

THE WEEK'S NEWS

CANADA.

Copious rains having fallen throughout Quebec, the crop prospects are now much more favourable.

A large deposit of copper has been found on a farm near Cnatham.

William Kinner, aged 80, of Sackville, N. B., was gored to death by a bull.

Senator Odell died in Halifax on Sunday evening. He was born in 1811, and was a Conservative.

Fifty more destitute Russian Jews arrived in Montreal last week by the Allan steamship Circassian.

Various rumors are afloat regarding the projected railway deal in which the G. T. R. and C. P. R. are interested.

John McLean & Co., wholesale milliners, of Montreal, have assigned liabilities, \$241,222.45.

The organizer of Patrons of Industry for South Huron reports over 30 associations in the county.

Last week 5,394 head of cattle and 5,441 sheep were shipped from Montreal—the heaviest week this season.

A farmer in Prince Edward county is said to have made \$1,000 this season from three acres of strawberry patch.

Canadian railway securities were quoted strong in London during last week, owing to good crop prospects in this country.

The C.P.R. has ordered 50 new locomotives and 1,500 box cars to transport this season's harvest from the Northwest to the seaboard.

It is reported that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company intend to place a line of freight and passenger steamers on the route between Duluth and Montreal.

A settlement of crofters will be established in Vancouver Island under the auspices of the British Columbia and Imperial Governments.

Edward Hancock and his wife Elizabeth were placed under arrest in Toronto on Monday evening charged with the murder of their 22-year-old daughter, Sophia.

A three-year-old child of Edward Mullins, Hillsboro', was given an overdose of morphine powder by his mother and died in a few hours.

Two steamers collided near Sault Ste. Marie on Saturday. The Steamer Helena sank in a few minutes and one man was drowned.

The funeral of Col. Bedson, ex-warden of Stoney Mountain penitentiary, took place on Sunday. The public ceremony was held at Winnipeg, and was attended by all the military corps.

Miss Ida Frees a beautiful girl of 18 years was killed at Walkerville on Saturday on the street car track. She was practising on a bicycle and failed to get out of the way in time.

The freedom of the city of Edinburgh is to be conferred upon Sir Daniel Wilson, president of the University of Toronto, and fellow of numerous learned societies.

In the House of Lords on Monday Lord Mountstephen, president of the Canadian Pacific railway, took the usual oath and his seat.

The annual meeting of the Hudson Bay Company took place last week in London, England. The management was sharply criticised as extravagant, but the annual report was finally adopted, Sir Donald Smith, the president, stating that it was hoped business would improve, and that an effort would be made to get the Dominion Government to relieve the company of the care of the North-West Indians.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Her Majesty will visit the French squadron at Portsmouth.

The troopship Orontes arrived on Tuesday with the Grenadiers battalion returning from exile at Bermuda. Their friends intended giving them a reception at Portsmouth, but the War Office learning this altered the course of the ship to Dover.

In the Imperial House of Commons Tuesday Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, president of the Board of Trade, denied that there was any necessity for restricting the immigration of pauper foreigners, as the number of aliens arriving in England in June was 200 less than the number which arrived in June, 1890.

The British order-in-Council for the regulation of the Atlantic cattle trade will be issued very shortly. It is said that it will be found less rigorous in its terms than was expected in Canada, and will enact little beyond compelling irregular steamers to take the precautions already adopted generally by the regular liners.

The Education bill passed the third reading in the House of Lords last week.

Sir Charles Foster, Bart., M.P. for Walsal, Eng., is dead.

Over a million pounds in gold from Portugal has been shipped to England within a week.

The historic Burleigh house by Stamford town, with all great estates surrounding it, will shortly be sold by auction.

Gen. Booth, of the Salvation Army, has started for Africa, where he sees an opening for the work of the Army.

A special cablegram says that it is probable the Lord Mayor of London will formally visit Chicago this autumn.

Another mutiny is reported in the British army. The privates of the second battalion of Coldstream Guards are the disaffected parties this time.

The Queen has assented to the appointment of a Royal Commission to supervise the British exhibit of the Columbian Exposition, Chicago.

The lord mayor of London, Sir Joseph Savory, has been created a baronet, as a reward for the hospitality he extended to the Emperor of Germany.

The membership of the Order of the Garter, made vacant by the death of Earl Granville, has been conferred on the Earl of Cadogan.

At a crowded meeting held in London over which the Bishop of Bedford presided, resolutions were adopted protesting against the unrestricted influx of destitute aliens.

The steamer City of Berlin arrived in Queenstown on Monday with 200 Knights Templars on board from the United States and Canada, who are making a "pilgrimage" of Europe.

Sir Charles Russell, the eminent English lawyer, will shortly proceed to San Francisco to visit his sister, Maria Baptiste, Mother Superior of the Order of Carmelites, whom he has not seen for 34 years.

Le Caron, the British spy, who testified against Parnell and other Irish patriots generally during the sittings of the Parnell-Times Commission, is at the point of death from a tumor.

In the House of Commons on Friday night Sir James Fergusson said he had reason to believe that very satisfactory arrangements would be made with the United States Government in regard to arbitration in the Behring Sea dispute.

The Queen, distressed by the accounts read to her of the sufferings of cattle on the Atlantic voyage, has sent an intimation to Mr. Chaplin, President of the Board of Agriculture, to make the proposed regulations effective.

About 600 Russian Jews, most of them in a destitute condition, are arriving at Hamburg, Germany, daily. The English consul there has published a notice warning them of the futility of going to Great Britain with the expectation of getting work.

At a recent meeting of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, the president said the trade of the country, especially that of the Manchester district, was very bad, which he attributed to the wretched condition of the South American Republics and the cheapness of cotton.

The President of the Wesleyan Conference now sitting in London made an authoritative statement of the view of the Church on recent social scandals. He condemned all gambling, whether the games of chance were practised in aristocratic, or Stock Exchange, or commercial circles.

UNITED STATES.

Riley, an ex-Mantoba hotelkeeper, has been sentenced to fifteen months imprisonment in Missouri for train robbery.

Cattle in Iowa are dying of a mysterious contagious disease. The knees of the animals swell and death soon follows. From Illinois come similar reports.

Russian Jews who have been detained at Boston tell tales of terrible persecution at the hands of Russians prior to their departure for America.

Dr. H. T. Helmbold at New York, who has made \$10,000,000 out of patent medicines, has become a raving maniac, and his case is pronounced hopeless.

The wife of Capt. J. H. Bradshaw, a prominent citizen of Paris, Ky., drowned herself in one foot of water on Tuesday. She tied a stone in her apron to hold herself down. Domestic trouble is the supposed cause.

There has been a large increase in the volume of immigration into the United States during the past fiscal year. The total number arriving was 555,496, as against 451,219 during the fiscal year of 1890.

Samuel Sands of Baltimore, Md., who had been in the newspaper business since 1811, died on Tuesday, aged 92. He put into type, while an apprentice, "The Star Spangled Banner," fresh from the author's hands.

A lead trust will be formed in New Jersey with a capital of \$30,000,000.

Destructive hail and wind storms are reported in Minnesota and South Dakota.

The Farmers' Alliance is said to be combining to corner the whole wheat crop of the United States.

The fatal yellows have appeared to an alarming extent among the peach orchards of Kent county, Md.

Hatry Boyd killed John Myford by a blow from his fist at Monongahela City, Pa., the other day. They fought over a girl.

Mrs. Mark Hopkins Searles has just died at Methuen, Mass., leaving wealth estimated at \$60,000,000. Her husband is worth \$40,000,000.

The Highland Association of Illinois has elected Sir William Gordon Cumming honorary chief of the Association in place of the late Sir John Macdonald.

It is said Senator Leland has his will made so that the great university bearing his name will have an endowment of \$20,000,000.

Orrington Lunt, of Chicago, has presented the North-western University with \$50,000. The gift is to provide a new library building for the university.

Tests made at Washington to show the relative qualities of all-steel and nickle-steel plates for the decks of naval vessels have proved the nickle-steel to be possessed of greater strength and toughness.

A bulletin issued from the Washington Census Office shows the United States to be the largest copper producer in the world, the product for 1889 being 126,053,962 pounds, or 113,028 short tons.

A Grenfield, Mass., despatch says: C. Mason Moody, the defaulting county treasurer has been sentenced in the Supreme Court to five years at hard labor in state's prison.

A special train of five cars composed entirely of steel has been constructed in Chicago. It is claimed the cars neither cost nor weight more than the old style, while being practically indestructible.

At the annual meeting of the Maine Pharmaceutical Association, President C. K. Partridge declared that the prohibition law of that State has, after nearly half a century's trial, proved a "moral, political, demi-religious fraud."

The grand jury has found an indictment against Charles Hennessy, city editor of The New York Daily News, charging him with misdemeanor for publishing an account of the recent electrocutions at Sing Sing.

Charles Kurtz, of Lafayette, Ind., one day last week chastised Jennie, his 16-year-old daughter, with a strap for receiving the attentions of a young man of whom he disapproved, and next morning she drowned herself.

Bradstreet, in the weekly review of the business situation in the United States, refers to the excellent crop prospects and the large amount of grain shipment contracted for European ports. Business in Canada is reported as reviving, and the crop prospects as highly satisfactory.

IN GENERAL.

The French Senate has adjourned and the adjustment of the duty on American pork was not fixed.

The official census of France shows a total population of 38,095,150, an increase since the last census of 208,584.

Intense distress prevails in Buenos Ayres, and starvation is overtaking the poorer classes.

A number of English capitalists have been extensively swindled in a New Mexico mine.

The German emperor slipped and injured his knee on the Hohenzollern the other day, and is compelled to give his leg, but not his tongue, a rest.

The gold fever in Central America has been renewed by the reported finding of the precious metal in large quantities in the district of Bluefield, Nicaragua.

Victor Emmanuel, Prince of Naples, the eldest son of the King of Italy, arrived in London on Monday, and was met at Charing Cross station by the Prince of Wales.

The latest news from China says the southern portion of the country is in a very unsettled condition, and that the foreign inhabitants are in dread of an uprising.

Some miscreant sent an infernal machine disguised as a prayer book to Mme. Constant, wife of the French minister of war, on Saturday. Fortunately the character of the "book" was discovered in time.

A Train from One Tree.

The Tulare people are going to exhibit one of the results of the California climate in an altogether original way. There is a tree in that country which is a fair specimen of what the redwood can be if it grows enough. It stands in a gorge deep enough to be awful, and its topmost boughs, where the cones are thickest, are on a level with the highest rocks on the sides of the ravine. It is not cut yet, so the measurements so far taken may be at fault a bit one way or the other, but they are near enough the truth to make safe betting. The tree is 390 feet high, ninety-six feet from the butt to the first branch, and twenty-six feet through at the very base. A log of clean, smooth wood that will measure ninety feet in length and average twenty feet in diameter can easily be cut out of it. That is what the Tulare people propose to do, and having the log they will utilize it to the benefit of the World's Fair and the glory of Tulare. The tree grows well upward toward the headwaters of the Keweah River, and the great log will have to be carried or moved in some way to the railroad at Visalia, a distance of nearly sixty miles. It is a stupendous undertaking, but the people of that country do not stop at trifles. In all likelihood the trunk will be cut in sections lengthwise, and then the sections will be put on trucks and taken over the log road. Ox teams will do the hauling, probably a score of span to the section. In many places a road will have to be cut through and built up. Crooks and turns and precipitous slants will have to be avoided, and often when the road is uphill it will require the combined strength of all the oxen to haul one section of the tree up the steep. When finally the giant of the tulare woods is where it can be moved on railroad cars it will have cost hundreds and hundreds of dollars, and six months will have passed from the time the men with axes started to fell it. Then the more important work will commence. The log will be made whole by the putting together of the sections. Expert woodsmen will cut it across in the middle, making two lengths, each forty-five feet long. Each of these lengths will then be hewn into the shape of ordinary railway passenger coaches. The rough bark of the tree will be the roof of the car, and on the sides and ends the natural wood will be left unpolished. The inside will be hollowed out, windows and doors put in, and the interior finished after the fashion of Pullman cars. One will be a buffet and dining-car, with apartments for bath, barber shop, and kitchen. The other will be a sleeper with an observation-room. Platforms will be put at the ends and ordinary trucks underneath, and, to prevent the transformed tree from falling to pieces under any circumstances, heavy bands of iron will be put around the body of the car. Captain Thomas H. Thompson, the California World's Fair Commissioner, is now considering the plans, and his idea of what the redwood tree palace-car will look like is given in the cut. The tree would have been left with the bark all on but for the fact that the cars could not be more than the regulation size and get over bridges and through tunnels safely. They will be about eleven feet wide and ten feet high. It is intended that the men of Tulare shall take their wives and children and go to the Columbian Exposition with the tree. The cars will be kept on the fair grounds and the delegation will make them their home. The portions of the tree not used in making the coaches will be cut up and sold as mementoes.

An Actress's Mortuary Preparations.

Amid the applause of the theatre-going world and the glare of the footlights, the triumphs of art, and the satisfaction of success, Madame Bernhardt has always seemed to have a morbid turn of mind. It may be that the splendour of living suggests the inevitable by force of contrast; it may be that the unpoetical region behind the stage, so associated with the glitter of the boards, has turned the thought of the actress toward the general hollowness and vacuity of this mundane existence. Perhaps, after all, philosophical reflection has had nothing to do with it, and Madame Bernhardt may have been impelled by motives of eccentricity; or again there may have been no philosophy or motive in it all. Whatever the cause, which each one may determine to his own satisfaction, it is now a matter of sober history that a large tomb (empty), stands in the cemetery of Pere La Chaise bearing the name of "Bernhardt." The tomb is dignified and classical in its simplicity, and here the flowers passed over the footlights by the Parisian admirers of the actress find a resting place. There is an ideal of artlessness about the thought—the wreaths of triumph may go to seek the tomb of Art, and the triumphant artist can do the decoration herself. So long as she may live, Madame Bernhardt can see that her grave is kept green. The tomb is out of the beaten paths of the cemetery, but one can picture the actress as she hies thither in the early morning, her carriage laden with the triumphs of the night before. With tearful eye and reverent mien the baskets and wreaths are placed upon the empty sarcophagus, while the veiled lady reads her own name upon the marble tomb, and wonders whether life is not all a dream. It is a happy way as well to dispose of garlands that must be a great nuisance to an actress.

Two murders, similar in character to those ascribed in London to "Jack the Ripper," have been committed in Marseilles, France, within a week.

A QUEER BIRD.

The Eccentric and Playful Habits of the Ostrich.

The ostrich is not a bird that can be easily brought up in the way that it should go. It has no powers of discrimination. "Because God hath deprived her of wisdom, neither had He imparted to her understanding," as runs the description of the ostrich in the Book of Job. It cannot discriminate between a wire fence and the open camp, between friends and foes, or between what is helpful and what is hurtful to its digestion. It was owing to its want of understanding in this last respect, and to an equal want of discrimination on the part of the British public, that it has been found impossible to keep ostriches alive in the Zoological Gardens in London. A public accustomed to slip its pennies into automatic machines could not refrain from the temptation offered by the omnivorous throat of an ostrich, and filled them up with poisonous coppers, as if they were so many missionary boxes. In its African life, however, the chief danger that besets it is not the recklessness of its appetite, but its reckless disregard of its own limbs. It will take fright at a shadow and hurl itself blindly into the nearest fence, from which it will be extricated with a broken leg; or fight savagely with a brother ostrich and break its leg; or dance, waltzing with swift and graceful precision, affording a most beautiful sight to the spectator and the greatest satisfaction to itself, until giddiness comes upon it and brings it to the ground—again with a broken leg. It is true that its dangerously powerful legs are also very brittle, but it must be confessed that it does not use them well.

Of the danger that the owners sometimes run from those powerful limbs, the *Great Divide* tells some very amusing stories. A sturdy new-comer, some 6 feet in height, laughed at the warnings that were given him when he set out for a walk, and disdainfully refused the protection of a tacky—a thorny branch, the dexterous use of which will keep the ostrich at bay—averring that he "was not afraid of a dicky-bird!" He was missed and discovered some hours afterward by a search party, most uncomfortably perched on the top of an iron-stone boulder, and slowly grilling under the African sun, while the "dicky-bird" did sentry up and down, watching him with an evil eye. Another gentleman had a theory that any creature, however savage, could be subdued—"quelled," as he said—by the human eye. One day he tried to quell one of his own ostriches, with the result that he was presently found in a very pitiable predicament, lying flat on the ground, while the subject of his experiment jumped up and down on him, occasionally varying the treatment by sitting upon him. Doubtless it was safer to lie down than to stand up, but to be sat upon as if one were an egg must have been indeed humiliating.

Curious, too, is the account that the author gives of the camps or little kingdoms that the ostriches mark out for themselves, with invisible but never-to-be-encroached-upon boundaries. Inside that camp it will bear no intrusion, but outside it, in the domain of its neighbor, it is profoundly indifferent to the stranger's wanderings. Nor is it safe for the farmer to presume upon his former acquaintance with any bird, for an ostrich has not wits enough to distinguish an old friend from a new intruder, nor sufficient respect for his owner to except him from his suspicious hostilities, though it would appear that, as a rule, he will manifest a stronger aversion to the Kafir or Hottentot than to a white man.

PEARLS OF TRUTH.

Nature is God's old Old Testament.

Beg not a long life, but a good one.

The effect of example is one of the most terrible things in life. No one can tell how far it extends. One man's life or one man's thought—influencing in turn multitudes of others—may go down through ages gathering its tremendous harvest of good or evil.

The bee and the serpent often suck at the self-same flower, but the food undergoes in them a great change; for the flower becomes poison in the breast of the serpent, while in the bee it becomes a sweet liquid.

True religion shows its influence in every part of our conduct; it is like the sap of a living tree, which penetrate the most distant boughs.

Remember that the pure speech, the pure thought, the reverent heart and the lofty soul leave their imprint ineffaceably on the countenance.

A big opportunity and a little act are as ill-matched as an elephant yoked up with a toad.

He who puts a bad construction on a good act reveals his own wickedness of heart.

A man never gets what he hoped for by doing wrong, or if he seems to do so, he gets something more that spoils it all.

Contentment consisteth not in heaping on more fuel, but in taking away some fire.

To make boys learn to read, and then place no good books within their reach, is to give men an appetite and leave nothing in the pantry save unwholesome and poisonous food, which, depend upon it, they will eat rather than starve.

Electricity in Warfare.

Some interesting experiments have been made in the estuary of the Mersey to test the efficacy of submarine mines as defenses of the approaches to the port of Liverpool. For some days the Mersey Volunteer Division R. E., Major Montgomery commanding, devoted themselves to laying down "mines" in different spots, and the major, with a large party of officers and others interested, proceeded out in the war office steamer Lady Heathfield to see how these mines could be electrically exploded and note the effects. One mine (an iron box containing 100 pounds of gun cotton) had been laid at a depth of 15 feet of water off rocks known as the "Red Noses," and was electrically connected with Perch Rock Battery, as well as with a buoy 200 yards out in the stream. The steamer struck against this buoy, an electric bell immediately rang the battery, and the mine was fired. This seemed to be practically instantaneous, and the result was that a rudely constructed raft placed over the mine was hurled up in fragments to a great height, with a vast volume of water. It was easy to see what would have been the fate of a ship placed in the position of the raft, especially if the iron box had contained a full charge of gun cotton. Lesser mines were laid with relatively equal effects. A hundred mines are laid in the Mersey as port defenses.

THE FRENCH FLEET AT CRONSTADT.

Movements which Point to an Alliance Between France and Russia.

Events have falsified the first Napoleon's prediction that Europe in fifty years would be either republican or Cossack. Now a new prophecy is current in Paris, that republicans and Cossacks are destined to divide Europe between them. Discreet and cautious as the Russian censorship is wont to show itself, the newspapers published in the Czar's capital have treated the arrival of the French ironclads at Cronstadt as an incident of international importance, at least equal in significance to the visit of Emperor William to England; and they are beginning to evince a spirit of defiance to the Triple Alliance. Just how much, however, the cordial welcome given to the French fleet really means, we shall be in a better position to say when the cable has flashed to us the speech which the Czar is to make. Every word uttered by Alexander III. will be subjected to anxious scrutiny, for of him alone, among the rulers of Christian Europe, can it be said that, ostensibly at least, his will is law. It is true, indeed, that, like other sovereigns, the Czar would be incapable of standing a long war without the assistance of the money kings; but one can never be certain that an autocrat in an outburst of passion may not throw prudence to the winds. It is now well known that Nicholas I. had scarcely given the order that precipitated the Crimean war, before he deplored it, and was only withheld by a false sense of dignity from revoking it.

It is now about eighty years since the last attempt was made to bring about a coalition between France and Russia. Had Napoleon I. been honest and loyal in his treatment of the young Czar Alexander I., whose fancy he had captivated, and had an alliance been cemented by the former's marriage with a Russian grand duchess, it is probable in the judgment of most historians that a Napoleonic dynasty would at this day be reigning over central and western Europe. All that was needed was for the French Emperor to carry out in act the verbal promise to acquiesce in Russia's occupation of Constantinople. But as Talleyrand, who conducted the negotiations, has told us in his memoirs, he was peremptorily directed by his imperial master to avoid committing him in writing to the one concession which Alexander wished, or which offered any substantial return for the Czar's abandonment of his former allies. Failing to obtain Constantinople, Russia grew restless under the restrictive commercial policy of the French empire, and the abortive attempt to coerce her by invasion led to the downfall of the Napoleonic system.

The present situation is much more favorable to the formation of an alliance profitable to both parties. The co-operation of Russia is now more indispensable to France than it seemed to Napoleon I. after the peace of Tilsit. On the other hand, the price demanded by the Czar looks less inordinate. For a long time the impression has been deepening in Paris that English rather than French interests would be compromised by the transformation of Constantinople into a Russian capital. Before the Crimean war was over Napoleon III. was pretty well convinced that the game he had been playing was hardly worth the candle. It was an unwillingness to be used again by England for the purpose of pulling chestnuts from the fire that prompted the refusal of the French Government to take part in the enforcement of the joint ultimatum upon Arabi Pasha. It may be of moment to England, as the ruler of forty millions of Mohammedan subjects, to avert the transfer of Constantinople to the White Czar, but it is by no means clear that France would have anything to lose by a Russian advance to the Bosphorus. At all events, if the French people desire to recover Alsace-Lorraine—and their passionate yearning seems beyond dispute—the advantages of a Russian alliance immensely outweigh the drawbacks.

The Weather and the Farmer.

An example that should be followed in Canada is about to be set in the United States. Up to the present the work of the weather bureau at Washington, the same as ours here, has been utilized more for the benefit of commerce than for the farmer, while it stands to reason that in at least three seasons of the year, spring, summer and fall, the latter's interests are involved with the state of the weather to a far greater extent than that of the merchant. A new head of affairs at Washington has come to recognize that fact and he proposes to endeavor to make the service of interested benefit to agriculture. Predictions will be placed in the hands of the farmer at the earliest possible moment, and they will be so concise their nature as to be of the greatest possible value. A farmer is especially interested in rainfall. A general or vague prediction is not particularly useful to him. Forecasts of rainfall are of little value to him unless they are precise as to time and space. He needs to know also whether the rain is to be heavy or light, with or without wind; whether the rain is to be of short or long duration. From the agriculturists' point of view it is a misfortune that the prediction of some of these features forms the most difficult feat which the forecaster has to perform. The climate of the various States is to receive special study. It is the average weather or climate that determines the agricultural capacity of any region. It is necessary, therefore, for a farmer to understand the climatic conditions under which he is laboring before he can hope for success. The question of droughts is to undergo a careful study, as well as that of cloudbursts. All these matters should also engage the attention of our weather bureau. It would be a good plan to have daily and weekly bulletins posted outside every post office in the land so that all who run may read.

The English demonstrations of sympathy and support for the Triple Alliance have put Frenchmen on their mettle. The Continental coalition with its naval reserve is considered in Paris to be a diplomatic demonstration against France. It is met at once by an ostentatious display of friendliness for Russia. Flags which were captured in the Crimea are to be returned with stately ceremonies, and a French fleet at Cronstadt is paying unprecedented honors to the Czar. The diplomatic expedients of the coalition have the same general effect which was produced by an increase of armaments. Instead of adding to the sense of Continental security, these displays of activity diminish it by challenging counter demonstrations from rival Powers.