

THE WEEK'S NEWS.

CANADIAN.

The Bank of Montreal is offering in London one million pounds sterling of four per cent. City of Montreal debentures, repayable in forty years.

It is considered as a settled fact that Mr. Justice Strong has been appointed in succession to Sir William Ritchie as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

There appears to be difficulty in deciding whether Mr. Clarke Wallace and Mr. Wood, the new controllers, shall be attached to the departments of Mr. Foster or Mr. Mackenzie Bowell.

Mr. E. W. McLaughlin, of the Grand Trunk railway, who is at present in Washington, says he finds among Senators and Representatives a very hostile feeling towards Canadian railways.

No confirmation has been received in Montreal of the report that the schedule on Canadian cattle, recently put in force by Great Britain, has been withdrawn.

Mr. J. S. Hall, Provincial Treasurer of Quebec, who is at present in London, denies the rumour to the effect that the province intends borrowing money in the London market or anywhere else.

During a quarrel on a farm near Melita Man., Henry Vaughan fatally stabbed George Randall, and seriously wounded his brother, Arthur Randall. He gave himself up to the police, and claims that the stabbing was done in self-defence.

The navigation returns for the port of Montreal for the past season show a slight increase in shipping. While there has been an increase of only ten vessels in the number of arrivals over last year, the tonnage list shows an increase of 98,050 tons.

The crisis in the farming industry in England is likely to cause a large emigration, and efforts are being made to direct it in the direction of Canada. Sir Charles Tupper has promised to submit to the Ottawa Government any practical scheme for the emigration of farm workers and servants who have drifted from the country into the cities.

The body of a young woman named Teenie Henderson was found at an early hour on Saturday morning lying on the beach at Willow Cove, on the north side of Burlington bay, a short distance from her home. She had left her bed during the night, and, clad in a single garment, had wandered to the water's edge. Death was caused by exposure and exhaustion. It is said that the girl was mentally unsound, a condition to which a broken marriage engagement had materially contributed.

BRITISH.

A company is being formed in London to build a cable to Uganda.

The London Chronicle says the Government has decided practically to introduce Imperial penny postage.

The Lord Mayor of London has been urged to form a special emigration committee to relieve distress in the Metropolis.

The Goldsmiths Company has donated £2,500 to the Guinness trust for the building of industrial dwellings in London.

Prince Ferdinand of Roumania has arrived at Windsor to meet his fiancée Princess Marie, daughter of the Duke of Edinburgh.

The Marquis of Huntly, in a letter to the London Times, believes the agricultural depression in England is mainly due to bad seasons, and that protection would not benefit the farmer.

Mr. Henry Chaplin, who was president of the Board of Agriculture in Lord Salisbury's Cabinet, intends making a motion in the House of Commons declaring in favour of bi-metallism.

The election in the Eastern division of Aberdeen to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Peter Esslemont, Liberal, has resulted in the return of Mr. Thomas R. Buchanan, Liberal.

The English poet, William Watson, who was recently granted £200 from the Royal bounty for writing the best poem on Tennyson, has become insane, and has been committed to a lunatic asylum.

Mr. John Dillon, in an address on Monday, admitted that there is some risk of trouble in Parliament over the Home Rule bill, but it arose rather from dissensions in Ireland than from the condition of the parties in England.

Mr. Balfour, in addressing the Conservative conference at Sheffield, accused the advanced labour party of giving much attention to the distribution of wealth, while utterly neglecting the more important subject of the production of wealth.

Mrs. Maybrick is critically ill in Woking prison. On Wednesday the last sacrament was administered and she made her last confession, swearing that she is innocent of the death of her husband. Her case is being considered at the Home Office.

During three days' shooting on the Earl of Dudley's estate, the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Devonshire, the Earl of Dudley, and five others, killed four thousand head of game. A special cable despatch to The Mail says the leaders of the unemployed intend to make capital of this slaughter in their Tower hill speeches, and will make a demand upon the titled sportsmen that the spoils be divided at once among the starving Londoners.

UNITED STATES.

The delay in filing Jay Gould's will has given rise to the suspicions that it may contain some legal flaw.

The distress arising from the prolonged strike in Homestead is so severe that nearly one thousand persons are in immediate need of food.

James Hill, the coloured boy who is an inmate of the Jamesburg, N. J., Reform school, reached the sixty-fifth day of his fast on Sunday.

Martin J. Burke, one of the men sent to Joliet prison for complicity in the murder of Dr. Cronin in Chicago, died on Friday. An unavailing effort was made to elicit from him a confession.

Mr. James H. Carleton, of Salem, Mass., has purchased the Whittier homestead in Haverhill, which he has conveyed to a Board of Trustees, to be held as a memorial of the poet.

Louis Fardon and Walter Pelter, each seven years of age, were endeavouring to explain the mechanism of a revolver to

Laura Slocum, thirteen years old, at Mt. Clemens, Mich., on Sunday evening. The weapon was accidentally discharged, and the little girl was instantly killed.

The policy of the United States in curtailing the steerage traffic is causing much anxiety to the different Atlantic lines. A special cable says Sir Charles Tupper is pleased, as he thinks it cannot fail to benefit the Dominion.

At Niles, Mich., on Wednesday night, Mary Comely, living alone near the Michigan Central railway yards, was shot at, had her throat cut, and was pounded about the face and head with the butt end of a revolver, by some one who had summoned her to the door of her dwelling for the purpose of killing her. Revenge is supposed to be the motive for the murder.

The French-Canadians in Chicago recently held a mass meeting at which they passed resolutions of confidence in ex-Premier Mercier, a "great man" to whom they look for a solution of the problem of independence and annexation.

American collectors of Customs at all the ports of entry into Canada and Mexico have been instructed, by circular from the United States Treasury Department, to see that the provisions of the Act passed by the Senate on the 16th July last, for the collection of statistics of domestic exports by land carriage, be carried out to the letter.

It is reported in Chicago that in order to counteract the monopoly sought to be established by the Canadian Pacific railway, by securing possession of the Intercolonial railway and the establishment of a fast line of ocean steamers between Halifax and Europe, the Grand Trunk Railway proposes to inaugurate the fastest ocean steamship service in existence between Portland, Me., and European ports.

Mr. John Souci and Miss Florence Compton, of Medina, N. Y., were married without the knowledge of their respective parents, and by a Methodist clergyman. On the following day, in obedience to the wishes of the bride's parents, to whom they had confessed their elopement, they were married by a Presbyterian minister. The parties of the bridegroom, who next received information of the union, insisted upon a marriage service by a Catholic priest, and the young couple went through the ceremony three times in as many days.

GENERAL.

An addition of 3,600 men is to be made to the peace standard of the Austrian army.

Captain Monteil, the French explorer, has arrived at Tripoli after a journey in the Sahara that lasted two years.

A grave crisis is impending in Berlin over the Army bill, and it is thought that Chancellor von Caprivi will have to resign.

A cable has been constructed between Brazil and the coast of Africa, which gives the former country connection with the European system.

The Premier of the North West Territories, Mr. Cayley, has announced his resignation from office.

The heavy snowstorms throughout Hungary have caused the almost entire suspension of railway traffic.

Dr. Siemens, the well-known German electrician, was buried in Berlin on Saturday. Among the floral offerings was a wreath from Thomas A. Edison, inscribed "to my friend."

A special from Brussels states that the Monetary Conference is nearing its end, and that the delegates have lost hope of accomplishing any definite result.

It appears that M. Rouvier, Minister of Finance, was closeted with Baron de Reinach shortly before he committed suicide. When this became known yesterday it created such a sensation that M. Rouvier at once resigned.

The Opium Traffic.

The annual outburst of righteous indignation from the host of well-meaning religious people in Great Britain over the opium question of India and China has taken on an unusual importance this year from the presentation of another side of the case than that usually laid before the public. The opium question, like most others, has two very different sides. A "hideous immorality," it is termed by the English people at home, and by many of the Christian missionaries abroad. But observant and impartial foreigners in India and China, outside of the missionaries, do not so regard it. It is mainly the great religious bodies and the missionaries that so roundly denounce the "curse of opium" and the opium revenue. These enthusiasts received a decided rebuff from the British Government this year, and the people support the action of the Government. It is an undoubted fact that with those who have lived in the East and among Eastern people, the opium question presents itself in a very different light from that in which the misinformed philanthropists at home in Great Britain regard it. Impartial and intelligent observers are pretty well agreed that there is much to excuse, if not actually to commend, in the use of opium among Eastern people. Eastern people, as a people, are not, because they use large quantities of opium, opium fiends, any more than Western people, as a people, are drunkards, because they consume large quantities of alcoholic liquors. The Hindoos and Chinese take a small quantity of opium while at work, just as the English laborer takes his mug of beer during his noon rest or the American farmer his glass of cider, and it is generally held that the coolies do more and better work with their slight dose of opium than without it. A letter printed some time ago in the London Truth, from an Indian official of large experience, tells a new sort of story:

"My work keeps me in the forest from 7 or 8 a. m. till 4 or 5 p. m. daily. I carry with me sandwiches and cold tea, of which I make a meal in the middle of the day. I have from ten to twenty men with me always. Of these the opium eaters take a small piece of opium when I eat, and perhaps once again later in the day. The non-opium eaters take nothing. It is the custom of both classes to eat in the morning only. I find that, taking the men all round, that the opium eaters do the best work. They are as intelligent and as muscular as the others, and less liable to fever."

Mr. Labouchere believes in the conclusions of this impartial observer, and thinks that "if the Hindoos had conquered the English instead of the English the Hindoos, it is more than likely that philanthropic Indian organizations would now be at work pointing out the number of people who drink too much beer of an evening." The London papers are rather more choice

Canada and the United States.

President Benjamin Harrison is very angry. His country has no confidence in him and has said so emphatically. He cannot return the compliment by a similar expression of opinion, for his country is mightier than he. After wearing a crown for four years, and lording it over your own people and bullying your weaker neighbors, it is a little hard to have to return to that state of political nothingness, from which, perhaps, it would have been better had you never emerged. And that is Mr. Harrison's position. After March 4th next, he will be no more in the councils of his nation than the last registered voter. It certainly does seem as if past presidents might be put to some use politically; but that is none of our business. We have to deal with an angry man—a man who, impotent in striking back at those who struck and smothered him, is seeking an outlet for his spleen. In his opinion Canada offers a splendid mark. Perhaps she does and perhaps she doesn't. Anyway she will not have the power to revenge herself on Mr. Harrison for some time to come; but if he ever is nominated for office again voters in the States of Canadian and English origin or descent will see that he receives exactly the same dose as was served out to him on 8th November last. After a little more experience both Republicans and Democrats will recognize that there is a voice in the ballot-box up to date unheeded but is still very powerful. In 1888, Mr. Cleveland was defeated in New York State, his own state. We then expressed the opinion that the English and Canadian voter was the cause of his rejection, he having incurred the enmity of our people by his conduct as regards Minister West, his trucking with the Hibernian Brotherhood and his threats of retaliation. But Harrison out-Clevelanded Cleveland. Almost his first appointment, that of Patrick Egan to the ministry of Chile, revealed an agreement with that gang of outcasts, the Clan na Gael, that nobody would have previously believed could have existed. Then came the McKinley bill and the direct enforcement of retaliation. Surely Mr. Harrison must have known that in a mixed electorate like that of the United States there must be a power that would resent these things, a power also that could not admire the spectacle of the strong coercing the weak. But if he did have the knowledge he failed to profit by it, and the result was ignominious defeat. It is hardly to be wondered at that under such circumstances the wearer of his grandfather's hat should squirm and writhe in agony. We can excuse but not forgive him. The worst of it is that his power for evil, so far as Canada is concerned, has not vanished with his rejection at the polls. He can still issue decrees from Washington that will more or less seriously injure certain of our interests. Will he do it? That he is disposed to do so is amply manifested by extracts from his message to Congress at its opening last week; when among other things he said:

"During the past year a suggestion was received through the British Minister that the Canadian Government would like to confer as to the possibility of enlarging upon terms of mutual advantage the commercial exchanges of Canada and the United States, and a conference was held at Washington, with Mr. Blaine acting for this Government, and the British Minister at this capital and three members of the Dominion Cabinet acting as commissioners on the part of Great Britain. The conference developed the fact that the Canadian Government was only prepared to offer to the United States, in exchange for the concessions asked, the admission of natural products. The statement was frankly made that favored rates could not be given to the United States as against the Mother Country. This admission, which was foreseen, necessarily terminated the conference upon this question. The benefits of an exchange of natural products would be almost wholly with the people of Canada."

If, as we must suppose, the political relations of Canada and the disposition of the Canadian Government are to remain unchanged a somewhat radical revision of our trade relations should, I think, be made. Our relations must be intimate, and they should be friendly. I regret to say, however, that in many of the controversies, notably those as to the fisheries on the Atlantic, the sealing interests on the Pacific, and the canal tolls, our negotiations with Great Britain have continuously been thwarted or retarded by unreasonable and unfriendly objections and protests from Canada. In the matter of the canal tolls, our treaty rights were flagrantly disregarded. It is hardly too much to say that the Canadian Pacific and other railway lines, which parallel our northern boundaries, are sustained by commerce having either its origin or terminus, or both, in the United States, Canadian railroads compete with those of the United States for our traffic, and without the restraints of our Interstate Commerce Act. The cars pass almost without detention into and out of our territory.

It is time for us to consider whether, if the present state of things and trend of things is to continue, our interchanges upon lines of land transportation should not be put upon a different basis, and our entire independence of Canadian canals and of the St. Lawrence as an outlet to the sea secured by the construction of an American canal around the Falls of Niagara and the opening of the ship communication between the great lakes and our own seaports. We should not hesitate to avail ourselves of our great natural trade advantages. We should withdraw the support which is given to the railroad and steamship lines of Canada by a traffic that properly belongs to us, and no longer furnish the earnings which lighten the otherwise crushing weight of the enormous public subsidies that have been given to them.

If Mr. Harrison had adhered to the truth our respect for him might not have been increased by his words, but it would not have been lessened to the degree that it has been; nor would he have become the target for the expressed contempt of the most intelligent newspapers both in his own country and in England. For instance, the Chicago Herald in referring to the message uses such terms as "chagrin and rage," "contemptible document," "folly and mallevence," "wretched taste," "absolute lack of decency," "insulting criticism," "arrant hypocrisy," "disgust and contempt," "not the utterance of a patriot but the frenzied exclamation of a defeated and baffled attorney of the tariff robbers." The London papers are rather more choice

in their language, but they do not hesitate to denounce Mr. Harrison for his course. The Standard says:—"Not every one is privileged to vent his spleen in the form of a state paper. Mr. Harrison's message is not meant to be gracious. The warning to Canada is polite compared with the threat once hurled at Chili, but has flavor nevertheless. There is an unwelcome ambiguity in the reference to the Bohring sea matter. But it matters little what he says. Ichabod is written in every sentence." The Chronicle says:—"Mr. Harrison's tariff remarks remind us of the school-boy maxim, 'If you tell a lie, tell a big 'un and stick to it.'" The Daily News says:—"We need pay no heed to the president's threats." The Morning Post says:—"A perusal of Mr. Harrison's message suggests rather the dogged courage of a gladiator than the foresight of a statesman. It is singularly characteristic of his community that the retiring President finds it is consistent with his position to indulge in a flourish of impotent menace against Canada. The McKinley Act was prompted by the wild logic that exaggerated protection would drive Canada into annexation. The Dominion, as was to be expected, resisted the pressure with contempt."

Great Fortunes.

In the size and number of very great fortunes, no country approaches the United States. Great Britain has, Mr. Goschen said in a speech five years ago, ninety-five persons who have an income of over \$250,000 a year. This is 4 per cent. on \$6,250,000, and implies less than 100 persons of a fortune of this and over in a country where the income tax is closely collected on great fortunes; but there must, judging from various estimates, be in the United States over 100 and perhaps 150 or 200 persons who are receiving 5 per cent. on \$5,000,000 and over. The large fortune in personal property left in England from 1870 to 1880 was Baron L. N. de Rothschild's, of \$13,500,000. In this time there were only thirteen men who left over \$5,000,000; fifty-six who left over \$2,500,000, and 195 who left \$1,250,000. This, it is true, makes no account of real estate, but except in the Astor and Westminster and Bedford estates, the fabulous fortunes of to-day are not in real estate. English fortunes are more largely in realty than those of any other country, and in 1873 sixteen English landholders were estimated to have rent-rolls outside of London of \$175,000 a year or more. Of these, three, the Duke of Northumberland, Earl Derby and Sir J. W. Ramsden were credited with \$800,000 annually; three, the Dukes of Devonshire and Bedford and Sir Lawrence Polk, with \$600,000, and the rest with lesser sums. This list leaves out the Duke of Westminster, a London landholder, and the reduction in English rents in the last twenty years has been at least 25 per cent. When Mr. Rylands, the great Manchester merchant, whose widow has just bought the Spencer library, sold his business fourteen years before his death, it was capitalized at \$10,000,000. Holloway left \$15,000,000 and the owner of Tranby Croft was credited at the time of the Cumming scandal with \$25,000,000, won in the shipping trade; and no English railroad fortune is larger. The average of European fortunes is below that of England and the United States. Prince Schwartzberg, the richest man in Austria, with 170 square miles of territory, was said to have left \$35,000,000 when he died a few years ago. There are two or three noblemen in Germany who own over 100 square miles, but the largest German income is Herr Krupp's, of \$1,080,500, and the next, a little smaller, is the income of the Berlin Rothschild. The Orleans family is said to have a fortune of \$150,000,000, but it is widely divided, though the members of the family own a common tie. If the Orleans were poorer, the chance of seeing one of them on the throne would be better. The Duke of Galliera, a Franco-Italian railway magnate, left \$55,000,000 in France and \$15,000,000 in Italy in the last decade, and this is by far the largest personal fortune mentioned in Latin Europe. Ten years ago M. Leroy Beaulieu, a high authority, estimated that in Paris, with its 2,500,000, only 8,000 persons spent over \$10,000 a year.

In Case of War.

It will surprise many people to hear that if it comes to a test of numerical strength between the triple alliance and a Franco-Russian league, the latter combination is sure to have the better of the struggle for supremacy, notwithstanding the utmost efforts which the Kaiser can put forth to swell the German army. Russia has about 110,000,000 subjects from which to draw recruits and France fully 40,000,000, including a part of her North African possessions. Against the 150,000,000 at the command of the Franco-Russian alliance, the three great powers of Central Europe cannot muster over 50,000,000 in Germany, 42,000,000 in Austro-Hungary, and 30,000,000 in Italy, or 122,000,000 all told. The difference in favor of the dual alliance is fully 28,000,000, and if all the five nations carried to the German and French extreme the principle of universal army service the margin in fighting men would be heavily against the "Dreikund." Evidently the young Emperor of Germany might as well make up his mind to trust to superior quality to counterbalance lack of quantity in maintaining the balance of military power on the side of Germany and her allies. He may safely rely, moreover, upon the chance of obtaining aid, in time of trouble, from Turkey and in extremities, possibly from Great Britain. Whenever Russia and France combine to attack the powers of Central Europe the Sultan can doubtless be trusted to furnish an offset to some of the half-disciplined levies of the Czar.

Recently we referred to the increase of mortgages on farms in Canada. They have increased both in number and in the aggregate amount, but not to one-tenth the extent in comparison that they have increased in the United States, where the Census Bureau reports a remarkable growth of the mortgage indebtedness during the last decade. From 1880 to 1890 the increase in the West was 155 per cent., and in the South 261 per cent. On an average farms encumbered up to 56 per cent. of their assessed value, and town lots up to 65 per cent. Farmers have made improvements with borrowed money, expecting that increased returns would enable them to meet the increased obligations. But the realization has fallen short of the expectations, and consequently mortgages are being reduced at the rate of only three per cent. a year, while new burdens are being assumed at a much greater speed.

English Farmers in Conference.

The National Agricultural Conference, called to direct public attention in an emphatic way to the present grave condition of agricultural affairs, met in London recently. Five hundred delegates from over 250 agricultural associations were present. The Marquis of Huntly and many members of the House of Commons also attended. Hon. James Lowther, M. P., made the opening address. Right Hon. Henry Chaplin moved the adoption of a resolution, declaring that the critical condition of agriculture is a matter of national concern. Loud cheers greeted an allusion to protection as the remedy favored by many persons, but Mr. Chaplin said that any proposal to return to protection, which included a duty upon food, would meet with certain defeat. The resolution, which was very general in its character, its substance being that means should be found for arresting the depression, was adopted.

Mr. Chaplin declared that foreign competition was not the only cause for the fall in prices of agricultural products. The continuous rise in the value of gold was quite as serious a cause. The immediate remedy for that would be a return to bi-metallism, in regard to which, he added, the statement on the subject recently made by Archbishop Walsh was the most convincing ever published. Mr. Chaplin said he earnestly hoped the conference would adopt the principle of bi-metallism.

The Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham suggested the formation of a union of landlords and tenants. He offered to give £2,000 to assist in the formation of such a union. His suggestion was adopted.

William Saunders, a Radical member of Parliament, attempted to denounce protection, but was hooted down. He then attempted to offer an amendment to Mr. Chaplin's resolution, declaring that the fall in prices of agricultural products is the natural result of improved methods of production, but the conference would have none of the amendment and refused to allow it to be put to a vote.

Francis Smith, a member of the London County Council, made a short address, in the course of which he remarked that a return to protection meant a return to barbarity. This statement was greeted with hoots and yells, which were so long continued that Mr. Smith retired to his seat.

Mr. Netheresole, a farmer delegate, proposed a resolution affirming that the unfair competition of untaxed foreign imports with home produce is an injustice that calls for immediate removal, and that, therefore, all competing imports ought to pay a duty not less than the rates and taxes levied on home produce.

Mr. Bear moved as an amendment that the conference defer the question of protection, as it is likely to create divisions, and press forward the questions on which the conference is likely to prove unanimous. Robert Armstrong Yerburch (Conservative), member of Parliament for Chester, seconded Mr. Bear's amendment. He held that the adoption of protection would drive the farmers into two separate camps. Mr. Francis, an advanced Liberal member of Parliament, strongly opposed protection in any form.

Robert Jasper Moore (Liberal Unionist), member of Parliament for the Ludlow division of Shropshire, advocated the placing of a tariff of 10 shillings on imported American wheat. Philip Albert Muntz, a Conservative member of Parliament, contended that all the manufactures and industries of the country are suffering from foreign competition, and he declared that in the interest of all classes he would go the "whole hog" on protection. This expression was greeted with great applause. Several other speakers made addresses in a similar strain.

Mr. Netheresole's resolution was finally adopted by a large majority.

Robert Lacy Everett, a Liberal member of Parliament, moved a resolution, declaring that in the opinion of the conference the continuous fall in prices, which is so injurious to the agricultural interests, is largely due to the appreciation of gold and the fall in exchange between gold and silver, and that the best and most effective remedy would be secured by an agreement on a broad international basis to reopen the mints of the leading nations to the unrestricted coinage of silver and gold. The resolution urged that the British Government be earnestly requested to co-operate with the other Governments represented at the Monetary Conference now sitting in Brussels to secure such an international agreement.

Mr. Everett contended that there had been only a small fall in prices since free trade was established and made a comparison with the prices prevailing during the period preceding the establishment of free trade. He therefore concluded that the fall is not due to free trade, but, he added, the policy of protecting gold had raised the price of that metal 50 per cent. above the value it previously held with regard to silver. Captain Symonds, in seconding Mr. Everett's motion, said it is unfair that the British be exposed to the cheap labor of India and other countries while the Rothschilds are protected to the extent of 50 per cent. on their gold.

Mr. Fowler, a Kentish farmer, moved as an amendment to Mr. Everett's motion that the conference has no faith in any changes in the law regarding the currency as a remedy for agricultural distress. Mr. Fowler's remarks were strongly disapproved by the audience, and several other speakers who supported the amendments met with a bad reception.

Mr. Chaplin closed the debate by declaring that the owners of gold do not approve the motion, because the more gold appreciated the better it is for them. Gold, he added, has appreciated in value since silver was kicked out in 1873, throwing a greater demand on gold. It is a curious coincidence that since 1873 the world has been experiencing a prolonged and serious depression in every industry, for which no other reason could be assigned.

The resolutions were then carried, there being few dissenters.

An apparently absurd report has been published far and wide to the effect that Mr. Gladstone is to be the ex-actor at the opening of the World's Fair in Chicago next May. Even the G.O.M. has not become possessed of the elixir of perpetual life and his 83 years can well be depended upon to prevent his undertaking a journey from London to Chicago next or any other year.