

# THE WEEK'S NEWS.

## HOME.

It is estimated that 25,000 people have already passed their summer holidays in Muskoka this season.

The Canada Atlantic Railway Company is about to introduce a system of electric lighting on their cars.

A fire the other day damaged the property of the Montreal Warehousing Company to the extent of \$150,000.

Premier Mercier has refused to accept the apology tendered by *Le Monde* newspaper, and the libel suit will be proceeded with in September.

A couple of Frenchmen engaged in a duel at Montreal on Saturday. As the pistols were loaded with blank cartridges nobody was hurt.

Lieut. Gordon's report of the Hudson Bay exploratory expedition has just been issued. Some valuable information is given in regard to whaling on the bay.

The Rocky Mountain locust has made its appearance in large numbers in Beaver River settlement, forty miles from Saskatoon, N.W.T., and has eaten up the crops.

Bush fires are still raging in the vicinity of St. Thomas. In Michigan forest fires are doing an immense amount of damage, and the village of Sandusky has been partially burned.

The Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, has issued regulations to give effect to the vote of last session of Parliament of \$10,000 in aid of agricultural societies in the North West Territories.

Destructive bush fires are raging on the Indian reservation near Caledonia, between three and four miles square being in flames. It is reported that several Indians have been burned to death.

The Department of Fisheries has received advice that three Canadian vessels, the *Grace*, *Dolphin* and *W. P. Sayward*, have been seized by a United States cruiser in Behring's Sea and taken to Sitka.

Arrangements will be made for the utilization of the immense water power at Sault Ste. Marie on the completion of the proposed canal at that place. It is expected that work on the canal will be commenced before the winter sets in.

The existence has been made known of an organized gang of ruffians in Quebec who make it a practice to attack defenceless women. One of their number has been arrested and charged with brutally assaulting a little girl at Montmorency Falls.

The agents of the Marine Department feel aggrieved at the Government's action in changing the system of paying accounts which have been in vogue since the beginning of Confederation, regarding it as a reflection on the honesty of the service.

The losses by fire in the United States and Canada in July last amounted to \$14,026,500, as against \$10,000,000 in July, 1886. The total loss for the first seven months of 1887 was \$76,918,110, against \$63,900,000 for the corresponding period of 1886.

The Minister of Militia and Sir Fred Middleton will start for British Columbia early in September for the purpose of inspecting the site of the proposed Imperial defences of Esquimalt. The earthworks will be built at the expense of Canada, while England will supply the armament.

## AMERICAN.

Diphtheria is reported to be spreading alarmingly in Cleveland, Ohio.

Bush fires are raging over an extensive area in Michigan, and unless rain soon comes there will be a repetition of the forest fires of five years ago.

A cable despatch states that Mooney, who attempted to blow up the steamer *Queen* at New York the other day, is asserted, by the London police, to have been concerned in various dynamite plots and to have caused the explosion of the Glasgow gas works in 1882.

## FOREIGN.

The strike of the employees of the Midland railway, in England, is collapsing.

Mr. Chamberlain will stump Ulster in October, speaking at Belfast, Coleraine and Londonderry.

The Sultan of Morocco has defeated the tribes around Fedla, and has entered the town of Rabat.

The wheat crop of France is good, the estimated yield being 100,000,000 hectolitres, against 105,000,000 in 1886.

Baron Billing, late French Ambassador to Sweden, while visiting friends in Alsace, was expelled from the province.

The German Crown Prince has started for Scotland, where he will occupy the residence placed at his disposal by the Queen.

The late Alfred Krupp donated \$250,000 for the benefit of his employees, to which his son added \$125,000 for the people of Essen.

A farmer named Custy was shot and mortally wounded near Ennis, Ireland, on Sunday. The crime was of an agrarian character.

A letter has been forwarded to Lord Salisbury, signed by 300 members of Parliament, in favour of the Canadian Pacific mail contract.

Parties of Russians are traversing the country around Badakstan and are making strong endeavors to gain the good will of the inhabitants.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, who failed in his mission to the Sultan regarding the Egyptian question, is to be given the embassy at Rome.

It is stated that the tumour is appearing again in Crown Prince Frederick William's throat, and that it is probable another operation will be requisite.

Owing to the rumour that he had been poisoned, a careful autopsy was made of M. Katkoff, which revealed the fact that he died of cancer of the stomach.

The Vienna *Fremdenblatt*, referring to the departure of Prince Ferdinand for Bulgaria, says that he goes without the sanction of the powers and his action is merely the enterprise of a Bulgarian adventurer.

In the British House of Commons Sir James Ferguson stated that England had never acquiesced in the presence of the French troops in the New Hebrides, and that the Government would not consent that their withdrawal should be postponed until an agreement had been arrived at respecting the neutralization of the Suez Canal.

# LIFE IN THE DIAMOND FIELDS.

There is in Atlanta, says the *Constitution*, the man who weighed, for the first time, the largest diamond ever found in Africa. His name is J. D. Caldon. He was a member of the London party of explorers that went out to South Africa in 1870, bent on discovering diamonds and gold. And they did. The largest diamond field in the world was their reward. This diamond field is located on and near the river Vull, which is the dividing line between the Transvaal republic and the Orange Free State. Kaywood's Hope is the name of the place. There are two kinds of diggings there, the river diggings and the dry diggings. At the river diggings the process of finding diamonds is akin to that of mining for gold on the plan employed in North Georgia, in the dry diggings the dirt that is mined is worked through many sifters, at first coarse, but gradually finer and finer. Kimbley is the name of the mining town.

In 1871, when the diamond fever was at its height, Kimbley was a canvas city of 90,000 souls. Imagine a great sea of tents, in which the miners and diggers found a temporary home. It had the appearance at a distance as if an immense flock of white feathered birds covered the ground for the space of many acres. Great hotels, made of canvas moved from day to day as the exigencies of the situation demanded, giving a sleeping place at night to the thousands upon thousands of miners. Every roof in the town in 1870 was of canvas.

The mining field extends over eighteen acres, divided off into claims thirty-one feet square. At first these claims were sold to the miners at ten shillings each, and were taxed an additional ten shillings per month. After the revolution the government reorganized the letting of claims, and the Kimbley Mining Board decided that they were worth from twenty-five pounds to sixty pounds sterling, according to the value of the find, and were taxed also to support the Kimbley government.

The government of Kimbley, under the control of England, consists of a governor, a judge, a superintendent of police, three magistrates, policemen and other officers necessary to the execution of the law. There is no regiment stationed at Kimbley, though at the time the people revolted on account of the excessive taxation English soldiers were stationed there until all had become quiet.

The population of Kimbley consists of representatives from every nation on earth. The sturdy Englishman is there in perhaps the greatest number, closely pressed by the enterprising American. There are Frenchmen, Irishmen, Spaniards, Germans, Turks, Danes, Jews, Italians, Zulus, and people from the four quarters of the globe.

The fields or mines are worked by natives or "niggers," who are paid ten shillings per week and found. There are from eight to ten "niggers" to a claim, who are watched closely by an overseer. Notwithstanding the strictest espionage, the "niggers" manage to secrete and steal diamonds.

Of course, there are many illicit diamond buyers, who encourage the "niggers" in these thefts, and who buy from them all the diamonds they can steal. A strong feeling exists against the illicit buyers. The evil grew to such monstrous proportions that vigilance committees were formed to teach illicit buyers a lesson or two about honesty. Traps were laid for them.

Trusty negroes were furnished with diamonds, and made to act as decoys for the illicit buyers. When one was found, the vigilantes burned his house, gave him fifty lashes upon his bare back in the public place of Kimbley, and made him leave the diggings. As has been stated, the "niggers" would despite the closest scrutiny, manage to secrete diamonds. The Atwell brothers, who worked a claim at Kimbley, saw a miner swallow a fine stone one day. They immediately seized him and cut him open, regaining the diamond!

Of course they were arrested and tried for murder. Judge Barry was on the bench, the jury was composed of miners, who had no sympathy with "niggers," and were especially hard thefts. Notwithstanding the judge's efforts to have justice done the Atwell brothers were acquitted. The judge sarcastically thanked the jury for their impartial action and expressed the hope that when they came to be tried at the great assize in heaven they would find as excellent a tribunal to mete out justice to them.

But the public sentiment at Kimbley approved the verdict.

"What is the largest diamond ever found at Kimbley?"

"I had the honor of weighing the largest diamond ever found at the Kimbley diggings, and the largest one in the world so far. It was found on the claim of Robert Spaulding, an Englishman. Spaulding did not work the claim himself. It was worked by a Frenchman named Antoine Williams, on shares, who found the diamond. I weighed it and placed a value upon it.

"It weighed 288 carats and was valued at \$60,000!

"The stone has never been cut yet, nor has it ever been polished, but its value is indisputable, and it has since then changed hands many times. The Frenchman who found it received \$15,000 for his share. Spaulding, the owner of the diamond, sold it to J. B. Robinson, a diamond merchant who carried it to England. The stone was afterwards resold, and it is now in the French market and is the property of a French company."

"What has been the yield of the Kimbley mines?"

"For the three years from 1871 to 1874 the aggregate value of the finds at Kimbley were eight million pounds or forty million dollars. Now the yield is from one to two million dollars per year. There is no diminution in the value of the finds; on the contrary, the deeper the diggers go the more numerous the diamonds, and they improve in quality and luster the greater distance they are from the surface of the earth.

"The city is full of merchants who are always ready to take diamonds off the miners hands. The prices paid are generally fair, for they are valued by impartial experts who are paid for their work."

"What becomes of the money of the miners?" queried the reporter.

"As in all mining communities, most of it is spent in dissipation. Kimbley is filled with dram and liquor shops, music halls, theatres, cock-pits, gambling dens, and every conceivable form of dissipation. Miners, as you know, are proverbial for their recklessness, and they literally waste their money in these places."

"A few send a part of their earnings

home to wives and families and relations, some buy other claims, and add to their wealth in this manner. Some build good houses, and the city is now fast becoming a well-built, substantial place; but the majority of the miners live rapidly and quickly spend all they can get."

## BLEEDING FOR SUNSTROKE.

Successful in Two Desperate Cases in a New York City Hospital.

The case of Thomas McNamara, the glass engraver who was taken to Chambers Street Hospital suffering from sunstroke, where he was cured by the old-fashioned method of bleeding, has excited considerable discussion among medical men, for the reason that in few cases it is now the style to bleed a patient, common as bleeding used to be.

Mr. McNamara is a large, fleshy man. He was overcome by the heat at about 6.20 o'clock on the evening of July 14, at the South Ferry. When he got to the hospital he was apparently in the convulsions of death. His temperature was 108.8°. From his color and general symptoms Dr. Lute Wedekind, who was in charge, decided to bleed him.

Six ounces of blood, about as black as ink when it first began to run, the surgeons say, were drawn. The effect was

INSTANTANEOUSLY BENEFICIAL.

The convulsions ceased, the temperature fell, and there was a marked improvement in every way. By the advice of the consulting surgeon six ounces more were drawn. The patient soon recovered consciousness, and in a few days was discharged cured. There were symptoms indicating that he might have meningitis, but the disease did not develop.

Another case of the same kind was treated in the same way. John McGinness, 35 years old, a grocer, was the patient. His case was not so serious as that of Mr. McNamara, though very serious. When he got to the hospital he was in convulsions, and his temperature was 107. He got there at 3 o'clock, and was taken in hand by Dr. Wedekind, who drew twelve ounces of blood. By 4 o'clock the man was conscious and able to tell who he was. Yesterday he was taken home in a carriage.

The reason for resorting to bleeding in these cases, as explained by the surgeon, is that the heat of the patient's body had affected the blood so much as seriously to impede the circulation. It is as if the blood had been thickened with some substance. By drawing off twelve ounces the tension on the veins is reduced so that the blood that remains can find its way to the lungs and be purified. Only exceptional cases are treated by bleeding.—[New York Sun.]

## THE CROPS.

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

The wheat crop of France is good, the estimated yield being 100,000,000 hectolitres against 105,000,000 in 1886.

The Rocky Mountain locust has made its appearance in large numbers in Beaver River settlement, forty miles from Saskatoon, N. W. T., and has eaten up the crops.

Russian harvest reports are satisfactory, the crop is especially good in Bessarabia and Podolia, doubtful in Volhynia, Minsk and Mocheley, owing to excessive rain, fair in the Province bordering on the Sea of Azov and the River Don, and especially fine in Charkoff and Poltana.

Reports indicate that the corn crop has materially suffered throughout the Western States from long-continued drought. Local rains have fallen in many localities since our reports have reached us, but it is questionable whether the damage to the corn crop can be repaired even by general rains! The crop in many parts of the West is in a lamentable condition. Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Missouri, Ohio, Minnesota and Dakota have suffered less than the other States.

## A Youthful Lion Killer.

"In a rude stage, over the rough mountain road from North Yakima to Ellensburg, in February last, I and a lot of others were traveling. The snow was very deep and it was pretty cold. We had got within about a mile of Ellensburg, which is the initial trading point in the Kittitas valley, when we saw at the roadside, next to a low marsh, a monster wild animal suspended partly to a bent willow tree, the other part resting on the ground. The skin had been freshly taken off,

"Men, boys, and even women were standing in groups, discussing something eagerly. Down the principal street was a bigger crowd advancing toward us, headed by two little boys dragging something over the snow.

"It proved to be the hide of our big wild animal—a genuine California lion—and what do you suppose it measured? Nine feet from tip to tip. The oldest of these boys, mark you, was only nine, and the other younger. They had gone out hunting along the river and in the swamp for jack rabbits. They had killed several and at length coming out to the roadside, were appalled to see the lion standing there looking at them and preparing by his threatening gestures to come forward and attack him. Without a second's hesitation Johnny Singleton, who carried the only gun, let fly a charge of shot at him. He hit him plump in the head, then he let go the other barrel, and killed him deadlier than a nit right there in his tracks."

## Lack of Romance.

"There is, after all, a deplorable lack of romance in this progressive age of ours," said a gentleman in a jewellery store. "In days gone by the betrothal ring was considered as a sort of love token, and the maiden who received it wore it and doted upon it because of the spirit in which it was given. Now, however, they are very particular, and it is no unusual thing for them to come here with their engagement rings and have settings changed or some other little matter that doesn't suit them corrected. Now, that sort of thing is calculated to knock romance higher than a kite."

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