

NEWS TOPICS OF WEEK

Important Events in Few Words
For Busy Readers.

The Busy World's Happenings Carefully Compiled and Put Into Handy and Attractive Shape for the Readers of Our Paper—A Solid Hour's Enjoyment.

WEDNESDAY.

Winnipeg City Council have come to terms with the C.P.R. on various matters long at issue.

The Port Arthur City Council have accepted a grant of \$30,000 from Andrew Carnegie for a public library.

The Shannon office of rock at Norwich, Conn., burned yesterday; loss \$300,000. The firemen rescued several families.

The Technical College of Stuttgart has announced its intention to establish a chair of aeronautics. Count Zeppelin will deliver occasional lectures.

E. A. Lancaster has arranged to have the debate on his resolution to abolish the Senate on Monday the 22nd. He intends to force the House to a division.

The prisoner named Plouffe in St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary, who was scheduled to receive seven lashes to-day, has had this portion of the sentence commuted.

At Pottsville, Pa., four men were smothered by a rush of culm at the St. Nicholas washery of the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Co. They were digging at the bottom of the bank.

Satisfied that Turkey has renounced its intention of demanding a rectification of the Turko-Bulgarian frontier, the Bulgarian Government has issued order disbanding the reservists of the eighth division called out a few weeks ago.

THURSDAY.

The business section of Summer, Mass., has been destroyed by fire.

The Kingston fire department may be asked to resign to allow old reorganization.

Fire destroyed the C.P.R. roundhouse at Portage la Prairie, damaging three engines; loss \$20,000.

Ambrose Lepine, Riel's lieutenant in 1870, denies that he has bargained for the pointing out of Scott's grave, having always refused to betray the secret.

The returns from the sales of the collection of coins brought together by the late F. S. Benson of Brooklyn, brought the total to something over \$77,000.

All the ice formed in the bay at Port Arthur during the past few days has blown out into the lake, and there is now hardly any chance of an ice harvest this winter.

FRIDAY.

Charles Mitchell, a Peterboro letter-carrier, was sentenced by Judge Waller to three years in the Kingston Penitentiary for stealing \$6 and a quantity of jewelry from the mail.

The Railway Commission says that the Grand Trunk Railway will have to provide night watchmen at the Montreal road level crossing at Kingston, pending construction of a sub-way.

The United States Senate committee on judiciary has reached the conclusion that by reducing the salary of the Secretary of State to \$8,000 Senator Knox will be eligible to appointment for that position.

The 125 miners who had been imprisoned in the Catherine mine at Yuzovka, Russia, for two days, following an explosion and fire on Feb. 9, and whose lives were despaired of, made their escape from the mine through an abandoned gallery.

SATURDAY.

Tavistock has been annexed to Oxford County by an order-in-council.

It is alleged Kingston dealers have been cutting ice on Sunday and the Lord's Day Alliance will take action. The railroad terminus at Geneva, Switzerland, was destroyed by fire. The fire deranged the railroad service and loss in property will be heavy.

Hon. William Hardy and B. W. Robertson have each offered the Kingston Board of Education \$50 for prizes for writing competitions in the schools.

Napoleon Taylor of Vill. Marie, Que., was instantly killed at the Nova Scotia mine at Cobalt at 7:30 a.m. yesterday, by the rock caving in on him.

There has been a serious outbreak of the Asiatic cholera among the staff of St. George Hospital, St. Petersburgh, an institution maintained by the red cross.

The Belleville Board of Trade will ask the Government to deepen the Murray Canal to 44 feet also to better light the Bay of Quinte, and dredge the channel in certain places.

The customs committee of the French Senate has concluded consideration of the draft agreement supplementing the commercial convention with Canada, and agreed to it in principle by eleven votes to four.

MONDAY.

Orval Delson, grocer, aged about 60 years, dropped dead while walking over the Aberdeen bridge at Chatham. He is survived by a wife.

The Conservative convention of Belleville Saturday unanimously rejected the leadership of the party for the province to Mainland S. McCullough, M.P., for Calgary.

The C.N.R. by arrangement with a local company is reserving all property east of Eighth Avenue and across Peterson Creek in Kamloops, B.C., for railway shops.

Five firemen, including Assistant Chief James Gunning, were killed in Milwaukee by the collapse of the roof of the Johns-Manville factory, which was destroyed at a loss of \$250,000.

Max Brower, a peddler, of Toronto has instituted a suit for \$5,000 damages against Magistrate Braeutigam, the chief of police of Indian.

alleged false arrest and imprisonment.

Premier McBride has promised a Victoria delegation to introduce a bill appointing the principals of Dalhousie, McGill and Toronto universities a commission to select a university site.

While train No. 7 of the G.T.R. was running from Seaforth to Clinton a revolver bullet crashed through the rear passenger coach close to the smoking compartment. The bullet struck the opposite side of the coach, narrowly missing the heads of two passengers.

TUESDAY.

Failing to get council to reduce liquor licenses the Kingston reform league now ask for a referendum.

A wealthy New York clubman has ordered to build the first public sight-seeing airship. It will cost \$11,000.

The railway committee have found that in the past five years 270 fatalities have occurred at level crossings in Canada.

Theodore Roosevelt and his wife will arrive at Naples the end of March on their way to East Africa, and will remain in Italy eleven days.

As a result of a quarrel, the cause of which is unknown, Alfred Vautrin, a 19-year-old boy, shot and mortally wounded his two brothers at his home on West 41st street, New York.

The Grand Trunk Pacific announced that this year's orders for additional equipment are as follows: Ten colonist cars, five parlor cafe cars, 16 first-class coaches, eight sleeping cars, eight second-class coaches, and three dining cars.

250 ARE CREMATED.

Fire Breaks Out in Mexican Theatre During Society Function.

Mexico City, Feb. 16.—Between 250 and 300 people were burned to death and many were injured in a fire which destroyed the Flores Theatre in the city of Acapulco Sunday night.

The news of the disaster reached this capital yesterday afternoon, telegraphic communication with Acapulco having been destroyed Sunday night owing to the fact that the telephone office adjoining the theatre was burned and all wires put out of commission.

The Flores Theatre was a wooden structure, and Sunday night over 1,000 people crowded into it to witness a special performance given in honor of Governor Damian Flores, of the State of Guerrero, who was visiting the host at the time.

One of the numbers on the program consisted of a series of moving pictures. While the operator was exhibiting these a film caught fire and a blaze was quickly communicated to some bunting which had been used for decorative purposes.

In an incredibly short time the flames spread to all parts of the structure.

There were but three narrow exits and the panic-stricken audience rushed to them, many falling to be crushed to death, their bodies choking the way of escape to others.

The screams of those imprisoned were terrifying owing to the rapidity with which the fire spread, and its intense heat, it was impossible to attempt rescue work, and those imprisoned were literally roasted alive as the fire burned with little smoke and few were suffocated.

STRIKES AT SOCIAL.

Mayor Stevens of Aylmer Drops White Delivering an Address.

Aylmer, Ont., Feb. 16.—While delivering an address at the anniversary service in the Methodist Church last night Major W. E. Stevens was suddenly seized with an attack of apoplexy and falling back into his chair unconscious, died in a few minutes.

The gathering in the church was in the nature of a social function and was largely attended. Following supper, Mayor Stevens, who was a prominent member of the church, was called upon. He collapsed soon after he had begun his speech. Doctors were summoned at once, but could give no aid.

Mr. Stevens, who was about 55 years of age, was a prominent blarrier and Liberal. It was his first year as mayor and he was very popular and highly respected. Some time ago he had a slight attack of apoplexy while at a meeting of Oddfellows to which he belonged. He leaves a widow, two stepsons and a daughter.

Cutting Through Wall.

Toronto, Feb. 16.—Four men, Chas. Brown, John MacLeod, Ed. Scanlon and Patrick Kelly, were taken through the city yesterday on their way to the Kingston penitentiary to serve a two year sentence for an attempt to break jail at Sudb. St. Marie Wednesday last. They were awaiting removal to the Central Prison to serve a part of their sentence.

Sainte-Marie wants confirmation of a bylaw to aid in the construction of a drydock.

Washington Conference.

Washington, Feb. 16.—The gathering of representatives of three nations—Canada, Mexico and the United States—here this week, to discuss conservation of the natural resources of North America, will bring to Washington some of the most prominent men of the United States. Three of the four biggest, whom President Roosevelt invited to the first governors' conference last March, are expected to be present, namely, Jas. J. Hill, Andrew Carnegie and John M. D. McCallum, the fourth will not attend.

J. H. Hammond, Gustav Schwab, president of the National Council of Commerce; and President Charles R. Van Dusen of the University of Wisconsin also are expected.

Beresford's Future.

London, Feb. 16.—Admiral Lord Charles Beresford, who it was announced Sunday night, will vacate the post of commander-in-chief of the channel fleet on March 24, was seen yesterday regarding this statement, but he declined to discuss the action of the Admiralty. "It is my business to obey orders," he said.

Lord Beresford's friends believe that he has been forced out of the navy by the fact that follows Sir John Fisher, First Lord of the Admiralty, with whom he recently has waged a constant strife. If this turns out to be the case, the discussion of naval matters in Parliament is likely to be renewed in an even more heated manner than before.

Church Burned.

Bodford, Que., Feb. 16.—Fire destroyed St. Damion's Catholic Church Sunday night. Only a few statues and ornaments were saved. Loss \$40,000. Insurance \$7,000, and there is a debt of \$7,000. At one time the whole town was threatened.

Chinese Walked Across Ice.

Ogdensburg, N.Y., Feb. 16.—Eight Chinamen were captured here yesterday, having walked across the St. Lawrence river on the ice from Canada. They arrived at the border from Montreal on the midnight train and were piloted here by an Indian.

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LEGISLATURE OPENING

Lieut.-Gov. Gibson Reads Speech From Throne This Afternoon.

References Will Probably Be Made to Power Lines, Mining Industry, and Immigration and Will Foreshadow Law Reform Measure.

Members Being Sworn In—Municipalities Want Many Bills.

Toronto, Feb. 16.—His Honor Lieut.-Governor Gibson will open the 12th Legislature of Ontario at 3 o'clock this afternoon. This important function revolves around one event, the speech from the throne, in which His Gracious Majesty King Edward communicates his view through his right trusty and well-beloved John Morrison Gibson on the government of Ontario. A distinct impression prevails in circles frequently well-informed that Sir James P. Whitney and his colleagues give reliable tips to his honor about what he ought to say.

At all events it is understood that the speech this afternoon will refer to the fact that the transmission line for electric power has been contracted for and that thirty-five municipalities have sought power from the commission. This matter may be dwelt upon by his honor as the finest feature in the Government's cap.

The activity of the mining industry is another matter of first importance which ought to be touched upon, and which the T. & N.O. Railways have done in this connection.

The efforts of the Government to bring a better class of immigrants from Great Britain is a question of policy on which stress may be laid.

Among the measures for law reform are the measures for law reform and a number of revised acts, which are the result of the labors of the statute revision commission.

The payment of the \$60 loan calls for mention, together with the fact that the additional capital is likely to be invested in the enterprise at the Soo.

Announcement has already been made that the Government intends to change the fiscal year to Oct. 30.

The celebration of the Quebec Tercentenary and the nationalization of the battlefields of Quebec is likely to be commented upon and its success, which was due in large part to the efforts of the Governor-General.

Retirement will doubtless be made to the pleasure felt by his honor in meeting the Legislature with which he was in years gone by so long associated.

The Calgary Conservatives' platform, adopted Saturday, includes:

Government ownership of railways,

but in the meantime guarantee of bonds for roads urgently needed with control of the rates and option of purchase; liquor laws—a plebiscite, and if 60 per cent. vote yes, then the party is pledged to prohibition; the initiative, referendum and recall; resolution condemning the five-year term of the Legislature; policy of reforestation; management of telephone system by commission outside of political control, the farmer to have free connection with market town; cooperative meat packing establishments; loans to settlers and workers with a view to close settlement along lines in vogue in Australia and New Zealand; construction of national highways between important points; Government construction of elevators; condemnation of the autonomy bill.

Applications for new bills were presented by several municipalities yesterday.

Middlesex County has a debt of \$49,260, maturing now, and legislation is asked to consolidate and renew the debentures.

The Hamilton City Council asks power to issue debentures to provide the cost of railway spur lines for manufacturing industries.

St. Catharines applies to validate the election held on Jan. 4 last.

Kinross wants to close up and sell a part of Earl street.

Clinton Township, Lincoln County, wants to be divided into two townships, north and south.

Brantford seeks power to use the Waterloo old property for city hall and government buildings or a market square.

Sault Ste. Marie wants confirmation of a bylaw to aid in the construction of a drydock.

TELEGRAPHIC BRIEFS.

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Schooners End Race.

Boston, Feb. 16.—A race of fifteen thousand miles between two schooners, which began in Nova Scotia June 14, ended yesterday in Boston when both made port, one about six hours ahead of the other. The winner is the "B. F. Poole." The other schooner is the "A. M. Davisport." The Poole reached Boston at 10 o'clock a.m.

The two vessels left Halifax at the same hour, both bound for Rio de Janeiro, with orders to touch West Indian ports on the way back. The boats were built twenty years ago, and both were wrecked on the first trip out. There has been all sorts of rivalry between them ever since, which culminated in the long distance race.

To Preach Own Funeral Service.

New York, Feb. 16.—A special from Fairfield, Ill., says:

Rev. Daniel Bassett Leach, an aged clergyman of Bangs Gap, was told on Sunday that he was going to die. He asked that his graphophone be brought to his bedside. Into the machine the venerable pastor talked. Beside an address he spoke some prayers and a benediction.

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When Mr. Leach had finished he had the records repeated. Then he asked that they be used at his funeral.

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