THE WEEK'S NEWS

CANADIAN.

The tender of the B.N.A. Bank for the loan of $100,000 to Kingston has been accepted.

The ice bridge at Niagara Falls remains undisturbed, and visitors still throng the great cataract.

Large petitions were presented at Ottawa from Toronto and Hamilton, praying for the grouping of constituencies and the establishment of cumulative voting.

Mr. Major Spriggs, verger of St. George's cathedral, Kingston, Ont., died suddenly from apoplexy upon his return home from the closing meeting of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew on Saturday.

Mr. Robert Larmour, formerly of the Grand Trunk, has been appointed superintendent of the London and Port Stanley railway under the new lessees.

Rev. Jas. Allan, M. A., of the Centenary church, Hamilton, is considering a call from the Metropolitan church, Toronto.

The brigantine Edith is ashore at Fax-point, ten miles east of Halifax. There are seven men on board, and it is feared the vessel may go to pieces before the crew can be rescued.

Charles Patterson, the Woodstock youth who was arrested at Niagara Falls charged with stealing $100 from Hyacinthe Latremouille, the Hamilton boy, who stole some $700 from the Express Company, has been allowed to go home under suspended sentence.

Several tons of brick and stone fell upon half a dozen workmen at the ruins of the Rolland fire in Montreal. Two married men, named Theriault and Lacourt, were instantly killed, and one named Giroux was fatally injured.

Mr. Angers, Minister of Agriculture, admits that the United States' order scheduling Canadian cattle is a serious blow to the farmers. He hopes, however, that England will soon raise her embargo against this country.

Senator Boulton has given notice of a resolution to the effect that the charter of the Canadian Pacific railway authorizing the construction of its connection through the State of Maine should be cancelled, as it would be a cause of irritation to the United States, and would tend to divert Canadian traffic.

The heavy and increasing demand upon the products of the cotton mills in Montreal and its neighbourhood has compelled the companies to consider additions to their buildings and machinery. There is a present demand, also, for stock in the several companies, as investors believe that prices will advance with time.

BRITISH.

The Government of New Zealand has telegraphed the Marquis of Ripon, strongly protesting against the annexation by the United States of the Sandwhich Islands.

The London Chronicle says that Canada's desire for annexation is less now than it was when Sir John Abbott so petulantly signed the famed manifesto in Montreal in 1849.

The London Financial Times says the loyalty of Canada to the Empire will be greatly stimulated by the introduction of the Cummings bill at Washington.

Macmillan's Magazine says there is no jealous desire upon the part of England to retain Canada within the Empire if she does not wish to remain. There is no similarity in the cases of Canada and Ireland.

Mr. Labouchere's speech on the address in the House of Commons on Friday night on the Government's foreign policy did not please his Radical friends, while Mr. Gladstone administered a snub which tickled the Unionists.

A despatch has been received at the Foreign Office in London from Lord Cromer, the British Minister to Egypt, stating that the condition of affairs in that country may compel the landing of all the British troops ordered from England.

The English Conservatives won a signal victory on Saturday by capturing Huddersfield, which went Liberal in 1885, 1886, and in 1892. The Conservative candidate won by thirty votes.

Lord Salisbury, in a speech delivered on Saturday on the occasion of opening the Liverpool electric railway, said that a tariff on corn was absolutely outside of the dreams of any politician.

UNITED STATES.

The United States has ratified the Russian extradition treaty with amendments.

Western Pennsylvania is in danger of a flood.

The steamer La Gascogne, on Saturday, from New York, took out $2,500,000 gold.

North and South Dakota and Western Minnesota are experiencing the worst blizzard of the winter.

A mad dog ran amuck in Chicago on Saturday night and bit five persons before the police killed it.

Three feet of snow having fallen in Seattle and neighborhood, the people now fear a flood when the thaw comes.

Despatches of yesterday state that the Indian troubles at the Pine Ridge Agency were greatly exaggerated in the reports sent out.

A bill has been introduced in the Minnesota House of Representatives prohibiting the manufacture or use of hoopskirts within the borders of the State.

John W. Louterbach, an importer of New York, jumped from a window in the fifth floor of 103 Reade street on Saturday and was instantly killed. Business troubles are said to have been the cause of the act.

Ira N. Terrill, ex-Speaker of the Oklahoma Legislature, who murdered George Embree because the latter testified against him in a land suit, has been sentenced to penitentiary for life.

While searching in a blizzard on Friday for his missing daughter, Henry Graham, of Harrison, Mich., perished almost within reach of his own door. The girl has not been found.

In the Judith cattle country of Montana last week the mercury hovered between 60 and 50 below zero for several days and cattle suffered severely.

The ice gorge in the beaver river at Rock plant, Pa., broke the other day, and in running out washed out a mile of the Pittsburg and Lake Erie railroad, carried away telegraph lines and compelled all the factories along the river to shut down. Freeport, on the Alegheany river, suffers from an inundation. Boats and much lumber have been destroyed.

GENERAL.

Cholera still prevails in the suburbs of St. Petersburg.

It is reported that 50 persons in Marseilles, France, have died within the last four days from a disease resembling cholera.

It is reported that a riot lasting two days has taken place at Bogota, Panama, and that 100 men were killed and 500 wounded.

Dr. Cornelius Herz, who is wanted in Paris in connection with the Panama scandal, has grown worse of fever, and is now very much depressed.

The French Government has voluntarily removed the duties on all classes of Canadian agricultural products entering at St. Pierre and Miquelon Islands.

The German Generals who have been beating the war drum so vigorously on behalf of the Army bill have been silenced, lest their bellicose utterances should offend Russia.

It is stated that the relations between Germany and Russia, partly as a result of the recent visit of the Czarewitch, have become very friendly.

It is probable that Germany would support an American protectorate over Hawaii on condition that Germany receive some compensation in Samoa.

It is reported that Gen. von Warder, German Ambassador at St. Petersburg, has received positive assurances from the Czar that the Russian squadron will not visit France this summer. A special cable despatch says this is the concession of the Czar to the friendly feelings manifested in Berlin towards Russia during the visit of the Czarewitch. The general opinion in St. Petersburg is that Russia is about to sever her alliance with France, and ally herself with Germany and Austria.

The Protestant Episcopal Church.

A census bulletin giving statistics relating to the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States shows that the numerical strength of that denomination is chiefly centered in the Atlantic States, from Virginia to Massachusetts. Over half of all its communicants are found in New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Connecticut, which States contain only about 20 per cent. of the population of the entire country. Connecticut has not much over one-fifth as many inhabitants as Ohio, but it contains about 50 per cent. more Episcopalians than there are in that State. Maryland has more communicants of the Protestant Episcopal Church than dwell in Illinois, and Virginia leads Missouri more than two to one. Rhode Island, with about one-fourth as many inhabitants as Kansas, has nearly three times as many Episcopalians, and little Delaware contains half as many as live in Indiana. This denomination is emphatically and peculiarly urban. It is weak in States where a comparatively small share of the population lives in large towns, and it flourishes most in great cities. For example, over half of the Episcopalians in Illinois are found in Chicago, although that city, not counting foreigners of nationalities which contribute very little to the membership of the Episcopal Church, does not contain one-fifth of the population of the State in which it is situated. In like manner over 50 per cent. of the Episcopalians in Kentucky are found in Louisville, which has less than 10 per cent. of the population of that State. New Orleans contains more members of the Protestant Episcopal Church than all the rest of Louisiana. St. Louis is the great stronghold of the denomination in Missouri, Detroit in Michigan, and Cleveland and Cincinnati in Ohio. More than half of the Episcopalians in Pennsylvania are found among the 20 per cent. of its people who live in Philadelphia. It is the same everywhere, and in spite of the fact, often commented upon, that the Christian churches flourish most, in proportion to the population, in villages and rural districts, the Protestant Episcopal denomination thrives best in large cities. The high rate of growth in these centers of population, between 1880 and 1890, is doubtless the principal reason why hardly any other religious body in the United States made such a proportionate growth in that decade, as the Protestant Episcopal Church.

A Pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

A very considerable body of English church people are preparing to set out upon a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. There are, in these times, more pilgrims to Jerusalem from Russia than from any other country of Christendom. The devoutness, the passionate devotion of these pilgrims of the ancient Greek rite when visiting the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and other sacred places of Christianity is not surpassed by that of the pilgrims of any other rite, and the manifestations of it are marvellous to behold. So large has been the number of Russian pilgrims to Jerusalem in recent times that the Czar's Government has been compelled to exercise some supervision of the pilgrimages, and it will not permit pilgrims to leave any Russian seaport on the way to Jerusalem unless they are provided with return tickets. Many of the Englishmen and some of the Americans whom one encounters in Palestine are there as curiosity hunters, or archæologists, or literary jobbers, or gobemouches, or globe trotters. The Russians whom one meets there are devotees, pious pilgrims to the places that are hallowed because Jesus Christ lived and suffered there; and their faith and awe while at these places seem to be not less absorbing or intense than the faith and awe of the Roman Catholic pilgrims who are always to be seen there.

Looking to the possible return of cholera in the spring, and the entrance of other contagious diseases which have already appeared on our far southern borders, we would advise citizens not to abate their attention to good sanitary conditions. At the present time disease germs are dormant because of the cold weather, but in the frozen streets, gutters, catch-basins and waste-pipes millions of the tiny germs are imprisoned, and await only milder temperature to be set free. All possible precaution should be taken to purify houses by use of disinfectants; to air them in spite of the low temperature, for cold air is not necessarily pure air; to inspect the food—frozen food being sometimes in a bad state of decay—and to keep the gutters and catch-basins cleared as well as possible, in order to carry off the slush and filth that are sure to come upon the heels of a thaw.

OFF THE LABRADOR COAST.

Mr. Nielsen's Study of Sea Temperatures and Cod Habitat.

A Voyage Which May Mean Considerable for Newfoundland—General News of the Island.

A correspondent writes from St. John's Newfoundland as follows.—For the first time Mr. Nielsen, our able and indefatigable superintendent of fisheries, was able to visit Labrador in the fall of last year, after the close of the hatching season at Dildo. It was but a flying visit, so that his opportunities of investigating the fish and fisheries along that immense coast were limited. He was able, however, to make a beginning, and to collect no inconsiderable amount of valuable information which can be turned to practical account. A thorough scientific study of fish-life, together with the physics of the sea, along the Labrador coast, would be a work requiring years for its accomplishments, but its importance could hardly be over-rated. During his brief visit Mr. Nielsen was the guest of Dr. Grenfell, on board the mission ship *Albert*, having received from the gentleman a courteous invitation to accompany him. He was of course dependent on the movements of the *Albert* for such opportunities of investigations as he met with; but Dr. Grenfell did all in his power to aid him in the work which he had in hand. Mr. Nielsen has embodied the results of his explorations in a report to the fisheries commission which will be shortly published, and will be read, with much interest. Meantime I am enabled to indicate briefly some of the more important points of his report.

TEMPERATURE OF THE SEA—SINGULAR PHENOMENA.

The first thing which attracted his attention was the very low ranges of the temperature of the waters along the Labrador coast, which do not exceed 46½ degrees on the surface, even in the warmest days of summer. The Arctic current seems to throw its cold waters with full force against the shores, as well as to a great distance out to sea, in deeper regions along the bottom. Another singular fact presented itself—namely, that in several places along the coast there were found to be colder and warmer layers of water, of various extent, between the lower and upper strata of the sea. For instance,—in one case the temperature at the bottom, in 90 fathoms, was found to be at the low point of 29½ degrees, but it rose gradually to 34° 7, and in 60 fathoms depth a layer of ice-cold water was struck having a temperature of 30° 5, and this extended to 30 fathoms from the surface where the water again attained the temperature of 34°, and gradually became warmer as the surface was approached. In another case at a depth of 110 fathoms the temperature was 31° 7, but at 100 fathoms it was raised to 36°, and at 80 fathoms it again dropped to 31°, which degree of coldness it kept all the way up until it reached 15 fathoms below the surface, when it gradually became warmer again. Thus there are alternate layers of warm and cold water; 10 fathoms from the bottom the water is warm enough for codfish to live in, while below it is a 10 fathom deep layer and above is a 65 fathom deep layer containing ice-cold water in which cod would perish after a time, and this upper layer is even colder than the one close to the bottom.

QUESTIONS RAISED.

It is a puzzling question when we ask whence come these alternate layers of temperate and ice-cold water? Mr. Nielsen thinks the cold layer is accounted for by the action of the ice and the Arctic current, the potent elements which here control the climatic condition of the waters. The origin of the warm layers is much more difficult to explain—Are there warm springs of water coming up from the bottom? Or, contrary to received beliefs, does the Gulf stream throw out a northern branch? Or does a warm current come down from the north? Or, lastly, do waters at the bottom, where codfish resort, get heated by fresh waters of rivers which have been warmed by the sun and are poured into the sea? Elaborate investigations extending over years would be required to solve such questions. The facts, however, remain, and are established by careful observations.

CODFISH FOUND FAR NORTH.

Another interesting fact is that codfish are found to the extreme north of Labrador, on a coast which is surrounded with heavy ice almost all the year round, and where it might have been thought that no fish could exist unless some unknown submarine power is at work to raise the temperature of the waters. Our fishermen are plying their avocations farther and farther north every year and the higher the latitude reached the more abundantly they find the fish. More than in any other region, the resort and movements of cod, herring and caplin are determined by the meteorological condition of the waters.

USE OF DEEP SEA THERMOMETERS.

Hence it follows that a knowledge of the climatic conditions of the waters is of the last importance to the fishermen who resort to these waters. Mr. Neilsen is of opinion that large numbers of industrious and skilful fishermen often lose their whole summer's voyage and waste their time by remaining in localities where they would not think of attempting to fish if they were provided with deep sea thermometers and understood how to use them. These instruments would at once indicate when the condition of the waters was unfavorable for fishing, the temperature being such that no fish would resort to them; and fishermen would thus be warned to move to more favorable localities. The use of this instrument, however, is unknown among our fishermen. "The meteorological condition of waters," says Mr. Neilsen, "has a most important influence on the habits and movements of the fish and bait, and is a factor that should never be neglected in the prosecution of the fisheries on the Labrador coast. I feel therefore certain that the use of the deep sea thermometers would be of the greatest advantage in finding and locating fish, if once the fishermen had learned where and how to use them and had by experience obtained a knowledge of the habits and movements of the cod in waters of various temperatures in the different localities on this coast."

FISH AND TEMPERATURE.

In support of this opinion Mr. Nielsen cites his own experience on Labrador. After becoming acquainted with the conditions under which fish were found most plentiful, he could at least tell the fishermen who took him around to their fishing grounds, where they were likely to get fish, and where they would not, by dropping his instruments down to the bottom and thus ascertaining the condition of the waters. In these predictions he rarely failed. He always found the cod most plentiful near a hilly and uneven bottom with an abundant vegetation, where a rotatory current existed, and where the temperature of the water at the bottom ranged from 36° to 39° and the specific gravity was from 1.0260 to 1.0270. In waters of a temperature below 35°, a few cod may occasionally be caught, but these are only fish passing through these cold regions, in order to get into more agreeable waters, for they do not resort to localities having a low temperature. In the Lofoden fisheries (Norway) the fishermen are trained to use deep sea thermometers which are found to be of great service in ascertaining the habitat of the fish. It is ascertained there that the most successful fisheries are carried on in localities where favorable temperatures are found.

CODFISH—THEIR POWER OF RESISTING COLD.

The nature of the codfish varies in different countries, in regard to their power of resisting cold. At the Lofoden Islands, cod would not be found in as low a temperature as on the coast of Labrador. The effects of the gulf stream are felt at Lofoden in raising the temperature, and the fish get accustomed to it so that if suddenly removed to Labrador colder waters they would be very uncomfortable and probably would not live. At Dildo hatchery, Newfoundland, Mr. Nielsen found that the cod kept in wells to which the sea water had free access, were perfectly healthy as long as the temperature did not fall below 34°; but that as soon as a lower temperature was reached the fish became drowsy and would not feed, and at 28° they perished quickly by cold. On Labrador, codfish are often seen in a drowsy, stunned condition by cold, and when in that state they will not take bait of any kind. The cod picked up dead in these cold waters, are found when opened to have lumps of ice in their stomachs. This is caused by the fluid contained in their stomachs freezing after they are dead, and not, as the fishermen believe, from their eating ice.

CURE OF CODFISH ON LABRADOR.

Mr. Nielsen's report contains some very important remarks on the methods of curing codfish on Labrador. He condemns the system in the strongest terms. He found that, with the exception of a few places, the fish are cured in a most slovenly careless manner, which is injurious to the trade and if not reformed, must prove ruinous. Its value in foreign markets is thus seriously depreciated. "The handling, splitting, washing and drying of the fish, in most places, is bad." When he remonstrated with the fishermen and pointed out the injury they were thus doing to themselves and the trade, their reply was that they got as good a price for the ill-cured as for the properly cured fish; that the suppliers made no distinction; and that as long as they got as much for the worst cured as for the best, they had no object in spending time and labor in curing the fish in a superior way. They knew how to handle and cure fish as it should be treated, and would be glad to do so if only a distinction between good and bad were remunerated for the additional labor required. It is evident that as long as this state of matters continues there is no hope of improvement. What is wanted is that purchasers and shippers of fish should make a distinction in price between the well and ill-cured fish. A speedy improvement would follow if this were done, as an encouragement would thus be held out to intelligence and industry. The system pursued on Labrador is thoroughly bad and likely to become worse, as good fish can be made on Labrador as anywhere, if pains are taken. At Battle Harbor he saw fish as well cured as the best Newfoundland shore fish.

A SAD TALE OF THE SEA.

The brigantine Kestrel arrived recently at Harbor Grace, having on board two sailors who were taken from the wreck of the Danish brigantine Louise on the 15th instant. Their names are Hans Halte, a Dane, and Hans Zaage, a German. They gave a harrowing account of the disaster which overtook their vessel. The Louise was bound from San Domingo to Havre with a cargo of mahogany. On New Year's day, in a fearful gale, she was thrown on her beam ends; the foremast was broken off, the vessel righted but was waterlogged, and three out of a crew of seven were washed overboard. The remaining four were compelled to take to the rigging. The captain, whose name was Erickson, and who had been ill for some time, dropped dead from the rigging, and a negro sailor soon after met the same fate. The two survivors were fifteen days in the rigging and endured terrible hardships from cold, hunger and thirst. For five days they were without water, and during the last three days on the wreck their food was dried fish, which was soaked with brine. On the 15th instant the Kestrel came in sight and rescued the men, who were in the last stage of exhaustion. The utmost kindness was shown them on board, and they were landed at Harbor Grace.

A Wonderful Memory.

Magliabecchi, a Florentine, born 1633, was blessed with a wonderful memory. From early years he was an insatiable reader and became familiar, it is written, with nearly every book extant in Europe at that period. More than this, he could repeat nearly everything that he read. He was sometimes called "a living, speaking index of all the literature of the age."

Learned persons came to him to direct them to any book needed for consultation; volume, page and often the very line, were at his tongue's end. He studied the catalogues of all the famous libraries, both public and private, and so familarized himself with collections of books and valuable manuscripts that he had never seen.

At one period he was librarian to the Grand Duke, and being one day inquired of by his royal patron concerning a certain very rare book, which was needed in some investigation, replied:—

"There is but one copy in the world, and that is in the library of the Grand Seignior at Constantinople, and the point you are in search of may be found in book number seven, on the seventh shelf on the right hand side as one enters."

Magliabecchi died in Florence in 1714, in his eighty-first year.

MURDER IN ELGIN COUNTY.

The Quarrel of Two Men Over a Dog and a Turkey Results in a Terrible Tragedy.

A despatch from St. Thomas says:—The annals of crime in the county of Elgin contain the record of no more deliberate, cold-blooded murder than that which took place Wednesday afternoon in the township of Southwold, about fifteen miles from this city. A dog chased a turkey. The owner of the canine and the owner of the fowl quarrelled over the occurrence, and one of the parties deliberately went into his home, got his revolver and came out and shot the other man dead. Fred Glover, of Lawrence Station, was with others engaged in cutting ice at a pond on "the old Ham brickyard," three miles north of Lawrence Station, for Widdifield's hotel in the village named. The pond is owned by George E. Young, whose home is close by. Glover had his dog with him, and it chased one of Young's turkeys. Young came out and asked who owned the dog. One word led to another between him and Glover, and they threatened what they would do to each other. Young in the heat of the quarrel, deliberately walked to his house, about ten rods distant, got his revolver, went back to where Glover was and fired four shots at him. The fourth shot pierced Glover's heart and he dropped dead. Young walked back to his house, gave the revolver to his wife, and husband and wife started off to a brother's residence, three miles distant, where Detective Miller found him about an hour after the tragedy. He was brought here and lodged in gaol. The murdered man is about 21 years of age, and a son of James Glover of Lawrence Station. He and his father are employed by the London Barrel company in getting out staves there. They moved to the village about four years ago from Port Stanley. The deceased is described as a quiet inoffensive young man. The murderer Geo. E. Young, is a man of about 25 years of age, and a son of Joseph Young farmer, in Southwold. He conducted a brick and tile yard at the scene of the murder. He was married a year and a half ago, his wife being a daughter of Mr. Carmichael, a neighboring Southwold farmer. He was arrested about four months ago and discharged on suspended sentences on the charge of obtaining goods on order to which he had forged his father-in-law's name. Dr. Gustin, coroner, will hold an inquest at Lawrence Station to-morrow.

The Cholera.

It is certain that the Asiatic cholera has continued to exist, and has even been epidemic in parts of Germany and Russia ever since it broke out there in August last. Though its ravages have been greatly and happily reduced everywhere since the winter set in, the reports about it from Hamburg, Halle, Berlin, St. Petersburg, and other places are still disquieting. German science has striven for half a year to exterminate it, but without success. Its sudden appearance within a week at Halle, Altona, and Leipsic has been a surprise to the medical authorities, and its fatality there during the depth of an unusually cold winter has raised alarm all over Germany. We must trust that this alarm will lead to the adoption of those preventive measures that are now needed even more than they have been at any past time. In the judgment of eminent experts, there is excellent hope that the precautions against the entry of cholera into Canada will be as effective and successful this year as they were last year. An authority says that there is no disease more easily managed than cholera, so long as the water supply is kept uncontaminated. Unfortunately, in Toronto, pure water is just the condition that is lacking. For months now our water has been contaminated with all the filth that finds an outlet into the Bay and for some time to come there appears no chance of any relief. Already an increase in disease is announced which the medical health officer attributes to the impure state of the water. It is rapidly becoming a question whether the local or the Dominion government should not step in and compel the city council to take immediate and effective measures to remedy the present state of things. The big newspapers are astoundingly supine in the premises, but if matters continue much longer as they are the people may reasonably be expected to awake from their apathy, and demand not only protection for themselves and those dependent upon them, but also for the remainder of the country, which should not be submitted to the danger of incurring cholera and other diseases because Toronto's governing powers are incompetent to fulfil the trust reposed in them.

Safety of a Missing Crew.

The Glasgow ship Gretna was lost a short time ago, and although the crew got clear away from their vessel in their own boats, one of these, containing the captain and nine of the crew, became separated and for some time were missing. It now seems that they were rescued by the Japan mail steamer Sakata-Maru in a very exhausted state, having been five days in an open boat. The Gretna, an iron ship of 1711 tons, got ashore on Rifleman shoal, off the China Coast, as she was going from Cardiff to Hong Kong with a cargo of coal. The Sakata-Maru was making for Saigon when a boat was sighted very low in the water. The steamer's course was altered, and the boat picked up. There were ten men in the boat, and they proved to be Captain Webster, of the Gretna, his second officer, and eight sailors. The poor fellows had been five days in their small craft and were then in an exhausted state. They had been tossed about by the waves, and were several times in great danger. The captain of the Sakata-Maru showed the shipwrecked men every kindness, and landed them all at Saigon.

After an experience of thirty years the English Government has withdrawn the right of jury trial from its Indian subjects, and loud protests are made throughout the various districts where it was enjoyed. The reason assigned for this step is the impossibility of convicting Hindoos guilty of serious offences. In other words, it is impossible "to gett welve honest men in the jury-box," a problem in which, according to a celebrated English statesman, the real science of government consists. The jury system is not only of Anglo-Saxon origin, but it is peculiarly suited to the Anglo-Saxon character, and among no other people has it become so deeply rooted either in their jurisprudence or affections. The fact that it does not operate successfully in India is a reflection on the Hindoos and not on the system.