

THE WEEK'S NEWS.

CANADIAN.

On Thursday John Tillington, a St. Catharines fruit dealer, shipped 50,000 pounds of dried apples to the North-west.

The Minister of Customs has decided that duty must be paid on Canadian teams returning from work in American lumber woods.

It is claimed that a majority of the candidates for aldermanic honours in Ottawa have promised to support the license reduction movement in that city.

A number of the employes in the Toronto Custom house have been granted increases of salaries, and two have retired on account of ill-health, receiving the usual gratuities.

Our English correspondent points out that owing to the scarcity of horses in the British army, a chance offers itself of which Canadian breeders should not be slow to avail themselves.

The Government has commissioned Mr. Simeon Jones, ex-M.P., of St. John, N.B., to visit South America and the West Indies with a view to working up closer trade relations with Canada.

The dispute between the Canadian Pacific and Grand Trunk railways over the former's eastern entrance to Toronto has been decided by the Railway Committee of the Privy Council in favour of the Canadian Pacific.

The *Canadian Gazette* wants the Dominion Government to be invested with power to prohibit raft enterprises like that which recently proved so conspicuous a failure, on the ground of the danger to ocean navigation thus involved.

The Port Hope Times remarks:—Young men who were bothered trying to think of something to give particular young ladies, should have remembered that marriage licenses are easily and promptly procured, and that the cost is not excessive.

Certain statements seriously reflecting upon the Toronto City Auditors, regarding grave irregularities in the Water Works department, were made by the Chairman of the Executive Committee, and a special committee is investigating the matter.

Montreal has fifteen hundred licensed and unlicensed groggeries, while Toronto has but one hundred and fifty hotels and saloons. It seems that in Quebec a saloon keeper may become a political office holder, or an occupant of a seat in any of the representative bodies. This accounts for the influence of the saloon interest in the East. We do things better in Ontario.

A Fredericton schoolboy, Will O'Hara, played truant and was afraid to return home. He remained out all night, lying under a hedge, with no covering except a thin shirt. In the morning he was unconscious and would have died there had not a neighbor seen him and told his parents, who, almost wild with grief, were overjoyed at finding any life in their boy. After long insensibility he recovered.

Last October an expedition was sent to Montana from the American Museum of Natural History, New York, to secure a number of buffaloes for a herd group. The party has just returned unsuccessful, having been unable to find a single buffalo although diligent search was made over the most likely territory. So many valuable specimens of remains of other animals were found, however, that the expedition was not altogether a failure.

The Montreal detective scandal has engaged the attention of both English and American journals. The latest comment upon it comes from across the ocean and is in the nature of a suggestion. It is stated that the scandal would make a good basis for a sensational novel. A robbery is committed and trusted detectives are employed to bring the thieves to justice. As the detectives are the culprits they, of course, fail to find anything but clues. Were Gilbert to handle the subject he would cause the detectives to arrest themselves. How he would ultimately extricate them and marry them to the various heroines, deponent saith not.

The lost Jiggins raft has given Canadian maritime interests an unenviable notoriety. The raft was built in New Brunswick as an experiment in the shipment of timber, the idea of the builder being that logs braced together could be towed to New York less expensively than they could be carried by ship. It would appear that the probability that the huge structure might become unmanageable at sea never entered the mind of the designer; or, if it did, it was perhaps set aside with the reflection that the risks of accidents were less numerous than the chances that the raft would pull through in safety. The disaster has now happened, and the raft has been afloat on the ocean, a terror to mariners and a discredit to Canada. Even the breaking up of the raft will not relieve the feeling of fear with regard to it, for it is stated that one of those huge logs striking an iron vessel with the full force of the waves would probably sink her. No doubt we have seen the last of the big raft business. The shipping interest, which has watched the experiment with a jealous eye, will hope so, at all events, for the one raft contained as much timber as seventy timber vessels could carry.

A Halifax special to the N. Y. *World*, Dec. 27, says:—A state of semi-mutiny prevails among the soldiers of the York and Lancaster regiments quartered in the Wellington Barracks. Bad feeling has been brewing among certain companies for some time. Two-thirds of the regiment and its officers prepared to celebrate Christmas in old English style. They handsomely decorated the barracks and issued invitations for a ball. During yesterday there was a great deal of drinking among the men. In fact, most of them were drunk, when orders were issued that no more liquor should be supplied to the men of Company G. The men of that company had had enough to be very ugly, and from that moment trouble was assured. At 6 o'clock the festivities and all preparations for the ball were brought to a sudden stop by the discovery that the barracks had been set on fire. The fire was soon located in Company G's apartment, and was quickly extinguished. It was clearly the work of an incendiary. Three of the soldiers were in the place at the time. They were put under guard, the whole battalion was called out into the exercising grounds, formed in companies, extra sentries and guards were put on duty and orders given that no man should leave the barracks that night; that all festivities were at an end and the ball was indefinitely postponed. The men were terribly enraged at the severity of the orders issued by Col. Luck, and

that commanding officer, clad in full uniform was hooted and jeered at by the frenzied soldiers. A mob of them is reported to have surrounded and badly jostled him. A court of inquiry will sit to-morrow. The same barracks were burned twenty years ago.

UNITED STATES.

The Chicago and North-western Company has just placed an order for 4,100 freight cars.

M. D. Babcock, inventor of the Babcock fire extinguisher, has died in a San Francisco almshouse.

The United States consumes every day 25,900 acres of timber. Each night we retire with 25,000 acres less of forest than the sun gilded with its morning gold.

During the fire which destroyed a portion of Wakefield, Mich., the town was entirely in the hands of roughts, who plundered the stores with impunity.

A number of frightful collisions are reported on United States railways on Saturday, involving terrible loss of life and injury to passengers and railway men, and causing great destruction of railway property.

Uncle Isaac Wallace, of Clarksville, Tex., is one of the most remarkable products of that remarkable State. He is said to be 102 years old, walks with crutches, is still able to earn a living by chopping cordwood, and walks a mile or two daily going and coming from work. That is if you can believe what you read.

A miner in Strawberry Valley, California, says he has led the life of a hermit since boyhood, his only company being newspapers. Yet this man is able to discuss social, political and other problems in a manner creditable to a man of high social position. Surely the newspaper is a society in itself.

The great organ of St. Agnes' church, Brooklyn, which is to rank among the most massive instruments in the world, was formally opened Sunday morning. It has 5,000 pipes, four banks of keys, three octaves of pedals and a full chime of bells. The reeds include a four, eight and sixteen foot trumpet. The power for the bellows is furnished by an hydraulic engine.

Americans, in their hurry and werry, become woefully careless. The dead letter office at Washington during the past fiscal year handled over 6,300,000 pieces of original mail matter, including over 19,000 letters without any address at all. Over 18,000 pieces of dead mail matter were handled every day—a surprisingly large number.

A young girl has cleverly swindled some of the good folks of Maine with a bird protection scheme. Some of the richest and most influential citizens of Lewiston not only signed her papers promising to use their influence to protect song birds, but also entertained her at their homes, and gave her money to help carry on the work. Suddenly the pretty widow—she was a widow then—was called away by a telegram announcing the death of her brother, and a few days afterward a man appeared with \$1,600 worth of promissory notes, which it appeared these citizens had signed when they thought they were pledging themselves not to kill the pretty birds.

FOREIGN.

Catholics and Orangemen had a desperate fight at Killybeam, County Tyrone.

The commission has ordered reductions in judicial rents in Ireland aggregating £2,000,000.

A Hungarian authority says the German army is eager for war with Russia, but Bismarck is in favour of peace.

Mr. Gladstone, in an interview in Paris, said that in the event of war it would be England's role to remain a passive spectator of the terrible struggle.

It is reported that in consequence of the news from Massowah the Italian Government have decided to despatch a reinforcement of 6,000 early in January.

Cardinal Manning has astonished his friends by announcing himself a convert to the teachings of Anarchy. "Every man," he says, "has a right to life and a right to the food necessary to sustain life. Necessity has no law and a starving man has a natural right to his neighbour's bread."

Papers of all shades of opinion reviewing events of the year, express a hope that the Fisheries Commission will find a way to the settlement of Anglo-American disputes. The *Times* says: "The Washington Government has shown moderation and courtesy, and there is reason to hope that the Commission will be able to suggest terms for an acceptable compromise." It declares that the selection of Mr. Chamberlain is a pledge that the British policy will not be governed by mere diplomatic traditions, but by a business-like view of the whole case.

It was a bold act of Count Shermetreff to make a personal protest to the Czar against the Imperial mandate for the closing of the six great universities of Russia at the very time the Nihilists were scattering seditious handbills over St. Petersburg in the interest of the rebellious students. But the Czar listened to the protest, and even ordered the inquiry which the count desired. There has been no danger of the banishment of the university rebels to Siberia. The Czar himself would not dare to consign to such a doom ten thousand young students belonging to the families of the highest social rank in Russia.

Cartier Harrison, who is writing newspaper letters from Japan to the *Chicago Mail*, says:—"When one reflects that there is never a fire which would fill a half-bushel measure; that the Japanese wear no woollen garments, and only sandals or clogs on their feet; that the winters are cold enough to make ice two or three inches thick, and that the ground is often white with snow, one wonders how they live. There seems to be something peculiar in the physical make-up of the Japanese, as well as in their plants, which enables them to endure safely great cold. I am told that plants which in America are killed by autumn frosts here live and bloom in the midst of snow and when the thermometer has gone much below the freezing point. Certainly the people have wonderful powers and endurance if their sensations are as ours are. Every Japanese, high or low, takes his hot bath every night. He jumps into a bath of water heated from 100 to 115 degrees and enjoys the boil, and stands for hours up to his waist in cold, mountain torrents, and it is said will break the ice in winter and work up to his neck in immersion, and seems to feel no ill effects from it. He is certainly a wonderful animal, and ethnological data must yet be furnished to convince me that he is not indigenous to the soil he lives on."

Modes of Keeping Apples.

A few hours expended early in winter by farmers in making experiments for keeping apples sound through winter and into spring, will give them some valuable practical information on the subject, which may be of much use to them both now and in after years. The best time to commence such experiments is late in autumn, just as farmers are about removing their winter apples from the cool out-house where they have been for several weeks, to their fruit-room or cellar for winter storage; but those who have made this removal, and who have their apples already stored in bulk or on shelves, may make the experiments to good advantage, now that they have more time to spare. They are to be made on the basis of the requirements that the fruit will keep best at a uniformly low temperature, or near the freezing point. If this is secured, there is no trouble in keeping fruit for months which otherwise might perish in a few days or weeks. Next to a low temperature, is a uniform one, even if considerably higher. But the most unfavorable of all is a fluctuating one, cold at one time and warm at another, or subjected to rapid changes, disturbing the texture and firmness, and the keeping quality of the fruit.

To secure good results, and to be able to control the temperature of the apartment, the fruit-room should always be entirely separate from the rest of the cellar, if not in a separate building. The apples should never be mixed with vegetables or other matters, in the same place. The farmer who has not yet provided a suitable and separate space, would do well to at once partition off one, either by handsome matched plank, or better, with an eight-inch brick wall. This work may be easily done in winter in an unfrozen cellar. The temporary litter which it occasions can be borne for the neat and satisfactory results which are to follow. If the new apartment can have windows on opposite sides for ventilation, all the better. Hanging or sliding sash will give control, and the temperature may be kept nearly uniform by admitting cold air on cool nights, and closing the windows as the weather becomes warmer. One or two cheap thermometers will be a guide in regulating it. A neat and tidy separate room, made cool in this systematic way, will keep fruit sound, fresh and excellent long after the mass in a promiscuous storage, and with changes of heat and cold, have rotted and perished.

In addition to this care, or as a substitute for it where it cannot be fully applied, it will be valuable to surround the fruit with a protecting substance. We have found that even the slight covering of tissue paper wrapped around each specimen, kept apples sound longer than when they were exposed. Hence also the reason that apples keep better headed up in barrels, if not allowed to remain too long in this condition, or until the confined air became heated, or if not stored in a warm cellar. And hence also the reason that when packed in some pulverized substance, which shall fill the interstices and prevent the accumulation of heated air, a still better purpose will be answered. Among these different substances are—bran, baked sawdust, ground plaster and fine chaff. If sawdust is used, that made from basswood answers well, as it is soft and is free from bad taste. Whatever is used should be perfectly dry, so as not to produce any mould.

In using plaster, which is liable to adhere to the surface of the fruit, it is well to wrap each specimen in thin paper before imbedding it in the plaster.

Either barrels, kegs, or boxes may be employed for receiving the fruit, first placing a layer about an inch deep on the bottom, then a layer of apples with the stems upward, and then another layer of the packing substance, filling in all the spaces between, and then alternating layers of each till full. Care should be taken that no bruised ones are used. These bedding substances will prevent freezing for a time; and some orchardists are quite successful in placing the barrels or boxes in an outhouse or barn, resting on the earth, and with about three feet of hay or straw over them. With this double protection, they will not freeze and being kept cool all winter, they come out fresh and sound in the spring. If in a basement or fruit room, they may be kept colder than when placed on shelves or in bulk exposed to the air, and they will keep the longer for this cooler exposure. A little experience will aid as a guide.

If instead of packing in plaster or fine bran, the less perfect material of the fine shavings of joiners, or from bookbinders, are employed for alternating layers with the fruit, they will aid in protecting it from cold currents and sudden changes, and retaining its soundness.

Farmers who have stored their fruit in cellars, without any cover or protection may obtain much valuable information relative to the keeping of fruit, by performing the following experiments:

1. Count and select fifty good, sound apples from the shelf or exposed mass, wrap each in paper and replace them. Count out fifty more, the same in condition, and place them aside exposed. Next spring count the number of decayed ones in each lot, and see how each has fared.
2. Count out and place fifty equal specimens each in boxes of suitable size, packed in fine shavings, fine-chopped oat straw, bookbinders' chips, coarse and fine chaff, bran, sifted coal ashes, and plaster; put them in a cool but not freezing apartment, and by counting the decayed specimens next spring, compare the results.
3. Fill boxes large enough to hold half a bushel or a bushel, with apples in the more compact packing, as plaster or fine chaff, and place them in the barn, with a few feet of hay, or a foot or two of chaff, upon them, and examine their condition in spring or summer.

Improvements on these modes will suggest themselves to orchardists; they are offered merely by way of hints for practical tests of different modes. Similar trials may be made with long keeping winter pears.

The Difference.

Years ago we had the pleasure of somewhat frequent talks with the venerable Dr. William S. Plummer. In the course of one of our conversations we asked him, "How do you account for the fact that some men who are evidently not religious in their lives, can preach sermons that are so engaging and edifying?" We shall never forget the solemn and profound reply given by the old preacher, in words so few and fitting, "Gifts are not graces."

DUBLIN'S LATEST SENSATION.

Extraordinary Career of the Man Whom Captain Dunne Shot At.

The shooting affair in Dublin, of which you have received some particulars, is attracting a good deal of attention here because of the high social position of some of the people engaged in it. The Rev. Henry Whyte Melville, who betrayed Captain Dunne's daughter, and narrowly escaped death at the hands of the infuriated father, has no blue blood in his veins. He formerly rejoiced in the unromantic patronymic of Higginson, and worked as a journalist for some time in Dublin, and also, it is said, in America. Later he entered the service of the Irish Customs, married and started raising a family. Mrs. Whyte Melville was the daughter of Lord Bateman, granddaughter by marriage of the fifth Duke of Leeds, and cousin of no less a person than Lord Salisbury. Her daughter by her late husband is married to Viscount Massereene, a peer of the realm. How Higginson became acquainted with a lady so immeasurably above him in the social scale is at present somewhat of a mystery; but Mrs. Melville was elderly, vain, romantic in her ideas, and enormously rich—just the sort of a woman to fall a prey to any handsome, unscrupulous and fairly young adventurer.

Higginson filled these conditions to the letter, and as an excuse for the old widow it must be put on record that since he mysteriously disappeared from Dublin he had acquired the additional attraction of a clerkship in holy orders. In other words, he had become an Episcopal clergyman, having been ordained in South Africa after a short and exciting career, during which he was more familiar with taverns and gambling bells than with churches. Mrs. Melville became enamored of Higginson, who, she supposed, was a single man. As a matter of fact he had a wife living, and had deserted her and her children after a vain and infamous attempt to obtain a divorce. Higginson had no difficulty in ascertaining the social standing and pecuniary position of the lovely old widow. She had not long before inherited something like £500,000 under the will of the late Duke of Leeds. He responded to her advances with stimulated ardor, and attended her publicly and in private like a lap dog. The Viscountess Massereene heard of her mother's infatuation and passionately protested. In vain she invoked the memory of her idolized dead father. In vain the family influence from Lord Salisbury downward was brought to bear to break off the threatened mesalliance. The strangely assorted couple were married, Higginson taking the name of Whyte Melville in order to evade certain awkward clauses in the Duke of Leeds' will.

A few days afterwards Viscountess Massereene vented her grief and indignation in form of a memorial notice published in the obituary column of all newspapers, in which, after reciting in most pathetic terms the virtues of her late father, she concluded with the significant words, "He was the last of his race." But Higginson is not a sensitive man and he found ample consolation, if he needed any, in the widow's £40,000 a year and her lovely bankers' balance, of which he quickly proceeded to make the freest use, although Mrs. Melville had on the wedding day settled £12,000 on him.

Higginson tired of his wife's mature charms, and turned his baneful eyes on Miss Dunne, a pretty woman of twenty-four, who lived with his wife as half friend, half companion. She was of good birth, and her wonderful accomplishments included a fluent knowledge of French, German and Italian. Her father, Capt. Dunne, had been in reduced circumstances hence her dependent position. Dunne is related to the best families in Ireland, and the position of governor of one of her majesty's prisons, it must be remembered, is in this country considered a dignified one. Poor Ghazi Power, the gallant young journalist who was Gordon's trusted comrade during the long siege of Khartoum, and who, with Col. Stewart, perished in a vain effort to break through the Mahdi's grim cordon and join hands with Wolsey's advancing columns, was the dearly loved nephew of Dunne. Notwithstanding his family connections, Dunne was a good nationalist, and enjoyed the friendship of Isaac Butt, the father of Home Rule.

Higginson found favour in Miss Dunne's eyes, and he soon acquired extraordinary influence over her, rumor says partly by mesmerism, of the result of which the cable has already advised you. Miss Dunne arrived in Dublin last night with the avowed intention of seeing her unfortunate father through the trouble. She was in terrible distress, but firm in her resolve to remain. This morning, however, her paramour gained access to her and ordered her to return to London. She wept and implored, and even went on her knees to the scoundrel, but he was obdurate, and finally succeeded in so bending her to his will that she obeyed his every word and gesture, and she is now on her way to the British metropolis.

It is comforting to learn that Mrs. Whyte Melville now sees Higginson in his true colors as a heartless, ungrateful, unscrupulous villain, and will do all in her power to help Capt. Dunne. It is additionally gratifying to know that Higginson has made himself liable to prosecution for bigamy, and that he will soon be enjoying the pleasure of penal servitude, unless Lord Salisbury should try to hush matters up in order to prevent a public recital in the witness box of his cousin's shame and folly.

This is the time of the year when *bona fide* news is scarce. Hence, we hear one day that war in Europe is unavoidable, and on the next that the situation is improved. While it is utterly impossible to know what to believe, it is certain that the state of affairs between Russia, Germany and Austria is no worse to-day than it has been any number of times during the past few years. That war must come some day is certain. Russia's restlessness will not allow us to expect anything else. The Czar has a large and ponderous army that frets and rusts in times of peace. They long for action and to override the world. They will assuredly get the former at possibly some date not many years off, but the latter they will never accomplish. Meantime while we cannot but regret bloodshed and useless expenditure of treasure, we in Canada can afford to look silently on with a guilty conviction that while Russians and Germans tear each other's throats and pierce each other's breasts we shall profit by an increased demand for bread-stuffs and produce. This, perhaps, appears heartless, but it is the truth, and, after all, we all profit at times by other's harm.

OLD WORLD NEWS.

The Latest War Rumors—The Situation more Hopeful—Hungary's Relations with Russia.

(By cable from our own Correspondent.)

LONDON, Jan. 10.—The reaction from the old year's gloomy forebodings of war continues its course and Austrian rentes are fully 5 per cent. higher than they were on the last day of December. Just as the Viennese last week exaggerated the dangers of an immediate calamity, so now, at the other extreme, they are very cheerful over a situation which to outsiders does not seem particularly altered. There comes to-day, indeed, sundry rumors which make it possible that we shall have a fresh war panic next week.

As a matter of fact, these fluctuations between confidence and despair are bound to continue until some decision is made one way or the other shows Europe what the real situation is and how far the several parties to the broglio are willing to go toward securing a genuine settlement by a compromise. There are certain indications that Bismarck has resumed his efforts to mediate between Russia and Austria, or rather to discover a way in which their rival interests in the Balkans can be reconciled. The main points of such an endeavor will naturally be to find how far Austria can back down without coming to a domestic rupture with the Hungarians, and to see if this can satisfy Russia. This is really what the whole Bulgarian difficulty amounted to from the beginning, the only new feature in the deadlock being that Russia has in the meantime moved forward a lot of troops in order to be able to argue her side of the question more effectively. It remains to be seen whether this demonstration will operate to facilitate settlement or provoke a war. As the affair stands now one issue is just as likely as the other.

The latest news from Sofia makes it evident that a new series of uprisings, mutinies, and invasions by Montenegrin marauders is about to be inaugurated under Russian auspices. These, like the massing of troops on the Galician frontier, are characteristic moves in Russia's game to render things so disagreeable all round for her neighbors that they will finally buy her off by conceding what she wants. They may succeed, at least to the extent of allowing her to dethrone Prince Ferdinand and substitute some friendly Prince of her own choosing; but it is equally possible that this policy of exasperation may instead prompt the neighbors to turn round and give her a good solid thrashing, and so the situation stands.

It is only natural that the slightest disposition of the aged Kaiser should create alarm, and Berlin got tremendously excited the other day over the announcement that he would be unable to attend the opera in the evening and that the Ambassadorial dinner was indefinitely postponed. Reports now say that it is merely a light cold in the throat, which makes it better for him not to talk much, and I am assured by a friend in Berlin who sees him often that the venerable monarch has all Winter long looked and acted stronger than for several Winters previous. Still that is no reason why he is not liable to go out like a candle at any hour and any day.

From information obtained from the Admiralty and from the Royal Geographical Society I am able to state that at present there is not any question of fitting out a special South Polar expedition, but the idea of the so-called Antarctic Exploration Society is to stimulate private enterprise by the promise of bounties for passing beyond certain latitudes.

Sir Allen Young, the veteran Arctic explorer, has been sounded on the subject, but so far he has not shown any disposition to take part in pushing research into those dreary regions. The fact is the society, as at present situated, is not in a position to offer sufficient inducement for any one to undertake a voyage solely with the object of research.

THE MONEY REWARD AVAILABLE.

The pecuniary support obtained up to the present is limited to the Australian colonies, provided the imperial government will grant a similar amount. The matter has been referred here to the hydrographical authorities at the Admiralty, and as they have reported favorably there is little doubt that the money will be forthcoming. The grant, however, will be accompanied with certain stipulations as to the presence on board of any ship claiming the bounty of some competent persons who shall have carried out a series of observations in accordance with the present programme.

The keepers of the Fastnet Lighthouse, fears for whose safety were entertained, owing to the washing away of a portion of the rock on which the lighthouse stands, are safe.

Advices from Massowah state that General Cagni has advanced his fortified posts to a point near Dogali, General San Marzano, commander-in-chief, is moving his headquarters to Fort Monkulce.

Returns issued by the British Board of Trade show that the imports for the past month increased £3,162,685, as compared with those of the corresponding month in 1886, and that the exports for the same month increased £3,230,000 over those for December, 1886.

The Restaurant Cat.

Among the patrons of an uptown restaurant is one who has lost all faith in cats. It was a pitiable cold evening, and a forlorn puss sat on the outside of the window ledge, looking pathetically into the warm room. Now and then she expressed her sorrow by the chromatic music of the feline tribe. Several customers were tempted to open the window and let her in. One of them whose table abutted the ledge where puss sat, finally yielded to her entreaties and raised the sash. With a gratified, but not grateful purr-r-r, the cat came in, sprang upon the kind customer's table, seized in her mouth the half roast chicken that the waiter had just served, and turning, jumped out of the window on to the roof of a shed before the customer could say "scat!" much less lower the sash. Then the other customers hid their faces in their napkins, and the kind-hearted man looked sheepish.—*N. Y. Sun.*

Doctors Mackenzie, Schrader, Krause and Howell issued a bulletin yesterday, in which they take a very hopeful view of the crown Prince's greatly improved condition.