

THE WEEK'S NEWS.

CANADIAN.

In Hamilton exempted properties are valued at \$3,333,315, about one-ninth of the entire city's assessment.

The coal output from the Springhill, N. S., mines for this year will be nearly half a million tons.

A load of 14,400 dozen eggs crossed from Windsor to Detroit on Saturday.

A movement is on foot in Montreal looking to the closing of saloons at 7 o'clock on Saturday nights, as in Ontario.

There was a large increase in the sales of railway lands in Southern Manitoba during October and November.

Lieut.-Col. Gillmor, Clerk of the Ontario Legislative Assembly, has been appointed Deputy Lieutenant-Governor during Sir Alex. Campbell's illness.

It is proposed to erect a memorial church in Battleford, N. W. T., in honor of the late Sir John Macdonald.

It is expected that the first train will be run over the North-West Central railway, of Manitoba, next week.

Five vessels have just sailed from Charlottetown, P. E. I., carrying 230,000 bushels of oats for the British markets.

Mr. David Plewes of Brantford has been deputed by the Dominion Millers' Association to take up his residence in Great Britain as agent for export flour.

Four children were born to the wife of Alfred Boiteau of Loretto, Que., on Thursday.

The exports from Halifax in October and November this year show an increase of \$210,000 over the same months last year.

The Canadian Pacific Railway has up to date moved 3,000,000 bushels of this season's grain to the Lake front.

It is announced that the C. P. R. proposes to go in for extensive double-tracking.

Elaborate arrangements are being made at Montreal for the celebration of the centennial of the settlement of the Eastern Townships.

The Canadian Government has instructed collectors of customs at maritime province ports to collect duty on fish from Newfoundland.

A farmer at St. Henri de Masconche, Que., while boring for water on his farm, has struck gas.

Madame Lorimer, whose husband was executed in connection with the troubles of 1837 and 38, died in Montreal on Monday at the age of 79 years. The deceased lady was an aunt of Justice De Lorimer.

At a meeting in Hamilton last week, attended by members of both parties, a strong committee was appointed to take up funds for a memorial to the late Sir John Macdonald.

The protest against D. C. Fraser, the Liberal M. P. for Guysboro, has been dismissed.

The first C. P. R. train to convey British troops across the continent passed through Port Arthur on Tuesday.

The Dominion Mineral Company, of Sudbury, have sold out their Blizzard and Worthington nickel mines to an English syndicate for \$2,000,000.

George C. Hamilton, a wealthy citizen of Montreal, who died recently in Colorado, has bequeathed \$100,000 to the Montreal General Hospital.

During the season of navigation just closed about half a million tons of Cape Breton coal were delivered in Montreal, being an increase of about fifty thousand tons over last year.

The other day an offer was laid before a special committee of the Toronto City Council by a number of capitalists to reclaim Ashbridge's Bay at a cost of about \$6,000,000. They guarantee to the city a revenue of at least 10,000 per year.

A serious outbreak of diphtheria is reported from Irberville, near Montreal. One day last week there were four deaths from the disease, and it is stated that very inadequate precautions are being taken to prevent the disease spreading.

More sailors lost their lives on the great lakes during the marine season just closed than in any previous year since the lakes were navigated. In all 57 met their death, and most of this number were lost during November. Forty were lost from schooners and barges. Not a passenger, however, was lost.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Cornwall, Eng., is the latest to report an epidemic of influenza.

The Earl of Bantry is dead, aged 37. The title dies with him.

It is said the Archbishop of Canterbury will visit Canada next summer.

Prince Albert Victor will be married to Princess Victoria Mary on March 10th, the 23th anniversary of the wedding of the Prince and Princess of Wales.

The Duke of Devonshire is dying. By his death his son, the Marquis of Hartington, will take a seat in the Chamber of Peers.

The Earl of Erroll died last week at the age of 68. He will be succeeded by his son Lord Kilmarnock, aged 39.

A world's shipping exchange has been formed in London Eng. An inaugural banquet was held Wednesday evening.

The McCarthyite section of the Irish Parliament party have decided to take decisive steps to secure the Irish fund at present in the hands of Mr. Munroe, the Paris banker.

At a convention held in Dublin on Wednesday Messrs. Dillon and O'Brien denounced the Parnellite minority as antagonistic to the best interests of Ireland, and declared confidence in Mr. Gladstone and his Home Rule bill.

The members of the Salvation Army charged with causing disturbances at Eastbourne, England, have been found guilty of unlawful assembly, but have been acquitted of the charge of conspiracy. They have appealed.

UNITED STATES.

Thieves are ruining the business of cattle ranchers in Nebraska.

A Picton man named Peter Demarest has been frozen to death near Alger, Mich.

Minneapolis having got the national Republican convention, St. Paul is trying to get the Democratic.

A rock salt pool was formed at Chicago

the other day with a capital of \$5,000,000. The output is 7,000 tons daily.

Henry McGreevy, aged 19, of Plainfield, Conn., lifted an eight hundred pound weight in imitation of Louis Cyr, and died.

A burglar in St. Paul, Minn., running away with a tray of diamond rings fell and the crowd scrambled for the treasure.

A prairie fire swept over a large district near Emporia, Kas., yesterday, doing damage to the extent of many thousand dollars.

Right Rev. Edgar P. Wadhams, bishop of the diocese of Ogdensburg, died on Saturday morning at Watertown, N. Y., aged 74 years.

A telegram received at Washington, D.C., says the Apaches are not on the war path, and that the Canadian, McDaniels, was murdered by white men.

Mrs. Agnes Lawrence, a missionary on the mountain side near New Boston, Pa., has been murdered after being brutally ill-treated.

A scheme is on foot at Minneapolis to send a ship-load of flour for the relief of the famine-stricken peasantry in Russia.

A three-days' blizzard is reported in North Dakota. Business is at a standstill.

The mother of the late Charles Stewart Parnell sailed for England from New York on Saturday.

In eastern Oregon the coyote keeps up the price of eggs and chickens, and many counties pay a liberal bounty for his extinction.

State Senator Durban, of Wyoming, says cattle thieves are ruining the ranching business in that state. He says he himself was compelled to close out a \$750,000 business and leave the state.

Shortly after two o'clock on the 3rd inst. a fire broke out in a brick store and residence in Detroit, which besides wrecking the place caused the death of Mr. and Mrs. Reis and three of their sons. Two other sons and a servant girl escaped.

Mr. Jay Gould has become alarmed by the attempted assassination of Russel Sage, and has employed a lusty negro to keep armed guard over his office.

To show the growth made in the industry of furnishing kindling wood, a single factory in Pennsylvania turns out 5,000,000 bundles a month.

Pembina, North Dakota, is isolated by a blizzard. Sidewalks and streets are filled with snowbanks 10 to 15 feet high.

Annie Olson, a 16-year-old German girl, adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Nels Emerson, of Minneapolis, committed suicide on Thursday evening by taking poison, it is said to avoid going to night school, upon which her adoptive parents insisted.

Loppy, who while drunk killed his wife in New York on July 4, 1890, was executed by electricity in Sing Sing on Monday a few minutes after noon. The death appeared to be instantaneous.

A dinner was given Tuesday night at Delmonico's, New York, to Lord Aberdeen, under the auspices of the National Federation of America. Many American advocates of home rule for Ireland were present.

Governor Merriam, of Minnesota, has issued a circular letter setting forth the terrible destitution which exists in Russia and asking that people who are blessed with prosperity do all in their power to mitigate the sufferings of the starving Russians.

Mrs. Lewis P. Cowell, of New York city, attached a piece of hose to a gas burner, turned the gas on, then took the other end of the hose between her teeth and went to bed on Saturday night. Her room was broken open yesterday by neighbors and the hose was still between the teeth of the lifeless body.

IN GENERAL.

Germans are excited at so-called despotic utterances of Emperor William.

Hundreds of people have died in France from influenza. The epidemic is spreading.

Russia's navy consists of 192 vessels and 30,500 seamen and marines.

A colliery explosion in Russian Poland killed 180 men and 40 horses.

The Standard Bank of Australia has suspended.

Mme. Caroline Poff, the only Belgian female journalist, is dead, aged 81 years.

The formal announcement was made at Vienna, last week of the removal of the embargo on American pork.

Eighty miners were killed by an explosion of fire damp in a mine at St. Etienne, France on Saturday.

The importation of American pork into France was officially authorized on Saturday.

The Belgian Chamber of Deputies has passed a bill prohibiting any public experiments in hypnotism.

The French Government is urging the European powers to take combined action against China.

A meteorite, found a few days ago in the rotten roots of a willow tree at Lysabild, Denmark, was seen by the finder to fall into the tree in August, 1843.

A heavy gale prevailed in England and France on Monday night. One crew of 24 has been drowned, and many other casualties are feared.

A Tien Tsin despatch says that the outrages in China are committed by an organization known as "the temperance league," whose subject is to slay all foreigners and Christians.

It is said that the French Government is inclined not to oppose the preliminary steps taken by the Radicals to bring about a separation of Church and State.

Are the country people wickeder than the city people? We truly hope that they are not, but the proceedings of the Episcopal Congress held in Washington last week show that one of the eminent divines who was a delegate to that body believes that they are. When the subject of "mission work" was before the Congress, the Rev. Dr. Nicholls of New Haven made a speech urging the Church to maintain its missions in the rural regions, and, according to the report, he "characterized the wickedness of the country as vastly worse than the wickedness of the city." He even went so far as to express his fear of the bad influence that the country exerts upon the city. This is not the ordinary view of the case, or the romantic, poetic, idyllic, bucolic view, and we must await the evidence in support of it which the Rev. Dr. Nicholls of New Haven, Conn., is doubtless prepared to present.

Manly Sports In Canada.

That the present generation is not degenerating in the matter of love for manly sports has been made quite apparent by the sporting season just closed. In Canada our own great national game of lacrosse was never more popular than at present. During the season wherever opposing teams were announced to play, large and enthusiastic crowds witnessed the games, a large proportion of the spectators in each case being ladies. Later on, even when the dull grey sky and penetrating wind of a November day made it unpleasant for lounging, the announcement of a football match would invariably bring together a large audience. In Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, and other cities the rush to the grounds on such occasions was overwhelming, and "fair women and brave men" would watch the struggle of the co-tenants with an interest and excitement that made the cheek glow and the blood tingle. This deep and almost universal delight in athletics is by no means a new growth with us. It is the old Anglo-Saxon love of a fight asserting itself, and which only a want of leisure has prevented from becoming as general here as in England. For the growing interest and enthusiasm in football we are indebted to the English colleges. The whole evolution of the games has come from their early efforts and their persistent energy and tireless search for improvements. As they have gone ahead with the development, our colleges, notably Varsity, McGill, Queen's and Ottawa, have been quick to adopt the changes and improvements suggested, and so popularized the game that it arouses quite as much enthusiasm as lacrosse or baseball ever did. The desire for athletic superiority in connection with the colleges has also actually increased the attendance at them. These contests spread abroad the fame of a particular college and the manly young man imbues the desire to attend the institution which has the champion team. Grave and venerable doctors and professors silently recognize this and glory in a victory in athletic sport not less than the actual participants. The passion for athletics, as we have said, is stronger than ever in this country and its effect cannot help but be in the direction of making our race more muscular and more vigorous. Both men and women will certainly grow taller, and the average health and capacity for endurance must increase. If this love of athletics continues the new generation will outstrip the old in many of the most desirable qualities of both body and mind. It will be handsomer, of greater staying power, better proportioned, and therefore better fitted for the work of life. Truth is not a sporting journal, but it believes in manly sports and we have been led to these remarks to give encouragement to the cultivation of athletics in all legitimate lines.

Hard Times For the British Poor.

The extent of the wheat shortage in Britain is scarcely realized by us in Canada, where we have enough and to spare. In a recent issue of the Glasgow Mail the editor refers to the gradual advance in the price of flour and wheat, and points out that this state of things at the opening of winter may well give rise to anxiety. The same paper discusses the conditions causing this advance in necessities. The primary cause is given as the comparatively poor European harvest. Countries such as France, which in ordinary times have nearly a balance between demand and supply within their borders, find themselves this year in the position of requiring a supply from the outside; while Russia, which last year, for example, was a large exporter of all sorts of grain, is this year forced to prohibit exportation. The Russian wheat which Britain will fail to get this year she can obtain elsewhere, but it will necessarily be at higher prices. Failing Russia and India, it is asked: "What are we to expect from Canada? There is no doubt that both the United States and Canada have the best harvest for many years this season; and it is well for us as well as for them that they have, for a short supply in the New World as well as in the Old would have brought famine prices for one winter without fail. But without speculating on the chance of famine prices, which are impossible with the present rate of supply, it is evident that the Americans are prepared to take full advantage of our need and Russia's famine to make a vast little pile of dollars for themselves."

Asbestos Mining.

The English Board of Trade Journal gives a very interesting account of the rapid development of asbestos-mining in Canada. It says that up to within recent years, the greater part of fine asbestos fibre suitable for spinning came from Italy and Corsica; but the trade has suffered a complete revolution since the discovery of vast quantities of the valuable mineral in the province of Quebec. In 1871 the Canadian mines yielded fifty tons of asbestos; last year, the output was eight thousand tons. The finer grades command almost as good a price as the best Italian; and although the quantity mined is so great, the material owing to the various new applications which are constantly found for it, has not become any cheaper. The profits from the Canadian mines are simply fabulous, one mine alone yielding to its lucky owners an annual profit of one hundred thousand dollars. The work does not necessitate much excavation, for the asbestos is found in the surface-rock in the form of veins, and is obtained by blasting. The output is carefully regulated to the demand, and this is one potent reason why asbestos continues to keep up its price.

It is reported from St. Petersburg that 25,000,000 persons are unable to pay their taxes, and that this will cause a budget deficit of £12,000,000.

Speculating still further on the future prospect as to prices, it is thought that a cold winter and an untoward spring will put the price of breadstuffs still higher for the British consumer. All this means increased prosperity to the Canadian producer, but whilst we are thankful that we have a large surplus with which to supply the less favored portions of the world, we cannot help feeling and expressing regret that for the poorer classes of the Mother Land there will be some hardship for the present season. But it is possible that the winter will not be so severe on the Continent of Europe as the last one was, and therefore that the new wheat, which promises well, will be a good yield. If such takes place there is good reason to suppose that the advance in food prices which has taken place in England will be only temporary, and will give way before better supplies next year.

Women and Fashion.

There is a tendency to blame woman for the lavishness in money and energy that she expends to satisfy fashion. It is alleged that Dame Fashion is the most supreme ruler of the female world, and to obey which women will suffer almost any sacrifice, entail burdens on others, and to gratify her idle whims in that direction she will become oblivious to duty. Supposing even that all women are subject to these influences—and that all will exclude the army of dress reformers—the question arises whether woman is to blame for this desire to dress well and fashionably. The nature of woman is such that she dresses fashionably at least as much from a desire to please others as herself, and if she feels intuitively that the sterner sex evince a desire to see her in gay garments, the inclination is strong to merit such approval. It is but just to say that man is as much to blame for the fashion in the dress of woman of to-day as she is herself. If the husband, brother, or gentleman acquaintance did not look to the fashionable appearance of the lady whose escort he is; if he did not constantly by his conventionalism express satisfaction at beholding her in such raiment, thus encouraging her natural propensity, there is no doubt but that to-day women would wear less expensive and more common sense apparel. But it is highly unbecoming in the stronger sex to lay all responsibility on woman for the fashions, and the attendant milliners' bills, of the day. Men are, in part at least, to blame for the excessive devotion of the fair sex to Dame Fortune.

Exploration In Australia.

The Antarctic expedition which is soon to be sent out by the Australian colonies with the assistance of a wealthy Swede and under the direction of Baron Nordenskjold, is merely a preliminary venture. The idea is that a properly equipped expedition can be sent to the South Polar region for six months at no very great cost, and in that time it can decide whether it is worth while to carry on further explorations. It is, of course, to be expected that a well-equipped steamer absent half a year from Australia will accomplish a great deal more than such an expedition as that of Sir James Ross, which was composed of two very slow sailing vessels. If it is found that the opportunity for profitable researches is as rich as it is believed to be, the preliminary expedition will be followed by a more ambitious enterprise. Australia is interested in this venture because scientific men there have no doubt whatever that the climate of Australia is affected to a large extent by the conditions prevailing at the South Pole, and they wish to ascertain what these conditions are. It is hoped also that the expedition will solve the problem of the south magnetic pole, whose place has not yet been discovered. Its position has, according to the best calculations, been fixed in about long. 154° and lat. 75°. It will be very interesting to fix the place where the needle dips perpendicularly downward, and the discovery of the exact position of the south magnetic pole is likely to add materially to the safety of navigation in far Southern waters.

Chili and Bolivia.

The protocol of the new treaty proposed between Chili and Bolivia appears to follow out in the main the one which was agreed upon by the Junta at Iquique last Summer. That is to say, while it reaffirms the sovereignty of Chili over the conquered sea-coast province of Cobija, it concedes to Bolivia free entry for its goods in transit at the port of Antofagasta, allowing her to collect duties on their reaching her own frontier. In addition it makes to Bolivia some very substantial pecuniary concessions based on debts and indemnities arising out of the last war between Chili, Peru, and Bolivia. There is no doubt that the existing Government at Santiago appreciates the obligation it is under to Bolivia, which was the only one of the South American republics, and indeed, we believe, the only country in the world, which was willing formally to recognize the Junta as a belligerent power, while still established only in the north of Chili, practically out of reach of the Santiago authorities. No doubt Bolivia's own peculiar geographical situation and trade relations made it a matter of interest, if not of necessity, for her to be on good terms with the actually controlling authority in the nitrate region of Chili. Still, she ran a risk of the ill will and retaliation of the Balmaceda party in the south; and, at all events, it is creditable to the supporters of the now triumphant Junta to proceed toward the formal and legal accomplishment of its agreement with Bolivia made in its days of doubt and trial.

The Measure of the True Man.

A male human biped is a man only—When he remembers that a woman is a woman.

When he feels that the weaker in this workaday world are entitled to as much consideration as himself.

When his purse is always open to the poor and needy.

When he has loved, married and remained steadfast and true to the woman who bears his name.

When he believes that cynicism and skepticism are relics of medieval times.

When he needs no proof that there is a God.

The Word "Dollar."

Few persons have ever troubled themselves to think of the derivation of the word dollar. The San Francisco Chronicle recalls the fact that it is from the German thal (valley), and came into use in this way some 300 years ago: "There is a little silver mining city or district in northern Bohemia called Joachimsthal or Joachim's valley. The reigning duke of the region authorized this city in the sixteenth century to coin a silver piece, which was called 'joachimsthaler.' The word 'Joachim' was soon dropped and the name 'thaler' only retained. The piece went into general use in Germany and also in Denmark, where the orthography was changed to 'daler' whence it came into English and was adopted by our forefathers, with some changes in the spelling.

An inch of rain means that the quantity which falls upon an acre of ground weighs 100 tons.

Each year about \$50,000 is expended in sprinkling the streets of London with sand to prevent the horses slipping.

GRAINS OF GOLD.

Despair increaseth debts. The wrong comes to light. The fool knows he knows all.

We were all born rich in opportunity.

The wise man knows he knows nothing.

The left hand often rips what the right hand sews.

Three things to contend for—honor, country and friends.

He who is everybody's friend has no time to be anybody's.

Making mistakes is entering into knowledge by the side door.

There is no true friendship among loafers and scallaws; there is only intimacy.

Don't try to make a friend out of a weak man; it is like trying to carry water in a sieve.

Theology is what people think about God, Religion is what they feel in their own souls.

Don't be too proud to ask and accept the humblest work till you can find the task you want.

Half the things we groan over to-night will right themselves to-morrow night if we let them alone.

Frequently it happens in every-day life that those who have the most assurance know the least.

The diminutive chains of habits are generally too small to be felt till they are too strong to be broken.

A good man is a man who is good to us, and a bad man is a man who doesn't do what we want him to do.

One reason why happiness is so scarce in this world is because most people mistake pleasure for happiness.

It is not so much the amount of our income, as the manner of our living, that should constitute our riches.

The person who argues with a liar has about as much sense as a man who drives in the mud to paint his wagon.

Diligence is a fair fortune, and industry a good estate.

The Indian Opium Traffic.

Lord Lansdowne's recent defence of the Indian opium traffic has brought him severe censure in some quarters. The noble Lord is usually so felicitous in speech that his recent utterances are conspicuous by contrast. He declared on St. Andrew's night that it was his firm belief that if the opium traffic were abolished to-morrow the use of the drug in India and China would continue unabated. Lord Lansdowne's view is the same as that of the Indian government and it practically amounts to this that the active agitation going on in England against the traffic is due to ignorance. The Montreal Witness, remarks that "it will be an everlasting disgrace to the British Government if there is in the future no abatement of a traffic which it succeeded in extending at the cost of an international quarrel which has never died out, for in that case she will be responsible for all time for the extension which she caused. If we did not know the determined gullibility of humanity in all affairs in which Satan has an interest we should at once declare it impossible that anyone not biased by personal interest, as the Indian Government of course is, could believe the last declaration. Here is a large and profitable saloon, for instance, whose proprietor and keeper is one of the excellent of the earth declared, by the fact of getting his license, to be highly respectable and fit for the delicate task of giving liquor only to those who should get it. Let Lord Lansdowne tell the people at a St. Andrew's dinner that that man does not push sales, and surely the whole company would laugh at the declaration as a joke. Yet his declaration as to the Indian Government's relation to the opium traffic has to do with facts essentially similar. The other declaration that there would be just as much opium smoking if the opium traffic was abolished as there is now when the traffic is carried on by the most powerful, respectable and Christian government on earth, seems, on the face of it, equally absurd, but we have people in our own country who believe there will be as much drinking in the country after Government begins to make honest efforts to put down the sale of it as there is now. There is indeed, no declaration too preposterous or paradoxical for people to believe if those who are interested only repeat it often enough no matter how much the facts as well as common sense may be against them. If, however, the opium evil is one for which there is no remedy, as Lord Lansdowne's declaration implies, it would be none the less the duty of a self-respecting, not to say Christian Government, to renounce the responsibility for and profits of a traffic which is ruining the bodies and souls of millions of subjects of the two greatest empires on earth."

The Panama Canal.

Some time has passed since the collapse of the Panama Canal Company and the termination of work on the isthmus, but the receiver or liquidator is still spending a comfortable sum of money in behalf of the bankrupt organization. The report submitted a few days ago shows that the expenses are \$504,000 per annum. When the concern went into bankruptcy it had several millions of dollars on hand, and it will be possible to pay expenses for some time to come without replenishing the treasury. It is difficult to see how the liquidator can now pay out \$500,000 a year for legitimate expenses, but if his methods resemble those of the company and its chief officers, he can very easily dispose of twenty times that sum in twelve months without turning a spadeful of soil or putting a shed over a piece of machinery. "If the Government does not intervene," says the liquidator, "the enterprise will be definitively condemned within a short time." At first it was said that a new company was to be established upon the basis afforded by M. Bonaparte Wyse's concession, but now the only new company that is talked about is the French Government. At last accounts the Government was still unwilling to go into the interoceanic canal business on the Panama route.

Slavery in Portuguese India.

Slavery still exists in Portuguese India. A Brahmin at Kalloda possesses a village of thirty-two huts, where every soul is as truly his slave and property as in the olden days, and recently a Portuguese, traveling from Goa, spoke openly of the slaves on his estate.