

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

CANADA.

Governor Nelson, of British Columbia, has had a serious attack of influenza, but is recovering.

British Columbia last year exported to the United States produce to the value of \$2,700,000.

East Middlesex Farmers' Institute have voted that the duty on corn should be struck off the list.

J. G. Howard, at one time city Engineer of Toronto, died at his residence in High Park on Monday.

According to the estimates for 1891 the sum of \$1,704,485 will be expended on public works in Ontario.

Mrs. James Campbell, wife of a Windsor drayman, has had \$25,000 left to her by a deceased uncle.

Hon. L. F. R. Masson, ex-Lieut. Governor of Quebec, has been called to the Senate to succeed the late Senator Rodier.

A number of Detroit capitalists intend erecting works in Walkerville for the manufacture of articles of malleable iron.

John Flannigan, Clerk of the Township of Biddulph and of the Division Court in Lucan, has disappeared with his books.

Mr. W. T. Jennings, late Engineer of the C. P. R., has been appointed City Engineer of Toronto, with a salary of \$5,000 a year.

A despatch from Windsor, Ont., says the importation into Canada of butterine and oleomargarine is very considerable just now.

The Dominion Government has decided to place in the estimates the sum \$25,000 for the purchase of seed barley of the two-rowed variety.

Mr. Tupper has introduced a bill into Parliament at Ottawa to absolutely prohibit the throwing of sawdust and other mill refuse into streams.

Senator Macdonald, of British Columbia, introduced a bill into the Senate at Ottawa on Monday night to prohibit the Mormon practice of plural marriages.

The Indians of the district east of Portage are suffering so severely from influenza that many of them are unable to leave for the trapping grounds.

Elgin county council has passed a resolution to ask the Legislature to amend the law so that all counties shall have power to elect their officials by popular vote.

Rev. Mr. Carson, of Kingston, on Sunday evening lectured the female portion of his audience on the evils of tight-lacing and wearing thin boots in sloppy weather.

The Ottawa lumbermen do not believe the story current in St. Paul, Minn., that Canadians are stealing lumber in large quantities from the North-Western States.

A large number of Canadians are returning to Stratford from the Michigan lumber woods, on foot and penniless, having failed to obtain work owing to the open winter.

The county council of Cornwall has resolved to petition the Ontario Legislature to amend the License Act so that the appointment of commissioners and inspectors shall rest with the county councils.

Mrs. Farmer, of Stratford, Ont., widow of Christopher C. Farmer, who was recently killed by lumber projecting over a car in the Grand Trunk yard at Stratford, has brought an action against the company for \$20,000.

Rev. A. Labelle, Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture of the province of Quebec, in a lecture before the French Geographical Society at Paris, France, on Saturday, earnestly appealed to Frenchmen to come to Canada and settle.

A marriage from which Mrs. Walker, *nee* Herald, seeks release, was carried out in fun at an amateur dramatic performance in Dundas, Ont., but, as the ceremony was performed by a clergyman, the matrimonial knot was securely tied.

While Chief Detective Cullen, of Montreal, was showing a revolver, which he did not know was loaded, to Judge Dugas, he discharged the weapon, and the bullet lodged in the cheek of Deputy High Constable Douglas, inflicting a serious wound.

Marie Anne Coletier, a poor French-Canadian girl living in Montreal, has become an heiress to about \$60,000 through the death of her grandmother, mother, and aunt, who lived together, and had their savings, amounting to that sum, secreted in three tin boxes.

The Indians of the Blackfoot reserve, near MacLeod, have a pretty little white girl in their possession, who, it appears, is the daughter of an American officer killed in an Indian skirmish. The American Government have sent an officer to recover the child, whom, however, the Indians refuse to surrender.

Montreal shippers have a big live stock shipping scheme, which they intend bringing before the Dominion Government. They want permission to establish, on the east end of the harbour, a quarantine yard, into which the American cattle trains could be run, and from which the cattle could be transferred to steamers set apart for the trade, and carrying no Canadian cattle.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The bishop of Tuam died on Saturday, aged 79.

H. R. H. Princess Christian is suffering from influenza at Wiesbaden.

A syndicate is being formed in London to acquire trading rights in Alaska.

Dublin municipal council has adopted a resolution expressing confidence in Mr. Parnell.

The colliery owners of Great Britain have resolved to combine to resist the unions of the colliers.

John Reid & Co., one of the oldest ship-building firms on the Clyde, have failed with heavy liabilities.

The London "Lancet" says that Europe has much to fear from cholera during the coming summer.

Sir William Gull, physician in ordinary to the Prince of Wales, died Jan. 29th of paralysis, aged 74.

Reports are current in London that Irish-American extremists contemplate more dynamic outrages in England.

Judge Mansley, of the English High Court of Justice, Queen's Bench Division, died on Saturday to his 82nd year.

It is decided that the different organizations of Good Templars in England shall reunite and form one organization.

It is reported that the Duke of Cambridge will resign his position as commander-in-chief of the British Army in October, and will be succeeded by the Duke of Connaught.

The London "Times" has settled the libel suit brought against it by Mr. Parnell and his secretary, Mr. Campbell, the former receiving £5,000 as a solatium, and the latter £200.

Lord Salisbury has abandoned his proposed trip to the continent, but his health is so bad that it is almost certain he will insist upon being relieved of the cares of the Foreign Office.

Sir Charles Dilke's new book, "The Problems of Greater Britain," is said to be meeting with a large sale in England. He asserts that Imperial Federation must come sooner or later, and the sooner the better.

Mr. Wm. O'Brien was received with enthusiasm at Leeds on Thursday. He said that England's conscience was turning towards the policy of justice, kindness and peace wherewith Providence had inspired Mr. Gladstone.

Sir George Otto Trevelyan, in a speech at Doncaster on Tuesday, denounced the land purchase scheme, because it was altogether at the risk of the British taxpayers. He thought the whole risk should be taken by the Irish local authorities.

Mr. John Morley, M. P., spoke at Liverpool on Thursday night. He criticized the Marquis of Hartington's programme and expressed the opinion that Lord Salisbury made a grave mistake when he threatened the resistance of the peers if Mr. Gladstone was returned to power.

UNITED STATES.

Heavy rains and floods are reported in Oregon.

Eight delayed passenger trains reached San Francisco last Saturday, one week behind time.

The United States Senate has ratified the Samoan Treaty, only twelve negative votes being recorded.

A St. Louis baker put poison on some cakes to kill rats. Two children ate the cakes and died.

Rev. Dr. Talmage and family, of Brooklyn, have reached their home. The doctor is in fine health.

Mrs. Coppinger, daughter of Secretary Blaine, died in Washington at an early hour on Sunday morning.

The English Brewery Syndicate has bought four Toledo breweries for more than three million dollars.

President Harrison's residence in Indianapolis was burglarized on Wednesday night and considerable booty secured.

The Gloucester, Mass., fishermen unanimously pronounce the weather on the banks the worst they have ever experienced.

It is stated that U. S. Minister Lincoln's son Abraham is dying, being unable to bear the drastic treatment of his French physicians.

The presbyteries of New York and Chicago have voted in favor of revising the Confession of Faith, which has been under discussion for some time.

Patrick Gibbons, a politician and witness in the Cronin trial, shot on Tuesday by Police Captain Schuetzler in a saloon brawl at Chicago, is dead.

Jacob Adell, a religious fanatic of Fairmont, Ind., roasted himself to death on Wednesday to expiate his sins and propitiate the favour of the Almighty.

The United States fish commissioner has sent between four and five million whitefish fry for planting in Lake Ontario at Sackett's Harbor, Champlain and Black River bays.

The National Builders' convention at St. Paul resolved to advocate the system of payment by the hour as the only safe method of changing the recognized limits of a day's work.

In New York Sunday night Emil Myers, a blind man, hit his wife on the head with a hammer and then committed suicide by throwing himself from the fire escape. The wife was seriously hurt.

Sergeant O'Donnell, of the U. S. garrison at Fort Niagara, committed suicide on Sunday in his room at the barracks by putting the muzzle of his rifle to his head and pulling the trigger with his toe.

Mrs. Sara Ann Gridley has just died in the Home of the Friendless at Muskegon, Mich., aged 104 years. She was born in North Carolina, smoked her pipe regularly and could read without spectacles up to the last.

The auditing committee engaged on the accounts of Dr. Reilly, treasurer of the United States branch Irish League, have reported that they found a model system of keeping the books, and that everything was properly vouched for.

The house of Mr. Tracey, Secretary of the Navy, in Washington, was destroyed by fire on Monday morning, when Mrs. Tracey, her daughter, and her maid servant were burned to death. Secretary Tracey was rescued, but lies in a precarious condition from having inhaled smoke.

Mrs. Parnell has been interviewed by a reporter of the Buffalo "Express," who found the old lady in a state of destitution. She said she lost money in speculations, and that her son had sunk all his wealth in the Irish cause; also that she could live comfortably on \$25 a year.

The New York state Assembly railroad committee has decided to report favorably the bill authorizing the Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg railway to run ferries from any of their terminal in St. Lawrence and Jefferson counties to any point across the St. Lawrence river in Canada.

By order of Archbishop Ryan, Father Pawler attempted to hold service in the Polish church at Buffalo last Sunday. A force of 200 police was summoned to protect the priest and his followers. Polish men stood aloof while the women fought like enraged tigresses and by sheer force drove the police away, and the priest was roughly handled and badly scared. The service was not held.

IN GENERAL.

The Duke of Montpensier is dead. The condition of Emin Pasha has greatly improved.

A contract has been signed for a Russian loan of \$70,000,000.

The French Republican party has adopted the American caucus system.

A report comes from Lisbon that Major Serra Pinto intends visiting America "for his health."

The Siamese Government has protested against the encroachment of the British flag on its territory.

It is expected that a ukase will shortly be issued forbidding German colonization in Southern Russia.

The Melbourne confederation of the Australian provinces has been postponed till February 6th.

The czar has declared he will not recognize the Brazilian republic during the lifetime of Dom Pedro.

The workmen at Brunn, Austria have decided to demonstrate on May 1 in favor of the eight hour moment.

Count Andrassy, who is in his 70th year, and represented Austria at the Berlin congress, is believed to be dying.

The czar has summoned the Russian minister at London to St. Petersburg to report upon the Anglo-Portuguese dispute.

Forty dismissed and destitute English clerks at Lisbon have applied to the British consul there for passage to their homes.

The Portuguese prime minister says that he is preparing an appeal to the powers, but is anxious to meet Great Britain's wishes.

Daily incidents strengthen the impression that there is a serious divergence of views between Prince Bismarck and Emperor William.

An Austrian doctor claims to have discovered an absolute cure for hydrophobia, and is kind enough to present the world with the recipe.

The total debt of the United States, less cash in the treasury February 1, 1890, is \$1,040,707,016.14. The decrease last month was \$12,245,895.19.

In the French Chamber of Deputies the bill providing for a law to tax foreigners and those who employ foreign labour, had its first reading on Thursday.

It is reported in Lisbon that Lord Salisbury has agreed to a conference of the powers on the question of disputed boundaries in Africa between Portugal and Great Britain.

Col. Stoppel, formerly French military attaché, who warned his Government before 1870 of the disastrous results of a coalition with Germany, now advocates a Franco-German alliance to check Russia.

Bismarck has written a letter to the German Ambassador to the Vatican, saying that all the Societies of the Church of Rome, including the Jesuits, will be welcomed in the German colonies and protected.

It is reported in official circles in St. Petersburg that Emperor William of Germany, the Sultan of Turkey, and the King of Sweden will attend the Russian military manoeuvres at Krasnoe Selo during the present year.

The New Treaty.

The extradition treaty between Canada and the United States has advanced another important stage, the terms of the Convention having been decided upon by the British Minister at Washington, Sir Julian Pauncefote, and Secretary of State, Hon. James G. Blaine. There provisions have just been published and are as follows:—"Manslaughter, counterfeiting or altering money, uttering or bringing into circulation counterfeit or altered money, embezzlement, larceny, obtaining money, goods or valuable securities by false pretences; receiving any money, valuable security or other property, knowing the same to have been embezzled, stolen or fraudulently obtained; fraud by a bailee, banker, agent, trustee, or director, or member or officer of any Company, made criminal by the laws of both countries; perjury or subornation of perjury, abduction, child-stealing, kidnapping; burglary, housebreaking or shopbreaking; piracy by the laws of nations; revolt or conspiracy to revolt by two or more persons on board a ship on the high seas against the authority of the master; wrongfully sinking or destroying a vessel at sea or attempting to do so; assaults on board a ship on the high seas with intent to do grievous bodily harm; crimes and offences against the laws of both countries for the suppression of slavery and slave trading."

In sending forth this draft convention Mr. Blaine points out that the present treaty is not a substitute for that of 1842 but only a supplement, that seeing a great mass of practice had grown up about the old it was not thought wise to disturb it. He draws attention also to the fact that the crimes embraced in the treaty are such as "are made punishable by the laws of all civilized States, and not such as are made penal in any particular country by reason of any conditions there existing." Though not so comprehensive as many could have wished, the new convention embraces those particular crimes whose frequent commission of late years has more than anything else stirred up the powers to take the present action. It will at least have the effect of preventing an increase of that notorious class of citizens who having been unfaithful to their trust and embezzled their employers' goods, have sought an asylum in the neighboring country, where without fear of molestation they have enjoyed the fruits of their dishonesty and fraud. And this provision alone would render the treaty far from valueless.

A Strange Story.

A sensational story with "a woman in it" comes from Constantinople. It appears that Ismail ex-Khedive of Egypt was most unfortunate in his choice of a wife, when eighteen months ago while on a visit to London, he added to his numerous household an Irish damsel. Placing her at the head of his harem she lived in Oriental luxury. She has not proved the angel that he took her to be, and has made herself very obnoxious to the other ladies and most unseemly scenes have occurred. Matters came to a crisis the other day when Ismail forcibly ejected her. She has made her complaint to the British embassy, and has informed him of the horrid practices which are of daily occurrence in the seraglio, and revealed some political intrigues to which she was privy. The result is that at the request of the embassy the Sultan ordered Ismail to be kept in honorable confinement in his palace pending enquiry into the affair. Meantime it might be well for Ismail to spend the time of his imprisonment in making himself familiar with Shakespeare's immortal play, "Taming the Shrew."

There lately passed across the Red Sea from the African to the Arabian shore a flight of locusts calculated to have covered over 2,000 square miles.

The Best Method of Disposing of the Dead.

"Sanitary Entombment," a brochure by Rev. Chas. R. Treat of N. Y. city, discusses the important question of the best method of disposing of our dead, viewed from the standpoint of the public health. In his pamphlet the author traces the origin and growth of the custom of churchyard burying and points out that civilized and Christian society are responsible for the practice. So late in the world's history as the opening centuries of the Christian era, the universal opinion was that the dead should not be brought into proximity with the living. Accordingly the practice definitely demanded by the "Twelve Tables" became universal, not to bury within a "city" or any group of human habitations. The first step in the wrong direction seems to have been taken at the dying request of the first Christian emperor, who was interred at the entrance of the Church of the Holy Apostles, in Constantinople. The tendency, however, to follow this example, and to secure similar interment in holy earth, was stubbornly resisted; and it was not until the latter part of the sixteenth century that burials were permitted within towns or cities, and it was not until the eleventh century that burials were permitted in churches."

About the close of the last century an agitation arose which has been going on more or less steadily ever since. During these one hundred years much valuable testimony has been brought together. Less than 50 years ago Dr. Elisha Harris brought this serious indictment against the burial ground connected with Trinity Church, New York: "Trinity churchyard has been the centre of a very fatal prevalence of cholera, whenever the disease has occurred as an endemic near or within a quarter of a mile of it. Trinity Place, west of it, Rector Street on its border, the streets west of Rector, and the occupants of the neighboring offices and commercial houses have suffered severely at each visitation of the pest, from 1832 to 1851." Of course the evil results are more manifest and glaring where the population is most dense, still where the population is sparse the evil is not abolished but only diluted. On this point Sir Henry Thompson has given emphatic testimony. "No dead body," says this eminent authority, "is ever placed in the soil without polluting the earth, the air, and the water above it and about it."

Similar testimony is given by Dr. Holland, who says that the best situated cemeteries may be so mismanaged as to become unsafe; that cemeteries should not be too near dwellings; that they should not be overcrowded; that the soaks from them should be carefully guarded against; and that wells near burial-grounds are unfit sources of drinking water."

The danger to the public health of the present method is two fold; first from the impregnation of the drinking water with the poisonous compounds which result from decomposed bodies, and second, from the propagation and dissemination of those living organisms which science has demonstrated to be the cause of some of the most deadly diseases which afflict mankind. Here again Sir Henry Thompson is called to witness. He says: "I state, as a fact of the highest importance, that, by burial in earth, we effectively provide—whatever sanitary precautions are taken by ventilation and drainage, whatever disinfection is applied after contagion has occurred—that the pestiferous germs, which have destroyed the body in question, are thus so treasured and protected as to propagate and multiply, ready to reappear and work like ruin hereafter for others. The poisons of scarlet fever, enteric fever (typhoid), small pox, diphtheria, and malignant cholera are undoubtedly transmissible through earth from the buried body."

This opinion is supported by the statement of Dr. James McKellar, a member of the American Public Health Association, who declares: "We believe that the horrid practice of earth burial does more to propagate the germs of disease and death, and to spread desolation and pestilence over the human race, than all man's ingenuity and ignorance in every other custom." Acting now on the principle that the true physician is the man who, having diagnosed the disease, proceeds to prescribe the remedy, our author turns his attention to the actual and possible methods of disposing of the dead. Here there is not much choice—to throw them into the sea, to allow carnivorous birds and beasts of prey to devour them, to burn them, to bury them out of sight, to embalm, to entomb, cover the possible methods of disposition. The first two, not to say three, are so shocking to the tender sentiments that they are not likely ever to prevail, burying is prejudicial to the public health, embalming is too expensive and involves too much mutilation, and only entombing meets the requirements of the tender sentiment, the demands of the public welfare and the question of expense. Instead, therefore of burying or embalming the bodies of the dead, he would dedicate them in an atmosphere from which all moisture had been extracted by artificial means. To accomplish this mausoleums shall be erected in the suburbs of large towns and cities, extensive and handsome edifices that will provide sanitary sepulchres for the dead. Each sepulchre shall be so constructed that anhydrous air could enter or be made to enter, and withdrawn, laden with moisture and morbid matter, which it would convey to a separate structure where a furnace would complete the sanitary work that the anhydrous air had begun, and return to the external atmosphere nothing that would be noxious. The feasibility of this scheme, in so far as controlling the decomposition of bodies is concerned, is demonstrated by the fact that in upland regions and where the air is naturally dry the bodies of the dead do not share the fate of those in moist atmospheric spheres. Among others the following instance is quoted. "A cave was not long ago discovered high up among the Sierra Madre Mountains within which were found, where they had rested undisturbed for many years, the lifeless figures of a little aboriginal household, dried and undecayed. Father, mother, son and daughter, one by one, as death had overtaken them, had been brought thither, bound so as to keep in death the attitude that had marked them when at their rest in life, and there they bore their silent and impressive witness to the beneficent action of the unmoist air that had stayed decay and kept them innocuous to the living that survived." What will be the outcome of the agitation which is being promoted by the Association of which Rev. Mr. Treat is a member, cannot at this early date be certainly foretold. There can be little doubt, however, that this question of properly disposing of the dead, is pressing to the front, and that it will soon constitute one of the

leading problems with which promoters of the public health will have to deal. The present method may die hard, but die it must if once a consensus of scientific opinion is declared against it. While we cannot but cherish tender feelings towards our dead, feelings which manifest themselves in a reverent care for their lifeless bodies, we must accept the doctrine that our first duty is to care for the living.

Politics in Germany.

The Emperor of Germany is very active at present in preparing for the elections to the Reichstag. He is openly courting the workmen with promises of an amelioration of their condition. So far, Bismarck has not been very active, although he has written to the Pope that all Catholic societies will be protected in the German colonies. In 1887 he went farther and asked for Catholic support in the elections. In Germany, however, the Emperor is the chief organ and it is assumed by some European correspondents that he has taken matters into his own hands without much reference to Bismarck. The failure of the Socialist bill is considered Bismarck's fallure, and the Emperor did not allude to the measure in his speech to the members when the Reichstag was dissolved. It appears that the question is to be kept out of the canvas. The result of the elections is a matter of speculation, but there is a belief in Europe that the new Reichstag will be a more liberal body than the one that has just completed its labors. If the results justify expectations, Bismarck's position will be unpleasant, to say the least. He has devoted all of his energies to repression. The strong arm is his chief reliance. By its use popular representation has been reduced to a mere formality. The question now is, will there be a reaction from his methods that will restore constitutional methods?

Portugal and Spain.

Iberian union is a project which, although just now freshly agitated on account of recent experiences both in Portugal and in Spain, has been proposed sufficiently long to develop the intrinsic objections to it. In earlier times the theory of the "balance of power" or of the "equilibrium of Europe" might have sufficed to arouse external opposition to such a dynastic consolidation of the kingdoms on the Peninsula, but nowadays nothing would be in the way but the indisposition of the people themselves. Portugal and Spain, however, have fought for the mastery more than they have sought to coalesce. Three centuries ago Portugal was under the dominion of her larger neighbor for six years; then she broke out in revolt and effectually defeated the Spanish armies, although it was not till nearly seventy years afterward—in 1737—that Spain formally renounced all claims to sovereignty over Portugal. In Napoleon's day the two kingdoms were again at odds. Three years ago a project was talked of for uniting them, and lately it has been said that a Deputy will bring up the subject of Iberian union in general in the Spanish Cortes. Still it is confidently declared that his own party will only countenance a friendly alliance, without any attempt at political amalgamation.

Indistinct Speaking.

The press representatives at Ottawa are breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the members of Parliament who have thus far occupied the attention of the House, because of the indistinct and inaudible manner in which they have been expressing themselves. The complaint is made that in order to gain any idea of what is being said the reporters have to crane their necks and stretch their backs until the torture they endure is sufficient to make even a gripe take a back seat. One of their number in a fit of desperation has even gone so far as to hint to the members on the floor that unless they mend their ways the living speaker may come to his end by a deadly missile consisting of the heavy speeches of former sessions. This will no doubt effect a reformation. Our sage legislators have sufficient discernment to act according to the old adage "A word to the wise is sufficient." We may therefore confidently expect that what could not be effected by an appeal to their philanthropy, will be brought about by the consideration of self interest and preservation. It is not likely that we shall hear anything further of "indistinct utterance," "conglomeration of mumbblings" and other similar expressions.

Our National Highway.

While the Central and Union Pacific railways have both been blockaded for a week or more by snow, the Canadian Pacific railway has been practically free from stoppages, showing in the most practical manner how useful our great Northern line is and how well it might serve the purposes of the Empire at a time when the other lines were in a state of blockade. It is very well for our neighbors to say that the wonderful contrasts of the American climate are strikingly illustrated in a despatch from San Francisco, wherein our correspondent draws attention to the fact that at the very time when the Central Pacific Railroad was blockaded in the Sierras a fortnight ago, roses were in full bloom and oranges and lemons were ripening on the trees at a distance of only seventy miles from the snow-bound trains. It is almost impossible for people to realize the situation in the Sierras during one of these great snow blockades. Three thousand men were employed for ten or twelve days shovelling snow from the sides of the track, while a couple of huge rotary ploughs, each propelled by six of the most powerful locomotives in the world, and a score of smaller ploughs were used for cutting through the drifts.

A celebrated French teacher (M. D. Sully) has been teaching the children in his school, ever since 1851, kindness to animals. He says it has the best influence on their lives and character. He found them "not only more kind to animals, but more gentle and affectionate toward each other," and he hopes that principles of kindness to animals will soon be taught in every school. In more than 5000 French schools regular lessons are now given the children on this subject, and as I have before said in these papers, hundreds, perhaps thousands, of societies of children have been formed in England, France and other countries to protect animals from cruelty. Out of about 2000 criminals in American prisons, inquired of on the subject, it was found that only twelve had any pet animals during their childhood.