

THE WEEK'S NEWS.

HOME.

The crops in the North-West are reported to be magnificent.

Bush fires are pretty general throughout Canada and the United States.

Over twelve thousand immigrants have already arrived this season in the North-West.

The Battleford Indian Agency will be subdivided into three divisions with an agent at each.

The crops on Manitoulin Island and the North Shore are reported not to have been so good for many years.

The Canadian Pacific railway has succeeded in inducing the Hull city council to reduce the assessment on their property.

The Manitoba Government are making arrangements for the immediate extension of the Red River Valley railway into Winnipeg.

The Pontiac and Pacific Junction railway has decided to establish a mail service along the line as proposed by the Postoffice Department.

The first passenger car and engine crossed the new Canadian Pacific railway bridge over the St. Lawrence River at Lachine at 10.30 o'clock Saturday morning.

A destructive fire in Montreal the other night rendered fifty or sixty families homeless in St. Jean Baptiste Ward, and did damage to the extent of \$100,000.

The Manitoba Government are considering a proposition to construct a line of railway between Winnipeg and Portage la Prairie. The subsidy asked is \$200,000.

Peter Nettle, the farmer who shot and killed George Stevens, the escaped Canadian convict, near the International bridge, has been committed to Welland gaol on a charge of murder, and will be tried in October.

The saw mills at the Chaudier are experiencing their low water season a month in advance of previous years, and the cut is consequently diminished by about 25 per cent., the mills not having their usual cutting capacity during low water, although running full blast.

AMERICAN.

It is rumored in New York that the cable companies have made an agreement to establish uniform rates.

The United States Department of State has published a volume of consular reports upon dairy farming in all parts of the world.

An unsuccessful attempt was made by an Irishman the other day to blow up the National line steamer Queen. His infernal machine set fire to the vessel, but the flames were extinguished. The miscreant was arrested.

The fishing sloop Gold-dust, of Eastport, Maine, has been seized by the steam cruiser Intrepid for a contravention of the Customs law. The captain of the Intrepid has been instructed by the Ottawa authorities to release the sloop on payment of a fine.

George S. Peters, United States Attorney for Utah Territory, has filed suit against the trustees and managers of the Mormon Church on behalf of the United States to disincorporate the said Church and wind up its business.

FOREIGN.

A plague of sudden death is raging in Nanking.

Ten thousand Italian troops will be sent to Massowah in the autumn.

The Russian Government have ratified the Anglo-Russian Afghan boundary convention.

Great damage has been done by incendiary fires in the vicinity of Athens, Megaro and Corinth.

The German papers, in their comments on Katkoff's death, show a subdued feeling of satisfaction.

According to the recent statistics, the present Chinese population is 385,000,000 against 413,000,000 in 1842.

The city of Peshawar, in the north-western part of India, in the Punjab, is affected with cholera of the worst kind.

Gen. Ferron, French Minister of War, is preparing a bill for the creation of a military corps of mountaineers for frontier service.

A terrible famine is reported to be existing in the Helician plain, a district of Asia Minor. 5,000 people are said to be starving.

Naval manoeuvres off the mouth of the River Thames resulted in the bursting of two guns, and the injury of a number of seamen.

Dr. Mackenzie reports that the growth in the Crown Prince's throat is now so slight that he expects the trouble will soon cease altogether.

The opinion of veteran duellists in Paris is that Gen. Boulanger and Mr. Ferry must choose new seconds, and that the meeting must take place.

At a meeting of the Federation League held lately in London a resolution was adopted affirming the importance of British mail service between Vancouver and Hong Kong.

By the floods at Chu-Chowfu, up the Wenchow River, over a thousand human beings have been swept away, and the destruction to crops is immense.

The Generals of the Ameer of Afghanistan have withdrawn all their troops to Khatlat-i-Ghizai, being too weak to keep the open field against the rebels.

The Ameer of Afghanistan has deposed the Governor of Faizabad and the commanding officer at Parkhal for withholding intelligence of the arrival of Russian troops in Afghan Turkestan.

A Frenchman and a Russian have been arrested at Lemberg on the charge of being spies, and they confess to having reported the state of German military defences to the Russian Government.

A petition largely signed by members of both sides of the Imperial House of Commons in favour of subsidizing the new mail commercial route through Canada to the East, will shortly be presented to the Government.

The Pall Mall Gazette publishes a new Home Rule scheme, purporting to have been accepted by the Liberal leaders. It is doubtful if the statement is official, but it is valuable as indicating the line of the amended policy of Mr. Morley, Sir George Trevelyan and Sir William Harcourt.

Mr. Stuart Cumberland recently delivered

a lecture in London on "Nature's New Highway to Australia and the East." Sir Charles Tupper presided, and spoke warmly of the friendly feeling that existed between Canadians and Americans, notwithstanding little difficulties inseparable from great communities.

A special cablegram says the Council of the Colonial Institute have presented a memorial to Mr. Goschen in favour of establishing steam communication between Canada and Hong Kong in connection with the Canadian Pacific railway, and pointing out in detail the advantages of the new route for all purposes, and says the growth of the Empire in the Pacific will be much stimulated by the route.

STATISTICS.

It is stated that over 25,000 persons have sailed from the United States since April 1.

The whole length of mail routes in operation in the United States amounts to 375,000 miles.

It is estimated that the amount of coined gold in the world is \$3,300,000,000, and of silver \$2,800,000,000.

The returns of the U. S. Government Geological survey, puts the product of coal for the year at 107,682,000 tons; value at over \$147,000,000.

During the year ended June 30, 1887, the population of the United States was increased by almost half a million by immigration. The exact figures, as given by the Bureau of Statistics, are 483,116, and of this total, 377,005 landed at the port of New York. The increase over the immigration of the year 1885-6 was about fifty per cent., the greatest increase being in the number of Italians, of whom nearly 50,000 arrived last year. The immigrants from Ireland numbered 68,130, as against 49,196 in 1885-6, and the increase in English and Welsh immigration amounted to nearly fifty per cent.

A statement prepared for the annual report of the Fish Commission, shows by river basins the following distribution of shad the last season: Penobscot river, 100,000; Kennebec river, 800,000; tributaries of Narragansett Bay, 1,125,000; Hudson river and estuaries, 1,079,000; tributaries of Delaware Bay, 5,000,000; tributaries of Chesapeake Bay, 68,149,000; tributaries of Albemarle Sound, 5,322,000; tributaries of South Atlantic coast, 3,560,000; tributaries of Gulf of Mexico, 7,048,000; inland waters, 1,014,050; total, 92,421,000. This number is greatly in excess of the output of any previous year, and the production has been attended by no increase of expenditure.

As a basis of work for those who love to revel in amazing figures, we may state that statistics show that 53,000 wells have been drilled in Pennsylvania and New York since the discovery of petroleum, at a cost of \$200,000,000. These wells have produced 310,000,000 barrels of oil, which was sold at the wells for \$500,000,000. This represented a profit to the producer of \$300,000,000. The amount of oil exported is placed at 6,231,102,923 gallons. In the pool in Washington County alone \$3,200,000 has been expended in machinery and drilling. This does not include the many millions that are represented there in the natural gas industry. Independent of the oil business there is about \$50,000,000 invested in natural gas plants in Pennsylvania. These are majestic figures, and serve to show the magnitude of the oil and gas business.

There is one ranch, nine miles from Bakersville, Kern county, California, that contains 7,000 acres of reclaimed land. This work has been done by two artesian wells, from which the water rises twelve feet above the surface, furnishing 80,000 gallons a day. There are 150 miles of canals and irrigating ditches; 4,000 acres under cultivation, 3,000 of which are in alfalfa, from which four to six crops a year are cut. On this and another similar ranch are 8,000 sheep, 4,000 stock cattle, 300 cows, 350 horses, 100 oxen and 1,500 hogs. One poor fellow in these parts raised one year 84,000 pounds of pumpkins and sweet potatoes, some of the latter weighing fifteen and one-half pounds, and some of the former 210 pounds; and while looking after these little vegetables, he would occasionally look after a small flock of 16,000 sheep. If this is not making the desert bloom as the rose, it is at least doing something like it in cattle, pumpkins and potatoes. The following item shows how this great desert, as it used to be called, is appreciating in value. The famous ranch of San Joaquin, 400,000 acres in extent, has just been sold to a syndicate representing the Southern Pacific Railway Company, for \$4,250,000. That is doing pretty well for a desert.

A Queer Kissing Wish.

Here is an odd little episode as described in the London Times by its Odessa correspondent:—I was present yesterday in the Appellate Court here when an appeal was heard from a Russian peasant named Krzyzanowski against the sentence of six months' imprisonment adjudged him by the Kamenetz-Podolsk tribunal for blasphemy. The appellant's offence was this:—Tired and weary after a long day's labor in the harvest field last year he entered the village tavern and drank a glass of vodka. After this appetizer he was supplied with a small meat roll, called in Russia a "pirog." The peasant found the "pirog" such excellent eating that he exclaimed:—"I would rather kiss the girl who made this pirog than the icon!" The latter is the sacred picture never absent from any Russian habitation, before which it is usual for visitors uncover and cross themselves. The peasant's exclamation was highly complimentary to the cook of the tavern, but the priest, to whom it was reported, heard and judged it in a different light. Hence the prosecution and sentence. The peasant, whom I saw enter the box and devoutly cross himself before the "icon" in Court, was a middle-aged, jovial and good-tempered looking man, who appeared much relieved by the Court reducing the original sentence to one month's arrest.

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Table with 2 columns: Category and Amount. PREMIUM INCOME INCREASED FOR YEAR, \$96,894. INTEREST AND RENTS, 13,029. ASSETS, \$356,375. SURPLUS, 80,234.

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