THE WEEK'S NEWS.

CANADIAN.

Because her father scolded her, Ellen Kerr, a young girl living with her parents at Indian Head, took strychnine and died.

The Ottawa fair directors are $2,000 ahead on their exhibition, while the Western Fair shows about $4,000 on the right side.

An outbreak of smallpox has occured at Carleton, Bonaventure county, Que. There are nine cases in all. The patients have been duly quarantined.

During last week there were 29 failures in Canada, as compared with 31 for a corresponding period last year.

The Canadian Pacific railway's new yards and engine-house at Outremont, Que., are progressing, and when completed will give employment to between 500 and 600 men.

Rev. William Scott, one of the best known Methodist clergymen of the Dominion died at Ottawa last week from the effects of a fall which he sustained a couple of weeks ago.

Archibald Chisholm, a Winnipeg manufacturer, has been committed for trialon two charge of assaulting little girls. Bail was placed at $6,000 in the first case and refused in the second.

Mr. Douglas Cameron, of Toronto, son of the late Chief Justice Sir Matthew Cameron, has been appointed Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms in the Dominion House.

R. N. O'Brien was found guilty at Montreal last week of libelling Prince George of Wales. Owing to the leniency of the prosecution he was allowed to go on suspended sentence.

It is said that fishermen from Black Rock come over the Canadian side of the Niagara river and use dynamite in their operations, destroying large quantities of fish.

Farmers in the Bay of Quinte district are shipping their barley to the English market where there is an ample demand at better prices than are paid in the United States market.

The City Council of Toronto has voted the sum of $5,000 to the Scottish regiment being formed there, subject to special legislation.

A special cable despatch says that the Imperial Government intend before the close of the year to test the value of the Canadian Pacific route for the transport of Imperial troops.

The removal of the duty on sugar has caused a falling off in revenue. The Customs receipts during the past month at the Montreal Customs house were $587,460, as compared with $793,088 for September, 1890.

The Canadian tug Bertha Endress has foundered off Point Iroquois, Lake Superior, and all on board—five persons—were drowned. Two of the lost were sons of Bell and Duncan, the wealthy Michipicoten mine owners; and all five were Canadians.

At Casselman, Ont., on Wednesday the 8 year old daughter of Mr John Nelson wandered onto the railway bridge, and it is supposed s passing train frightened her so that she fell off and was killed. Her body was found in the river next day.

Drovers are traversing the parishes adjacent to Quebec city, buying up all the sheep they can lay hands on for the Boston market. One Beauce firm has just forwarded a shipment of 1,700 animals, and contracted to deliver 6,000 more before the end of the season.

It is reported from Kingston that Mr. G. A. Kirkpatrick is to resign his seat in Frontenac, and be elected by acclamation for Kingston, both parties agreeing to this, provided the Kingston member is given a seat in the reconstructed Cabinet.

The extra clerks in the civil Service at Ottawa who were members of the detachments of the Governor-General's Foot Guards and 43rd Battalion, called out to protect the property of the Chaudiere mill owners a fortnight ago, were surprised to find that their salaries were docked for absence from work.

The Kingston City Council has invited the Agricultural and Arts Association and the Breeders' Association of Ontario to hold an exhibition in Kingston next year, and at it to select stock for the World's Fair at Chicago.

GREAT BRITIAN.

The Earl of Portsmouth is dead.

Three painters were blown from the great Forth bridge on Tuesday and killed.

All the British war vessels have left Behring sea, and the United States ships will leave in a short time.

The Russian Jewish Committee of London has made an appeal for a relief fund, and the Rothschilds have promised $50,000.

The National Liberal Federation at its Newcastle meeting declared for the abolition of the House of Lords and the payment of Parliamentary members.

The recent report published that Sir William Vernon Harcourt's eyesight was failing, and that blindness was feared, is denied.

Rev. Mr. Spurgeon has arrived at Eastbourne, a watering place on the coast of Sussex. He expressed himself as confident of complete recovery. He still needs much care, however.

The London Standard, in discussing Sir Charles Tupper's Imperial Federation scheme, says that the English people are not prepared to submit to an artificial scarcity of food to encourage the colonial farmer.

Admiral Hotham, in command of the British North Pacific Squadron, is collecting the facts connected with the seizure of the Canadian sealer Otto in Behring Sea by a United States man-of-war, to lay before the Imperial Government.

UNITED STATES.

Three feet of snow has fallen in Montana.

Mrs. Grover Cleveland has attained the degree of MA.

Edmund Schermerhorn, worth $20,000,000, died at Newport, R.I., last week aged 73.

Ten prisoners, some of them notorious and desperate criminals, have escaped from jail at St. Louis.

Six miners are entombed in the Richardson colliery at Pottsville, Pa., and there is no hope of rescuing them.

Patrick Boyle of the Irish Canadian, published in Toronto, has been elected first vice-president of the Irish National League of America.

Eldorado county, Cal., is being swept by forest fires. Many farmers and ranchers have been rendered homeless.

At Chicago last week a boiler explosion aboard the steamer C. W. Parker killed seven persons and seriously injured many others.

P. W. Hottel, messenger of the Pacific Express Company at Waco, Tex., is absen and two packages containing $5,027 are also missing.

Four persons were killed by a passing train on a level crossing at Staten Island last Tuesday.

Four persons were seriously injured in escaping from a burning tenement in Boston on Monday night.

Heavy rains have caused floods in Oklahoma territory, and many boomers have lost their horses, waggons and cattle.

At an early hour last Tuesday morning a fire broke out in a tenement house in New York, and four persons were burned to death.

Two freight cars were run off the transfer steamer Charles Marian at Memphis, Tenn., on Sunday, and four men in them were drownded.

John B. Wood, who shot and killed Alex. S. Brown in a duel last May at Hiwassee, Ga., has been convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment.

In Jefferson park, Chicago, last week Mrs. Julia R. Seavey, a respectable English widow, who owned property worth $20,000, shot herself dead. She had suffered from ill-health.

A general strike of railroad coal miners was inaugurated in the Pittsburg district last week. The men want half a cent increase in mining rates. Nearly 10,000 men are out.

A searcher after buffalo bones in North Dakota set a match to the prairie grass becaused it interfered with his work, and the conflagration destroyed property worth half a million dollars.

Andrew Quinlan, aged 79, the oldest railroad conductor in the United States was killed by a train at Avon, New Jersey, the other day, while attempting to cross the New York and Long Branch tracks.

Prof. Kenjro, coloured, of the State Normal school at Huntsville, Ala. was struck on the head with a chisel on Thursday while chastising a pupil, and it is probable he will die.

The loss of the schooner Frank Perew off Whitefish point, lake Superior, with a crew of nine on board, is now generally accepted in Chicago. The Perew was commanded by Capt. J. Marquery, of Bay City, Mich.

It is reported in Washington that the Select Committee of the Senate appointed for the purpose has collected a great mass of evidence to be used in supporting the American plan of reciprocity in the coming conference with Canada.

At Bay City, Mich., on Saturday night, Hulbert and William Burke, brothers, engaged in a fight over a money matter. William, while lying on his back, kicked his brother in the abdomen, causing his death.

James G. Blaine, jr., in answering his wife's application for divorce, pleads poverty and asks for custody of the child, which is said to resemble its grandfather, the United States Secretary of State. Mrs. Blaine wants a divorce, suitable alimony and the child.

The irrepressible George Francis Train attempted to delhver a lecture in the Grand Opera house, New York, on Sunday night, but was howled down. He was very mad, and said he would never again address an American audience, but would go to Chicago and live there the rest of his days.

There has been shipped by water from Saginaw river ports during the season to date the smallest amount of lumber in a score of years, being 506,970,000 feet. The shipment of shingles was 60,000,000, and of lath 11,239,000.

A Detroit despatch says Dr. W. F. Metcalf and Mrs. Tiffany, of that city, have entered actions for libel against the Toronto *Mail* and Windsor *Record* for publishing a statement that the doctor had deserted his wife, formerly Ella Knox, of Belleville, Ont., and taken up his residence with the widow of Dr. Tiffany. The parties claim $10,000 from the *Mail* and $25,000 from the *Record*.

The statement is made in Washington that the United States had decided to postpone indefinitely the proposed conference with Canada on the reciprocity question. One report has it that this is owing to Secretary Blaine's ill-health, and another that it is due to an indisposition on the part of the United States Government to talk reciprocity with the present Administration in Ottawa.

IN GENERAL.

The Hawaiian Queen Lillinokalani is dying and the island is in a very unsettled condition.

Reports from the Baku districts of Russia say that thousands of persons are dying of starvation.

The famine in Poland is growing worse, and the starving inhabitants are becoming desperate.

Karl I., King of Wurtemberg, who had been ill for some time, died the other day. He was 68 years of age.

News has been received of the death of Vandevelde, the Belgian explorer, on his way home from the Congo Free State.

The Presidential elections will be held in Chili this month. Admiral Montt will probably be elected as Balmaceda's successor.

Dam-Rong, brother to the King of Siam, is about to visit England, and is probably entrusted with important communications, on the subject of French encroachments in the Mekong Valley.

Despite the protestations of peace heard on all sides, the relations between the Governments of Germany and Russia remain strained.

Princess Beatrice, wife of Prince Henry of Battenburg, has been delivered of a son. This is the fourth child.

A recent attempt was made to blow up a bridge near Rosenthal, Bohemia, over which the Emperor of Austria passed.

Eustasis Mendez, formerly commandant of militia in Havana, has been convicted of kidnapping, and sentenced to be shot.

Fearful reports of a cholera epidemic have been received from China. For the past month the death rate in Soo Chow has been very high.

A Marshal of the Russian nobility is accused of having stolen 70,000 roubles of the famine fund, which he was entrusted to expend.

The distress is so great in Russia that 25s 000,000 persons are unable to pay their taxeand this will cause a budget deficit of £12,000,000.

Capt. Younghusband the British officer said to have been killed by Russians in Pamir, eastern Asia, has been heard from and is all right.

The officers of the Russian Imperial Guard have decided not to drink champagne at regimental banquets, but to contribute the money which would have been so spent to the peasants of the famine-stricken districts.

The Pope, in receiving an association of Catholic youth in Rome on Thursday, lamented his want of liberty, and said even the privilege of receiving the deputation he was addressing was dependent upon a hostile Government.

The French pilgrims at present in Rome insulted the memory of Victor Emmanuel by spitting on the visitors' book kept by his tomb in the Pantheon. Rioting ensued, and several persons were injured in the street fighting that took place. The Pope greatly deplored the event.

Golden Thoughts for Every Day.

Monday.—

They are coming! They are coming!
Who have been in darkness long;
They are coming to the Savior
With a glad, triumphant song.

From the land beyond the ocean,
From the islands of the sea,
From the valleys and the mountains,
They are coming, Lord, to Thee.

Long they sat beneath the shadow
And the gloom of dreary night,
Waiting wearily the dawning
Of the promised heavenly light.

But they've heard the glorious gospel
Of salvation full and free;
Now they read the "blessed Bible."
They are coming, Lord, to Thee.

—*Anonymous.*

Tuesday—But is there any reason in the doctrine of a natural law which controls all things, and no God who controls law itself? It is said that a special divine providence implies an interference with the regular action of natural laws: a direct exercise of the divine will aside from or even opposed to their uniform operation; that is not philosophical to suppose that God shows partiality—that He sets aside for some men the laws which regulate the conduct of others; that He favors particular persons, families, and nations. It is said also that God works only through laws and never sets them aside. But this is begging the question. What are natural laws? In the lower elements of creation they may be described as the behavior of matter. Under the same conditions, matter, so far as we know, behaves in the same manner.—[Henry Ward Beecher.

Wednesday.—

Lord, her watch Thy church is keeping
When shall earth Thy rule obey?
When shall end the night of weeping?
When shall break the promised day?
See the whitening harvest languish
Waiting still the laborer's toil;
Was it vain, Thy Son's deep anguish?
Shall the strong retain the spoil?

Tidings, sent to every creature,
Millions yet have never heard,
Can they hear without a preacher?
Lord Almighty, give the Word;
Give the word; in every nation
Let the gospel-trumpet sound,
Witnessing a world's salvation
To the earth's remotest bound.

—*Anonymous.*

Thursday—There are few men who are not ambitious of distinguishing themselves in the nation or country where they live, and of growing considerable among those with whom they converse. There is a kind of grandeur and respect which the meanest and most insignificant part of mankind endeavor to procure in the little circle of their friends and acquaintances. The poorest mechanic, nay, the man who lives upon common alms, gets him his set of admirers and delights in that superiority which he enjoys over those who are in some respects beneath him. This ambition, which is natural to the soul of man, might, methinks, receive a very happy turn, and, if it were rightly directed, contribute as much to a person's advantage as it generally does to his uneasiness and disquiet.—*Addison.*

Friday—

What throng is this, what noble troop, that pours,
Arrayed in beauteous guise,
Out through the glorious city's open doors
To greet my wondering eyes?
The hosts of Christ's elected,
The jewels that He bears
In His own crown, selected
To wipe away my tears.

Of prophets great, and patriarchs high, a band
That once has borne the cross,
With all the company that won that land,
By counting gain for loss,
Now float in freedom's lightness,
From tyrants' chains set free,
And shine like suns in brightness
Arrayed to welcome me. —*Anonymous.*

Saturday—He said to them, when speaking of this future life, and the home in which that future life will be lived, "If it were not so, I would have told you—if there were no future life, no future home for you I would have plainly told you; I would not have allowed you by My silence to have cherished hopes that could never be fulfilled: but not only have you My silence, but I give you My authoritative and explicit statement that there is such a life and there is such a home."—*Dr. Cunningham.*

The Spirit of the Day.

The spirit of the present day is that of work for humanity, and whoever does not feel this is out of touch with the forces of his time, and thus misses all that vast support of invisible but most potent strength that he would otherwise receive. Selfishness isolates. If an individual sets out proposing to work for himself, only, he is at the same disadvantage in the tide of affairs that a man would be who proposed to manufacture all his own clothing, and raise or capture all his own food, and build his own house and make all his own furniture, rather than to enter into the great scheme of co-operation with the world, and do some one thing for all, while each in turn, of all humanity, does some one thing for him. In these closing years of a cycle we are entering into such a new atmosphere of spiritual forces that the only safety, the only success, is to draw constantly toward the nobler ideals and test our daily life by the higher standards. Selfishness, self-interest are corrosive in their action on the true gold of life. They undermine all its foundations, and leave nothing on which to stand.

RUSSIA'S STARVING PEOPLE.

An Englishman Sends Very Highly Colored Pictures of the Famine.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* sends a long and harrowing account of the condition of the people in the famine districts of Russia. Though the distress is undoubtedly intense, the pictures given by the correspondent are thought to be overdrawn. In fact, his letter is filled with glaring errors, and his displays of ignorance are many.

He states that whole towns containing 30,000 to 50,000 people are petitioning the Government to allow them to migrate to China or elsewhere. He also asserts that suicide has become enormously rife since the famine set in. Unfortunately Russian papers are entirely devoid of news about the famine. The intensity of the distress, however, may be judged from the fact that in many places the elementary schools have been closed on account of lack of funds. A circular has been issued by the Minister of the Interior, which enumerates thirteen governments in which the people are completely famine stricken and eight in which a partial famine prevails.

CONDITION OF THE PEASANTS.

The correspondent says: "Dispatches from the interior are most alarming. The August frosts destroyed the barley crop, the staple food in Archangel. In the extreme North the crops have been destroyed by rains. Straw from thatched roofs is utilized for fodder. Cattle are dying by wholesale on the roadsides. Various Ministers have issued conflicting orders, resulting in utter chaos. The grants of seed corn have been stopped. Immense tracts of land are lying waste, and a scarity of corn is threatened in 1892. The cattle plague has broken out in many places. Peasants in Segowsky attacked some veterinary surgeons who had been sent to destroy infected cattle, and several were wounded in the skirmish. Clergymen are becoming beggars. Women are selling themselves to support their children. No work can be secured by the starving persons, even on the Volga. The new loan will only be a drop in the ocean. A large budget deficit is certain, and to make matters worse a million loads of rye promised by the Governor of a neighboring province, and on which the Ministry had relied, do not exist. The discovery has caused consternation. The famine is expected to reach its acme in November. The peasants threaten a revolution unless the Czar gives them relief from private sources. Partial risings are reported in Yekaterinoslay, Nijni-Novgorod and Mazan, the great fair which is annually held at Nijni-Novgorod, and which is attended by merchants and dealers from all parts of Russia was a failure this year. This was due to the great number of bankrupts and their consequent withdrawal from trade.

VILE KINDS OF FOOD.

"What little food it is possible for the peasants to obtain is of the vilest description, but so sharp are the pangs of hunger that they gladly eat what at other times they would not touch. In many cases their only food is the sweepings and refuse from the flour mills. In Saratoff the landowners found this refuse so injurious to their cattle that they would not feed it to them. But, though it was not fit for cattle to eat, the landowners made bread of it and sold it to the peasants. Bread made of finely chopped straw and bran mixed with a very small quantity of rye is considered a godsend.

In many villages the peasants have nailed up their huts and left their communes to scour the country in search of work. Hundreds of them have failed in their search and are begging along the roadsides. In numerous cases the seed corn which was furnished the peasants by the Government has been eaten instead of planted, and the land is lying fallow. Notwithstanding these terrible conditions, taxes continue to be extorted from the starving people. Everything is taken from them to satisfy the tax-gatherers Where the peasants display any unwillingness to pay the collectors resort to force to extort the money. The knout is extensively used by the officers of the Tax Collecting Department of Russia."

"The peasant boards have sent petitions to the ministry praying that the taxes and arrears of taxes may be wiped out. The petitioners declare that the Government will be obliged to maintain the impoverished people for fourteen months, and that it will be utterly impossible for them to pay the taxes."

A MORE CAREFUL STATEMENT.

A St. Petersburg dispatch says that while exaggerated reports of the famine in certain provinces of Russia have been given currency, the suffering is undoubtedly appalling. It is not true, however, that starving peasants are subjected to the knout for nonpayment of taxes, or that there is any danger of revolution. In fact, in the provinces chiefly afflicted the people are without either the physical strength or the weapons to attempt revolution, even if they had any capable leaders. It is true that bands of desperate men rove about the country committing acts of brigandage, but they scatter at the first sight of the troops, or even of the police.

The large majority of the famine stricken yield to blank dispair and the authorities would not be displeased to see them show some of the energy that a disposition to revolt would indicate. It is calculated that the empire will lose, owing to the famine, from twelve to fourteen millions of rubles in taxes in the Volga provinces alone. The famine in other regions is scattered in spots and an estimate of the loss is more difficult.

It is not likely that those advocates of temperance who argue that the use of wines and malt liquors tends to lessen the consumption of distilled liquors will cite the experience of Germany in support of their contention. Recent statistics show that while the consumption of the lighter liquors has steadily advanced, the use of the more fiery beverages has also increased at an alarming rate. Within eight years the cases of chronic alcoholism and delirium tremens treated in public institutions in Germany increased from 4,272 to 10,360, the latter figure including 673 women. Little wonder that the anxieties of German statesmen should be aroused and that they should be contemplating the imposition of greater restrictions upon the traffic.

"You had better accept Mr. Hippie," said Mrs. Elder to her daughter; "it is your last chance." "Then you think this is the court of last resort, do you, mamma?" asked the girl.

BIRCHALL'S INTENDED VICTIM.

Pelly Returns to Canada and is Doing Well After His Remarkable Experience.

A few weeks ago a tourist among the mountains along the Canadian Pacific Railroad met young Mr. Pelly, who figured in the famous Birchall murder case in Canada. It will be recalled that Pelly went to Canada with Birchall to be his partner in the imaginary farm which Birchall's dupes supposed to be in Canada, near the American line. It was Pelly whom Birchall took to ahigh bank overlooking the Niagara River with the intention, it is believed, of pushing him over into the foaming river and thus adding another murder to his record. After the Birchall trial, in which Pelly was one of the principal witnesses, he went to England, but soon returned and has been engaged in an executive capacity during the building of the railroad between Calgary and Edmonton. When the tourist met him in the Selkirk Mountains he was on his way to Vancouver for a vacation.

Pelly is an entertaining young fellow who has travelled extensively, knows the Alps well, and has even been to Central Africa. A few years ago he had a chance to join a party travelling to Lake Nyassa. He improved the opportunity, saw the scenery of the lower Zambesi, hunted hippopotami in the Shiri River, visited the fine town of Blantyre in the Nyassa highlands, and saw that beautiful lake.

Pelly thinks Birchall was the most plausible man he ever met, and was well calculated to deceive the shrewdest if he set about the task. The young man thinks he had a very narrow escape, and he will answer no more advertisements of Englishmen who want partners to join them in the farming industry in America.

A Lame Defence.

A singular defence of the expulsion of the Jews by the Russian Government has been published in England and is said to be attracting much attention. "Expulsions," it says, "are entirely due to Jewish violations of the law." Jews entitled to live in the cities have, by forged permits, gained a settlement in the central provinces from which they are excluded. "Numbers of mechanics have forsaken their regular occupation and have taken to peddling, thus violating the conditions under which they were allowed to settle." Others have left the town to which they were confined, and others have built houses, which is forbidden by law. Then when the law is enforced there is a great outcry, "but every Jew so expelled courted his own fate." This argument is ingenuous if not ingenius, but it fails wholly to reach much less excuse the evils that have excited the indignation of the civilized world. The press of this continent or of Europe has never defended the infraction of law. But it is the harsh laws which Russia has framed against the Jews that are so barbarous and cruel. To limit within narrow bounds a man's home, simply on account of his race—a race that has no country—that is despotic and cruel. To forbid men from changing their occupation, or from adopting any honest occupation, that is a crime against liberty. To prohibit to an honorable person and a citizen the purchase of houses or other legitimate property, that is tyrannical. All these laws furthermore tend to incite the very evils they would cure, to promote vice and incite disloyalty. It is on account of this anti-Jewish code that Russia is condemned, and justly. If a law is cruel and subversive of liberty, it is no excuse to the Government which punishes violation of such a law that the one punished knew what he was doing.

No Danger of War.

The New York *Tribune* explains the various sensational war rumors that have recently occupied so conspicuous a place in the European press, and which have more or less alarmed all classes, even influencing the money markets, by the fact that this is the "dead" season when the various parliaments and legislatures are taking their recess and when consequently there is a great scarcity of the ordinary political news with which its pages are regularly filled. Owing to the great dearth of facts, the purveyors of news have been tempted to dress up the few trivial incidents that are occurring and to invest them with an importance and meaning never intended by those taking part therein. Thus of the Sigri affair, which was interpreted to signify the throwing down of the gauntlet by England to Russia, the *Tribune* says: "English sailors and marines have often landed before on the islands of the Turkish archipelago for purposes of gun-drill or picnic and nothing was ever thought of it." That there is no reason for alarm, or for concluding that the war so long-threatened is about to break out forthwith is evident, the *Tribune* thinks, from the fact that "the Czar is amusing himself at Copenhagen without seeing any of the Ministers, and that Lord Salisbury has not deemed it necessary to interrupt his holiday at Dieppe to visit either the Foreign Office in London or the Queen at Balmoral."

A Remarkable Dog.

According to *Forest and Stream*, there is a most remarkable dog in Hamilton. He is a rough haired mongrel terrier and rejoices in the name of "Jack, the policeman's dog." Fifteen years ago his master, a night watchman, was shot while on duty. The dog, who was with him, ran home and, by whining at the door and scratching, attracted the attention of the inmates, whom he at once guided to his dying master. For the three days that the man lingered between life and death the dog lay at the foot of his bed and never stirred until the body was removed to the cemetery, when he followed in the funeral procession to the grave. Thence he went to the police station, and every night since then he has attended the men while on duty. At six a. m. when the men are lined up for dismissal, the dog takes up his post at the head of the line. On the command, "Dismiss" being given, he barks and immediately disappears down the street, running at his utmost speed. No one knows where he goes nor what he lives on. All but his "public" life is a mystery. In the miscellaneous class at the Hamilton show his entry reads. "305. Hamilton Police Force. Jack, the policeman's dog (rough terrier), fifteen years old. Not for sale." Miss Whitney awarded him vhc., doubtless more in recognition of his unique reputation than anything else.

He (nervously)—"I—I want to express my feelings; may I?" She (coldly)—"This is not an express office."