

THE WEEK'S NEWS

CANADIAN.

The Bank of Montreal it is now confidently stated, has secured the financial agency of the Dominion Government in London, Eng.

Chief of Police Hughes, of Montreal, is preparing a reply to the report of the Ministerial Association on the city's morality.

Rev. A. Campbell has been elected Moderator of the Presbyterian Synod of Manitoba and the North-West Territories.

The Canadian Pacific railway are making arrangements for the immigration season next year. The Manitoba Government is co-operating with the railway company.

It is expected that the Quebec Government will back down on the retail tax question. The Montreal merchants are determined to oppose it in the matter to the end.

The Historical and Literary Society of Quebec have the original model of the King William, the first steamship that crossed the Atlantic. The society has refused to allow it to be taken to the World's Fair, but will permit an exact counterpart of it to be made.

Mr. Mackenzie Bowell says the meetings of the Canadian and Newfoundland delegates at Halifax were characterized by harmony throughout. He refused to say whether the question of Newfoundland entering the Canadian Federation occupied their attention.

Sir John Abbott and Mr. George Foster have been for several days in Paris to assist in the trade negotiations upon which Sir Charles Tupper is still engaged.

The total shipment of apples from Montreal during the present season was 407,120 barrels, as compared with 320,437 for the corresponding period last year.

Mr. L. Z. Jones, M. P. for Gaspe, disapproves of the appointment of Prof. Prince, of Glasgow, Scotland, to be Fishery Commissioner of the Dominion, thinking there are plenty of men in Canada who are well qualified to fill the position.

Prof. Saunders, Commissioner for Canada at the World's Fair, who broke down recently with insomnia, is gradually recovering at Atlantic City, N. J., where he is at present taking a vacation.

There is some talk of St. Andrew, N. B., being made the winter port of the Montreal steamship lines.

Mr. Nantel, a member of the Quebec Government, speaking of the new provincial tax, said that Montreal must expect to pay a very large proportion, because its real estate value is nearly as large as that of all the rest of the province.

A committee has been appointed by the Ottawa Board of Trade to bring before the attention of the Dominion Government the desirableness of having cable communication between all the British colonies.

Messrs. J. A. Tremblay and J. E. Deane, of Montreal have arrived in Winnipeg. Their mission is to purchase land in the vicinity of Red Deer for Roman Catholic families who will be sent out from the Province of Quebec.

Archbishop Cleary proposes to establish in Kingston a college in which young men ambitious to follow one of the learned professions may receive a thorough education. It is not intended to make it exclusively Roman Catholic.

Albert E. Elcombe, who was employed in a clothing establishment at Stratford, Ont., married on Nov. 10th a lady who was in the employ of the same firm. On Monday night he suddenly left Stratford, and it is believed that two hundred dollars which were missing from his employers' safe have accompanied him.

BRITISH.

The young Duke of Marlborough is said to inherit the sporting proclivities of his father.

While Sir Eache Cunard was hunting in Lancashire he was thrown from his horse, which fell on top of him. Sir Eache was seriously, but not fatally, injured.

The Queen has returned to Windsor Castle from Balmoral. Her Majesty is in splendid health.

Rev. Charles Clarke, the Unitarian divine, best known as a Chartist and Radical Reformer, died at Birmingham on Thursday.

A gale prevailed in the English Channel on Sunday, and during the storm the wreck of the City of Chicago, which went ashore on July 1st, broke to pieces and disappeared.

Notwithstanding the strict watch kept by the officers of the British Board of Agriculture no fresh cases of pleuro-pneumonia have been discovered among the Canadian cattle.

The London County Council has in preparation a bill assailing the landlord interest, levying a new tax on ground values throughout the Metropolis, and also ensuring that the tax shall not be shifted on the occupier of the land by contract or otherwise.

The organization of the London Chamber of Arbitration has been completed. The arbitrators must be British subjects who have been established in business for seven years as bankers, brokers, or merchants.

There is now a better prospect for the settlement of the Lancashire cotton strike, the men being willing to consider a proposal for a temporary reduction of wages, concurrent with the placing of the mills on short time.

While Mr. Gladstone was crossing Piccadilly on Thursday evening he stepped directly under the heads of a team of horses, and narrowly escaped being injured by the promptness of the driver, who pulled the animals back upon their haunches, and gave the aged Premier a chance of reaching the pavement.

At a meeting of the Grand Board of Guardians on Friday, Col. Dopping, an extensive land proprietor in County Longford, intimated very plainly that he intended obtaining his rent or evicting his tenants. A special cablegram says it is evident that besides ignoring the Evicted Commission, the landlords intend making it hot for the tenants.

The engagement is announced of Miss Flora Davis, a New York belle, to Lord Terence Blackwood, second son of the Marquis of Dufferin, formerly Governor-General of Canada.

UNITED STATES.

P. C. Bartlett, of St. Paul, Minn., indicted for smuggling opium from Canada into the United States, was acquitted on Friday.

There was a cave in at the Hazaldell colliery, Pottsville, Pa., on Saturday morning, by which seven men were entombed. They were all taken out before midnight.

The Washington authorities have granted three years' leave of absence to Civil Engineer Peary, to permit him to prosecute his explorations in Greenland.

The hole in the ground in the Grand or Silver Mountain, Idaho, for which an English syndicate paid \$1,000,000, is pronounced absolutely worthless. It was cleverly salted before the sale.

During the recent elections in the United States Mr. John H. Smithson, formerly of North Middlesex, Ont., of which place he is a native, was elected to the Washington State Legislature from Kittitas county.

One hundred girl students at the Ohio University in Columbus struck on Monday, and left the institution, because no attention was paid to their complaints of the unsanitary condition of their reception, study, and luncheon rooms.

The Illinois Steel Company's immense works in South Chicago, which employ over three thousand men, will, it is expected, be shut down on December 15. The uncertainty over possible changes in the tariff is given as the primary cause.

The body of Frederick H. Kelly, clerk in a drug store at Detroit, was found in the cellar of the establishment at an early hour on Saturday morning. There was a bullet wound in the back of his head. The sparse clothing on the body leads to the belief that Kelly had left his bed to answer a night call, and was shot by the man who had summoned him. Frank L. Hayes was arrested yesterday charged with the murder.

Rev. William Dawe was delivering a lecture on "John Wycliffe" at Milford, Mich., on Thursday evening, when Rev. Father Clarson, who was present, objected to some statements made. Evangelist Mills attempted to pull the priest to bisect, and a struggle ensued in which Father Clarson threw Mr. Mills. The contestants were separated, and the priest then retired.

GENERAL.

During the past week there were 3,313 cases of cholera in Russia, with 769 deaths.

Sir John Abbott has left Paris for the south, and will stay some time at the Riviera to enjoy complete rest.

A letter has been received from Oubanghi on the Upper Congo, saying that cannibalism is an everyday occurrence.

The Reichstag was opened by Emperor William in person, who made a strong appeal for the passage of the Army bill.

A strong outburst of Anglophobia has manifested itself in Portugal, and meetings are frequent to protest against the British alliance.

It is estimated that the new German taxes will yield 58,000,000 marks, while the Army bill requires a capital expenditure of 66,000,000 and an annual expenditure of 64,000,000.

A despatch from Porto Novo states that the French troops have entered Abomey, the capital of Dahomey, without opposition. The King has vanished, and the French are in full possession of the capital.

The Budget of the German Empire for 1893-4 shows that the revenue and expenditure estimated in round numbers will be 1,277,000,000 marks, an increase of over 15,000,000 marks on the preceding one.

A shocking state of misery has been reported among the female hands in Berlin factories. The Government will appoint a commission to make inquiries.

High Vatican officials deny the truth of the rumor that the Pope intended to open negotiations with President Cleveland for the establishment of a Papal Legation at Washington.

A special cablegram from Berlin says the report is confirmed that Gen. Baronoff, who discovered a system of robbery and misappropriation of Russian funds at Tashkend, was poisoned. The government has ordered a searching investigation.

It is reported in Rome that the leaders of the German Clericals are drafting a bill contemplating a general disarmament in Europe, and the appointment of a tribunal of arbitration. The Pope warmly endorses the proposal, and is willing to preside over the tribunal.

A Lawyer's Fee.

The most eminent consulting lawyer of Paris at one time in the last century was the Abbe May. His opinion had great weight in forming the decision of the judges and he was often consulted in important matters outside the law. His fee for an opinion was usually a large one. The story of one of his exceptional fees is related by M. de Bois Saint Just in his history of Paris.

A cure from the country called on the Abbe one day, and after complimenting him with earnestness and sincerity on his creditable and deserved reputation, said that he was involved in a lawsuit which he did not understand. He asked the Abbe to advise him whether he was in the right or in the wrong, and whether he had better carry on the suit. So saying he delivered to the great jurist an enormous package of papers covered with almost illegible handwriting.

The Abbe cheerfully accepted the task, and told the cure to call again in two weeks. He was pleased with the good, simple-hearted man, and devoted his best energies to clearing up the case, though he was obliged to put other matters aside in order to do so. The cure called on the day appointed, took the Abbe's written opinion, and read it through critically. He was delighted with the enthusiasm and clearness with which his rights were set forth. He embraced the Abbe gratefully and cried: "Ah, monsieur, no one could be better pleased than I am, and I want you to be satisfied also. Here is money, monsieur, please take what is due you," and he threw a three-franc piece on the table. Not to humiliate the good man, the Abbe picked up the coin, took thirty-six sous from his purse, and handed his client "the change."

Some one said, when he told the story, that as usual he had lost by his disinterestedness. "Loat!" said the Abbe. "And do you count the pleasure of telling the story nothing?"

When a man becomes so good that he spends all his time reproving his neighbors, the devil smiles and commends to lay up souls for future use.

THE AMBITION OF PRINCE NICHOLAS.

What the Ruler of Montenegro Would Like to do.

A gentleman who recently visited Montenegro said to a reporter in speaking of the ruler of that country:

"Probably no ruler in the world cherishes higher dreams of ambition than does Prince Nicholas, of Montenegro. Beyond the dark mountains of his small and impoverished principality his thoughts are forever reaching to kingdoms and principalities by the Danube, and in dreams of the restoration of the ancient Servian empire, with himself on the throne. In the changes going on and constantly, threatening in Serbia, Bulgaria and Roumania he believes in the possible uniting of these countries with Montenegro into one nation over which he may be called upon to reign. He thinks the powers of Western Europe would look with favor upon the formation of such a nation, as it would be a barrier to the southward march of Russia toward the Bosphorus. He has sedulously cultivated the friendship of Russia, and his ambition is not unknown to the Czar. But Russia, he thinks, would rather see a strong and independent nation between it and the Golden Horn than several kingdoms and principalities dominated by the influence of Russia's hereditary foes, or ruled by princes sent from Western Europe. There is little doubt but that he has been encouraged to believe this from St. Petersburg. Of such a nation at that of which Prince Nicholas dreams Bosnia and Dalmatia would naturally form ultimately a part, for in these provinces the Austrian ruler is detested, and Prince Nicholas is most popular. In Dalmatia Prince Nicholas is especially popular, and that province would to-day, were it not held in check by the Austrian soldiery, join itself to Montenegro. The people are of the same race as the people of Montenegro, the Serps or Servians, and they look upon Nicholas as their natural ruler. All this is and has been for years a dream of Prince Nicholas, but suns have risen and set over the Black Mountains, bringing the prince nearer to the grave, but apparently no nearer to the fruition of his hopes. The Serps still remain a disunited people, and poverty has made the ambitious prince a pensioner of Russia. Prince Nicholas is a man of force, learning and progress, and is well calculated to carry out such a scheme as that of which he dreams, were such a thing possible. When the Congress of Berlin gave him a little strip of seacoast and the city of Cattaro on the Adriatic, the prince was delighted, and dreams of commerce and of a navy at once filled his mind. The Emperor of Russia gave him a little steam yacht, and the prince takes the keenest delight in cruising in it up and down his seacoast. The prince keeps well informed of all that is going on outside his domains, and subscribes to the newspapers of every nation, among them to two American dailies. The great Western Commonwealth and its material progress is a constant source of interest and wonderment to him. I had an audience with the prince and was catbished by him for an hour and a half, the prince pouring in a steady fire of questions, and displaying knowledge of American politics which was rather embarrassing to me, as I do not keep as well posted in politics as I should. The prince had established a long-distance telephone line between Otogine, the capital, and Cattaro, and was as pleased with it as a boy with his first pair of boots. In the fascinating occupation of saying, 'Hello! Cattaro!' he had forgotten for a while the pleasure of his yacht. He displayed the greatest interest in Mr. Edison, and asked me twenty questions about him.

"Prince Nicholas is a poet of some ability, and has published two volumes of his works. Many of his songs are about the ancient glory of the Serps, and call upon them to grasp a glorious future. The prince has tried to fill his son and heir, Alexander, with his own ambitions and high ideas of the future, but Alexander is a fine de siècle young man, and would be happier in Paris than among the hardy mountaineers of his father's principality."

ZEBRAS AND THEIR STRIPES.

The Latter Useful in Rendering the Animal Invisible.

Almost every writer who treats of the colors of animals refers to Galton's observations that in the bright starlight of an African night zebras are practically invisible even at a short distance, says a writer in *London Nature*, but there can be no doubt that their peculiar striped appearance is also of great protective value in broad daylight. On a recent zebra hunt near Cradock, in which I took part, several members of our party commented on the difficulty of seeing zebras even at modern distances, although there was nothing to hide them, the black and white stripes blending so completely that the animals assume a dull brown appearance quite in harmony with the general color of the locality in which they are found, and in which, for instance, Rooi Rehbok (*Pelea capreolata*) is so well protected on account of its peculiar brownish coat.

A member of our party, who on another occasion gave proof that he is possessed of excellent eyesight, and who has frequently hunted in similar localities, saw a zebra which was wounded in one of the front legs at a distance of about 400 yards, and, strange to say, he mistook it for a baboon. In a letter which I received from him a few days ago he said: "It galloped like a baboon from me, and I could only see that the color was grayish-brown. At about 500 yards from me it ran on to a little krantz, and, mounting the highest rock, drew its body together just as a baboon does when its four feet are all together on the summit of a little rock." His remarks as to the grayish-brown color of the animal is the more valuable, as I believe this gentleman, Mr. Wrench, A. R. M., of Cradock, is quite unprejudiced. In my own letters to him, which I drew forth these remarks, I had only asked him for the distance at which he saw the zebra, and I did not ask him how it was that he mistook a black-and-white zebra for a brown baboon on a perfectly clear South African day.

My own observations also confirm that the stripes of the zebra are of protective value. Riding along a slope I suddenly saw four zebras within 100 yards above me. They were galloping down the hill, but stopped when they caught sight of me. As soon as they stopped I saw their stripes pretty distinctly. After I had fired and wounded one of them, they started again galloping down the hill round me in a semi-circle at a distance of about seventy yards.

All this time they presented a dull-brown appearance, no stripes being visible, although I had my attention fixed on this point. They disappeared beyond a ridge, went down a little valley, and I heard afterward that they ascended the next slope, which was not more than 1500 yards away from where I stood with a native servant. Yet even this lynx-eyed native could not see them going up this slope. They had vanished from us.

Prisoners' Punishment.

Compared to the punishments for similar offences in earlier times, the execution of Neill for poisoning seems a trifling punishment. In ancient Rome poisoning was punished by crucifixion, no matter what the rank of the criminal, although this penalty was usually reserved for slaves. A Roman of respectable station, having been convicted of poisoning his ward, was sentenced to be crucified, but protested against the punishment as unfit for a gentleman. The Emperor thereupon ordered the cross to be painted white and otherwise made more presentable than those commonly used. Whether the convict expressed himself better satisfied is not recorded.

In England, during the reign of Henry VIII., the public mind became greatly excited through several cases of poisoning, and Parliament enacted a law making boiling to death the penalty. This law was on the statute books about sixteen years. It was made retroactive, so as to take in a case that chiefly prompted its enactment—that of Richard Rosse, otherwise Coke, the Bishop of Rochester's cook, who poisoned seventeen persons, two of whom died. Coke was boiled at Rochester. The infliction was attended with peculiar cruelty, as Coke was put into a cauldron of cold water and gradually cooked to death.

A few years later, in March, 1542, a young woman named Margaret Davy was punished in a similar way on conviction of poisoning. The public was not satisfied as to her guilt, and, notwithstanding the comparatively slow travel of news in those days, the story of Margaret Davy's trial and punishment soon spread through the kingdom and aroused universal horror. Boiling to death remained on the statute book, however, as long as Henry reigned, perhaps because the monarch himself had a dread of being poisoned. Immediately after his death Parliament repealed the law.

Among the Turks the usual method both of trying and punishing a poisoner is to make him drink his own concoction, if any can be found. Otherwise the accused is half-strangled or beaten into a confession. A prisoner who survives the preliminary ordeals but is convicted nevertheless is tortured to death by being spread-eagled in the heat of the sun. It is said that up to a recent period the Sultan's list of palace employes included a Turkish doctor, expert in poisons, whose duties were not confined to attending the sick and tasting the Sultan's food. It has been known in Constantinople that the skill of the Sultan's poison expert was called into service whenever his master wished to get rid of someone who had offended, but who had been guilty of no open violation of the Sultan's wishes or decree. The present Sultan, Abdul Hamid, among other reforms, has dispensed with the court poisoner.

Drinking Water on Board Ship.

The foulness of drinking water on board ship is (the *British Medical Journal* points out) an undoubted source of danger and disease, and often a cause of local epidemics. The primary desideratum is to obtain water from an unquestionable source; the next is that it should not suffer contamination in its passage to the ship; and the third, that it should not be polluted in its storage on board. To fulfil this latter condition the necessity of a periodical and thorough cleansing of casks and cisterns is clearly indicated. Unfortunately, it is often difficult to fall in with a pure water source on shore, especially in warm climates; and in sailing ships without the means of condensing, it is frequently necessary to be satisfied with what can be got, and trust to filtration for drinking purposes, if the captain is provident enough to rate a good filter for the ship's company as well as for himself. It is possible for cholera or typhoid fever to attend the use of water from a particular tank in a ship, while nothing wrong is traceable in relation to the others. The use of condensed water, where it can be produced, has often been proved to be preferable to the ordinary supply obtainable in even civilized ports abroad. We know the one to be quite safe, but we cannot be sure of the other. It must, however, be noted that the sea water used for distillation should be free from harbour contamination. In some parts of Malta harbour, for example, to use a nautical simile, the water is "as thick as pea soup," and condensing from it has been attended with evil results. Notwithstanding the vaunted purity of all water produced in this way, unwholesome products may and do pass over in the distillation of close harbour water. In the port of London it is, as a rule, delivered on board by a hose direct from the mains, but ships lying in the river and in some of the docks have to obtain it from barges. The wooden barges formerly used have now been replaced almost entirely by iron barges, which are more easily kept clean and are less liable to leakage.

France's Great Canal System.

Interior navigation has long held a prominent place in the traffic of France, and it is not surprising to learn that the length of navigable waterways in that country is 8000 miles, of which 650 miles are returned as tidal, 2100 miles navigable without works, 2250 miles canalized rivers and 3000 miles canals. The State looks out for all but 7 per cent. of this network, which is therefore practically free from tolls. This system of inland navigation has cost about \$300,000,000 for construction and purchase and \$25,000,000 for concessions. The annual cost of maintenance is about \$2,600,000, or \$325 a mile, which covers all expenditures whatsoever. The number of vessels employed on the waterways is between 15,000 and 16,000; about 26 per cent. have a capacity of 300 tons or more, while more than half have a capacity exceeding 100 tons. Moreover, about 2000 tons foreign boats use the French canals each year. The motive power is now almost entirely furnished by draft animals, although a few steam tugs are used on the Seine, the Oise and some other rivers, and steam cargo boats are occasionally met. Cable towing and tow locomotives are also used in a few places. The average cost of moving a ton of freight one mile is stated to be .064c on rivers and 25 per cent. less on canals.

WHY IS SEA-WATER SALT.

It Receives Dissolved Mineral Salts From the Land and Loses None by Evaporation.

This question has been regarded as a mystery and has given rise to some curious speculations, but a little consideration of the subject must, I think, satisfy us all that it would be very wonderful, quite incomprehensible, if the waters of the ocean were otherwise than salt as they are.

The following explanation was first suggested to myself many years ago when receiving my first lessons in practical chemical analysis. The problem then to be solved was the separation of the bases dissolved in water by precipitating them, one by one in a solid condition; filtering away the water from the first, then from this filtrate precipitating the second, and so on until all were separated or accounted for.

But in doing this there was one base that was always left to the last, on account of the difficulty of combining it with any acid that would form a solid compound, a difficulty so great that its presence was determined by a different method. This base is soda, the predominating base of sea-salt, where it is combined with hydrochloric acid. Not only is soda the most soluble of all the mineral bases, but the mineral acid with which it is combined forms a remarkably soluble series of salts, the chlorides. Thus the primary fact concerning the salinity of sea-water is that it has selected from among the stable chemical elements the two which form the most soluble compounds. Among the earthy bases is one which is exceptionally soluble—that is, magnesia—and this stands next to soda in its abundance in sea-water.

Modern research has shown that the ocean contains in solution nearly every element that exists upon the earth, and that these elements exist in the water in proportions nearly corresponding to the mean solubility of their various compounds. Thus gold and silver and most of the other heavy metals are found to exist there. Sonnenstadt found about 14 grains of gold to the ton of sea-water, or a dollar's worth in less than two tons. As the ocean covers all the lower valleys of the earth, it receives all the drainage from the whole of the exposed land. This drainage is the rain-water that has fallen upon this exposed surface, has flowed down its superficial slopes, or has sunk into porous land, and descended underground. In either case the water must dissolve and carry with it any soluble matter that it meets, the quantity of solid matter which is thus appropriated being proportionate to its solubility and the extent of its exposure to the solvent. Rain when it falls upon the earth is distilled water nearly pure (its small impurities being what it obtains from the air), but river water when it reaches the ocean contains measurable quantities of dissolved mineral and vegetable matter. These small contributions are ever pouring in and ever accumulating. This continual addition of dissolved mineral salts without any corresponding abstraction by evaporation has been going on ever since the surface of the earth has consisted of land and water.

An examination of the composition of other bodies of water which, like the ocean, receive rivers or rivulets, and have no other outlet than that afforded by evaporation, confirms this view. All of these are more or less saline, many of them more so than the ocean itself. On the great table land of Asia "the roof of the world," there is a multitude of small lakes which receive the waters of rivers and rivulets of that region and have no outlet to the ocean. On a map they appear like bags with a string attached, the bag being the lake and the string the river. All these lakes are saline, many of them excessively so, simply because they are ever receiving river water of slight salinity and ever giving off vapor which has no salinity at all. There is no wash through these lakes as in the Great American lakes or those of Constance, Geneva, etc.

The Sea of Aral and the Caspian are lakes without any other outlet than evaporation, and they are saline accordingly. The Dead Sea which receives the Jordan at one end and a multitude of minor rivers and rivulets at its other end and sides, is a noted example of extreme salinity. In it, as every body knows, a sea or lake of brine. The total area of land draining into the great ocean does not exceed one-fourth of its own area, while the Dead Sea receives the drainage and soluble matter of an area above twenty times greater than its own, and thus it fulfills the demand of the above-stated theory by having far greater salinity than has the great ocean.

According to this view, the salinity of the ocean must be steadily, though very slowly, increasing, and there must be slowly proceeding a corresponding adaptation or evolution among its inhabitants, both animal and vegetable. The study of this subject and the effect which the increasing salinity of the past must have had upon the progressive modifications of organic life displayed by fossils is, I think, worthy of more attention than it has hitherto received from paleontologists.

The Largest Military Depot in England.

At Aldershot, which is situated on the confines of Hampshire, Surrey, and Berkshire, and about thirty-five miles from London. It was established in 1855 after the Crimean War, and its accommodation has from time to time been increased and improved. The old huts which were at first erected have mostly disappeared, and will have done so altogether when the improvements and extensions, now in course of construction under the recent Barracks Act at an expenditure of nearly a million and a half sterling, are completed. Fifteen thousand troops were stationed at Aldershot in 1859, and since then 18,000 and upwards have been accommodated, but when the above mentioned works are finished the number of troops at this military depot will range between 25,000 and 30,000 which will include sixteen battalions of infantry in place of the nine hitherto forming the Aldershot establishment, and there will be a corresponding augmentation to the Cavalry, Artillery, Engineers, Army Service, and Medical Staff Corps, and other branches of the army. The second largest military depot is that at Woolwich. The stores there have always material on hand sufficient for the equipment of 10,000 troops at least. The Arsenal covers 350 acres, of which 160 are covered by buildings. When in full operation 18,000 people can be employed in it; and it was first formed in 1720.

As the soil, however rich it may be, cannot be productive without agriculture, so the human soul, without cultivation, cannot bear good fruit.