

THE WEEK'S NEWS.

CANADA.

The Western Fair will be held at London this year, from the 18th to the 27th September.

A surveying party have started from Eganville to survey the Ottawa and Parry Sound railway.

A post of the Grand Army of the Republic is being formed in Montreal of Canadians who served in the American war.

Kingston Presbytery has endorsed the nomination of Rev. Dr. Laing, of Dundas, as moderator of the next general assembly.

There is a proposal in Quebec to erect a monument to the memory of Major Shortt and Sergt. Wallick, who perished in the St. Sauveur fire.

Twenty-two members of the House of Commons visited Mr. Alonzo Wright, M.P., at his residence last week, who averaged in weight 203 pounds each.

Now it is reported that an English syndicate has an option on all the British Columbia salmon canneries but three. The transaction involves \$1,000,000.

The New Brunswick Local Legislature opened at Fredericton last week. The speech from the throne says Lord Stanley will probably visit that province this year.

The number of immigrants who came by the St. Lawrence route to the Dominion in 1889 was 27,571, against 37,700 in the previous year, a falling off of more than 10,000.

A numerous deputation waited on Sir John Macdonald on Tuesday to urge the improvement of the St. Lawrence canals, and were told that three years would see their wishes realized.

The city council of Montreal on Tuesday wrestled vigorously with the high license question. A motion for a uniform scale of \$1,000 was voted down and six months' hoist administered.

At a special meeting of the Grey Cotton Manufacturers' Association held in Montreal it was reported that all the mills had agreed to an advance of one and a half cents a pound on the price of the finer cottons.

The question of holding a review in Montreal on the Queen's birthday is agitating the minds of volunteer officers, more particularly as there is a probability of the Duke of Connaught being in that city about the 24th of May.

Sir Adolphe Caron announced in Parliament last week that it was the intention of the Government to erect cheap but enduring monuments to the memory of the soldiers of the war of 1812-13 at the places of chief historical importance.

The Grand Trunk bill to authorize the construction of a spur line to connect the road east of Hamilton with Burlington Beach, and thereby shorten the distance between Toronto and Niagara Falls by seven miles, was passed last week by the railway Committee of the Dominion House.

What is known as the Ellis jewel robbery case was concluded in Montreal the other day, Phillips and Malouey, of Montreal, were accused of having won in a game of poker \$14,000 worth of jewellery from Von Reinoltz, traveller for the Toronto firm of P. W. Ellis & Co., not J. E. Ellis & Co., knowing that it did not belong to him. This vital point was not established by the Crown, and the two prisoners were acquitted.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Right Hon. Richard Dowse, second baron of the Irish Court of Exchequer, is dead.

Lord Salisbury's physicians have ordered him to the Riviera for restoration of his health.

An unlocked lamp caused the explosion in a Welsh colliery, by which 88 miners lost their lives.

The Imperial House of Commons last week rejected the Irish Land Tenure Bill by 231 to 179.

Canon Wescott has been appointed bishop of Durham to succeed Bishop Lightfoot, deceased.

If the Australian colonies form a federation it is said that the Duke of Connaught will be the first governor-general.

Twenty thousand steel and iron workers in the north-eastern part of England have gone on strike for a reduction in the hours of labor.

Mr. Parnell has chosen Mr. Vesey Knox, an Ulster Protestant, as the Home Rule candidate for the seat made vacant by Mr. Biggar's death.

Lord Randolph Churchill's Conservative constituents in Paddington have passed a resolution disapproving of his speech on the Parnell commission report.

Le Temps confirms the announcement that a modus vivendi has been established between France and Great Britain regarding the Newfoundland fisheries.

In spite of the Government's opposition a vote was carried in the Imperial House of Commons last week to increase the grant for the volunteer service.

Owing to incessant rains the river Brisbane, Queensland, has overflowed and inundated the town of that name. The damage is estimated at £300,000.

Major-General Sir Howard Craufurd Elphinstone, comptroller and treasurer of the Duke of Connaught's household, was washed overboard from the steamer Tangario, near Tenerife, and drowned.

Trade in England is greatly embarrassed at present by strikes and threatened strikes. Navigation is stopped at Liverpool by the strike of the dock labourers, the river engineers of the North are out, and the coal miners of Lancashire, Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Wales, numbering over 100,000.

UNITED STATES.

The World's Fair will open April 30, 1892, and close October 20.

The levee at New Orleans has given way and the streets are filled with water.

The recent frosts have been most disastrous to the wheat crops of Illinois.

A land-slide at Troy, N. Y., on Saturday morning early demolished a house and killed three people.

Two well dressed men and a woman have stolen \$4,000 worth of diamonds from jewellery stores in Chicago within the past ten days.

The executive of the United Brotherhood of the Clan-na-Gael has issued a call for a

national convention, but the place and date are not indicated.

Chicago carpenters have issued a circular declaring they will demand, on April 7th, 40 cents per hour and eight hours a day's work. They expect to have a strike.

The Miners' Federation, says a New York despatch, has resolved to inaugurate a strike of miners throughout the country, owing to the masters avoiding a direct answer to a demand for more wages.

Judge Andrew J. Davis, probably the richest man in Montana, died last week at Butte City, aged 71. His estate is valued at from \$6,000,000 to \$10,000,000. He is thought to have left no will, and was unmarried.

IN GENERAL.

The Berlin Labor Conference was opened on Saturday.

The Pope has announced the formation of a hierarchy in Japan.

Menotti Garibaldi has insisted that the Italian chamber accept his resignation as a deputy.

A report is widely current that Prince Bismarck has tendered his resignation to the Emperor.

The Princess Louise and Marquis of Lorne were received at the Vatican last week with due ceremony.

A photographer named Veresez, of Klausenburg, Austria, has succeeded in photographing natural colors.

The mercury fell below freezing point in Florida on Sunday night, and vegetables and oranges were injured.

A report that acting British Consul Buchanan had hoisted the British flag in the Shire district has caused great excitement at Lisbon.

Emperor William is delighted at the readiness with which the powers, especially France, have accepted his invitation to the Labour Conference.

A revolt has occurred in Afghanistan against the Amerc. Some of the rebels were captured and beheaded. Others fled to Russian territory.

The young Duc d'Orleans has forbidden the circulation of a petition for his release, saying that a prison on French soil is preferable to freedom in a foreign land.

Thirteen thousand miners of Germany have sent to the Emperor William a telegraphic message thanking him for the good-will he has shown toward workingmen.

It is stated that the Russian government will attempt in April to lift two English steamers, which were sunk off Balaklava during the Crimean war. It is believed that one of the vessels contains £40,000.

The emperor William has accepted Prince Bismarck's resignation and all the ministry have resigned. The trouble is said to arise out of the chancellor's determined opposition to the restoration to the Duke of Cumberland, claimant to the throne of Hanover, of the larger portion of the Guelph funds.

Just Like Barnum.

If Uncle Sam is going to keep the fashion set by the promoters of the late Paris Exposition, he will need to have some special attraction to take the place of the famous Eiffel tower which elicited such admiration and wonder from the millions who beheld it. Some have suggested a tower that will dwarf the Eiffel structure into insignificance, while others have proposed other wonderful things. P. T. Barnum, the great showman, is to the front with a suggestion thoroughly characteristic of the man who has devoted his life to gratifying the desire for the strange, the curious, the wonderful. He says: "Now, I will present the Fair Committee with one of my ideas. In the museum of Boolak, in Egypt, lies the mummified corpse of Rameses II., the Pharaoh of the Exodus, with that of his daughter, the savior of Moses, and others less distinguished of the royal Egyptian family of that era. Let them obtain the loan of these mortuary relics from the Egyptian Government, and allow the Khedive to send his own soldiers to guard the coffins. Think of the stupendousness of the incoherence! To exhibit to the people of the nineteenth century, in a country not discovered until 2,000 or 3,000 years after his death, the corpse of the king of whom we have the earliest record. Consider, too, that that corpse is so perfectly preserved after thousands of years in the tomb, that its features are almost perfect; so perfect that every man, woman, and child who looks upon the mummy may know the countenance of the despot who exerted so great an influence upon the history of the world." The idea of the successful showman is not to be pooh-poohed on financial grounds. The great question is, "is the scheme practicable?" Is there one chance in ten thousand that the Egyptian Government could be persuaded to expose their treasures to the inevitable dangers connected with transport by land and sea. There is little doubt that hundreds of thousands would be attracted to the Fair by these relics, who could not be drawn by any other wonder. Whether the hint will be acted upon remains to be seen.

Marriageable Princesses.

Nineteen princesses to eighty-two princes represents the present condition of the European royal matrimonial market. Not a very encouraging or cheerful prospect for the princes, considering the law of custom regarding royal marriages. But let them not despair; deliverance is at hand. An enterprising Austrian is at present engaged in a scheme to marry rich American heiresses to European princes. He has written to a prominent New York lawyer whom he desires to join him for this purpose. In his letter he speaks of a prince, young, tall, good-looking and connected with the Imperial family, who would be willing to marry a Miss Astor or any other young lady who is rich and of a good family. "If anything can be done," he adds, "write me a few lines and I will come to America with the best of references, in company with two princes." Evidently the young men are becoming desperate and are resolved upon shattering another social idol whose worship has been fruitful of many unhappy matrimonial alliances, that of mere matches where love has never come to consecrate and cement the tie. If, now that they propose to break through the bonds of custom and marry into families destitute of royal blood, they will set less store upon wealth and consider the question of suitability to each other, a long step will have been taken towards securing that domestic felicity, at present a stranger in many royal homes. And this is a consummation devoutly to be wished.

BRITISH NAVAL NOTES.

Some Recent Additions and the Kind of Ships They Are.

If it be true that the Admiralty have decided to fit steel armor belts instead of sloping edges to the steel decks of the second-class cruisers which are to be added to the navy, a great concession will have been made to the naval element at Whitehall, and a considerable climb down will have been effected by the constructive staff. It is argued that if the armor belt is preferable to the sloping deck armor in a second-class cruiser, it is still more necessary in a cruiser of the first class, and so it may be assumed that the days of the sloping deck armor are at an end. There is doubt expressed that this decision has been come to with the full consent of Mr. W. H. White, the Chief Naval Constructor.

Three of the new torpedo gunboats of the Sharpshooter type have arrived at the steam trial stage, but neither of them has yet got through it, although each vessel seems to be an improvement on its predecessor. The Sharpshooter was laid down at Devonport in September, 1887. She was to have taken part in the last year's manoeuvres, but whenever she was put to a forced-draught trial her boiler tubes gave out badly, on one occasion scalding those at the fires. She is still under repair at Devonport—two years and five months from the date her keel was laid—time enough to build and commission a cruiser. The Melpomene's keel was laid a month later than the Sharpshooter's yet she was commissioned to take part in last year's review and manoeuvres. The keel of the Seagull was laid at Chatham in April, 1888, and all went well with her until she came round to Portsmouth for her forced-draught trial. She was steady and comparatively dry at sea, but when going anything over 17 knots an hour the vibration was excessive, and when going 19.5 her commander and chief engineer feared that it might burst a steam pipe, to say nothing of opening her seam and loosening the rivets in her plating, so her forced-draught trial was postponed until she had been strengthened.

Concerning the British battleship Trafalgar, which has been fitted with hollow steel torpedo booms, *Broad Arrow* says: "How long will our fast men-of-war be condemned to surround themselves with cumbersome crinolines, composed of booms, guys, and nets, which in action would be a source of positive danger to them?—as, when damaged by quick firing or machine-gun fire, they would be very likely to foul the screws. A fast ship does not remain at anchor in war time unless she is taking in coal or stores, and the only other time when her torpedo net would be of the least use to her would be when blockading one of the enemy's ports, and then on clear nights the captains would probably rather have their torpedo nets rigged in, so as to be ready for a start should any of the enemy appear, as, when going over six or seven knots an hour torpedo nets cannot be kept out.

The British cruiser *Warspite*, ordered as flagship of the British forces on the west coast of America, will be commanded by Captain the Hon. Hedworth Lambton, and will have a complement of 470 officers and men. *Shearwater* sister ship to the *Imperieuse*, and will be the fastest, largest, and most powerful iron-clad cruiser ever attached to the British Pacific squadron. She has been built and equipped at a cost of £653,000, and was originally brig-rigged, but it was found that her masts and spars were of little use to her, and she is now simply fitted with a military mast like the battle ships, of recent construction. She is capable of a speed of 16.75 knots under forced draught and 15.5 knots under natural draught.

The final issue of the Mannlicher small-bore rifle, model 1888, to the whole German imperial infantry having necessitated certain changes in the official musketry instructions of the army, a second edition of "The Instruction Book" has just been published. This pattern weapon on the Mannlicher system cannot be loaded with single cartridges, the mechanism of the magazine, which holds only four cartridges, placing them all in position by one movement, while the magazine can be filled *ad libitum* by the soldier from his supply pouches. The breech portion grasped by the hand has a steeple (muzzle) to prevent overheating during rapid firing. The initial velocity of the bullet is 620 meters per second, (25 meters from the muzzle,) while its extreme range exceeds 3,800 meters at an angle of fire of 32 degrees.

The penetrating power of the projectile is sufficient to pierce an elm plank 80 centimeters thick at 100 meters distance; at 1,800 meters it will go through a plank 5 centimeters thick; at 300 meters it will traverse an iron plate of 7 millimeters thick; but a steel plate 8 millimeters thick is proof against the bullet at any distance. It is estimated that an earthen parapet should have at least 75 centimeters in depth to afford safe shelter from infantry with the new weapon, while a brick wall would require a brick and a half in thickness to give similar shelter. Generally speaking, the penetrating power of this pattern weapon rifle may be estimated at 75 per cent, superior to the Mauser. The ranges, according to regulation, are henceforth set down as follows: "Short range," up to 600 meters; "medium range," 600 to 1,000 meters, and "long range any distance beyond 1,000 meters.

The Uneasy Czar.

The reception of a letter headed with skull and cross bones, and containing threats upon one's life, though never desirable, does not imply an equal degree of danger in all countries. Among ourselves numerous instances of such unwelcome missives have come to light without any serious after results. In Russia, however, it can hardly be regarded in so trifling a light, especially when the Czar is the object of attack. Only the other day this potentate received a threatening letter from a woman, who says, that unless he modifies his reactionary policy, he will share the fate of Peter III., Paul I. and Alexander II. The intense hatred entertained for their chief magistrate by many of his subjects, owing to the tyranny exercised in carrying on the affairs of his empire, has prepared them for any atrocity. The extra precautions which the police are said to be taking, will no doubt be found necessary, if the thrice-acted tragedy of assassination is not to be repeated. Just now there are many heads more secure and more restful than that of Alexander III., who could be more sincerely and heartily pitied if he were less to blame for his great unpopularity.

Lighthouse Bored—The actor compelled to play to one.

QUININE A CURE-ALL.

Although Known Long Ago It Was Only Recently Introduced into the Pharmacopeia.

Of the thousands who say quinine is "good for everything," few are aware that its introduction into the pharmacopeia is of comparatively recent date. Quinine is one of the most common of homeopathic drugs and is used for all ailments. It is an alkaloid obtained from the cinchona bark, whose wonderful properties as a tonic became known about 1637. At that time the countess of Cinchon, vice-queen of Peru, was very ill with a lingering fever, and the best medical men of South America were in attendance and had almost despaired of the countess' recovery. One day a washerwoman appeared at the palace and gave the countess' maid a bark which she directed to be given to her mistress. The countess rallied, and in a short time recovered. The strange bark was then called cinchona bark, whose praises the vice-queen was always singing.

Quinine came into general use in Europe about the close of the seventeenth century, and for about 100 years the Europeans were dependent upon a few South American states for their supply, which was very meager, as Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, which were the chief producers, were continually wrangling with each other. Their squabbles prevented the natives gathering cinchona bark, and often in a few weeks the price of quinine would fluctuate several dollars a pound. These petty states monopolized the trade in the severest manner, and the poor bark-gatherers were compelled to sell their stuff for whatever the government chose to give, and at present the South American states levy a duty on all the bark exported.

The Europeans soon became tired of this way of securing their supply and the Dutch were the first, after years of experimenting, to succeed in breaking the South American monopoly. They found that the tree would grow in the East Indies. The English government, jealous of their rival's success, sent out numerous expeditions to investigate the whole subject and see whether or not the trees could be transplanted, and this was successfully done after many trials in northern India.

Although the trees flourished where they had been transplanted the Dutch encountered other obstacles. It was found that the bark of the same species of trees was of very irregular quality, and although it all looked alike it often required a chemical analysis to ascertain its value. Some barks yield as high as 13 per cent alkaloids, upon which the value of cinchona depends.

The season for gathering the bark begins in August and lasts till October or November, according to the weather. After it is stripped from the tree it has to be thoroughly dried and then packed in casks of moistened cowhide or in bales of heavy sacking. Most of these are branded with trademarks. Some of these have attained considerable reputation, any bark in the bales so named can be relied upon. It is claimed that there is a great deal of trickery used in the trade, as inferior or worthless barks are sometimes skillfully mixed with good barks, and the difference is so slight that all the barks are analyzed before they are accepted.

Quinine is generally taken in two-grain capsules or in a powder with water or whiskey. The first way is preferable, as it does away with any disagreeable taste.

Trinity's Musical Degrees.

The action of the English Universities in seeking to restrain Trinity University, Toronto, from conferring musical degrees in England partakes considerably of the dog-in-the-manger character. It appears that the musical degrees of the English universities are held about by numerous prohibitory measures that prevent the large majority of educated musicians from gaining them. Among other requisites residence in an affiliated college is necessary. Feeling that the restrictions were unnecessary and unreasonable, and having learned of the superior and thorough character of Trinity's musical instruction, many of the leading English musicians wrote the Trinity authorities, stating that such a musical course was just what was wanted in England. With commendable energy and enterprise Trinity University, after taking due and careful consideration, decided to hold examinations in London contemporaneously with those in Toronto. A board of three examiners, who were well-known musical authorities, was appointed. The result was that at the present time the examinations of Trinity, freed as they are from prohibitory and unnecessary incumbrances, are taken by a large number of English candidates, and its Mus. Bac. degree has become widely and fully recognized. The popularity of Trinity's course has undoubtedly aroused the jealousy of the older but less energetic universities in England, and has led to the present application to Lord Knutsford, the Colonial Secretary, to deprive Trinity of its educational status in Great Britain. The authorities of the Canadian institution, on the other hand, maintain that they have in no way exceeded or violated their charter or powers. Steps have been taken to bring their case fully before the Colonial Secretary, who, it is hoped, will respect the provisions of Trinity's Charter, which gives to the institution all the rights, privileges and prerogatives of the English Universities.

Bismarck Disappointed.

The disappointment of Prince Bismarck can be appreciated by those parents who have lived to see their fondest hopes dashed to the ground through the insufficiency of their sons to fill the places for which by ambitious parents they had been designed. It is learned from personal friends that the Chancellor's policy has been to induct his son Herbert into all the functions of the Government that he regards as almost hereditary dignities for the Bismarck line. The Chancellor now confesses, however, his disappointment on finding Herbert physically and mentally unequal to the task. He therefore has decided to retire gradually from his various posts, retaining only the Foreign Office for bestowal on his son. But surely the old man ought to be satisfied with the glory that has come to his house through his own exceptional greatness. To be esteemed one of two who hold first place among the statesmen of this 19th century, is honor sufficient, one would think, for any family. And such distinction has been accorded by competent judges, to Bismarck and the immortal Cavour. But whether satisfied or not, nature which always opposes a monopoly of her choicest gifts, has evidently decided to pass the honor around.

Tramp Language.

As seen and known by most persons the tramp is not particularly interesting character. This is partly due to the fact that by most persons the tramp is usually encountered under circumstances decidedly unfavorable. Studied more carefully, however, there are some features about this variety of the *genus homo* that invest him with real interest. An English clergyman has for some time been making tramps a special study, and has discovered some rather curious things concerning them. He styles them "the knights and ladies of the honorable order of cadgers." Among the interesting things he has discovered is, that tramps have their own mode of greeting as well as a code of signs by which they give useful information to their brethren of the road. "Various races" he says, "have curious modes of greeting. Englishmen still shake hands, Indians rub noses, but when tramps meet they always sit down and take off their boots. If two knights 'pal up,' one takes the 'patter' and the other the 'line' or 'link.' On the way from place to place the various signs—good or bad, on posts and gates—are examined, and the two then know exactly how to conduct themselves—what they will get here and what they will not get there. A carefully arranged and expressive 'snivel' is regarded as their most valuable acquirement. The 'religious snivel' and the 'lost a relative snivel' are also good. It is a curious fact that the eight best-known signs used by tramps are nearly all Greek and mathematical symbols, one being especially remarkable—the Greek 'theta,' which, being the first letter of 'theos' is put on the gates of religious people's houses. Other signs mean, 'Will buy if you have got what they want,' 'A good feed,' 'No good,' 'A certainty,' 'Spoilt,' 'Prison,' 'Very dangerous,' and so forth." In this cipher language, which no doubt is used in some form among tramps in this country, we have an explanation of the fact that tramps obtrude their presence upon some people much more frequently than upon others. However unconsciously, it is nevertheless a fact that in so trifling a circumstance as confronting a tramp at one's door one is establishing a reputation, which is recorded not in marble white but upon one's gate post or other convenient place, and by means of some unintelligible mark or hieroglyph. And this is the annoying feature about it, that until one obtains the key to unlock the mysterious signs curiosity can never be satisfied as to the particular character given.

English Capital Again.

From London comes word that financial failures, smashes, crashes and dire catastrophes are feared because of wild-cat investment of English capital in the United States. A correspondent states that "the idiotic manner in which for the past year or two everybody has been crowding into all sorts of wild schemes here in London is literally incredible." A very large proportion of these ventures have been engineered by American promoters, and many millions of sterling of British money have been carried across the Atlantic as a consequence. "American breweries have been put into capital in London for \$1,000,000 without the slightest difficulty upon which it would have been very hard work indeed to raise \$300,000 in New York." History repeats itself. Ever since English fortune-hunters went wild over iron pyrites dug up in the new colony of Virginia, evidences have accumulated to warrant the cynical Carlyle's observation that Englishmen are "mostly fools." Of course he didn't mean it, but there's no denying that the evidences are continually renewed. South Sea and other bubbles are always being blown. Not long ago there was, or it was pretended that there was, apprehension in the United States because so many industries were passing into the hands of English capitalists. It is amusing now to see the apprehension shift across the sea. When it comes to the competition of English capital in the United States, the investors are the only ones who have much to fear. If an American manufacturer is more eager to sell out than to continue the business it is safe to assume that he sees more money in it. Naturally the owners of a plant which does not pay a fair per cent, are just the ones to work for a chance to unload on the guileless foreigner who seeks greater returns in this part of the world than he can get at home. It is not at all strange if unprofitable establishments in the United States have been thus turned over to English capitalists; but every over-sharp bargain will tend to increase foreign distrust in American investments.

The English-Speaking Race.

Much has been said by those who talk of "Greater Britain," or who speak of the English families beyond the seas, in regard to the supremacy of the English race. The question which comes up is whether this mighty people, scattered over the entire world, but bound by a common speech and common memories and common laws, will remain in any real sense a homogeneous race. On this point the London Tablet reaches the affirmative conclusion, and notes the changes which are leading to this result. It says: "Already it is matter for common observation that a phrase or word which one season is noted as an 'Americanism' the next is accepted by all as though it were part of our inherited English speech. No doubt in Canada and the United States, as in Australia and South Africa, the dominant type will be affected by streams of immigration from other lands. But here, also, history repeats itself, and as Saxon and Norman and Dane and Celt and Gaul helped by their fusion in the making of England, so the same elements will continue to be absorbed by the English-speaking peoples over the seas."

Who is Right?

The double execution which took place in Paris, France, the other day has given rise to a singular discussion between the two eminent physicians, Brown-Sequard and Peter Michel regarding the existence of life after the guillotine has done its work. Dr. Sequard maintains that life departs with the axe, while Dr. Michel insists that the vital principle lingers in the brain during a brief but intensely painful period. However the question can be decided cannot now be imagined. It is at any rate a mere speculative question devoid of practical importance. Its solution could not materially benefit science. Of infinitely more importance than this is the question, "How to live so that the law shall possess no terrors," or in other words how to preserve nature's union of head and shoulders.