

NEWS ITEMS

Telegraphic Briefs From All Over the Globe

CANADA

The sugar beet crop in Essex Co. will be a bumper. The rate will be 28¢ per bushel. A bicycle squad has been organized in connection with the Montreal police force.

Of the 386 who wrote on the entrance examinations at London, 306 passed.

Mayor Cochrane of Montreal will proclaim coronation day a day of rejoicing.

The inspector of penitentiaries will visit all the "pens" in the West shortly.

Mrs. John Creilly was killed by lightning at her home in High Park, Toronto, on Saturday.

On coronation day a royal salute of twenty-one guns will be fired at the different artillery centres.

The international boundary between St. Regis and Rouse's Point is being marked by granite pillars.

For stealing some coppers and a few plugs of tobacco, William Woolsey was sentenced to nine months at Hamilton.

Alfred Brunet, a well-known Montreal capitalist, has been appointed by the Minister of Trade and Commerce a commissioner to Japan.

Two large, powerful ice-breaking ferry boats have been purchased and will arrive at the Soo' on August 10, to go into commission early in August.

A portion of the lung of an Ottawa young woman, attacked by tuberculosis, was removed by an operation a few days ago and the patient can now get around.

The nursing sisters who went to the front received no gratuity at all, and it is suggested that they be given \$500 from the Canadian patriotic fund.

The officers and men of the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Regiments, C. M. R., who have just returned, will not get a decoration, because they landed in South Africa after May 31st.

GREAT BRITAIN

An Anglo-American Association Club is being formed in London.

It is reported that King Edward will visit the Zar in the latter part of September.

King Edward has issued an official denial of the report that he intends to retire from the turf.

The Irish landlords have formed a league, with a capital of £100,000, to fight the United Irish League.

Nearly one hundred British warships will take part in the coronation review off Spithead, August 11.

Fire in the shipbuilding yard of the Palmer Iron and Shipbuilding Company at Jarrow caused \$200,000 damage.

Twenty-three persons were killed and forty wounded in a fight between strikers and troops at Czorkow, Galicia.

William Liddell, late Governor of the Bank of England, though contributing millions of money, left but \$5,000 at his death.

A meeting of the British Privy Council was held on the royal yacht on Saturday. The King signed several proclamations.

The will of the Earl of Kimberley, who was Liberal leader in the House of Lords, who died April 8 last, shows an estate worth \$1,266,565.

Mr. Charles Dilke says that he does not see any reason why the investment of American capital in industries other than shipping should be discouraged in England.

It is extremely improbable that Osborne House, Isle of Wight, will be used again as a Royal residence, owing to the expense of keeping it up and the distance from London. It is likely that it will be turned into a sanatorium.

In London Prime Minister Seddon of New Zealand was presented with a silver centrepiece, and his wife with a star, by his New Zealand admirers of London, as a token for the way in which he has expressed their feelings on the New Zealand question.

Mr. Dussaud's invention to enable the blind to write characters which they may read may now be bought from the British and Foreign Blind Association. Errors are immediately recognizable, and the invention is invaluable for making mathematical calculations.

UNITED STATES

The United States is importing 6,000 or 8,000 tons of iron and steel daily.

The estimated losses of the anthracite coal strike are placed at \$56,445,000.

Adolph S. Ochs has purchased the Philadelphia Public Ledger from G. W. Drexel and the Drexel estate for \$2,250,000.

As a result of a dispute as to the way to conduct dances, William Walls, a farmer living near Dixon, Ill., was brutally murdered by John Wamann, a hostler.

A Boston man appeals to the courts to have him from being expelled from his own home by his wife, who says she is under the control of certain evil-minded persons.

The assassin, her dog from being run down by an Illinois Central train on Monday Mrs. Ellen Wright, wife of a prominent resident of La Salle, Ill., was herself crushed to death.

On Washington the popular impression of the new cabinet and the cabinet members is that they are not to be trusted.

CHARMS AGAINST STEEL AND BULLET.

Amulets Carried by British Soldiers and the Germans.

During the South African war a number of instances have cropped up showing that the idea still prevails that there are such things as charms and spells against wounds and death. Not long ago a paragraph appeared in some of the papers to the effect that a soldier was killed with a charm attached to his belt. The charm was a small piece of paper, and was being held for a rightful claimant. Earlier in the war a private's letter told how a comrade had come in safely through a hot engagement, by virtue, as he thought, of an amulet he wore, to be mortally wounded in a subsequent skirmish, when, by the merest chance, he was not wearing his charm. The letter was written from the front tells the story of a young fellow who wore a charmed ring suspended from his neck. The wearer hid it from his sweetheart; he placed the most perfect faith in it, and though he had been in several hot corners, he had hitherto always come out scathless.

Although this kind of belief is of very ancient date, it is curious as well as interesting to find it still in existence in the British army. Perhaps the most common form of paper, for it is hard to believe that it is widely prevalent. And yet it would not be very surprising if it were so, seeing that a certain portion of the rank and file are illiterate, and come from a stratum of society which is largely superstitious. It is curious to compare our army in this respect with the German. These who happened to be in the German ranks during the war of 1870-71 must have been struck by the amount of superstition that, hidden under ordinary circumstances, in the then excited state of the public mind, made its way to the surface, much as the mud of a stagnant pool floats to the top when the water is agitated. Nothing seemed too absurd to be believed. Portents and warnings were seen everywhere. Black crosses observed for the first time in the window panes of the houses of the peasantry throughout Baden and the South generally, were held to be signs of Divine wrath against the turn things in general had taken in the Fatherland, especially in regard to the church. The excitement touching this phenomenon became intense, and was only allayed when a Baden glass manufacturer came forward and demonstrated that the warning crosses were marks printed on the glass in the process of making.

LETTERS OF EXEMPTION.

But some of the most curious instances of the revival of old-world superstition were brought into prominence by the Franco-German war itself. The most striking had reference to the death and inevitability of death and the rendering inoperative of the human body. The superstition was widely prevalent among both the French and the German soldiery, but seemed to be more common with the latter. Thousands of the doomed sons of the Fatherland were found to have carried with them reputed charms against steel and bullet. The most common form of the charm was what they themselves called "Freibrief" (that is, "letters of exemption" from death or injury)—the survival of a superstition that may be traced among nearly all peoples, and mention of which may be frequently met with in German records of the sixteenth and later centuries. In the early days of its use, powder was considered the invention of the devil, and the soldier who had death written before his eyes, was ready to resort to any means to protect himself against the missiles of the enemy, or to impart to his own weapons a supernatural power. Thus the magical art of taking aim was a peculiar branch of education, with the soldiers of the Emperor Carl, and we read that a worthy named Punker won a great reputation and much money by furnishing charmed bullets to the soldiers. These bullets were reported to carry certain death to the enemy. But it was not sufficient for the soldier to carry these death-dealing bullets; he must bear upon him also charms for the preventing and for the healing of wounds and spells for the stilling of blood. Salves, too, were sold for rendering the body invulnerable.

That such superstition should exist in the East and Middle Ages need surprise no one, but that they should have retained their hold on the human mind to the end of the nineteenth century, and in Germany, too, the land of popular education, par excellence, was a surprise to everybody who gave any thought to the subject. Public attention was first directed to the subject by an eminent naturalist, Dr. Karl Russ, and at once a mass of information in regard thereto came to light. An officer, inquiring his experience in the "Gartenlaube," asserted that he had noticed this superstition among the soldiers during the Austro-Prussian war of 1866, and related a striking incident which came under his own immediate observation. On the eve of the battle of Mollath, he was in the camp, while his regiment was bivouacking at the edge of a wood, and the men were engaged in preparing their supper. He overheard two grenadiers conversing together. One said to the other: "Have you not got the 'Freibrief' which makes his bearer invulnerable?" The second man said: "Yes, I have it, and I will make quick work of it, and get you quickly out of the wood."

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SUPERSTITION IN ARMS.

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OBVIL INDIGNITIES

Water and Missiles Thrown on Hebrew Mourners.

A New York despatch says:—The funeral of the late Chief Rabbi Jacob, head of the Orthodox Hebrews of the United States, which was held here on Wednesday, was the occasion of one of the most remarkable demonstrations ever witnessed in this city, and led to a collision between the masses of Jewish mourners and the police. The streets were packed with thousands of Hebrews, the stores were generally closed, and every point of vantage along the route taken by the funeral procession, to the different synagogues, was crowded with persons of every age and size. Directly in front of the house where the body lay in state for the last few days over 100 patrolmen kept the surging crowd from the entrance with considerable difficulty. After the services at the house the body was taken to each of the six synagogues on the east side where brief services were held. When the procession was passing the printing press factory of R. Hoe & Co., on Grand street, on its way to the cemetery in Brooklyn, several employees of the factory emptied pails of water from an upper floor on to the spectators massed upon the sidewalk. Half after half was emptied on the throng, which shouted and struggled and stampeded to escape. Then overalls and clothing soaked in water came down from above, and even tools, scraps of steel, bolts and a dead cat, the angry populace, most of whom were Hebrews, retaliated by throwing bricks into the factory windows, the missiles that fell on them. They also gathered up stones and sticks and in a few minutes there was scarcely a whole pane of glass in the Grand street side of the factory. Then someone in the factory

TURNUED ON A HOSE

played it indiscriminately all over the funeral procession. As one time as many as five streams were playing on the crowd. Drivers of mourning carriages whipped up their horses, trampling over citizens, and the stronger men trampled women and children under foot in their efforts to escape. The police had in the meantime taken a hand in the trouble, and were clubbing the people right and left. They were, however, unable to cope with the crowd, and the reserves of half a dozen precincts were dispatched to the scene. It was more than half an hour before order was restored, and the streets in the vicinity of the factory cleared. A number of arrests were made, among them being several employees of the Hoe Company. Many persons were found about the streets, bleeding from wounds upon their heads and other parts of their bodies. Ambulances had been summoned in the meantime and three responded. The druggists were kept busy for some time dressing the wounds of the injured. Several policemen also were injured, receiving cuts and bruises. Two men were taken to the hospital. One of them had sustained internal injuries and concussions and the other a sprained leg. Later in the day the persons arrested were arraigned in the Police Court and fines of \$5 and \$10 were imposed in several instances. Bad feeling is said to exist between some of the employees of the Hoe Company and the Hebrews residing in the neighborhood, of whom there are a great number, and this is said to have been the cause of the trouble.

FAT STOCK SHOW

One May Be Established in Eastern Ontario.

A grant of \$5,000 has been