THE WEEK'S NEWS

CANADA.

Woodstock's new opera house was opened the other evening.

The steamer Michigan, which went ashore on Vancouver island, will prove a total loss. The crew were all saved.

Quebec people are talking of having a mass meeting to protest against the removal of the old guns.

Mrs. Orr, an inmate of the House of Industry at Kingston, is 107 years of age and enjoys good health.

Heavy snowfalls, accompanied by high winds and extreme cold, are reported from many points in the North-west.

President Greenshields, in his speech before the Montreal Board of Trade recently spoke strongly in favor of the absolute freedom of Canadian canals.

Mr. Robert Crawford, postmaster at Owen Sound, Ont., while walking along one of the streets of the town the other evening, dropped dead of apoplexy.

Robert McDonald, manager of the Industrial farm, died recently in Woodstock of pneumonia, aged 62 years.

Mr. John Walker, who was accidentally shot by James Stevens at a social party at Deeew Falls, Ont., on Thursday night last, died on Sunday night.

It is feared the Miss Twomey, whose murder in Texas was announced recently was Miss Maggie Twomey, sister of Rev. Father Twomey, of Kingston, Ont.

The Assessment Commissioner for Hamilton, Ont., has prepared a statement which shows that the total value of property in that city which is exempt from taxation is $3,338,600.

The Norton Manufacturing Company, of Hamilton, Ont., on Friday divided among its employes a portion of its year's profits, each man receiving a sum about equal to ten days' pay.

An avalanche of snow fell from the cliff recently at Quebec into Champlain street below. Two boys who were beneath were buried in the snow. A rescuing party dug out both, but one was unconscious when reached.

The Furness line freight steamer, Stockholm City, which it was feared was lost, put in at Halifax with one of her crank shafts broken and her machinery otherwise damaged. She was bound from London to Boston and was 27 days out.

The report of Major-General Herbert, commanding the Canadian militia, is notable for its criticism of the existing militia system. It condemns the present system of providing the men with clothing, and says much of the supplies are of the worst possible description.

Provincial Treasurer Hall has submitted his annual financial statement to the Legislative Assembly at Quebec showing the provincial assets to amount to $16,988,234.71, and the liabilities to $35,629,580.99, an excess of liabilities over assests of $23,641,346.28.

GREAT BRITAIN.

There is a serious depression in the Dundee jute trade.

The poet Swinburne has written an ode concerning the World's Fair, and Prof. Stanford has set the verses to music.

The London Chronicle expresses the belief that the next budget will provide for the payment of all members of the House of Commons.

Sir George Baden-Powell has despatched to Washington Great Britain's reply in the Behring sea case. Sir Charles Russell, Sir Richard Webster and John Rigby assisted in the preparation of the reply.

In the Gooch divorce case the court held that adultery was proved against both Sir Alfred Gooch and his wife, and consequently the petition of the latter, for judicial separation, could not be granted.

The Spurgeon memorial service was held on Sunday in the London Tabernacle, and was attended by an immense congregation. A special despatch says the Rev. Dr. Pierson, formerly of Philadelphia, preached an eloquent sermon, in which he eulogised the dead pastor.

Lord Rosebery informed the Hawaiian Charge d'Affaires that Great Britain was not inclined to interfere at present in the Honolulu difficulty, but that it might be taken for granted that England, France, and Germany would not permit the United States to annex the islands.

UNITED STATES.

Joe Hess, the evangelist, has been stricken with paralysis at his home in Dunkirk, N. Y.

The steamship Umbria has been repaired and sailed from New York for Liverpool on Wednesday.

Mr. Blaine left a will bestowing all his property, valued at $800,000 on Mrs. Blaine making her sole executrix.

It is now estimated that the deep water canal proposed to run from Lake Superior to the Erie would cost at least $500,000,000.

Capt. McCormick, of the Rochester police department, died recently, after a brief illness, aged 55. He was a native of Trenton, Ohio.

The recent heavy snowfall in Chicago has damaged the roof of the Manufacturers' building of the World's Fair to the extent of a hundred thousand dollars.

The managers of the Catholic Chautauqua of the United States have selected a site near Plattsburg, N.Y., for the erection of buildings for the annual meeting.

The New York Legislature Thursday sent to the Governor a bill appropriating $700,000 more for the "completion" of the capitol building, which has already cost over $20,000,000 and 20 years of time.

After a bitter fight that has lasted nine months, and has kept four hundred men out of work most of that time, the strike at the quarries at Stoney Creek, Conn., has practically ended with the return of the granite cutters to work.

The great ice gorge at Cincinnati broke on Tuesday and 100 barges were carried down stream with the rushing water and ice. Fully $100,000 worth of lumber was lost.

Rev. Frank Dewitt Talmage, son of the celebrated Brooklyn clergyman, has accepted a call to become assistant pastor of Olivet Presbyterian church in Philadelphia.

Thomas Callan, of Lowell, Mass., who was sentenced in London five years ago to 15 years' confinement as an alleged dynamiter, has reached Lowell. He was released on ticket of leave.

S. J. Henry and C. J. Bemm, New York, two Pullman palace car porters, pleaded guilty recently at Lockport to the charge of smuggling opium from Toronto out to New York. They were held for the United States Court.

Admiral George E. Belknap, of the United States navy (retired), says the Hawaiian islands are required as an outpost on the Pacific, and the Government should not hesitate to annex them even though it should lead to war.

A Washington despatch says William Wakeman has been appointed commissioner on the part of Canada to act with Richard Rathbone, recently appointed by the United States to settle the fisheries on the great lakes and contiguous waters of Canada.

Notwithstanding Mr. Blaine's well-known wish for a private funeral, the pressure of general opinion was so strong to do marked honour to the dead statesman that his interment in Washington partook of the nature of a public function. The President, the members of his Cabinet, the Superior Court judges, and the foreign Ambassadors were present; the floral tributes were numerous and magnificent, and the streets from the ex-Secretary's residence to the church were lined by respectful thousands of the citizens.

GENERAL.

Thirteen waggons loaded with gold are on their way from Siberia across the Ural mountains to St. Petersburg.

It is stated that the examining magistrate in the Panama canal investigation has found a true bill against Count Ferdinand de Lesseps.

The Chamber of Deputies on Saturday evening passed several clauses of the naval estimates providing for an increase in the number of French ships of war.

A disastrous coal gas explosion has occurred in the Skalis pit, near Gratz, in Styria. Five miners were killed and 10 injured.

The British corvette Garnett, mounting fourteen guns, on her way to Honolulu, has been ordered to remain at that port until the present troubles are over.

It is thought probable that the French Government will make an enquiry into the so-called Orleanist plot against the Republic with a view to exiling the rest of the Orleanist leaders before the elections.

According to a New Zealand newspaper agricultural implements manufactured in Canada can be purchased in Australia for lower figures than they are sold at in the country in which they were made.

The island of Zante, in the Grecian archipelago, was shaken seriously by an earthquake recently. In the town of the same name many buildings were wrecked and many dead bodies have been found in the ruins.

Paris fashion makers have decreed that long narrow waists and full skirts are the coming style, and that for little girls the loose blouse must yield to tight-fitting frocks with a well defined waist.

Much alarm is felt among the friends of the passengers of the City of Pekin, which was due from Hong Kong and Yokohama at San Francisco last Tuesday and has not yet been reported.

It is stated that during the recent visit of the Czarewitch to Berlin all the cordiality was on the part of the Emperor, who was very effusive, while the heir to the Russian throne was cold and unresponsive.

A rescue party succeeded in saving the lives of fifty-seven of the men confined in the burning mine in Hungary, but the fire spread with such rapidity as to preclude all hope of saving the remainder of the unfortunate men.

The Budget Committee of the German Reichstag is rapidly voting new credits for the navy under the impulse of Chancellor von Caprivi's declaration that there is danger of coalition of the fleets of France, Russia, and Denmark.

At a meeting of the French Cabinet on Saturday the Minister of Foreign Affairs announced that the Dominion of Canada had reduced the duties on French wines in exchange for the concession by France of the minimum tariff on certain articles of Canadian production.

Mr. and Mrs. John A. Miller, of Toronto who were arrested at Niagara Falls on Thursday, charged with smuggling sealskins and diamonds, were arraigned before a commissioner of the United States on Friday, and pleaded not guilty. They were admitted to bail.

According to recent information received in San Francisco, a revolution headed by foreigners, presumably Americans, had broken out in Honolulu; the Queen, after a feeble resistance, had retired to her country residence, and a Committee of Public Safety was formed, of which commissioners were sent to the United States to request the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands to that country. The revolution appears to have been a bloodless one.

Business Maxims.

System foresees every possibility.

System provides for every emergency.

System prevents the conflict of energy.

System inspires generous confidence.

System obviates the necessity of friction.

System requires cheerful obedience.

System diminishes care.

System's general does not corporal's duty.

System takes brains, expands brains and relieves brains.

System is a good thing to have in the establishment.

Experience is common sense well trained,

It don't pay to misrepresent in selling.

There are no wild, weird mysteries in business.

Keeping nothing back inspires confidence.

An Unpardonable Sin.

First Village Boy (with sled)—"Old Mrs. Muggins has to go to th' poor-house. Why don't the folks around town take care of her."

Second Village Boy—"Mebby when every body was children she put ashes on the hill."

WALRUS HUNTING.

A Charge of These Polar Tuskers as Terrible to Witness.

A member of the Peary relief expedition, says it is doubtful whether there exists a more exhilarating sport than fighting the walrus. In tiger-hunting you kill your prey—if he does not kill you first—and that ends it. In walrus hunting you kill your prey and then your trouble begins. It is easy enough to shoot your first walrus. He will lie on an ice cake along with his companions and allow you to come within a hundred feet, if you approach gently in a small-boat. Then, raising his superb head until it offers the best possible target for your bullets, he will regard you in silence, and you can plant a shot in his vulnerable neck, off-hand. Then there will be flops on many neighboring ice floes, and flashes in the water, and loud, hoarse barkings will ring out, and in a moment you will see something that will make your heart jump, even though you be experienced in danger.

In all hunting you will not see a more terrible nor a more magnificent bit of action than the charge of a herd of walrus. When one of them is wounded they collect in groups of twenty or thirty.

Their large circular eyes, bright red in the sunlight, glare with hatred; their long, white tusks gleam fiercely, and, lifting their great heads high out of the water, dashing the foam away from their breasts with their swift motion, they rush upon you in a mass. If one gets his tusks over the gunwale of your boat your life is worth exceedingly little. A walrus weighs nearly a ton, and he is as strong in proportion. He may either tip your boat over or punch a hole through it with his tusks; in either case you would fall into water so cold that you would not be able to survive five minutes, even if the walrus did not attack you.

Flight from the charge is impossible; the walrus can rush through the water much faster than you can row. Your only safe course is to shoot the leaders of the herd. Then the rest are encumbered by the helpless bodies of their comrades lying upon the water; the charge is broken; the walrus become confused and frightened.

There is a mass of heads wildly bobbing up for a moment, and then they halt, turn with one accord and flee.

That is their method of fighting when they are assembled in numbers. When only two or three are gathered together they lack the confidence for a charge, but they pursue tactics that are just as exciting to those against whom their fire is kindled. They lift up their heads afar off, and gauge the distance between themselves and your boat. Then they dive with much ungraceful exhibition of a black back and flopping of broad hind flippers. The interval during which they are under water is not pleasant for you. Fortunately they do not often calculate their distance perfectly. Usually a great black head appears ten or fifteen feet away from you.

And you must be quite ready to shoot it with great promptness or it will disappear again and in a moment you will feel a scraping upon the bottom of your boat and it will begin to rise bodily out of the water. That incident happened to us in our first walrus fight. Fortunately the walrus changed his mind about tipping the boat over and contented himself with raising one end of it on high and sliding out from under it. For his pains he was instantly shot and harpooned. I think there is no one who was in the boat will soon forget his sensations as it began slowly to rise out of the water.

We had five walrus hunts, and every member of our party, I think, brought on board the Kite at least one walrus head to his own rifle. Of all the five the most interesting was perhaps, one which occurred an hour or so after the first fight was over and while the two walrus that we had captured were being skinned and skeletonized for the Academy of Natural Sciences. Two of the members of the party had been in the first fight without rifles, and they were eager for a shot at a walrus. Therefore, when a black body was sighted upon an ice floe, these men promptly took the small boat and, with one of the ship's crew, started off after the animal.

Threading their way among the countless small floes that are thrown off from the edge of the main pack and upon which the walrus lie, they came to the spot where the black thing had been seen. But there was no black thing there; it had been, not a walrus, but a seal, and seals are wary. Three more disappointed men Greenland did not contain. They held a council; should they go back to the ship or not? A fog was coming up, forming a gloomy background to one huge berg of a ghastly white hue that was aground near by.

Fogs are even more dangerous in Greenland waters than elsewhere, for the echoes from the ice make it impossible to follow a distant signal. A sudden noise decided the hunters; there was an unmistakable walrus bark over by the berg. Silently but swiftly the sailor skulled the boat toward a dark spot that now was visible on a floe. As the impartial person of the three, he was to give the word to fire. The walrus raised his head, the word was given and the three shots rang out together. Nothing could have been neater. The walrus dropped instantly and lay dead upon the ice pan.

Usually the slain animals slide from the ice and then you must harpoon them at once or they will sink. To tow it to the ship would be impossible, for young ice was forming a quarter of an inch thick, and it was hard work to send the boat through without half a ton of extra weight dragging astern. The sailor solved a problem by taking up an ax that lay in the boat to be used in rebuking such walrus as should impertinently put their tusks over the gunwale, and cutting off the animal's head. That was a trophy for one man. The hunters wanted one apiece. There were more walrus on cakes ahead, but there were also more gathering in the water to avenge the death and decapitation of their friend.

They were swimming about in twos and threes and stretching their long necks high out of the water to see where the foe was lying. The prospect looked ticklish. But gradually the men worked the boat within range of a floe upon which two great bodies were lying. One, a magnificent gray fellow, raised his huge head. It was too much, the sailor sculled rapidly around into a good position, gave the word, the reports rang out, the walrus fell, then rose. Two more shots and he lay helpless on the ice. His companions disappeared, as they usually do at the first discharge of a rifle.

The men bent to the oars. As they drew near the floe they saw two helpless baby walrus lying by the side of their dead father on the ice. At that moment there rose over the opposite edge of the ice the head and shoulders of the mother walrus. In the teeth of the approaching boat she advanced, took her offspring upon her shoulders and swam away. For her devotion she was allowed to go unharmed.

Meanwhile the sailor had made ready his ax and as the boat was laid alongside the floe he sprang on the ice. He had never seen the walrus before, and he did not wonder, as did his companions, at the absence of the herd. Suddenly one of the hunters exclaimed:

"There they come!"

The sailor made one leap from the floe to the boat.

"Take the oars, take the oars!" he exclaimed. "For the love of the saints, let's get out. We're all dead men."

"Nonsense," replied one of the hunters, "you get back on the floe and cut off the brute's head and we'll keep off the rest. Be quick as you can, though."

Forthwith there ensued a lively five minutes. Sharp reports of the rifles, heavy blows of the ax, blowing of the walrus, splashing of water, as the brutes plunged about—finally a scramble, a leap, and the sailor was sculling the boat away from that ice floe for dear life and there were two trophies to be taken back to the Kite. The walrus did not pursue the little craft. They appeared to be content with the retreat of the invaders.

There is an important lesson in the fact that another of the leading railroad companies of the United States has discharged all men of intemperate habits in its service, and announced that it will not hereafter give employment to such persons in any capacity. This rule is observed to a considerable extent on both our great Canadian roads, the Grand Trunk and the Canadian Pacific, particularly with reference to employees engaged in the operation of trains; and the time is rapidly coming when sobriety will be generally insisted upon as a condition of securing any kind of a position in the railroad business. This is not because the railroad corporations are devoted to the conservation and promotion of moral interests as such, but because they find it most advantageous to have their work done entirely by men who abstain from the use of liquors. Experience has shown them that employees who are given to "fanning the flame of friendship with the wing of conviviality" can not be depended upon for the correct and thorough performance of duty; and thus a practical reason of conclusive force, apart from all considerations of principle and sentiment, is furnished for preferring persons of different tastes and tendencies. The habitual drinker may be a man of intelligence and integrity, and yet not be trustworthy in relations and contingencies of serious moment. He is not the master of his faculties, but is at the mercy, more or less, of an insidious and demoralizing influence.

It is not the railroad corporations alone that are adopting the practice of discrimination against men inclined to dissipation. There is a general drift in that direction in all forms of business. It is not easy for a man to get employment anywhere without giving satisfactory assurances of temperate habits. That has come to be one of the best recommendations that he can bring; and in its absence, other qualifications do not count as he thinks they should. The records of defalcation, of costly negligence and of annoying mistakes are largely traceable to the frequenting of saloons, and employers understand the fact so well that they are constantly on their guard against the danger which it represents. They may not be temperance men in the strict meaning of the term; but they have learned that it is necessary to have sober men in their service if they expect their affairs to prosper. There was a time when the drinking fault was tolerated in employes so long as they seemed to be industrious and faithful; but nowadays it is looked upon with disfavor, no matter how many attendant virtues may plead for its extenuation. A great change has been gradually taking place in the views of all business men upon the subject of tippling, not because of the appeals of the temperance apostles to their consciences, but by reason of what they have observed in their daily transactions. They look at the matter in the light of self-interest, and their good sense tells them that sober employes are not only most desirable, but really indispensable.

The lesson is one that young men can not afford to disregard. It is to the effect that sobriety, like honesty, is the best policy, considered merely in a material aspect and without reference to any higher motive or interest. If they wish to obtain steady and lucrative employment, with chances of promotion and pronounced success, they must keep away from the saloons and establish a reputation for temperate habits. They may not see any harm in what is called moderate drinking, but other people do, and those other people include the employers whose good opinion is a source of direct and positive benefit. It is a great mistake to suppose that the best situations can be secured or retained by men who are known to be addicted to the use of liquor even in a casual way. Total abstinence is the only wise and profitable practice in the case, and no man is able to do the best for himself by any other. It is one of the recognized tests of fitness for places of trust and responsibility. The prizes in busines are not for the dissipated, however bright and energetic they may be, but for those who resolutely shun even the appearance of a fondness for strong drink. It pays to be sober, in short, and that is an argument of practical force which is unanswerable by any sort of reasoning. The moralists are not always listened to when they talk of the evils of intemperance, because they are too apt to dwell upon the emotional features of the matter and to overlook those of a more rational and effective nature. There can be no doubt about the fact that sobriety is a surpassing advantage from a pecuniary point of view; and thus the logic of business is in reality one of the strongest influences in favor of the temperance cause.

Hard Water.

Aunt Jane—"Is the water where you live now soft or hard?"

Wee Niece—"I guess it's pretty hard. The girl spattered some on th' lamp-chimney the other night, an' it broke all to pieces."

Scales are now made that will weigh the flame of a candle or the smallest hair plucked from the eyebrow.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Laplanders are known to skate one hundred and fifty miles a day.

A combined mucilage-holder and lead pencil has been invented.

A car has been so constructed that twelve horses can be hauled on first-class trains.

An electric incubator, with an automati regulator. has been invented at a saving of thirty per cent in fuel.

A London paper says that penny postage is to be adopted throughout the British Empire.

A pear tree planted by Governor Endicott in Massachusetts, in 1680, still lives and bears fruit.

An insect in Italy makes masks for itself, out of lichen from the rocks, to deceive the birds.

A plant in the Phillippine islands bears a flower one yard wide, weighing twenty-two pounds.

A clock in Brussels is wound by the sun, and never runs down unless the weather is extremely cloudy.

The harnesses, trappings inclusive, on Queen Victoria's horses, weigh one hundred and fifty-five pounds apiece.

The telegraph poles in some parts of Norway are constantly watched to prevent bears from climbing and breaking the cross-beams on which they delight to sit.

The three governesses of the Countess of Spain, teaching English, Austrian, and Spanish, receive four thousand dollars apiece annually, and a home in the royal household.

An African king has recently given Queen Victoria an ostrich, the largest specimen ever seen in Europe. It was ridden six hundred miles before reaching the place of shipment.

The Columbia river yields from one to two dollars a day in gold to the Chinamen, who take great care in washing the sands, while the white men rarely succeed as the gold is so fine.

The Panama Canal has brought trouble to many a public man of France, money having been freely used in the purchase of influence.

A protrait of the Empress of Germany is to be hung in every barrack-room of the empire, by order of the Emperor, that none may fail to recognize her.

Jay Gould's personal estate, estimated at seventy millions, was left to his children in such a way that the state tax will amount to $750,000 annually. It was left in trust.

The London County Council have decided to own and operate nineteen and one-half miles of street railway, which at present pays eight and one-half per cent; it is announced that they hope soon to establish a universal penny fare.

Lord Rosebery is a praiseworthy landlord of England, in that he supplies newspapers and agricultural journals to his workmen, and gives pensions to the widows and aged on the estate.

In the village of Cogolate, about fifteen miles from Genoa, is an ancient structure with the following inscription: "Traveler, stop at this place. It was here that Columbus, the greatest man in the world, first saw the light; here in this humble house! There was one world, this man spoke, and there were two."

SUFFERING AT SEA.

Three Sailors Rescued From a Norwegian Ship—They Killed and Devoured One of Their Companions.

A despatch from Hamburg says:—The three seamen from the Norwegian ship Thekla, who were rescued and were landed here by the Danish barque Herman, were rendered insane by their sufferings in the rigging of the foundering vessel. Two of them recovered sufficiently to tell the story of Thekla's voyage. She was in heavy weather, they say, from December 2nd, when she left Philadelphia. Her decks were flooded almost constantly. The deck houses and rails were swept away, and the steering apparatus was broken. Then, when it was found that there was no hope of bringing the ship into port, the master mate, and eight members of the crew got away in a boat. The other boats had been smashed by the waves before they could be lowered. Nine men were obliged to remain in the rigging. They were unable to get food from below, and five of them made insane by exposure and privation, jumped overboard. The other four remained aboard from December 22nd till January 7th, the day of the rescue. On the thirteenth day lots were drawn to determine who of the four should be killed and eaten. The lot fell twice in succession to a Dutch sailor and he was strangled and devoured raw by the other three. The only drinking water the seamen got was the dew they licked from the ropes.

ODDS AND ENDS.

Paper quilts are used in Europe.

The first Sunday paper appeared in London in 1788.

Stem-winding watches were invented by Noel in 1851.

Laplanders are known to skate 150 miles a day.

A diamond for cutting glass lasts about three months.

The London Museum contains the first envelope ever made.

The price of ivory billiard balls has doubled in fifteen years.

There are only eleven wooden vessels o the old style in active service in the United States navy.

The plantinum beds in the Ural Mountains are the only ones in the world in which that metal is found in grains. In several places it is to be found in the hard serpentine rock, but only in the Ural in grains.

To guard against poisoning, a law has been passed in Germany that all drugs intended for internal use must be put in round bottles, and those which are only used externally must be placed in hexagonal bottles.

Not His Fault.

Teacher—"What made you late at school this morning?"

Boy—"Our new girl."

Teacher—"Did she have breakfast late?"

Boy—"No'm, but she shut th' kitchen door, an' I couldn't smell the buckwheat cakes."