THE WEEK'S NEWS

CANADA.

Governor Schultz is now out of danger.

Hon. Mr. Bowell is improved in health.

Severe gales prevail on the Nova Scotia coast.

The North-West Mounted Police is to be materially reduced.

Montreal is to have a new theatre costing two hundred thousand dollars.

Bridge street Methodist church, in Belleville, has the names of 1,000 scholars on the roll.

An extensive physical laboratory is to be added to the science department of the Ottawa Collegiate Institute.

A project is on foot to establish a direct line of steamships between Montreal and St. John's, Newfoundland.

Secretary Strachan, of the Winnipeg Exhibition Association, has been suspended for alleged inattention to duty.

The Manitoba Government has made up its mind to cut off the vote for Government house expenditures in the future.

Mr. Robert Blair, for years president of the St. John, N. B., Gas Company, died on Friday, aged 70.

The Department of Trade and Commerce intends publishing quarterly supplemental reports to the annual report of the department.

Judge Edward Elliott, of London, has given a decision which makes life assurance companies pay taxes. Three companies had appealed against their assessments.

The inventory of the estate of Sir John Thompson shows total asserts of nine thousand seven hundred dollars, which will be largely reduced by current household expenses.

Thomas L. Chappelle, 48 years of age, for many years publisher of Chappelle's almanac, dropped dead in Charlottetown, P. E. I., on Friday. He was a brother of Rev. R. Chappelle, now a missionary at Tokio, Japan.

Mr. Beverley Ross, of the Niagara Falls electric railway, who was spending the holidays at Port Hope, was seeing a young lady friend off on a train there, when he tripped and fell in front of the Pullman car which was moving, and had his left arm taken off below the elbow.

Mr. W. W. Ogilvie, the flour king, who has just returned to Montreal from a tour of inspection in Manitoba says that the cause of the advance in the price of Manitoba wheat was because of it being scarce.

Mr. C. N. Armstrong, managing director of the Atlantic and Lake Superior railway, has returned to Montreal from London, where his endeavors in behalf of the railway had met with entire success, and he had been able to make the most satisfactory arrangements.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Bank of England's rate of discount remains unchanged at 2 per cent.

The English money order system has been extended to Zululand.

The London Times announces the death at Frant, Sussex, of Mary, wife of Gen. Palmer, of Colorado Springs.

On the final distribution of the Matabele war loot fund, the British soldiers interested received $550 each.

The London Daily News criticizes Newfoundland for its short-sightedness in refusing to join the Canadian Confederation.

In order to cope with New Zealand and Australian competition, Irish farmers are being urged to make butter all the year round.

An annual international music trade exhibition is being organized in London. It will begin at the Agricultural hall next summer.

Three agricultural banks are to be started in Ireland—one at Achill, a second at Doneraile, near Cork, and the third at Summerhill, near Dublin.

Sir William Harcourt, Chancellor of the British Exchequer, states that there is no truth in the report that he intends to propose a tax on bicycles.

As a jubilee souvenir, Sir George Williams, founder of the Young Men's Christian Association, has been presented with a beautiful silver harp by the Irish branches of the association.

Lady Henry Grosvenor, wife of the second son of the Duke of Westminster, died on Saturday night at Eaton Hall, the residence in Chester of the Duke of Westminster.

Liverpool police have reported that there is nothing to warrant rumors of increased Fenian activity in the city. But, while not apprehensive of danger, they are keeping a sharp lookout upon all movements of a suspicious nature.

The London Society for the Abolition of Compulsory Vaccination has urged "all anti-vaccinists and all lovers of liberty to use their utmost exertions at the elections of guardians to procure the return of candidates favorable to their movement."

New experiments have been made in treating separately with lime and protosulphate of iron the sludge liquor at the two outfalls for the sewage of London. The results were so satisfactory that it is intended to make arrangements for treating the whole quantity of sewage in this way.

UNITED STATES.

Oleomargarine dealers are in trouble in New Jersey.

Wages have been reduced at Carnegie's works, Homestead, Pa.

Only two—not seven—negroes were lynched in Georgia on Sunday.

The alleged attempt to corrupt Chicago City Council will be investigated.

Pittsburg (Pa.) Russians are taking the oath of allegiance to the new Czar.

Seeley, who robbed the National Shoe and Leather Bank, got eight years, besides the $354,000.

Capt. Stephenson, the first Lexow victim was fined $1,000 and given three years and nine months.

Col. Michael Frank, the founder of the free school system of Wisconsin, is dead, aged 90.

James H. Robertson was frozen to death at Peekskill, N. Y., Thursday. He had been drinking.

Rev. Dr. Talmage will, commencing January 6, preach every Sunday afternoon in the New York Academy of Music.

The Pittsburg police have orders to arrest as vagrants all prize fighters who have no visible means of support.

The W.C.T.U. petition to the United States Government will be presented on February 15, and to the British Government in June.

A papal decree has been made public forbidding Roman Catholics to become or to remain members of the Oddfellows, Knights of Pythias, and Sons of Temperance.

Gen. John W. Foster, ex-Secretary of State of the United States, has been requested by the Chinese Government to go to Japan and assist in the peace negotiations. Mr. Foster will go by way of Vancouver.

Edward R. Carter, transfer and coupon clerk of the National Bank of Commerce in New York, has been arrested charged with appropriating $30,000 of the bank's money. Carter is 44 years old, and has a wife and two children.

GENERAL.

Mexico and Guatemala are going to fight.

Corea will borrow 5,000,000 yen from Japan.

The Turkish garrisons in Armenia are being reinforced.

Russo-German trade has been greatly stimulated by the recent commercial treaty.

Venezuela is enjoying a return of prosperity; railway traffic is improving and confidence restored.

The arrested Newfoundland bankers allege that they owe their prosecution to political animosity.

Victoria's Legislative Assembly has passed a bill imposing a tax on the unimproved value of land.

The Brazilian Government has ordered a million dollars' worth of war material from the Armstrongs, of England.

The long-continued boycott of certain Berlin breweries by the Socialists has ended in a compromise.

Another splendid diamond, weighing 230 carats, has been unearthed at the Jagersfontein mine, South Africa.

A dhow captured on Lake Nyassa recently by a British gunboat contained a number of slaves fastened in irons.

The Czar has reduced the number of police charged with the duty of protecting his person, but he has not abolished the secret police, as was reported.

Owing to alleged unjust treatment by the bishop of the diocese, the Roman Catholic population of Weidenthal, in Hungary, have in a body declared themselves Protestants.

This year's vintage in France is estimated at 39,000,000 hectolitres, being 11,000,000 less than the exceptional yield of 1893, but nearly 9,000,000 above the average of the last ten years.

Jules Simon, the eminent French Academician, who is in his eighty-first year, has been successfully operated on for cataract. He is to be kept in a dark room for ten days, and must neither read nor write for a month.

On January 1 the new passport system for the interior of Russia was extended to the clergy of all creeds and confessions excepting those of the Roman Catholic Church.

Chamrajen Ira Wadiar Bahadur, the Maharajah of Mysore, one of the most important of the native Princes of India, who has been under treatment in Calcutta for diphtheria, is dead.

A despatch from Calcutta says that the Waziris continue to harass the British expeditionary corps, firing into the camp at nights, and pouring a hot fire upon the British force from the bushes when the column is on the march.

Next summer there will be great military manoeuvres to the north of Rome, ending with a mock taking of the city, and entrance of the troops at Porta Piu, in commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of that event.

With regard to the proposed revival of the Olympian games, to be held every four years in one or other of the European countries, it has been decided that the first series shall take place in the ancient arena at Athens in 1896.

Religious persecution still obtains in Russia, despite the humane sentiments of the new Czar. The Government has issued a circular prohibiting Stundist prayer meetings, and declaring the sect "dangerous to Church and State."

Expulsion of Jews from territory nearer the frontier than fifty versts has been stopped by order of the Russian Minister of the Interior, and an Imperial ukase is expected to abolish the law prohibiting Jews from settling within the zone indicated.

A Crown Jewel Lost.

A private letter from St. Petersburg mentions the mysterious disappearance of a valuable diamond from the crown of ewels. It is well known that the imperial crown of the Russian czar is sent with a great number of very fine and large diamonds. During the late Czar's funeral procession this crown was carried by a high dignitary from the Nicolajevski Railroad station to the Castle of Peter and Paul, and during this time it is thought the jewel was lost. Great secrecy is observed by the officials, but still the rumor has spread. An inquiry is known to have been ordered. A prominent jeweler expresses the opinion that the stone may have been crushed into the interior by carelessness and might be found between the metal rim and the purple velvet lining.

The Largest Carpet.

A new carpet for the Waterloo chamber at Windsor Castle, said to be the largest, ever manufactured, has been woven in the jail of Agra, in India, by prisoners undergoing penal servitude. They hope to obtain a remission of sentence for their diligence in completing the task, which has taken them fourteen months. Twenty-eight convicts were engaged on the work, the carpet measuring 77 feet by 40 and containing 58,840,000 stitches.

AGRICULTURAL.

A HANDY MOVABLE SHED.

A handy movable shed for brood sows, or calves, or any desired purpose, can be made as follows: For the roof take 4 2x4 pine

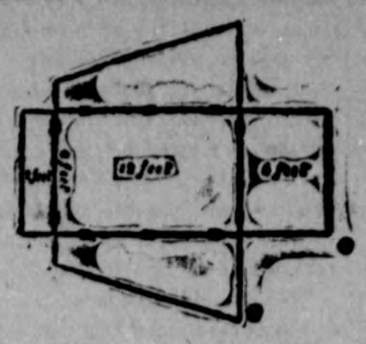

DIAGRAM OF MOVABLE SHED.

scantling 12 feet long; distribute these for rafters, and nail to each end a 2x4 pine scantling 8 feet long; place upon these shingling lath or sheathing, and cover with shingles or other material in the ordinary way. For the ends: The lower end will require 2 scantlings 8 feet long and 2 uprights of same scantling 2 feet long. Hinge this on lower inside edge of lower end of roof so it will turn inwards. The upper end arrange the same way, only use 3 scantlings 8 feet long and uprights of the same, only 6 feet long. The sides fit in with similar framing and so hinge that each side will turn inwards over the ends, and board upright all around. The reason for this hinging is for convenience in knocking it down, moving it, and setting it up again. In tearing it down carefully tip it over on roof, wrong side up, on a sled, fold down ends and sides, then move where desired; put up again and fasten at corners with a spike or two, leaving the heads out so as to draw out easily, and it is complete. Often it need not be let down at all, only tipped on the end of a sled as needed. Such a convenience will many times pay for itself. It can be used sometimes for farm machinery or for storing potatoes or other roots until ready to pit or market. The accompanying illustration will give an idea of its construction.

For Farmers With Boys.

Whether or not a boy can be content to remain with his father on the farm, depends greatly upon the character of the boy Many boys are fond of excitement, and the amusements which a city life affords are more attractive to them than what they are pleased to term the humdrum and drudgery of the farm. It is this mistaken idea of what constitutes a "humdrum" life that takes so many boys to the city. To some minds it would seem a far more free and attractive occupation to plow and sow, ride the binder and even do the "chores," than to work behind a counter day after day. It is nearly always to the farmer's advantage to keep his boys on the farm. They naturally take more interest and will do better work than hired help. But very few boys are content to work at home without a visible compensation of some kind. While as said before, much depends upon the kind of boy, much also depends upon the kind of father. Boys will be boys, and the father who realizes this is the one whose sons are content to stay on the farm. Many fathers expect too much of their sons, both as to their work and their judgment. Their failures too often call down quick and sharp reproof. No bright high-spirited boy will bear being constantly found fault with. If fathers would more often make companions of their boys it would be better. It is neither wise nor expedient for the father who would keep his boys at home to keep himself apart from them. I know of one instance in particular where father and sons are almost inseparable. In rides to town or on business, side by side in the field, or with guns and dogs, off for a day's hunt, they are always together. The fathers whom I have known to be most successful in keeping their sons on the farm have early given them something to particularly interest them in the farm, a share of the income in some way, either of stock, or of money, was their own to do with as they chose. They were trusted with the best team, and learned to take pride in their work, to the mutual advantage of both. Our most successful farmers financially today are the ones whose sons work at home. It is not to be much wondered at that some boys depart as soon as possible from their father's roof. Boys will have recreations and amusements, and if these are not provided at home they will seek them elsewhere. Some boys are not to be kept at home by any means, and it is better that these should go. They may be more successful in some other vocation and should be given a chance to try. The majority, however, may become contented and well-to-do farmers with proper encouragement and financial aid.

The Use of Lime as a Fertilizer.

Many persons in whose good judgment and sense every one has confidence, insist that lime is not a plant food, and is, therefore, useless as a fertilizer. Now, a plant food is considerd to be anything that, being contained in plants to a large extent, may be applied to the soil, to contribute to the supply of it for the crops. When we see that when such an element of plant substance is applied to the soil the following crop is greatly helped, we can hardly agree with the opinion that it is not a food for plants.

If we study the composition of plants, we find that lime is the most important part of the mineral elements of nearly every one. The ash of a plant is made up of mineral elements, and, by examining the ash, we may discover what kinds and quantities of mineral matters the plants require. And it is to be remembered that in the growth of plants every element found in them is indispensable. But how much more must it be so—if such a thing were possible, for one element to be more indispensable than another—for lime, which exists in such a large proportion, to be anything but indispensable?

And this must be thought so as we consider that in the ash of hay one-eighth part is lime; in the ash of clover more than a third of it is lime; in the ash of potato tops nearly one-half is lime. The ashes of wood, which we think so valuable on account of the potash in them, have several times more lime than potash, the lime amounting to from thirty to seventy per cent. And there is not one plant grown that has not lime in its ashes. The same applies to potash and phosphoric acid, and, reasonably, these are supposed to be food for plants; why, then, is not lime a plant food? Surely it must be so considered.

The best farmed localities in the world are those where the soil contains a large proportion of lime, being derived from the decomposition of limestone rocks. But it is not so much on account of the lime in the soil that the land is so well farmed and so productive, but mostly for the reason that lime being there abundant and cheap, the farmers burn the limestone and make lime, and apply it to the land. Lime, only, is a plant food, but limestone is not, and the soil may be well filled with limestone and yet be quite poor. This is common experience. Now lime is a very active chemical substance. This will be seen if some of it is put in some vinegar. This will foam up and boil over the cup, and a large quantity of gas will be evolved. In the end there will be no more acid in the vinegar. And this is one effect of lime on soil that is sour, such as swamp land, in which the excess of acid prevents the growth of any useful plants.

If we put some lime on a dead animal, or on any other organic matter, it will quickly decompose it and reduce it to its original elements, and this is one effect of lime when used in a compost, the matters thus decomposed then becoming good manure and useful food for plants. And this same effect is produced in the soil when quicklime is applied, as it usually is in the fall when the land is prepared for wheat and grass and clover seeding. But the chemist may take some sand or other mineral matter and mix lime with it, and then add water, and the lime will dissolve quite a considerable quantity of this mineral matter, forming silicate of lime; and by taking the silica from the potash, or the phosphates, or magnesia, or the alumina, etc., that the soil is made up of, the lime renders these elements of plant food soluble and available for the crops.

Now this is a small part of the natural history of lime, as it is used in good farming. And with such a history we must realize its value to the farmer, quite independently of the fact whether it is actually a plant food or not. And as this is the season when the land is in the best condition for the application of lime, as lime is most soluable in cold water, and the wheat crop is most convenient for it, it is a question for all of us if it is not advisable to so use it, and gather the fruits of its good effects on the soil. The freshly-burned lime only is used, and twenty to forty bushels per acre is the usual quantity. It is left in heaps in the field, preferably of one bushel each, two rods apart, and in a few days it falls to a fine powder by the action of the moisture of the air, or a shower of rain, when it is easily spread quite evenly—so as to just whiten the surface with a long handled shovel. But when lime is thus used for the wheat, it is not advisable to use superphosphate until the spring. It can then be used to advantage.

CHINA PLUCKING UP COURAGE.

Proposals for Peace Made Only to Gain Time—Harassing the Flank of a Snow bound Foe.

A special to The New York Herald from Shanghai says: Private letters from Wei-Hai-Wei affirm that China's fleet is in a hopeless condition.

In their operations by land the Chinese are following the famous Russian tactics of 1812 and harassing the flanks of the first army, which is stuck in the snow.

The action of the Chinese indicates tha the proposals for peace are being made merely to gain time and let the winter play havoc with the invading forces.

The progress of Count Oyama's troops has been arrested by the delay in the movements of the first army.

Over 30 German officers and noncommissioned officers are drilling a new army of Chinese troops. Foreigners in the customs service who have had military experience are joining the central army and manning the Chinese forts. The Chinese are plucking up courage in view of the climatic difficulties with which the enemy has to contend.

Viceroy Chang Chi Tung is reported to be on his way back to Wu-Chang, in order to start the construction of the projected grand trunk railway.

Dangers of Standing in Street Cars

A gentleman went to his physican a few days ago complaining of a dull ache in his left arm. He had never had rheumatism, but, thought his pain must come from that malady. After describing it, the doctor said: "You ride to and from your office in the street car, don't you?" "Yes." "You seldom get a seat?" "True enough." "You have formed the habit of holding to the strap with your left hand?" "Since you mention it I know that it is so, though I had not thought of it." "That is the cause of the pain you feel. For an hour a day, more or less, your left arm is held in an unnatural, upraised position, and it has begun to tell upon you. You can relieve the ache with this ointment which I shall give you, but a cure can only be effected by ceasing to support yourself by hanging to a strap."

A Peculiar Tree.

There is a tree in western Australia called the jarrah tree, the wood of which is said to be almost everlasting. The natives make nearly everything of this timber—pianos, work boxes, wharves, buildings and ships. It has never been known to decay and is poisonous to all insects. It does not burn freely, but only chars, which makes it specially valuable for building purposes.

AND HE FLEW.

1 There's no use in calling a stove man, I'll—

2. —fix the flue myself.

3. Any child can do it, and

4. —just then a leg broke.

Matchmaking in New Mexico.

In the old Spanish-American days in the Southwest, marriage was a matter in which the contracting parties had little to say, the question of choice and fitness being settled by the parents of the couple. That practice has fallen so much out of date in the present generation, that it sounds odd to read now in a published account of a recent marriage at Guadalupita, New Mexico, in which a Mexican of 68 years wedded a senorita of 16 years, that the compensations he was called upon to make for the difference in their respective ages was settled at thirty varas of land, an adobe house, and five apple trees, presumably paid to her parents.

At the meeting of the Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators of America held at Philadelphia it was voted to approve the abolition of conventions and to adopt the initiative and referendum plan. The action of the convention does not settle the question, however, as it will have to be taken up and acted upon by the local lodges throughout the United States and Canada.