

THE WEEK'S NEWS

CANADIAN.

The anniversary of the fall of the Bastille was celebrated with much enthusiasm by the French of Montreal.

The admission of Protestants to St. Jean Baptiste Association is creating a good deal of discussion in the French-Canadian press.

The Stewiacke and Lansdowne railway, a small branch line in Nova Scotia, has defaulted in the payment of its bonds on the London market.

The Protestant Ministerial Association of Montreal, has decided to invite Rev. B. Fay Miles, the noted evangelist, to hold a series of services in Montreal, during the coming winter.

The new method of assessment adopted by the civic authorities of Montreal has raised the ratable valuation on properties in the city between thirty and forty millions of dollars.

Mr. J. M. Macoun, of the Dominion Geological Department, who has arrived in Ottawa from Paris, says that Canada is dead sure of winning the case before the Behring Sea tribunal.

It is stated, on the authority of Preneur Davies, that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company contemplates the employment of electricity in drawing trains up kicking horse canyon on the line to the coast.

Mr. Francis Irwin, of Stratford Ont., fell from a cherry tree Monday afternoon. It was only four or five feet to the ground, but he alighted on his head and his neck was broken. He lived for a few minutes only.

The ninth annual session of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada will commence in Montreal on Tuesday, September 5th. Some of the leading labour reformers from the United States are expected to attend.

A delegation of seven French-Canadians from the United States, representing some forty families, are on their way to Manitoba to secure good farms for their compatriots, who, with themselves, wish to return to Canada.

Mayor Desjardins, of Montreal, has received a letter from Mayor Fleming, of Toronto, in praise of the broad-minded and liberal stand he took in connection with the recent convention of the Christian Endeavour Association.

Miss Milla Frith, fifteen years of age, received a sting on the temple from a bee at her home in Princeton, Ont., on Saturday. She was immediately seized with convulsions, and fifteen minutes later was dead. The doctors state that death resulted from the shock.

When about to return home after the recent visit to Montreal, "F" Company, of the 14th Rifle Battalion, Kingston, Ont., declined to be distributed among several railway cars, as directed by the colonel. The company was left behind, and has now been disbanded for insubordination.

A little boy named Robert Arroll was knocked down and run over by a trolley car on James street, Hamilton, Ont., on Saturday, his skull being fractured in two places, and his scalp torn almost completely from his head. It was believed at first that he would die, but there are now some hopes of his recovery.

Lorette Valentine, two years old, while out walking with her mother, at Hamilton, Ont., on Thursday evening, tripped and fell. A rib of a small parasol she carried entered her nostril, and blood poured freely from the wound. The doctors discovered that the metal rod had penetrated to the brain, and the little girl died on Saturday evening.

A convict named Laframboise, imprisoned in the St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary, while employed in the stone-cutters' shop on Friday, struck Edward Segouin, one of the instructors, with a heavy piece of stone breaking his jaw. He tried to administer a death-blow with a heavy hammer, but was prevented by another convict. He was sentenced to 40 lashes.

The two daughters of Mr. Samuel Atkins, of Hamilton, Ont., aged thirteen and eleven years, occupied a boat at Burlington Beach Saturday afternoon with Mr. Edward Harrison and his son. The children in the party were engaged in gathering water lilies, and one of the little girls, in attempting to reach a distant flower, fell out of the boat. Mr. Harrison, in attempting to grasp her, upset the boat, and all four were in the water. Mr. Harrison saved his son, but the two little girls were drowned.

BRITISH.

The Earl of Aberdeen waited upon the Queen at Windsor on Monday, and received his appointment as Governor-General of Canada.

A disturbance has broken out in Alexandria and the British warship *Inflexible*, mounting twelve guns, has been ordered to that city.

The London Times says that the Government, following the precedent set by the Tories in 1877, will cut short the report stage of the Home Rule bill.

It is announced that Lord Aberdeen, the successor of Lord Derby as Governor-General of Canada, will leave England on September 7 by the Allan line steamer *Sardinian*.

The fund of the Lord Mayor of London for the relief of the families who lost members in the Victoria disaster has been closed. The fund amounts to fifty thousand pounds.

The court-martial appointed to try Captain the Hon. Maurice Bourke and other officers of the Victoria, which was sunk by the *Camperdown*, was opened at Valetta, Malta, Monday.

At the court-martial being held at Valetta, Malta, Lord Gifford, flag lieutenant of the Mediterranean squadron, testified that Vice-Admiral Tryon said to him, referring to the loss of the Victoria, "It was all my fault."

A Scottish deputation waited the other day in London upon Mr. Gardner, President of the Board of Agriculture, with reference to the importation of Canadian cattle. Mr. Gardner said there was no hope of raising the embargo this season, but he was in favour of sending three English experts to study the cattle question in Canada.

UNITED STATES.

The auditor's report shows that the receipts of the World's Fair are steadily gaining on the expenses.

The heat was so intense in Chicago on Friday that six persons lost their lives, and many were prostrated.

The west-bound train on the West Shore line, at noon the other day ran into an open switch near Newburg, N. Y., and a bad smashup followed. From eight to ten persons were killed, and many badly injured.

Frank Blunt, arrested at Milwaukee, Wis., on Thursday, on a charge of grand larceny, was discovered to be a woman of twenty-seven years of age, who, thirteen years ago, had adopted masculine garb and male society.

Miss Lilian Saulte, 18 years of age, employed as a domestic on the island opposite Mackinaw, Mich., committed suicide on Monday evening by taking laudanum. She had been criminally assaulted, and determined to end her life.

Ex-Premier Mercier, accompanied by Mr. O. Desmarais, has left Montreal on his tour through the French-Canadian centres in New England, where he will deliver addresses advocating the advantages to be derived from Canadian independence.

Dr. Myers, with many aliases, formerly practising in Chicago, and latterly in Detroit as a homeopathic physician, has been arrested in the latter city, charged with having committed at least five murders for the purpose of defrauding insurance companies. The mineral poison he used so closely simulated disease as not to fit "to raise suspicion."

GENERAL.

St. Petersburg is officially declared to be in a healthy condition.

The Peary Arctic expedition left St. John's Nfld., on Friday for Labrador to get dogs, and thence will sail for Greenland.

Emperor William and the Empress have sailed from Kiel on a trip to Denmark and Sweden.

The Belgian Chamber of Deputies has adopted a resolution providing for the payment of its members of four thousand francs each a year.

The Government, in view of the distress caused by the drought, has decided to prohibit the exportation of fodder, exclusive of cereals, from Austria and Hungary.

A despatch from Zanzibar says the Sultan has proclaimed the concession of all the Benadir ports and territories to Italy for a provisional period of three years.

Despite a strong resistance, in which twenty Siamese were killed, two French warships succeeded on Thursday in passing the bar at the mouth of the Meinam river.

The Siamese Government has refused to permit two more French gunboats to enter the Meinam river, and it is expected that France will regard this as equivalent to a declaration of war.

The Belgian Chamber has voted for such a revision of the constitution as will enable Belgium to acquire colonies. The Government is known to contemplate the annexation of the Congo Free State.

A special cable despatch from Paris states that the French Government has consented to accept an interpellation on the Siamese question, and that no action will be taken calculated to commit France without first informing the Chamber of Deputies.

The Finance Minister of Prussia and the Finance ministers of all the other German states will hold a conference on August 6th, at Frankfurt-on-the-Main, for the purpose of discussing the best method of meeting the increased expenditure which will be a consequence of the carrying out of the provisions of the Army bill.

M. Buloz has taken flight from Paris after embezzling funds from the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, of which he was editor and managing director. He has had criminal relations with three women, and it was to satisfy the blackmailing demands of their male friends that Buloz took the funds from the *Revue* when his own resources were exhausted.

SAVED FROM THE VICTORIA.

Surgeon Moon Writes to His Brother in Toronto—No Panic—Prisoners and Invalids Saved.

Mr. Robert Moon, Toronto, has received a letter from his brother, Dr. J. Agnew Moon, who was a surgeon on the ill-fated Victoria. The letter is dated from H.M.S. *Edinburgh*, off Tripoli, and among other things it states: "The occurrence happened about 3.40 p.m. I was in the ward room and went on deck, but did not imagine for a moment that the ship would sink. Then I came down again, went to the sick berth and cleared it, getting all the sick on the upper deck, and even a man whose ankle had been completely crushed was brought on deck, and also two sick officers. To show you that there was no panic of any kind the two prisoners in the cells down below were got out and both saved. Six of the invalids in the sick berth were also saved. That being finished, I went to the stern part of the ship about fifteen seconds before she sank, and then saw there was no hope. She turned completely over, and whereas most of the men went over the side which was highest out of the water, I meditated, as the screw was out of the water and still going round on that side, and thought it better not to. I had to make up my mind quickly, as the ship heeled over, and I slid down the deck into the water on the side which went into the water first. I was not long under water, and on coming to the surface I swam as hard as I could away, and saw the ship turned upside down, with her bow going down, her stern out of water, and both screws in the air. I then got a wreckage, held on to it, and saw an upturned boat near, but there were so many people holding to it, and so many swimming for her that I thought it best to keep out of the way. Now, however, the worst began, as evidently the ship's great extent, blew up, and the wreckage was popping up every place, and one might easily have been disabled by it. I got into the whirlpool of water caused by the ship going down, and my wreckage was whirled out by my hand. However I was comparatively strong, and got hold of a plank, and soon after a boat from the Nile took me on board, where I helped to do a certain amount of medical work in restoring the apparently drowned. There is a good proportion of officers saved, and this is due mainly, I think, to their leaving the ship last, and also keeping their heads better. Whose the fault is or to whom the blame, if any, is to be attached, will come out in the court-martial. On that point I am silent."

A male adult has half an ounce of sugar in his blood.

WHEAT PRODUCTION IN THE STATES.

The Limit Almost Reached.

Our Own North-West will Soon Become the Granary of the World.

At the Board of Trade banquet held in Toronto last January Sir John Thompson gave as a reason why Canada must in a few years make rapid bounds both in material development and population, that the vacant lands of our neighbors were nearly all occupied, that the limit of wheat production in the United States had been almost reached, and that the time was fast approaching when that country would have no cereals to spare for exportation, all that could be grown being required for home consumption. Sir John could not possibly have expected that his words would receive confirmation from the New York Sun, the stiffest and most persistent advocate of annexation, within the succeeding seven months. But in a two-column article that paper more than affirms the truth of all that the Dominion premier said. Its statements and deductions are so important that we herewith give copious extracts from the article, which is headed: "Have we reached the limit of Wheat Production?"

"When the seventh census was taken in 1850," says the Sun, "46 per cent. of the wheat grown was produced in the States lying north of the Potomac and east of the Alleghanies; yet only ten years later these north Atlantic States, contributed but 18 per cent. and the five Lake States, lying north of the Ohio and east of the Mississippi, had taken first rank, contributing 41 per cent. of a product that had increased by 73 per cent."

Rapid and radical as were the changes in crop areas as population moved westward, the Lake States contrived to retain the primacy in wheat culture for another twenty years although the proportion contributed was reduced to 34 per cent. In 1879 when the contribution of the Missouri Valley States was but one per cent. less. In 1879 the contributions of the north Atlantic region had been reduced to less than 9 per cent. although its acreage was a trifle greater than it had been in 1850, when it had grown nearly half the wheat. Since 1879, however, the acreage of this north-eastern division has declined, not only relatively, but absolutely, being now some 600,000 acres less than in 1850, with the process of converting wheatfields into meadows, orchards, pastures, and outfields still continuing. This rapid reduction of the wheat-bearing area is consequent upon an increase of urban population, rendering necessary greater supplies of such products as must be consumed near the place of production, because of their perishable or bulky character.

"Having advanced from the second place to the first, the wheat area of the Lake States showed marvellous expansion between 1859 and 1879, the increase having been 100 per cent., the maximum being reached at 12,165,000 acres in 1879, since which time the decline has been very great, as the area now devoted to this staple is less than 9,000,000 acres. Twenty-seven per cent. of the wheatfields of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin have, within thirteen years, been diverted to the production of such crops as were essential to the subsistence and comfort of the millions added to the towns and villages of the Lake basin."

"The ten States south of the Potomac and Ohio and east of the Mississippi included 31 per cent. of the area in 1850, and yet contributed but 20 per cent. of the wheat grown, the yield an acre being lower than elsewhere. In 1859 this division had 27 per cent. of the wheat area, and contributed 21 per cent. of the grain. During the war period the Southern wheat area declined, both relatively and absolutely, the acreage shrinking from 4,100,000 acres to 3,388,000, or so less than 18 per cent. of the whole. Following the restoration of peace the area expanded, within fifteen years, to 5,253,000 acres, to be followed by a great decline during the ninth decade when more than a million acres were taken from Southern wheatfields, and devoted to cotton growing. This region now embraces less than 12 per cent. of the nation's wheat area, and produces about 8 per cent. of the grain."

After saying that Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas never did count for much as wheat producing states our contemporary proceeds:—"North of Arkansas and the Indian Territory, in the States of Missouri Valley, is now found the granary of the nation, although forty-three years since, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Kansas, and the Dakotas could only show less than 400,000 acres under wheat. So rapid, however, has been the development, that the area in these States had increased to 11,765,000 acres in 1879 and to 13,234,000 in 1889; and it now exceeds 14,000,000 acres, although nearly 2,000,000 acres less than in 1882."

"The wheatfields of this group constitute 42 per cent. of the nation's area, and, with the Pacific States, furnish the surplus that enters into a foreign commerce which puts us in the first place as an exporter of bread stuffs. While the area of this group has expanded until this year, the eastern half has shown a steady decline since 1884, most pronounced, however, in Iowa, where the production of both wheat and corn has been giving place to meadows, outfields, and dairy farms, as in the case in the eastern parts of Minnesota, Nebraska, and Kansas. "The wheat area of Minnesota is still expanding slowly, while the Dakotas and Kansas, notwithstanding their enormous additions, have been unable, although aided by Oregon and Washington, to prevent a reduction of nearly 2,000,000 acres in the nation's wheat area during the ten years ending with 1889."

The Pacific Slope shows great development in the wheat production, but it has little more than kept pace with the needs of the rapid growth of population. Continuing the Sun says: "During the ten years ending with 1889, the wheat-bearing area of the north Atlantic States, Maine to Maryland, declined 18 per cent., every acre of the diverted wheatfields being employed in growing crops that are more profitable, because such products are required for local use, and are not so readily or cheaply transported as the displaced grain."

"In the lake group, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin, which held the first place in wheat growing from about 1855 to 1882, the decline was even greater, equalling 23.5 per cent. All of these acres can be readily traced to the meadows, outfields, and new pastures rendered necessary

by the phenomenal growth of the town populations, whose requirements for beef, mutton, dairy products, and the services of draught and pleasure animals could be met in no other way.

"That it should be necessary to devote all the new acreage of these States to forage crops, and then divert to such products part of the corn area and 23 per cent. of the wheatfields, within ten years, shows how very rapidly the home requirements increase, and how fast we are trenching upon the acreage devoted to the growth of grain for exportation, in what was but yesterday the granary of the continent."

The areas employed in wheat growing in the several groups of states in 1879 and 1889 and in 1884, as estimated by the United States department of Agriculture, have been as follows:

	1879 Acres.	1884 Acres.
11 North Atlantic States..	3,998,000	3,280,000
5 Lake States.....	12,165,000	11,430,000
13 Southern States.....	5,872,000	6,473,000
7 Missouri Valley States..	11,765,000	13,305,000
3 Pacific States.....	2,309,000	4,345,000
8 Mountain States and Territories.....	241,000	443,000
Totals.....	33,432,000	39,476,000

From 1869 to 1879 the wheat area of the United States increased from 19,181,000 acres to 33,430,000, or some 16,200,000 acres; the additions averaging 1,620,000 acres per annum. The rate of increase slackened after 1879, but it was such as to add another 4,001,000 acres in the five years ending with 1884, in which year the area reached its maximum at 39,476,000 acres. By this time, however, the arable portion of the public domain had, except in Oregon, Washington, and the Dakotas, been very thoroughly appropriated; and in consequence, additions to the wheat area ceased, and reduction began or was continued elsewhere than in Minnesota, Kansas, Oregon, Washington, and the Dakotas.

Our contemporary concludes: "With wheatfields giving neither more nor less than average yields, we now have the product of some 6,000,000 acres that can be sent abroad; and as each unit added to the population yearly requires the product of 0.413 of an acre under wheat, the acreage employed in growing wheat for exportation will diminish by more than 60,000 acres per annum, unless, as seems wholly impracticable, we are able to add materially to our wheat-bearing area. On the other hand, should the wheat area continue to be diverted to other products at no greater rate than obtained between 1884 and 1889, the 6,000,000 acres now employed in growing wheat for exportation will be absorbed at the rate of 1,800,000 acres per annum by the wheat requirements of the added population, and such necessary diversions, diversions made necessary by such an exhaustion of the arable lands as precludes the annual addition of the 4,500,000 new acres required to furnish food, forage, and fibre for each year's addition to the population. As there are no more Dakotas to add, with the aid of Kansas, 6,500,000 acres to the wheat area, as happened in the last eight years, to replace the acres diverted to other products in the older States, such a result is altogether probable."

And the old world will have to look elsewhere in the twentieth century than to the United States for its food supply, and where else should it look but to our own North-West, which it was long ago predicted would become the granary of the world?

Cause of the Disaster.

The circumstances and cause of the deplorable disaster to the Victoria are, judging from the evidence so far given before the court martial now sitting at Malta, apparently exactly as depicted in the dispatches sent to the Admiralty by Rear Admiral Markham and the principal officers and as published in the daily papers. Further testimony may disclose facts of interest to experts, but for laymen it is only too clear that the ghastly catastrophe was caused by some fatal misconception in the mind of one of the ablest and most experienced of modern naval commanders. How Admiral Tryon came to allow, and even order, the distance between the manoeuvring columns to remain at the fatal distance of six cables after admitting that eight cables should be allowed for the evolution, must remain a mystery. Someone has said that the man who cannot make a mistake cannot make anything, and to this consideration must be added the fact that Sir George Tryon had scarcely recovered from an attack of illness. Whether those around him acquainted with his intentions, and knowing the evolution to be physically impossible, might have pressed their judgment upon him more earnestly and persistently, is a delicate question of discipline, to be discussed with all reserve, since it involves the whole doctrine of blind implicit obedience to orders. The one point in this melancholy story which must cause satisfaction to every British subject is the statement made by Admiral Markham that "the conduct and steadiness of the men in their stations was beyond praise, and there was no panic of any sort or description."

Wanting the Shark.

All the inhabitants of the Gilbert Islands, our new possessions in the Western Pacific, are expert fishermen. Sharks' fin being an article of export, the shark is eagerly sought for. He is often caught without a hook. A piece of bait is put on the end of a line passed through a noose in a larger line and towed from a canoe. As the shark is seen to follow the bait, it is gradually hauled up till his head and shoulders are past the noose. The latter is then quickly tightened. Another plan resorted to by Captain Cyprian Bridge, who visited the islands in 1884, is more remarkable. The sharks are supposed to sleep in rather shallow water under projecting pieces of coral with their heads just protruding. When a Gilbert islander sees one in this position he dives down with a small stick in his hand, and gives the fish a tap on the nose, repeating it until the shark for comfort's sake changes his position and leaves his tail where his head had been. This is the fisherman's chance, and a second dive with a noose at the end of a line soon makes him master of its game.

NEW TERROR FOR WESTERN FARMERS.

Millions of Crickets Destroying Every Green Thing in Idaho

Poncaello (Ida.) letter in the St. Louis Globe: Crickets have made their appearance in Idaho as thick as "locusts in Egypt," and are devouring every green thing in their line of march. Where there are no crickets grasshoppers have come by the hundreds of millions. Between the burden of the grasshopper and the pest of cricket the green fields of the rancher have become bare and barren and the old farmer has become almost desperate as he meditates on the coming winter. The locust of Egypt, the grasshopper of Dakota, the horse-tick of Texas, and the bedbug of all America have been famed in story. They are scourges, but none of them have brought more terror or destruction in their train than the cricket of to-day in Idaho.

These pestiferous little insects, whose chirping on the hearthstone is such an omen of good, first made their appearance about the middle of May in the Wood River country in the vicinity of Soldier on the Camas Prairie. They soon made their way to Harley, Bellevue, and Ketchum, and now have spread over the Counties of Alturas, Logan, Washington, Lemhi, Elmore, Fremont, Custer, and Oseida, and are now marching into Ada. So far the grasshoppers have confined their operations to Alturas, Lemhi, Fremont and Custer Counties. They devour all growing grains and range grasses that fall under their line of march.

The crickets, heading from Camas Prairie, have marched in three directions. First, they made due south, laying waste the green fields in the vicinity of Shoshone, Bliss, and Mountain Home, and then on down the valley of the magnificent Old Snake. They move in a direct course and do not deviate from their line of march except where their progress is checked by a running stream. Then they roll in and float until they strike the opposite shore, from which point they proceed on their march, holding true to the original direction.

The second wing of this army of devastation headed to the northeast, penetrating into the Lost River country, and on to the fertile valleys of Fremont County. The third wing struck out in a northeasterly direction, across Lemhi County to Ada. The chief study of the Idaho farmer is now how to turn back this devouring tide that swallows up crops and fruits as it passes and devours every sprig of green in its way. Many schemes have been tried, but none have yet accomplished the desired end.

Along Soldier Creek and Willow Creek the crickets have cleaned out every field of growing grain. On the Malad they are eating up the growing grass. In Washington County they are devouring crops from Mann and Monroe Creeks to Hornet and Council. On Lost Creek it is the grasshoppers that are doing the principal damage, and they are devastating all kind of vegetation, eating with awful voracity grains and grasses everywhere. At Rexburg, Fort Lemhi, and Bellevue both grasshoppers and crickets are hard at work making as nought the toil of the ranchers.

Many plans have been tried to check the marches of these little pests, but with very indifferent success. Near Corral and Camas the people are destroying them with heavy rollers and brush harrows, and where the ground is tolerably level the rollers work to a charm, and the crickets are cleared up by the thousands. At night the crickets climb the sage-brush until they hang in clusters like swarms of bees. In the vicinity of Bellevue the people have been going out at night and setting fire to the sage-brush which sometimes frightens the insects so that they take the back track. Then the people breathe easier until the next swarm strikes their ranches in their onward march.

Just now the crickets are invading the Boise Valley in swarms. Millions have already crossed the river, millions have been drowned in the attempt, and millions are still waiting to cross. Gardens and fields of grain are falling before them and young orchards are being stripped of their foliage. The Riddensburgh Canal is fairly alive with crickets and the surface of the water presents a most repulsive spectacle—a confused mass of black, wiggling bugs. Several attempts to destroy them have been made by sending streams of burning oil down the canal. Millions were roasted, but there is no perceptible diminution in their numbers.

The situation is a serious one. Widespread destruction of crops has already taken place and the insects are spreading daily.

Injurious Effects of Tobacco.

In a day when the use of tobacco by young men, boys, and even ladies, is general, and smoking is as nearly genteel as it is possible for associations to make anything that is naturally and essentially offensive, it is of particular interest and value to note the effects of the habit, as established by careful scientific and medical observation and examination. For eight years Dr. J. W. Seaver, the Yale instructor in athletics, has kept a record of the smokers and non-smokers, who came under his direction in the Yale gymnasium, and it proves beyond doubt the fact that smoking seriously dwarfs the physical development of young men. How greatly it affects them is shown by the class which has just graduated at Yale, which Dr. Seaver declares is fairly representative, and in which the men who did not use tobacco gained 20 per cent. more in height, 25 per cent. more in weight, and 66 per cent. more in lung capacity during the four years' course than did the men who used tobacco. Practically the same results are shown by the statistics of physical development gathered in the excellent and carefully directed gymnasium at Amherst College. Of the recent graduating class there, the non-smokers, during their course, gained 24 per cent. more in weight than the smokers, 37 per cent. more in height, and 42 per cent. more in chest girth, and the average difference in lung capacity in favor of the non-smokers was 8.36 cubic inches. These are facts that have been secured by painstaking scientific inquiry and cannot be disputed. They prove beyond question that the use of tobacco prevents physical development and that it is, therefore, injurious. It is one of the good results of college athletics that they have established this most important fact, a fact which the youth of to-day cannot consider too seriously when tempted to toy with the seductive and deadly cigarette.

The normal temperature of a human body is 98.2-6 degrees.