is 150.

A later despatch states that 130 bodies have been recovered.

3.30 p.m.—One hundred and fifty-five bodies have been taken from the pit at Abersycchan.

Fruit Growers and Dairymen.

The Dominion Convention of Fruit Growers will be held in the City Hall, Ottawa, on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 19th, 20th and 21st February, 1890. Papers will be contributed by delegates and others from Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, British Columbia, Manitoba and Northwest Territory. Among the subjects to be discussed will be transportation of fruits; packing and selecting fruit for home and foreign market; express and railway freights; fungus disease and blight; small fruits and their commercial value; the commercial apple orchards of Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia; relation of insects to fruit culture; export of winter apples; profits, drawbacks; utilizing surplus fruit products; canning, evaporating; injurious insects affecting fruits; remedies to prevent ravages; profitable forest planting; adaptation of Russian fruits to Canadian requirements, etc., etc.

The Convention of the Dominion Dairymen's Association will be held at Ottawa on 18th and 19th February. A joint meeting will be held on the evening of Wednesday, the 19th, for the discussion of subjects of interest to both.

Coach Horse Breeders.

The Canadian Coach Horse Society met at London Wednesday afternoon and elected the following officers: President, A. Wilson, Paris; Vice-President, John Gibson, London; Treasurer, D. Fisher, Goderich; Secretary, James Mitchell, Goderich (re-elected). Directors—George Charlton, Duncrieff; J. C. Smith, New Hamburg; John Aikenhead, Goderich; J. W. Robinson, St. Mary's; Andrew A. Young, Carlow; John Cozen, Exeter; S. W. Teeple, Kingsmill; W. C. Brown, Meadowvale; M. J. March, Richmond Hill. Executive Committee—Messrs. Fisher, Essery and Aikenhead. The following standard of registration was adopted:

Every animal offered for registration shall have at least one cross of either imported English coach or Cleveland bay and one of thoroughbred blood, or two crosses of English coach or Cleveland bay, or one cross each of English coach and Cleveland bay.

By resolution it was decided to hold the next meeting during the week of the Western fair in London and the Industrial in Toronto

A Father's Awful Deed.

A London cable of Thursday says: At Exeter last night a boy aged 13 years was awakened by a quarrel between his father and mother, caused by jealously. The man finally chased his wife out of doors, knocked her down and then stabbed her to death with a pocket knife. The boy, who had followed his parents out doors, stood shivering in his night gown meanwhile, and imploring his father to spare his mother's life. The father and son returned to the house, leaving the body of the dead woman in the road. The murderer then gave his son some money after which he cut his throat before the boy's eyes.

A Fatal Mine Explosion.

A Wilkesbarre despatch of Saturday says: An explosion of gas occurred in the East Boston mine near Luzerneborough on Friday night. John McKechnie, assistant boss, and his brother Charles were badly burned. Rudolph Reinking, David Jones and Wm. Prynn were seriously injured by the concussion. It is thought the injuries of the McKechnie brothers will prove fatal.

M. Ephrussi, Baron Rothchild's son-in-law, has just won $100,000 in the Panama lottery. On the morning of the last drawing M. Ephrussi bought an 80 franc bond, which curiously enough, bore the number which drew the capital prize.

James Dunston, the fire boss whose naked lamp caused the explosion in the Nottingham shaft last Saturday, and who was seriously burned at the time, died this evening. This makes eight victims. Dunston was one of three brothers, all of whom met their deaths in a similar manner.

Sixty people were on the car, and the driver wanted to stop for a theatre party. "Oh, go on," growled a Ridge avenue rider, "you've got a quorum now!"

The English language has been chosen for use in the recording of important treaty engagements between Russia and China.

After the railroad accident. Husband (extricating himself from the wreck)—Emily, thank God, you are safe! Heavens! isn't this awful? Wife—Dreadful! Hear the poor people groan! Dearest? Husband—What is it, love? Wife—Is my hat on straight?

First ballet girl—Well, I think I am ready now. Second ditto—Why, you've forgotten to put on your dress. First ballet girl—Dear me, so I have; how absurd!

A BRACE OF ACCIDENTS.

A Train Runs into a Snow Mountain—The Open Switch.

A Connellsville, Pa., despatch of Sunday says: The through mail train from Baltimore, on the Baltimore & Ohio Railway, ran into a mountain of snow three miles east of Ohio Pyle at 7 o'clock Friday evening. The engine and the combination postal and baggage car went over the bank into the river. The smoking car followed half way. Engineer Henry Bush, of Pittsburg, was badly burned, but not fatally injured. Fireman Lewis Burcher sustained a terrible scalp wound, but will recover. Baggagemaster Isaac Ingles, of Pittsburg, was burned by the car stove. The only passenger injured was John Lindsay, of Glenwood, master carpenter of the road. He fell heavily over the seats, injuring himself internally. He will probably not recover.

A Baltimore despatch says: An accident is reported on the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad at the Big Pen tunnell, between Hinton and Lowell, W. Va. A freight train which was approaching a signal station ran into a switch which had been left open. Before the engineer could reverse his engine it had crashed into the signal house and pushed it into the river, and then plunged in after it. The tender followed the engine. In the station was a telegraph operator. He, the engineer and he fireman were carried into the river and drowned. The freight cars were piled up all over the track.

Musical and Dramatic Notes.

Sheridan and Flynn, the authors of "Down Went McGinty," have joined Tony Pastor's company.

Marie Wainwright has a new play for next season—a dramatization of one of George Eliot's novels.

Florence St. John's salary is said to be $500 a week; E. J. Lonnen's, $250, and Charles Danby's $200.

W. J. Scanlan has composed a new song, entitled "Give Paddy But a Chance and He'll Show You What He's Made Of."

Alice Roberts, a handsome actress and singer, 23 years old, was found dead in her room in New York yesterday morning, having been suffocated by gas.

So many offers of plays have been received by Mlle. Rhea, since her production of "Josephine, Empress of the French," that she is fairly distracted by the time it takes to reply to them. In numerous cases the manuscript accompanies the offer.

Most of the leaders of the English stage have been called upon to take part in pantomime in the course of their careers. Irving, Miss Terry, even Mrs. Kendal, having been seen in it. The pick of the stars of English comic opera and burlesque have devoted their talents to it.

An agent of Mr. Kiralfy told a St. Louis reporter, concerning the selection of a ballet: "By looking at a woman's hand I can tell at once whether she is a fit subject for our business. We have had enough experience in this matter all over the country, and have found that a hand is indicative of the contour of a girl's physique. If her fingers are long and tapering her limbs are correspondingly well formed. Should her hand be short and chubby the limbs will be apt to be too stout."

What Is a Model Wife?

A model wife is the woman in whom the heart of her husband doth safely trust.

She is the woman who looks after his household, and makes her hospitality a delight to him, and not a burden.

Who has learned that a soft answer will turn away wrath.

Who keeps her sweetest smiles and most loving words for her husband.

Who is his confidant in sorrow or in joy, and who does not feel the necessity of explaining her private affairs to the neighborhood.

Who respects the rights of husband and children, and in return has due regard paid to her.

Who knows that the strongest argument is her womanliness and so she cultivates it.

Who is sympathetic in joy, or in grief, and who finds work for her hands to do.

Who makes friends and keeps them.

Who is not made bitter by trouble, but who strengthens and sweetens under it.

Who tries to conceal the faults of her husband rather than blazon them forth to an uninterested public.

The woman whose life-book has love written on every page.

Who makes a home for a man—a home in a house and in a heart. A home that he is sure of, a home that is full of love presided over by one whose price is above rubies.

She is the model wife.—*Ladies' Home Journal.*

Dynamite in the Capitol.

A last night's Washington despatch to the New York *Evening Sun* says a startling discovery was made at 2 30 this afternoon in the rotunda of the Capitol. Concealed in one of the spittoons was found a small box, about the circumference of a silver dollar and an inch thick. It was filled with a dull-looking compound, with a cap attached and something that was apparently designed for a fuse. The box was taken charge of by the Capitol police, and the captain of the watch experimented with a minute quantity of the contents. The results showed that they consisted of explosives of a high power. The design of depositing the box in the rotunda is yet a mystery.

Religious Reading in Buffalo.

She—There is a good deal of church matter in the paper to-day, my dear.

He—Yes, there is a report of Rector Adams' sermon, an account of the break-up of the Rev. Mr. Ernest's festival and a long account of the row at St. Adelbert's Church.—*Buffalo Express.*

The Dowager Empress of China wanted to have the photographs of all the distinguished Englishmen who have served China, and the Chinese Government has just procured through London photographers for her two portraits of "Chinese" Gordon, each five feet high.

—There are now 200 women studying medicine in the various universities and medical colleges of India.

"ROLLY" MOFFATT COMMITTED.

Result of the Investigation into the Ontario Bank Embezzlement.

There was a large attendance of spectatoas at the Toronto Police Court yesterday forenoon when the Magistrate resumed the inquiry into the four charges of embezzlement against W. H. Godwin and embezzlement and forgery against William R. Moffatt. There appeared for the prosecution Mr. Æmilius Irving, Q.C.; Mr. Walter Barwick, the solicitor for the bank, and County Crown Attorney Badgerow. Mr. N. G. Bigelow represented Godwin, and "Rolly" Moffatt was defended by Mr. William Laidlaw, Q.C. Ald. Lindsay was present in the interest of Harry Brown. The bank ledgers and journals—ponderous tomes they were and not very light reading—were scattered about the Court House. A whole waggon load of them had been brought there before the proceedings began "Rolly" looked peculiar—not quite so debonnair as of yore—with swollen cheek and ulcerated jaw. Sometimes sitting, sometimes standing, he watched the case closely, now consulting with his counsel, now smiling to a friend whom he recognized among the spectators.

The first charge against Moffatt was fully reported in last evening's TIMES. It was that he had altered an entry in the ledger of the bank from $7,505.41 to $7,755.41 with intent to defraud. The Magistrate considered a *prima facie* case had been made out and committed him for trial.

The next charge taken up against Moffatt was that of having on the 10th July feloniously entered in the bank ledger the sum of $14,352 64, in lieu of the true amount, $14,602.64, with intent to defraud.

Mr. Branshaw, a clerk in the Montreal Bank, stated that when he was acting as teller on the 10th July he made up a general statement of a parcel containing $14,602.64, payable on the Ontario Bank. This amount consisted partly of cash and partly of notes. He produced the entry of this in the teller's balance book. He claimed to know nothing further in connection with that transaction that day.

Mr. Carr, examined with regard to this charge, said that on the 10th of July deposit slip produced from the Bank of Montreal passed through his hands. The entry, $250, in red ink, was in his figures. That signified that something was taken off that was not correct. Having made this deduction, he passed it through to the bank ledger-keeper, who on that day was Mr. Moffatt Moffatt entered it in the bank ledger $14 352 64, and in the bank pass-book $14,602.64 Witness had entered in his cash book $14,352 64. With reference to the $250, he could not say what became of it. Something that was handed in represented the $250, but he could not state what it was. In turning over the three slips relating to this transaction, he saw that they were not ticked off.

By Mr. Laidlaw—The Ontario Bank on the 31st of December is credited with $500 in addition to the amount brought over from the Bank of Montreal.

The Magistrate—When you credit the bank with $500, does the money appear anywhere else?

Witness—Yes; if there has cash come from the bank. If there were cash it would go through the hands of one of the tellers.

Mr. Pagot, who had charge of the cash book at the Bank of Montreal on the 10th July, stated that there was an entry in that book taken from the pass book in Moffatt's handwriting, and the two did not agree. He knew Moffatt and was well acquainted with his handwriting, although he admitted he had never seen him write.

Witness admitted that on this day he made three mistakes as to the credits to be given to other banks.

Mr. H. E. Barlett deposed that on the 10th July he received three slips from Bank of Montreal and packages containing cash and cheques. He checked off the amounts. The amounts that he received he did not think represented the $250. There were entries on the bank's ledger and the bank's pass books in Moffatt's handwriting relating to the same transaction, and the entries showed a discrepancy of $250,

The prisoner was committed for trial on this charge, and also on a charge of having on the 31st July feloniously entered in the bank ledger to the credit of the bank the sum of $500 with intent to defraud.

The *Globe* this morning says: After Magistrate Denison had disposed of the minor cases in the Police Court yesterday he commenced another case against "Rolly" Moffatt. It was for forging a cablegram in cypher, the meaning of which was: "The Alliance Bank, Ld., London, deposit to credit Edward Gegg, in City Bank, £82 Ontario Bank.

Mr. Hogarth, of the G. N. W. Telegraph Company, was the first witness called. He produced the message referred to, and also a cable received from London, on August, 29th addressed to the Ontario Bank, Toronto, which is receipted by W. R. Moffatt and translated, means—"Payment to City Bank refused. Gegg unknown." W. H. Smith, Manager of the Toronto Branch of the Ontario Bank, testified that the telegram produced is in the handwriting of Moffatt, and produced an advice book containing a memorandum in the handwriting of Moffatt to corresponding clerk repeating the substance of the cablegram. Witness produced a letter-book showing a copy of the letter to the Alliance Bank confirming the cablegram, which is in the handwriting of Moffatt.

Mr. Laidlaw objected to having the letter put in as evidence.

Mr. Smith produced the cypher code in use between the Ontario and Alliance Banks, and said the only persons authorized to use the code were Moffatt and the witness. It was Moffatt's particular duty to attend to the cable messages. "Plutus" is the registered address.

The evidence of the Bank Manager was principally respecting the business of the bank. The prosecution endeavored to show that the £82 had not been accounted for. The case was adjourned till Monday.

William Laidlaw, Q.C., is defending the prisoner; Æ. Irving, Walter Barwick and Crown Attorney Badgerow conducted the prosecution.

A sensible man made the following will: "If I die I want my wife to have what I got." This shows loyalty to his better half, and a sensible contempt for legal verbiage.—*Martha's Vineyard Herald.*

The death is announced of Henry Bentink Boyle, fifth Earl of Shannon. The death resulted from influenza.

MANITOBA NEWS.

The French members in the Legislature met and demanded that all documents relating to the Legislature be printed in French.

Mr. E. G. Conklin is gazetted clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. S. A. McGaw, wheat buyer for the Lake of the Woods Milling Company, denies the rumor of there being a corner in Manitoba wheat.

The Speech from the Throne was adopted in the Legislature this afternoon by 25 to 8 votes. Messrs. Campbell and Fisher, Government supporters, explained that they voted as a matter of form, and did not regard their vote as committing them to the policy of the Government on any questions outlined in the speech. Mr. Prendergast moved in amendment to the speech that the abolition of Separate Schools was an infringment of the constitution and a gross injustice to the minority, and that the establishment of a purely secular school system was contrary to the spirit and convictions of this Christian country.

Premier Greenway said the amendments assumed that the Government intended to establish a purely secular school system, but that assumption was wrong, as the Government intended to provide certain religious exercises for use in schools.

The amendments were lost on the same division as given above, as were also amendments regretting that the proposed changes were not more fully outlined in the speech, and that no reference was made relative to a readjustment of the land titles in districts which were unsatisfactory to the people. Mr. Roblin abstained from voting.

The wife of Superintendent Niblock, of the C.P.R., died suddenly at Medicine Hat this morning of heart disease.

Two prisoners escaped from Stoney Mountain Penitentiary this morning. The authorities refuse to give names.

In the Legislature this afternoon Thomas Norquay, the newly elected member for Kildonan, took his seat.

The Manitoba Legislature yesterday postponed consideration of the bill regarding the abolition of the official use of the French language at the request of the French members. The bill will be taken up first thing on Monday.

It Wouldn't Look Nice.

"Zeb" Vance was holding forth in one of the cloak-rooms of the Senate the other day on the evils of intemperance, writes a Washington correspondent of the New York *Tribune*. I do not know whether he intended to "point a moral and adorn a tale," or whether he expected that the seed, in the company in which he was in, should fall on fruitful ground. Whatever his motive in telling the following little story, I omit, for obvious reasons of delicacy, all mention of names. Said the genial Senator from North Carolina: "There was a camp-meeting held last year in the immediate neighborhood of my home in Charlotte. Among the many colored people present was 'Aunt Nina,' who was noted for the length and breadth of her prayers, in which she never failed to make mention of her old master, who was much given to drink. On this particular occasion, after having disposed of all the rest of creation, she became more than usually fervent in her appeal in his behalf, requesting as a 'special favor that he be saved from a drunkard's grave, at least,' and accompanied the request with this irresistible appeal: 'Oh Lord, how would it look! him in hell, with his bald head, and drunk at that!'"

A Decrease in the English Army.

England probably is the only great Power which can point to a decrease in the total strength of its military establishment during the past twelve months. The British army is less numerous by about a thousand men than it was a year ago. The strength of the infantry has decreased by half as much again, but there has been a slight increase in the artillery, engineers and army service corps, while the cavalry has remained stationary. The total diminution, however, is not serious, and it is something to know that the British army is stronger than it was four years ago by 10,000 men. The number of troops quartered in the British Isles show an increase of 4,000 over the strength recorded in December, 1888; the British army in India has been reduced by 2,500 men owing to the cessation of hostilities in Burmah; there are still about 28,000 men in Ireland and the strength of the Egyptian garrison remains steady at about 4,200, including the force at Suakim. These figures do not include the Indian armies or the colonial militia; and if they were included the British army on paper would not look quite so insignificant.

The Politician.

I pray that in one year more I may find some way of escaping from this unblest custom house, for it is a very grievous thraldom. I do detest all offices—all, at least, that are held on a political tenure, and I want nothing to do with politicians. Their hearts wither away and die out of their bodies. Their consciences are turned to india rubber, or to some substance as black as that and which will stretch as much. One thing, if no more, I have gained by my custom house experience—to know a politician. It is a knowledge which no previous thought or power of sympathy could have taught me, because the animal, or the machine, rather, is not in nature.—*Hawthorne.*

With full dress the double-breasted white vest is in great demand. The material may be plain or watered silk or white pique.

American clams are to be planted at various points on the English coast, in the hope that they may be propagated for the market

The Crown Princess Sophie of Greece is learning to play the Hungarian cymbal, an instrument which has much that is attractive in its tones, as is known to those who have heard the Hungarian Band.

While a number of young people were coasting on Bolster's Hill at Orillia, Wednesday night one of the sleighs got beyond control and ran into an electric light pole. George McLeod was pitched against the pole and his right arm broken in two places.

Mr. Gladstone says that "all men at the head of great movements are Christian men."

ENGLISH TENDENCIES

As Displayed by the American Press and People.

La Presse says: "The English tendencies in all classes of society and in every branch of social life in the United States is frequently remarked. It has been recently noticed that the American press was the only one outside that of the United Kingdom which exhibited English predilections in the conflict between Great Britain and Portugal. This partiality is reproduced on every occasion that English interests are at stake in any international difficulty. It is explainable by the common race, common language, a certain similarity of morals, and a striking conformity of sentiment in philosophic and religious matters. But it is not only in the press and society that English sentiment is made felt. An examination of the composition of the Congress at Washington shows the English element in a large proportion. There are in the Senate two members born in England and two in the Chamber. One Senator and four Congressmen are Scotch, five were born in Canada, and one is from the Isle of Man. There are nineteen members of Congress, four Senators and fifteen Representatives born in the British Empire, and the greater part went to the States sufficiently advanced in years to keep their native ideas and sympathies. It is undoubtedly the same thing in the greater part of the population. There is a latent force constantly exercised in public life and in social habits.

Who Can Best be Spared?

Young men, this is the first question your employers ask themselves when business becomes slack, and when it is thought necessary to economize in the matter of salaries. "Who can best be spared?" The barnacles, the shirks, the makeshifts, somebody's proteges, somebody's nephews, and especially somebody's good-for-nothing. Young men, please remember that these are not the ones who are called for when responsible positions are to be filled. Would you like to gauge your own future for a position of prominence? Would you like to know the probabilities of your getting such a position? Inquire within! What are you doing to make yourself valuable in the position you now occupy? If you are doing with your might what your hands find to do, the chances are ten to one that you soon become so valuable in that position that you cannot be spared from it; and then singular to relate, will be the very time when you will be sought out for promotion for a better place.—*The Medical Record.*

Up and About with a Broken Neck.

The physicians of the Pennsylvania Hospital are interested in what they consider the most remarkable case, in many particulars, that has ever come under their consideration. In August last Mrs. Mary Donahue fell from a tree at her residence in Haddington. She was not appareatly injured by the shock, and when she recovered consciousness went about her work. Occasionally her head would drop forward, and soon she suffered intense pain. After six weeks she was removed to the hospital, where it was found that her neck was broken. The spinal column had escaped injury, but the physicians have been unable to reset the broken bones and the woman will be obliged to wear an iron frame all her life to hold her head in an upright position.

Unfortunate Mistake.

"I wish to say to the congregation," said the minister, "that the pulpit is not responsible for the error of the printer on the tickets for the concert in the Sunday school room. The concert is for the benefit of the arch fund, not the arch fiend. We will now sing hymn 6, 'To err is human, to forgive divine.'"—*New York Sun.*

On the Desert Air.

"Shall I play you this little Spanish fandango?" she asked sweetly.

"I—I beg your pardon," he said, turning red, "but the fact is I don't understand Spanish."

—Speaking of Scotchmen, Max O'Rell says Sandy Macdonald is keen, surly, persevering, hard working and humorous. He is as strong as granite, with a head well set on broad shoulders, iron muscles, and large flat feet that move cautiously; strong, frugal, industrious and to be depended on. No man is so sure of going to Paradise and no man is less eager to set out. He is the most practical of men, a man of action and few words, who never lost his head even in love, and he was the sinew of the British Empire.

THE STRANGER'S COLUMN.

Whenever I'm reading the papers I see
Nearly always some name that's familiar to me,
Some old time acquaintance of mine has been wed,
Or a friend's name is found in the list of the dead;
But one fact peculiar I don't understand
I've noticed in all of the papers I've scanned,
I look through the "births" with a hope that's forlorn,
For no one but strangers appear to be born.
—*Chicago Herald.*

—All the Presbyterian liberals want is a fair "election."

—Count Thomas A. Edison's chief assistant, Mr. Kennedy, is a Scotchman.

—"Motorneer" is the name that the electricians favor for the man who is driver or engineer of the electric cars.

THAT brakemen carry their lives in their hands is demonstrated every day, but it is only on reading the annual report of the Inter-State Commerce Commission that the magnitude of their slaughter is properly understood. From that report it is learned that out of a total of 100,000 brakemen employed on the various railways of the country the lives of over 2,000 of them were sacrificed while in the discharge of their duty during the year, and upwards of 20,000 of them injured. A better idea, perhaps, may be gained of the hazard of the occupation by the record of the Brotherhood of Railroad Brakemen. It shows that one in 83 of the 10,052 members is killed yearly, and one in 60 injured. A brakeman has only one chance in 47 of being allowed to die a natural death. The great majority of the accidents occur to brakemen on freight trains. Who would not be a brakeman!

—Wilson Barrett refused $1,000 to give a performance at a Chicago theatre last Sunday night.