

# THE WEEK'S NEWS

CANADIAN.

Friday was the twenty-fifth anniversary of the murder of Thomas D'Arcy McGee.

A young Englishman named Ross committed suicide at Manitow on Sunday by taking a dose of poison.

The revenue returns of the Dominion for the nine months ending March 31 show a surplus of \$5,141,721.

Prominent members of the Montreal Board of Trade are opposed to the idea of forming a wheat pit in connection with the board.

The Trades and Labour Council of Hamilton has passed a resolution in favour of opening the reading room of the Free Library on Sundays.

The revenue from Chinese immigration at Vancouver, B.C., for last month was \$1,501 as compared with \$3,721 for the corresponding month last year.

The New Brunswick Legislature has passed a resolution approving of prohibition, and urging the Dominion Government to pass a prohibitory law.

The Newfoundland seal fishery is a total failure this season. The total catch is not expected to yield 90,000 seals which is one-fourth of last year's catch.

Delegates from the various Canadian camps of the Woodmen of the World met at London, and organized a Grand Council of the order for the Dominion.

The Canadian party appointed to survey and locate the international boundary line between Alaska and British Columbia have left Ottawa for Victoria, B.C.

The negotiations which promised a settlement between the striking tailors and the employer in Winnipeg have been broken, and hostilities are resumed.

Signatures are now being attached to a petition to the Governor-General praying for the clemency of the Crown in the case John R. Arnold, now in the Ottawa goal.

The shareholders of the Canadian Pacific railway will hold their annual meeting on May 10th. The question will then come up as to the expediency of issuing preference stock.

It is rumored that Mr. J. M. Macoun, private secretary to Dr. Dawson, who is engaged in connection with the Behring Sea question, will be made a C. M. G. next Queen's Birthday.

Cook, the English immigrant who has been confined in the Montreal civic hospital for some weeks suffering from typhus fever, has almost completely recovered, and will soon be discharged.

The Montreal Presbyterian College has conferred the degree of D.D. on the Rev. Charles Chiniquy, the Rev. W. A. McKay, of Woodstock, Ont., and the Rev. J. B. Muir, of Huntingdon, Que.

Two men, names unknown, are reported to have reached a Hudson bay post near Stuart lake late last fall. It is thought the men may turn out to be Messrs. Clark and Braden, the missing explorers.

Senator Sanford has been appointed by the Hamilton (Ont.) Board of Trade the representative of that body at the World's Congress of Commercial Houses to be held in Chicago during the approaching summer.

Mrs. Catherine Schmelz, ninety years of age, an inmate of the Elgin house of industry, St. Thomas, fell from a third-storey window at that institution Tuesday morning, and received injuries from which she died about two hours afterwards.

The Nova Scotia Provincial House of Assembly passed the second reading of the Woman's Suffrage bill by a vote of seventeen to nineteen, and it was sent to committee. All the members of the Government and the leader of the opposition voted against the second reading.

The will of Mr. S. Bird, who died at London, Ont., about a month ago, is to be protected by his daughters, who charge collusion. Mr. Bird had been employed by R. C. McFie & Co., and his will was made in favour of Mr. J. B. Laidlaw, bookkeeper at that establishment, and of a young woman named Fitzhenry.

On Wednesday night, last week, a policeman found Mr. N. Tetu, a civil servant, lying senseless in a drain in Rideau street, Ottawa, and coming to the conclusion that he was drunk had him taken to the police station, where he lay insensible all night. Yesterday morning a medical man said he was suffering from a paralytic stroke, and so much valuable time had been lost that his recovery was very doubtful.

It is reported from Tacoma, Wash., that for some time a number of citizens in Vancouver and New Westminster, B.C., have been agitating against the present provincial Government, ostensibly because the Ministers failed to bring in a redistribution measure. It is now learned that a huge scheme is on foot to bring about the separation of the mainland from the island and establish the former as a separate province.

At the Assize Court in Kingston, Ont., on Monday, the case of Robert Shaw, a lawyer, against Police Constable Snodden, for unlawful arrest, the latter having taken the former into custody because he persisted in asking questions at a political meeting, was decided in favour of the plaintiff. The City Board of Police Commissioners will now be asked to instruct the police that they are not required to do duty at public meetings.

BRITISH.

The Commercial Bank at Melbourne has resumed business.

Baron Houghton, Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, has issued an order limiting the importation of arms and ammunition into Ireland.

A British cruiser has seized a dhow sailing under French colours and having on board sixty children, who had been kidnapped from Zanzibar by Arabs under French protection.

In reply to a question in the House of Commons yesterday, Colonial Under-Secretary Buton stated that the Berlin treaty providing for a joint control of the Samoan islands was still in force.

The situation in Hull is quite gloomy for the strikers, and to judge from present indications the shipping federation will win in its struggle to employ such men, union or non-union, as its members please.

There was a fearful mining accident at Pontypridd, Wales, Tuesday morning. A spark from an engine ignited the gas in the

pit, and about 50 men were cut off by the flames, with very small chances of escape.

Mrs. Montague, who was sentenced last April in Dublin to a year's imprisonment or having caused the death of her daughter Helen, three years of age, was released on Wednesday. For some slight act of misbehavior Mrs. Montague fastened the little girl by the arms to a ring in a small closet, and when she came to release her four hours after the child was dead.

UNITED STATES.

Lawyer Howe, of New York, has secured over thirty thousand names to petitions to Governor Flower to re-open the case of Carlyle Harris under sentence of death for wife murder.

Antoine Woode, the eleven-year-old murderer, who killed Joe Smith in Denver, Col., for his watch and revolver, has been sentenced to twenty-five years in the penitentiary.

By direction of Secretary Carlisle on Saturday the regulations of the United States Treasury Department in relation to the registration of Chinese labourers were greatly modified.

J. W. Flood, cashier for Donohue & Kelly, bankers, San Francisco, is short \$25,000 in his accounts. He has resigned, and transferred all his property to secure the bank.

The usual proclamation prohibiting the taking of seals or other fur-bearing animals in Alaska or Behring Sea in the season of 1895 was promulgated by President Cleveland on Saturday.

There will be no liquor sold in South Carolina, except by the State, after July 1. The Governor and State dispenser are now travelling in the north and west, making arrangements to open the State bar-rooms.

It is stated the United States has taken vigorous action in regard to the outrages on the American citizens at Marzovan, in the Turkish dominions, and the violation of the mails of the United States legation.

The Mormon temple in Salt Lake City, which was commenced forty years ago, was dedicated in the presence of an immense crowd. It covers over twenty-one thousand square feet, and the architecture of the building is without a known parallel in ancient or modern times.

The United States Naval Department goes itself out of a delicate position as to which nation should lead in the Columbus review in New York harbour by deciding that the position of honour should be awarded to the first representatives who arrived. This has been secured by the Russian men-of-war.

The Law and Order Society in Pittsburg, Pa., has issued summonses against the proprietors of Sunday newspapers and papers on which work is done on Sunday night for their Monday issue for profanation of Sunday, and it is contemplated that the news paper men will retaliate by bringing action against street cars, ferries, and railways which run on Sunday.

GENERAL.

Russia is again suffering from the ravages of cholera, and the death rate is reported to be very high.

Simert and Hermann, the Anarchists, were sentenced on Friday at Berlin to six and three months' imprisonment respectively.

An earthquake shock was felt in many districts in Serbia, Monday morning. In western Serbia the shock was especially severe.

The famine in the European part of the Government of Perm, Russia, is worse than ever before and the poor are dying by hundreds.

The condition of affairs in Armenia is becoming more serious daily. It is estimated that nearly two thousand Christians are in Turkish dungeons.

Dr. Haffkine has written from India to the Russian papers that he has conquered cholera by his inoculation method and that on his return he will publish his cure.

Much excitement has been caused in Madrid by a despatch to the effect that Japan has seized the Pelew islands, a group in the North Pacific claimed to belong to Spain by the right of discovery.

It is officially stated in Lisbon that the reports of the attempted assassination of King Carlos of Portugal are untrue, the stories having their origin in the antics of an insane Jew, who labours under the delusion that he is the brother of the King.

The Khan of Khelat, who recently caused five of his wives whom he suspected of infidelity to be cruelly put to death, has liberated his surviving prisoners at the demand of the British Indian Government, and has submitted to a fine of forty thousand rupees.

It is reported that the Pope will shortly send a letter to bishops requesting them to enforce upon their flocks a more profound study of the Bible, urging the necessity of keeping on the track of modern discovery in order to adapt Catholicism to the needs of the day.

It is stated that the Turks in Armenia are doing a large trade in kidnapping Christian girls and selling them as harem slaves, and when enquiries are made it is stated that the girls have embraced Mohammedanism, which closes all further investigation.

HIGHER PRICES FOR WHEAT.

It is interesting to note that the prospect of higher prices for wheat, notwithstanding the depression previously referred to as likely in other products of the farm, are improving. The United States report for April, just issued, is quite bullish and had the effect of advancing the July option over a cent in Chicago. The condition of the wheat crop in the United States as shown by this report was 77.4 per cent. This is the lowest percentage in ten years with the exception of 1885, when the condition was shown as 76.3 per cent. Last year the report for the corresponding month gave the condition as 81.2. Then the price of wheat in Chicago was three cents below the highest price touched yesterday. In this province the market is not without signs of improvement, and sales of winter wheat are reported this week for export at several cents in advance of sales made a week or ten days ago. The reports of the growing crop in Ontario, especially in the southern counties, are not considered very favorable. Some damage has resulted from the unusually severe winter, and already predictions are made that the next crop in this province will be smaller than that of last year. It is, however, too early to obtain information on which it would be safe to base an expression of opinion that would be of any value.

# TO OBLITERATE SIN.

## CRUCIFIED AS WAS CHRIST.

The Terribly Severe Penance to Which the Penitentes Subject Themselves.

How many Americans know, says the San Francisco Examiner, that in their own country is an order whose members yearly represent Christ's journey to his crucifixion by bearing crosses of crushing weight along paths of cruel stones and cactus to a mimic Calvary? How many know that American voters, men who help to choose the President of the United States, are crucified, are bound by biting thongs, are nailed to crosses, and suffer unto death?

The village of Taos, in northern New Mexico, for many years the home of Kit Carson, is one of the strongholds of the Penitentes. Hidden away in a little valley among the Rockies, shut off from the railroad on the east by seventy-five miles of mountains and separated from the iron highway on the west by thirty-five miles of mesa and the awful canon of the Rio Grande, this little hamlet of Mexicans, with scarcely a dozen Americans among them, is not of the nineteenth century, and feels few of its influences. Taos and its neighborhood are said to have about 1,000 Penitentes, including many women, and here their practices are carried to the extreme. Among the residents is a Methodist missionary who was an administrator of the estate of Pablo Ortega, a Penitente who died near Antonito, Col. Among the dead man's effects were found books explaining the rites of the order, and the missionary has since made a careful study of this curious fanaticism.

The name of the order is "Los Hermanos Penitentes" (the Penitent Brothers). They are popularly known by the single word Penitentes. The order was established in Spain three or four hundred years ago, and it is said that originally its members did not practice scourging and crucifixion. The custom of self whipping seems to have been borrowed from the Flagellantes, and the fanatics of the New World have elaborated the system of penance until men are actually nailed to the cross.

The Penitentes for a long time used the churches for their meetings. Of late the Bishops have forbidden this, and now the brothers have their "morada" outside the town.

During most of the year the Penitentes are so quiet that their silent "moradas," with broken crosses scattered about them, are the only evidence of their existence. With the beginning of Lent they renew their activity with ceremonies and processions, which reach their climax during Holy Week. In those exercises liable to be seen by spectators the brothers doing penance try to conceal their identity by black cloths thrown over the head and tied about the neck. Of late years the younger generation has developed many unbelievers, whose scoffing seems to hurt the Penitentes more than self-imposed tortures. The brothers may also have some fear of the displeasure of the Church, and it is quite probable they wish to mystify the people, but it is generally known among their friends who the penitents are.

During the early part of Lent the performances of the Penitentes are comparatively mild, but in Holy Week all the horrors of this peculiar order are put into practice. On a hillock at some distance from the brotherhood house is painted a cross to represent Calvary. The crowning event occurs on Holy Friday, when the anniversary of Christ's death is celebrated with a drama of the crucifixion. The event opens with a procession from the "morada" to the hillock representing Calvary. There are cross-bearers, flagellants, and numerous women and children, all led by the fier, while the reader of prayers is somewhere in their midst. The procession halts at short intervals to "make the stations of the cross," and the women and children kneel while they repeat a short prayer. At Calvary the cross-bearers lie at full length, with the heavy beams laid upon their backs while the "pitiro" pipes and the attendants sing. Then the procession returns to the "morada," the brothers going inside for a few minutes' meditation and the women waiting outside. These pilgrimages are repeated until afternoon, when the climax of this strange drama is reached.

When the time for the crucifixion has arrived the "hermano mayor" (chief brother) and an assistant enter the "morada" and return with the victim. He is entirely naked except for a pair of cotton drawers and a bag over his head. He is led to the place of crucifixion, perhaps a newly selected Calvary, and the procession follows. At Taos he is a volunteer. In some places he is selected by lot. "El Calvario" has been prepared for the ceremony. A huge cross lies upon the earth, and at its base is an excavation. The victim walks firmly to the cross and lies down upon it at full length, his back to the standard and his arms outstretched upon the cross beam. Several "Hermanos de Luz" (Brothers of Light, who attend flagellants but do not scourge themselves) take a stout hempen rope and lash the arms and legs of the prostrate Penitente to the cross. They draw the bands so tightly that the strands sink into the flesh, but not a whimper is heard.

If he is particularly courageous and fanatical he may rebel at this method of undergoing the ordeal. He may cry out: "For the love of God, do not dishonor me! Not with a rope! Nail me! For the love of God, nail me!"

In former years it was a common practice to spike these deluded beings to the cross. Deaths among the crucified were not uncommon then, and on Holy Friday within the past decade four Penitentes were killed in this manner at points not far from Taos. Public sentiment has slowly modified this custom. The chief brother now determines whether or not the subject shall be nailed, and in most places it is no longer permitted. It is probably within the bounds of truth to say that nailing to the cross is now practiced only in a few Mexican hamlets so remote from railroads as to be outside the pale of modern influences.

At Taos several Mexicans are pointed out as Penitentes who have been crucified with spikes and survived, and the statement has corroboration in small scars on the hands, which may be seen by an investigator with sufficient patience to watch for opportunities.

Ropes are wound about the top of the cross to serve later as guys, and several Brothers of Light slowly raise the ponderous beam into an upright position. Its base slips into the excavation, and as it

nears the perpendicular drops into the hole with a shock that must cause the crucified one excruciating pain, but he gives forth no sound. The cross is then steadied by the guy ropes, and perhaps loose rocks are thrown into the excavation.

It is useless perhaps for one who has not suffered them to attempt to describe the agonies of the crucified man. Hardened as the Penitentes are to such scenes, an intense hush falls upon the group standing about with eyes lifted in reverential awe to the central figure. The afternoon sun beams on the scene with Southern fervency, the hills lend their solitude to the drama, and there is seldom a bird or even a cricket in this land of barren rock and fruitless sand to break the silence.

The weight of the hanging man causes the binding ropes to sink deep into the arms and legs. The surrounding flesh swells into great, ghastly puffs. The blood stops circulating. The skin assumes purple hue, then turns slowly to a black. Some of the onlookers kneel, and their lips move in silent prayer. Near by a penitent brother may be lying on a bed of cactus, or suffering some other torture without a sound. From the brows of the officers, clasped in crowns of cactus, drops of blood trickle down and smear their faces. The moments drag along with painful weariness. They seem to have lengthened into hours, but in reality it may be only twenty or thirty minutes until the chief brother gives the sign to lower the cross.

The Brothers of Light quickly loose the bonds of the crucified one, and the prisoned blood leaps through the thirsty veins. The motionless form is picked up by two assistants, each putting a shoulder under one arm, and the march to the "morada" is begun. Perhaps the body gives evidences of life and consciousness. The legs slowly move as though to walk, but the effort is too feeble for any practical use, except to show that the spirit of life still animates the swollen, bruised, blackened body.

At the "morada" the crucified brother is rudely nursed into strength. Sometimes the body picked from the cross gives no sign of life and is never seen in public after it is carried into the "morada."

England and Russia.

The Russian Government, according to all accounts, must be in a very amiable and peaceable mood just at present. From Berlin it is reported that really friendly relations now exist between Russia and Germany, and that these are being embodied in a treaty which is on the point of completion. Simultaneously comes a despatch from London that Russia is seeking an amiable agreement with Great Britain in regard to the preservation of seals on the Eastern Pacific Coast, and that the relations of the two Governments were never more amiable. For Russia to be on good terms with the British and German Governments at one and the same time is an unprecedented circumstance. Generally, when Russia has succeeded in making terms with her neighbors on her western borders, she has seized the opportunity to quarrel with her Asiatic neighbors and seize territories on their frontiers. Whenever trouble threatened Russia in the west, England has had a more peaceful time in India and on the Afghan frontiers. Russia's policy since the time of Peter the Great has been to get to the sea at Constantinople, at the Persian Gulf, at the Sea of Japan, even at Calcutta and Bombay. When she is not making advances in the west she is generally found encroaching upon the south or the east. Thus, since Germany and Austria have been blocking the road to Constantinople, England has had to check Russia's advances upon Persia and Afghanistan. If Russia, therefore, comes to good terms with Germany and England and ceases her encroachments both in the east and west, there will be cause for international rejoicing. Russia has a dispute with China in regard to the Pamirs, which it is safe to say she will have to back out of. China has ceased to argue diplomatically with Russia on the question of the ownership of the North-Eastern Pamirs, and has begun to move her swarming forces in that direction, just as she did when by mere dint of overwhelming numbers she forced back the Russians from Kuldja. Since that time Russia has had an undisputed respect for Chinese power in Central Asia. If Russia comes to terms with Germany, it will be a blow to France which will then be completely isolated in Europe. England has done her best to keep on friendly terms with her nearest neighbor, but France, in the fervor of her friendship for Russia, and in reliance upon its continuance, has rejected all overtures, and has even gone out of her way on occasions, as in the Morocco affair to oppose and thwart England's designs. These are dark days for the Republic but this much must be said for the French people, never have they in any single national crisis been so patient, so steadfast, so self-controlled as they have shown themselves during the protracted series of crises through which their country has been passing for some years.

A new kind of wire for telephone use, having an aluminum-bronze core with a copper-bronze envelope, is being experimented with in Germany. It is said to have a low resistance and great tensile strength.

The business partner of one of the directors of the company formed to build the telegraph line from the Cape to Cairo has given a Pall Mall Gazette reporter some interesting information. Capital has been subscribed to the extent of £140,000, which is considered sufficient to carry the line as far as Uganda. The materials are now being ordered in London, and will be shipped shortly. The poles are to be of iron of light construction, in order to outmaneuver the white ants, who would eat away wooden poles. From Fort Salisbury the line is to be carried to Tete, on the Zambesi, and from thence to Biantyre. There Consul Johnston will report the result of his surveys as to the best manner of proceeding on to Uganda, and the constructing party will have to come to terms with the natives and Arabs by subsidizing the chiefs and others of influence. There will be nothing in the way of impenetrable undergrowth or rank vegetation to contend with, as the line will avoid the low country and keep to the high plateau the entire distance. There are two alternative routes for the conveyance of the materials. There is good transport from the Transvaal to Fort Salisbury, or a shorter route would be adopted if materials were shipped direct to Beira, carried along the railway now being built as far as it extends and then conveyed the rest of the distance by ox-wagons. The scheme is being pushed forward with great activity now.

THE BRITISH ARMY OF TO-DAY.

The Home and Foreign Force, the Recruits, the Food and Clothing, the Munitions of War.

Twenty years ago the new British army system was inaugurated under Lord Cardwell. The changes included the abolition of the purchase of commissions, the introduction of short terms of enlistment, the localizing of the organizations, the establishment of the reserve, the reorganizing of the infantry, and the uniting of the control of the regular and auxiliary forces. These changes were effected after stubborn opposition from a conservatism which dreaded any interference with the ancient order of things. The recent speech, however, of Mr. Campbell-Bannerman in the House of Commons on the army estimates, and on the provision for 151,442 men of all ranks, insists that the reforms then made have been justified by experience.

In treating of what remains to be done the Secretary of State for War proposes chiefly to equalize the battalions, which has not hitherto been properly done, and in the cavalry to allow recruits to be enlisted not for particular regiments, but for special branches of the cavalry, such as the Lancers, Hussars, or Dragoons, as the case may be. These men can then be sent to any regiment in the branch selected, and can also be changed from one regiment to another, which will be of advantage when troops have to be sent out of the islands to foreign service.

Another point mentioned is that very recently the army corps system for foreign service has been abandoned, and instead of holding in readiness for immediate embarkation the First Corps and line of communication troops, a body has been substituted which is made up for the probable demands of an average small war. It includes a division of infantry, a brigade of cavalry, a battalion of mounted infantry, three batteries of field and two of horse artillery, and special forces, such as bridging and telegraph troops, the balloon section, and the bakery column. The total force may be put at 20,000 men and 8,700 horses. This field force has its stores ready at all times, so that it can start as soon as ships can take it.

The recruits for the year under consideration numbered 41,059, and Gen. Fielding prosecuted the recruiting with much energy. Special enlistments, both in cavalry and in infantry, were first checked and then dispensed with at the end of February. The height standard of the Guards was raised to 5 feet 9 inches, that of artillery gunners to 5 feet 6 1/2 inches, that of artillery drivers to 5 feet 4 inches, this last being a gain of an inch. Men have been encouraged to pass from the army to the reserve when sufficiently trained and of good character, if they have been able to show that their parents needed their assistance at home, and that they had a prospect of employment when they got there. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman said that he could "conceive nothing more unfortunate for the army than that a man in that condition should be held to his bargain when his interest and his duty to his own family strongly pull in the other direction." This declaration may have a certain interest for those who discuss the value of our recently adopted system of purchase by discharge, although, of course, the cases are not parallel, our army having no home reserve.

Much attention, it appears, has recently been paid in the British service to improving the food of the soldier, particularly as regards cooking. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman said an inspection "of the stock-pots, and the other novel culinary implements, and the nature of the food produced," would give an idea of the great steps forward in this direction. In the matter of the conduct of troops he was also able to make a satisfactory report:

I find that the proportion of court-martial per thousand, which was 91 in 1881, had fallen to 53 in 1891. The proportion of minor punishments had fallen from 1,240 to 1,038; the total number of trials for drunkenness on and off duty from 4,808 to 2,078; the total number of trials for desertion and absence without leave from 4,890 to 3,402. These are the returns for 1891, more recent figures not being yet available, but I believe the improvement is still going on. Generally speaking, as regards the military prisons, one-third of the accommodation is unoccupied, and, owing to the decrease in the required occupation during the last few years, it has been possible to reduce the accommodation at Brixton Prison from 493 to 150.

The health of troops, both at home and abroad, has also been good. There will be some slight changes in the pay, while as to the clothing, a subject discussed from time to time in our own navy, instead of having April 1 the date of issue, a soldier will receive his outfit on enlistment, and his annual refit as nearly as possible just a year later.

The clothing would cease to be the property of the State in the sense that a man will be allowed to dispose of it when worn for the due time on his discharge to a comrade. He will also receive compensation for any garments he may not require when the anniversary of issues recurs; but he will still remain liable to provide any clothing which his commanding officer may order to be renewed between the regular dates of issue. Those are the main principles, and I cannot but believe they will lead greatly to the comfort and contentment of the soldier, although it throws a certain amount of expense upon the public exchequer.

The reserve is in a flourishing condition, containing 77,000 men, with a prospect next year of 80,000, which is the maximum under the system. The militia is also doing well, its total last year being 188,288 against 102,032 for the year preceding. The yeomanry has, as usual, not been satisfactory, but some reorganization is to be made which will give it one more chance for greater efficiency and for "making it less an amusement and more a real business occupation to those engaged in it." The volunteers have also done well, a force of 15,900 of them being mobilized last year at Aldershot. They now have in their charge ninety batteries of position equal to 362 guns. Mr. Brookfield, during the debate, put the volunteer force at 163,000 infantry, 40,000 artillery, and 12,500 engineers.

As to munitions of war, it appears that 346,000 magazine rifles have been made, and that "56,000 are in the hands of troops and 70,000 are in India." The new cavalry carbine will soon be issued, while no fewer than 86 batteries, including 53 at home and 33 in India, are armed with the 2-pounder guns.