

THE WEEK'S NEWS

CANADA.

The freight blockade on the north-western railroads is now entirely raised.

Public works in Winnipeg are delayed owing to a scarcity of laborers.

During the past year the Montreal firemen were called out 811 times.

James Walters was killed by a falling limb at Elmstead last week.

Last month was the warmest December in fourteen years.

Colonel Gillmor, ex-clerk of the Ontario Legislature died on Sunday.

The Brandon Farmers' Institute has declared that the Dominion duty on binder twine ought to be thrown off.

The death is announced of Mr. Richard Potter president of the Grand Trunk railway from 1869 to 1876.

The body of John Coonin was found in the Grand River at Brantford last week. He lost his way and fell into the stream.

A four-year-old child of W. M. Burrows, Brampton, was fatally burned while playing with a fire last week.

Walter Wakers, a farmer residing near London, was thrown out of his buggy and killed Saturday night.

John Cummings, while chopping in the woods on the 12th line, Brooke, last week, was killed by a falling tree.

February 18 is spoken of as the day for the assembling of the Dominion Parliament but the matter has not been finally decided.

Dr. Orton, of Guelph, brother of Dr. Orton, ex-M.P., died on Saturday of blood poisoning.

John Cuddy, one of the best known members of the Toronto detective force, died the other evening.

Col. Hercher, of the N. W. M. P., died suddenly at Regina on Friday night of heart disease.

Col. Chas. Clarke, ex-M. P., has been appointed clerk of the Ontario House of Assembly, vice Col. Gilmore deceased.

The formation of the first responsible Government of the Northwest Territories has been announced at Regina.

Children under sixteen are not allowed to loiter on the streets in Gravenhurst after 8 p.m. A by-law has been passed to that effect.

The ironworkers in all the foundries of Ottawa except one went out on strike last week because the bosses would not grant nine hours as a working day.

The Canadian College of Organists held its annual meeting in Montreal last week, and elected Mr. F. H. Torrington, of Toronto, president for the ensuing year.

The annual report of the Montreal gaol, shows that 2,843 prisoners were confined in that institution during the past year.

The body of George Chaloner, aged 70, a well-to-do resident of South London, was found in the Thames last week. He is supposed to have committed suicide.

La grippe is prevalent in Manitoba.

Rev. Sam Small has held a number of successful meetings at Napanee.

The Legislature of Ontario is called for February 11.

Madame De Boucherville, wife of the Premier of Quebec, is dead.

The wholesale firms of John A. Patterson & Co. and James Brown & Son of Montreal have assigned.

Hants county, N. S., last year shipped 22 cargoes of potatoes to Havana—just double the number for the previous year.

Another public meeting to urge the claims of St. John, N. B., to be placed on an equal footing with Halifax as a winter port was held there the other night.

The premises of T. G. Foster & Co., 16 Colborne street, Toronto, were completely wrecked by fire the other evening. The loss will total \$85,000, if not more.

A cave containing a wealth of silver, and famous in local story, is alleged to have been discovered in the township of Barrie, Frontenac county.

Sir Adam Wilson, ex-Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench Division, and president of the High Court of Justice, died in Toronto last week.

E. L. Woodin, ex-superintendent of the P. and O. Company, has been arrested at Vancouver, B. C. He is charged with stealing \$20,000.

The debt against the Y. M. C. A. of Ottawa, \$9,000, has been wiped out, and the association starts the new year with a clean sheet. The institution has a \$30,000 property free of encumbrance.

Prohibitive measures restraining the grain buyers of Manitoba from purchasing certain grades of wheat for export are having a seriously ill effect upon many classes of people in the province.

Lieut.-Col. George Futvoye died in St. John's, Que., last week, in his 84th year. He was the first city clerk of Quebec, and assisted materially in organizing the various municipal institutions of the province.

At the preliminary trial of Lottridge at Hamilton the other day for the murder of John Heslop, the Indian Douglas confessed that he was present when Bartram fired the fatal shot. Lottridge, who refused to tell anything, was committed for trial.

The new Government of the North-West Territories will include Mr. Haultain, member for McCleod; Mr. Clinakill, of Battleford; Mr. Noff, of Moosomin; and Mr. Tweed, of Medicine Hat. Mr. Haultain will be leader.

Mr. Geo. Hogaboom who purchased the unrealized assets of the old Central Bank, has issued a writ against D. Mitchell Macdonald, one of the old directors, for \$161,531.60, the amount in which the ex-director is said to have been indebted to the bank at the time of its failure.

There is much excitement and indignation in Winnipeg over the assault made by two negroes on three white men in an hotel on Monday night. The coloured men used razors, and one of the whites was horribly cut about the neck and shoulders.

It is currently reported that in the course of recent correspondence between Premier Abbott and the Allan Steamship Company, the former accuses the latter of engaging European writers to decry and discredit the St. Lawrence route with the view of pre-

venting other steamship companies from tendering for the ocean mail service. The reply of the company has not been made known, but Mr. Abbott claims to have proof of his charge.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The influenza epidemic is spreading daily throughout England.

Lord Randolph Churchill is said to be anxious to enter the diplomatic service.

Sir James Redhouse, the oriental scholar, is dead in London.

About £1,500,000 are to be spent in reconstructing the camp at Aldershot, Eng.

Dr. John Wareing Bardsley is the new Bishop of Carlisle, Eng.

Lord Vivian has been appointed British Ambassador to St. Petersburg.

Sir George Biddell Airy, at one time the Astronomer Royal of Britain, is dead in London, aged 91 years.

Dublin authorities are thoroughly searching all vessels arriving from America. They are on the watch for dynamiters.

The Duke of Devonshire has been elected Chancellor of the University of Cambridge to succeed his father.

In Canterbury, Eng., influenza rages to such an extent that business houses have had to close for lack of hands.

Prince Victor Hohenlohe, who has been sojourning in London and was a great favourite of the Queen, died last week.

Michael Davitt has written a letter to The London Times defending his friend Ford against the charge that he was concerned in the Dublin Castle explosion.

General Sir Frederick Sleigh Roberts, Admiral Sir Arthur W. A. Hood (retired), and Sir William Thompson have been raised to the peerage.

A London cable says the Salvation Army contingent at Eastbourne was attacked by a mob on Sunday while holding a street service. The police had to quell the disturbance.

A meeting of the corporation of the city of Dublin was called for Monday to draft an address of congratulation to the Queen on the marriage of her grandson to Princess Mary of Teck, but there was no quorum, so no business was transacted.

Fifty-seven type-written copies of a pamphlet have been in circulation in high social circles in London containing a virulent attack on the Prince of Wales, Lady Brooke, and others. All except three of the pamphlets have been bought and destroyed.

An Oxford student was arrested in London last week while firing at the House of Commons with a revolver. At the Police Court he said he fired at the building to show his contempt for the House and those who therein assembled.

The London Chamber of Commerce has decided to hold a congress of the British Chambers of Commerce of the world next June. Forty Chambers have already accepted the invitation.

Lord Hartington, upon vacating his seat for Rossendale in the House of Commons to take his place in the Upper Canada as the Duke of Devonshire, recommended his constituents to elect Mr. Brooks, the Unionist candidate. This has made the Liberals very mad, who threaten, should Mr. Brooks be elected, to contest his seat on the ground of undue influence.

The London Socialists are determined to make another attempt at holding a demonstration next Sunday to enforce the right of holding public meetings on Sunday.

James Mingshy, an Irish farmer, and his sister Jane, who died amidst the most sordid surroundings of slow starvation, were buried at Tully Vallen, Armagh. They were misers, who, notwithstanding their squalor, had \$7,000 in the bank besides valuable real estate.

UNITED STATES.

Upwards of 120 deaths were reported in New York city last week from the Grip.

John Dietel, the fat giant, who weighed 763 pounds, died in Cincinnati on Friday.

A Chicago despatch says the grain blockade there appears to be nearly at an end.

The village of Aurora, Iowa, was wiped out by fire last week.

Alfred Cole, whose age is said to have been 115 years, died at Springdale, Ky., Monday.

Large numbers of horses are sick with la grippe in San Francisco.

Adelina Patti arrived at New York on the City of Paris the other day.

Nashville, Tenn., had a \$600,000 fire last week and several firemen were killed.

Rev. William Potter died at Hampton O., Tuesday, aged 95 years. He was the oldest Congregational minister in the world.

The flour contributions in Minneapolis to the Russian famine cargo now amount to 1,700,000 pounds.

A report comes from Philadelphia that the leading lithograph firms of the United States have combined with a capital of \$12,000,000.

The aggregate debt of the United States on January 1 was \$1,553,125,205.61. Cash balance in the treasury, \$134,574,128.30.

The north-west states had the discomforts of a blizzard last week, with temperature below zero and railway traffic crippled.

Gen. Horace Porter is talking Jingoism in Washington. He desires war with Chili to prevent patriotism becoming stagnant.

Charles Haft of Freemansburg, Pa., died last week of aggravated hiccoughing. He hiccupped for eleven days.

A fight between the United States troops and the Mexican revolutionists is expected at any moment.

Bishop Loughlin, of Brooklyn, of the diocese of Long Island, died last week, aged 74, after a long illness.

An extensive company, backed by eastern capital, has been organized in Chicago for the manufacture of American fax.

For \$10 Edward Ownes, of New York, risked his life to save a pug dog from a burning house. He saved the dog, but was so burned that he had to go to the hospital.

Roswell R. Mason, who was mayor of Chicago at the time of the great fire, is dead. Concussion of the brain carried him off. He was 86 years old.

Governor Russell of Massachusetts has issued an appeal to the people of that State to come to the aid of the famine sufferers in Russia.

The other day at Philadelphia a decision of the Supreme Court was given affirming that saloon keepers are liable for damages resulting from the sale of liquor to intoxicated persons.

A statement gained from a Cabinet source says there will be no war by the United States against Chili. The Chilean Government is disposed to withdraw from the position it has tried to hold.

In connection with the recent railroad accident near Tarrytown, N. Y., by which thirteen persons lost their lives, the jury has returned a verdict holding brakeman Herrick guilty of manslaughter.

General Montgomery C. Meigs, of the U. S. Engineer corps (retired), died at Washington on Saturday of la grippe. He was quarter-master general of the Union army during the rebellion.

Two men called at the office of Mr. D an Sage, the millionaire lumber merchant of Albany, and on Mr. Sage appearing they seized and beat him. One of them was arrested.

Miss Helen Gould, daughter of the New York millionaire, has been threatened with abduction, in order that her captor may demand a ransom of a million dollars. Miss Gould is under constant police protection.

The Messiah craze has broken out anew among the Indians of the Cheyenne and Arapahoe reservations, who declare that they will keep up their dancing until the Saviour comes.

A Washington despatch says a reciprocity arrangement has been entered into between the United States and the West Indian islands which is expected to go into force next February.

"Prinz" von Michaels, who has caused so much annoyance to the family of Jay Gould by his insistence that Helen Gould should marry him, was pronounced insane the other day and will be sent to the asylum on Ward's Island.

A correspondent writes that there is great suffering among the coal miners in some of the Pennsylvania towns, and suggests that their necessities are quite as great as are the necessities of the Russians, to whom the Western millers are sending 30,000 barrels of flour.

A special from Washington saying that Sir Julian Pannecote, among other diplomats in Washington, has advised Chilean Minister Montt that Chili cannot afford to enter upon a conflict with the United States, and that she would be wholly unwarranted in refusing to apologize for the assault on the sailors of the Baltimore.

A woman of Goshen, Indiana, who is now 33 years old, began 1892 with her sixth husband. She was born Minnie Beck. Her first husband, John Williams, was accidentally killed; the second, Henry Nice, was sent to prison for life for murder; then she was divorced in succession from Daniel Lockhart, Andrew Smith and Charles Hansome; and the sixth is F. L. Morehouse.

Ernest Brandt, eleven years of age, recently arrived in New York from Hamburg Germany, with a design of engaging in a war of extermination against the Indians. German translations of the American dime novels convincing him that the red men should not be permitted to remain in this world. Learning that the Indians roamed over the plains further west than a farm near Yonkers, at which he had found a home he took the farmer's rifle and some jewelry and returned to New York for definite information respecting the retreat of the savages. The gun in his possession obtained for him the attention of the police, and he was arrested.

Widows and Widowers.

One curious fact which every census discloses is the numerical excess of widows over widowers. The usual ratio is 8 per cent. of the female population as widows to 4 per cent. of the male population widowers. By some optimistic persons of the female sex, this disparity has been explained on the ground that married men, having formed a just and correct appreciation of the benefits of the married state, are glad to repeat what has been to them a beneficial association, whereas women, having less reason to be pleased, discern little joy in a second matrimonial alliance, unless it be an exceptionally desirable sort. This is an insufficient explanation. Why is it, in every land, that the widows outnumber the widowers by two to one? The average marrying age varies in different countries but in all countries it is higher among men than women. In England the age of the average bridegroom is two years greater than that of the bride; in Germany, in Holland and in Scotland it is three years; in Ireland, in Russia, and in the Scandinavian countries, it is four years; in Italy it is five; and in France it is six. The marriage statistics of the United States are misleading and incomplete, but here as abroad the average marriage age for men is thirty years and for women twenty-five, a difference of five years. Such being the difference in years at the outset, it is evident enough that were the death rate of the sexes equal, the number of female survivors of marriages would, at any given time, be in excess of the number of male survivors. But the rate of mortality is not equal between the sexes. It is higher among the men. Deaths from accidental causes are three times more numerous among men than among women. War, shipwreck and criminal deeds of violence decrease the ranks of men much more than they affect the number of women. Excesses in living, too, are more numerous among men than women. The great majority of suicides are men. Women live longer than men. On account of these various reasons the insurance companies estimate the difference to be at birth five years in favor of the girl. Making allowance, therefore, for the average disparity of years between the groom and bride at marriage, and for the lower death rate among women than men, the excess of widows over widowers, in every land where the census figures are reasonably accurate, is fully and satisfactorily explained. Though the formal figures of the statisticians do not show it, it may be, too, that the more sympathetic and emotional nature of women inclines them to cherish more reverently the memory of the departed than is the case with men, actuated often by more worldly views and motives.

ADVENTURE WITH WOLVES.

Fifty years ago the country then known as Canada East was very sparsely settled, especially that portion lying east of the St. Francis river and bordering on Maine. The animal known commonly as the Canadian gray wolf was then the scourge of the entire country. They often gathered in multitudes apparently under the guidance of an acknowledged leader, and attacked whatever they could find. Not only sheep and small animals were slaughtered, but horned cattle, horses, and even human beings fell a prey to these blood-thirsty scourges.

The wolf is scarcely ever known to attack any creature except some of the smaller species, singly, as he has ever been noted for his cowardice, but when pressed by hunger and an available opportunity for securing a good round meal is discovered by the leader of the pack, he at once begins to howl. This is understood and answered by others, until in an incredibly short time, they are all assembled, when, under the guidance of the leader, they dash off. Then, whatever happens to be the object of pursuit is generally doomed to destruction.

The leader, when he becomes feeble by reason of age or wounds, is generally vanquished in an encounter with some younger and more vigorous male, and then set upon by the entire pack and driven out to die alone.

In the autumn of the year 1832, near the close of a bright day, a traveller alighted at a little wayside inn situated on the borders of one of those Canadian forests, known as the crown lands, and called for luncheon and a feed for his horse. He was a powerfully built man of fine personal appearance, in the prime of life, and evidently one who had seen much of the world. The horse he rode, whose symmetrical form, finely shaped head and lofty mien plainly indicated his careful breeding, was unsaddled, neatly groomed and put in the stable.

A frugal meal of deer steak, potatoes, buckwheat griddle cakes and maple honey was soon set before the traveller to which he did ample justice. To this was added a tumbler and small decanter of whiskey, as at that day a drink of some kind of liquor, especially among gentry and travellers at least, before each meal, was not only considered respectable, but almost indispensable. Of the latter, however, the guest declined to partake, remarking that he had never yet tasted liquor of any kind, and hadn't the least desire to commence now. In reply to interrogatories he stated that he was agent of a large publishing house in Philadelphia, and bound to Quebec; that he must hasten, as he wished to pass the woods that night.

"Pass the woods to-night?" exclaimed the landlord in surprise. "Indeed, you must do no such thing. The woods are filled with wolves, and they are uncommonly fierce. If you encounter a pack, as no doubt you will, your life must pay the forfeit; so please stay where you are—I beg you will not hazard your life in this reckless manner.

The traveller, thinking that his host was over anxious, began to suspect danger from another source, as he carried a large sum of money. The more he pondered the firmer became his conviction that mischief was meant, and the story of the wolves one of their inventions to suit the occasion and their own wicked purpose. Furthermore, knowing the moon to be near the full and a smooth road before him, besides being mounted well, he anticipated nothing but a pleasant ride. Bidding his host a hearty good-by, he rode away and was soon lost to sight in the distant forest. Nothing of interest occurred to disturb the monotony of his journey until several miles or perhaps more than half the journey had been passed, when he descried a dark object at a short distance ahead, which he at first took for some stray dog. The creature trotted along for some distance in a leisurely manner, occasionally casting a backward glance at the horse and rider, then with a sudden bound disappeared in the forest. But a few moments intervened when at a short distance to his right he heard the prolonged howl of a wolf. This was immediately answered by another at his left, and then another and another in different directions, till the forest seemed alive with them.

The horse, as though apprehending danger, pricked up his ears and quickened his pace, the howls still continuing and apparently coming nearer each other, all in his rear. The traveller heartily wished he had heeded the advice of his landlord, which too late he discovered was kindly given. Soon that frightful and ominous cry known as the chase war whoop sounded through the forest, enough to strike terror to the stoutest heart.

Casting a hasty glance back he discovered the whole pack in full chase. The horse now began to run at the top of his speed, but his master saw he was no match for the wolves, encumbered as he was with a weight of at least two hundred pounds. Drawing one of his pistols as they appeared he fired a random shot into the pack. A short yelp told that his shot had taken effect, causing a halt.

The entire pack pounced upon their companion, devouring him piecemeal. Meanwhile our hero made the most of his time, cheering his now frantic horse till he almost seemed to fly. But this availed little, as he was soon overtaken. The wolves, completely maddened by the taste of blood, now became more fierce than before. He then fired his remaining pistol, which wounded another of their number, which was disposed of in the same manner as the first. Could he but have maintained a running fight in this manner by reloading he could possibly have gained the open country, but this was before the days of revolvers, repeating rifles and breech-loaders. Besides, in his agitation, thinking his pistols was of no further use after being discharged, he threw them away.

What to do was now a hard question. Both pistols gone, and wolves all around him, miles from the open country or any shelter or habitation. The noble horse now began to pant for breath, and, as he imagined to falter in his gait. The wolves were on either side of him, snapping at his legs and the flanks of his horse. Knowing that he couldn't hold out much longer at this rate of speed, he, in his affection for his faithful steed, was half inclined to sever the girths of his saddle, throw himself to the wolves, and give his companion a chance for his life. "Patting his arched neck he said,—

"Poor Pompey! I fear they will pick your bones to-night!"

The wolves had now got in front of the horse, some jumping for his nose and throat, while others were trying to seize him by the

hamstring, their fiery eyes flashing, and their fangs glistening in the moonlight.

He was about to give up in despair, when, like an electric shock, came the thought to his mind—his snuff-box! To think was to act. Being an inveterate snuff-taker, and quite an epicure in that way, he had taken the precaution before leaving home to provide himself with a package of prime old Maccaboy. Seizing his saddle bags, he tore them open, crushed the package at on grasp and cast the contents in their upturned faces.

The scene that followed beggars description. All the fiends of the infernal regions let loose could never more than equal it. A momentary silence, and then with an unearthly cry of rage and pain they abandoned their object of pursuit, and pitching into each other commenced fighting and tearing in the most horrid manner.

The horse continued his flight, soon arriving at a farm house, where every attention was paid to him and his rider that kindness and their limited means could furnish.

The next day, as his horse seemed somewhat jaded, he concluded to stop a few days and recruit; also try to recover his money, pistols and papers. Accompanied by two of the neighbors he returned to the scene of his adventure. His property was found where he had dropped it, but the scene of the conflict was sickening; by counting tails, cars and feet, they judged that more than twenty wolves were killed and eaten by their comrades. The wolves soon disappeared from that forest never to return, except now and then a straggler.

Lady Henry Somerset.

It is wonderful and admirable to consider Lady Henry Somerset and many an other lady of high birth and in affluent circumstances who might command the so-called honours of high society and see the devotees to social amusements cringing at their feet, casting aside the vanities of life and devoting themselves to the task of searching out destitution, sorrow and vice of the problem to raise the millions of men that vegetate, suffer and die year after year in all parts of the world, but more conspicuously in the crowded urban centers of population, out of the mire of misery and physical and moral degradation. But certainly, she says, we have not solved the problem. Yet she is continuing her efforts with unabated vigor and resolution, relieving distress here and there, and rescuing many a human life that without her would certainly have been wrecked. But as to the entire problem she knows no better than any of her charitable associates how to find a solution. There is another side of charity, namely, that which tries to regulate and systematize charity, prohibiting free gifts to those that beg for bread and forming societies that only give after due examination into the causes of suffering. While the inquiry is going on the sufferer may perish; better he should perish, says the advocate of this theory of charity, than that the will to help himself by his own exertion, that is, his self-dependence should suffer any diminution. It is not the intention here to inquire into the truth and justice of this theory, which takes cognizance of the psychological aspect of the question only and loses sight of the actual circumstances surrounding man and shaping not only his outward circumstances but also his character and his ability to reflect and act. It is sufficient to state that this theory of regulating charity entirely fails to satisfy the impulsive sentiments of sympathy with our equals which prompt to render assistance when and wherever needed. Meeting a man in distress, sympathy suggests that it is the right thing to tender assistance first and relieve the suffering, and not until that end is accomplished to inquire into the causes of the calamity and the circumstances of the indigent. Such a course may not be scientifically correct but it is surely not only natural and humane but also sanctioned by the highest religious authorities.

It is this religious and purely humanitarian view of charity that inspires workers like Lady Somerset in their efforts to help suffering humanity, and there cannot be a doubt that they have the sympathy and good wishes of the entire human race. Nevertheless, it must be conceded that they would do well to study a little deeper into the causes of poverty and distress. Although nearly two thousand years ago the observation was made that we have the poor always with us, at no time in the past was the condition of the poor felt to be so oppressive, so degrading, so unjust, and so inevitable a result of conditions altogether beyond the control of individuals, as at present. There is a cause and, no doubt, a universal cause of this state of poverty. It is the general conditions of modern society that render poverty so harassing a condition as it really is. Let Lady Somerset and all her associates, so highly estimable for their love, their sympathy for whatever is human like them, for their holy zeal in the most profound and sacred concern of mankind betake themselves to a careful study of social science and they will most assuredly find a way to trace a remedy for the evil which they are at present trying to conquer. They will then be able to assist those who are trying to show up the nature of the remedy and the manner of its application toward a reformation of society.

Cardinal Dominico Agostini, Patriarch of Venice, died at Venice on Thursday. He was born in 1825.

Lord Randolph Churchill is said to be desirous of entering the diplomatic service as ambassador to St. Petersburg, and the Tory papers oppose his appointment. A statesman who has been Chancellor of the Exchequer and virtual leader of the Government in the House of Commons has a claim to a first-class appointment if to any at all. That Lord Randolph Churchill's political abilities are of a high order no one doubts, but his course as a politician seemed to indicate that he was lacking in discretion, a quality which is of the first importance to a diplomatist. The man who gathered around him and for years led such men as Mr. Balfour and Mr. Wolfe, both of whom have since risen with extraordinary rapidity and who himself became the first Lord of the Treasury, would either make a spoon or spoil a horn as a diplomatist. He might turn out a sort of Tallyrand, but England would never feel secure from war for a single day were he at St. Petersburg as her representative while frontier questions as such as that which is at present up were being disputed.