

# THE WEEK'S NEWS.

## CANADIAN.

A night school for girls is to be opened in connection with the Brantford public schools.

The Bank of Montreal has declared its regular half-yearly dividend of 5 per cent.

Mrs. Addison, a resident of Hamilton, was found dead in her bed the other morning. She had complained of feeling ill on Sunday.

It is again rumoured in Montreal that Mr. J. J. Curran, the member for Montreal Centre in the House of Commons, is shortly to be taken into the Cabinet.

The Montreal *Monde* publishes a rumour that the next Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec will be Judge Blanchet, of the Court of Appeals.

Ten car loads of hay were shipped the other day from Kingston to England. At the present rate of \$18 a ton it is expected a small profit will be made.

Mr. James Sutherland, J.P., of Mount Brydges, Ont., whose legs were mangled under the wheels of a car at the C. P. R. station at London on Sunday night, is dead.

There is a pleasing anticipation that the lumber trade of the Ottawa district is on the eve of a season of great prosperity.

Mr. Daly states that he knows nothing as yet of the scheme of prepaid passages for immigrants from England referred to in an article in the London Morning Chronicle, which appeared in the cables on Wednesday.

A man named O'Malley, from Boston, fell under the wheels of a C. P. R. train at Medicine Hat, N.W.T., on Tuesday night, and was killed.

Referring to the Ontario law prohibiting the sale of cigarettes to children, the Montreal *Monde* says a strong movement will shortly be inaugurated to obtain the enactment of a similar law in the Province of Quebec.

Henry Hyatt, who explained that he had exchanged for a horse he was accused of stealing a young girl with whom he had been living, was sentenced to two years in the penitentiary by Judge Finkle, at Woodstock.

The Adirondack route between Montreal and New York is now complete. There is a saving of two hours by the new route.

Mr. Charles Wadley, a well-known resident of Oshawa, who was mentally deranged to the extent of continually fearing extreme poverty, committed suicide by drowning himself in a mill race on the outskirts of the town.

The Ottawa Board of Trade has passed a resolution asking the City Council to submit a by-law to the citizens for a bonus to the Ottawa, Arnprior, and Pary Sound railway, which will considerably shorten the distance from the West to the seaboard.

The members of "A" Battery of Canadian Artillery, stationed at Kingston, have just celebrated the twenty-first birthday of the corps.

The reminiscences of Dr. Le Caron, the British spy who supplied information to the English Government respecting the threatened Fenian raid on Canada headed by Gen. O'Neill, have been published in London. He says he and Gen. O'Neill were received at the White House in Washington by President Johnston, who told them that he sympathized with the Fenians and was willing to do all in his power to assist the Fenian movement.

Mr. Foster, who is at present in London, denies the rumour that Canada intends to issue a new loan and also denies that his visit is connected with the Atlantic mail service.

A report is current in St. Catharines that Mr. S. Neelon's interest in the St. Catharines and Niagara Central railway has been purchased for \$200,000 by the Canadian Pacific railway.

A special cable despatch from London says the report for 1891 of the Veterinary Department of the Board of Agriculture contains some interesting facts in regard to the American and Canadian cattle trade. The total imports for the year were from Canada, 108,286 and from the United States, 314,838.

Mr. David Blackley, of Hamilton, has caused a writ to be issued against the Toronto Street Railway Company, claiming \$20,000 for the death of his son Ralph, who was killed on Oct. 1 in Toronto.

The difficulty over the inspection of Canadian grain at New York has been settled. It was agreed that the grain shipped from Manitoba shall be inspected in Winnipeg, while grain from Ontario shall be inspected at the frontier.

Mr. W. B. Jeffries, of Ipswich, Eng., one of the largest shareholders in the Grand Trunk Railway Company, has arrived in Montreal to make a thorough examination of the road and its management with a view to the suggestion of reform.

In connection with the recent pleuro-pneumonia alarm in England, Dr. McEachran, of Montreal, says that the disease does not exist in Canada, and to his knowledge has not existed in this country except in 1866, when it was discovered in the Quebec quarantine in some imported cattle, and then it was stamped out at once.

The opening ceremonies in connection with Victoria University have been concluded, and the new building in the Queen's park, Toronto, was formally declared open by his Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor, in the presence of a large and distinguished assemblage of prominent university men and friends of the institution.

## BRITISH.

The Queen will spend the winter months in Italy.

On and after March 3rd next the Inman line steamers will depart from and arrive at Southampton instead of Liverpool.

Intensely cold weather prevails in Scotland, and the lochs in Perthshire are covered with thick ice, and snow lies heavy on the mountains.

Sir Charles Tupper has been appointed a British plenipotentiary with Lord Dufferin to negotiate a commercial treaty between France and Canada.

A north of England paper announces the discovery of a new process of producing caustic soda, chlorine, and other chemicals direct from brine by electricity.

The Bank of England has advanced its rate of discount from 2 to 3 per cent.

The cold weather continues in England

with great severity, and the poor in the cities are suffering.

The Fenians Mullen and Dowling, the former convicted of complicity in the Phoenix park murders of 1882 and the latter found guilty of killing a policeman, are to be released.

London Truth says Tennyson destroyed a mass of his letters and manuscripts a few years ago in a fit of alarm, caused by his reading Froude's "Reminiscences of Thomas Carlyle."

Canadian experts doubt the Canadian origin of the cow that was slaughtered in Fifeshire on account of pleuro-pneumonia.

Lord Houghton, Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, has refused to receive an address which the Irish Methodists wished to present to him.

Mr. Gladstone has abandoned his intention of leaving England this winter, as the draughting of the Home Rule bill will demand all his time.

Several thousand cotton operators of Heywood, Lancashire, have been notified by the mill-owners of a reduction in their wages of 5 per cent. A strike will probably result.

After five minutes' deliberation the London jury that has been hearing the evidence in the Lambeth poisoning cases brought in a verdict finding Thomas Neill guilty of the murder of Matilda Clover. Judge Hawkins sentenced Neill to be hanged.

A deputation from the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Association waited on Earl Rosebery to urge that the Government establish a protectorate over Uganda to assist in putting down the slave trade. Earl Rosebery said he could not pledge the action of the Government in the premises.

A letter from the Right Rev. Mr. Tucker, Bishop of Equatorial Africa, in which the policy of the British Government in the Uganda matter is severely criticised, will soon be made public. A special cable says the letter is likely to cause a sensation, and its effects will doubtless be to strengthen the sentiment in favor of the retention of Uganda.

## UNITED STATES.

Diphtheria is epidemic at Columbus, Ind. Counterfeit \$2 Dominion notes are in circulation in Buffalo.

Further assaults on non-union workmen are reported from Homestead, Pa.

Mayor Grant, of New York, has declined the presidency of a distillery company with a salary of \$40,000 a year.

The Western Union Telegraph company has decided to increase their capital stock from \$13,800,000 to \$100,000,000.

J. Olford and Miss Zulu J. Pevore, of Columbus, O., were married in a cemetery at Ashland, Ky., by the side of the grave of the bride's sister.

Five cases of smallpox, were found in one house in New York city the other day.

A woman suffering from leprosy has been discovered in Philadelphia and sent to the hospital.

The strike on the Denver and Rio Grande railway, which at one time threatened to assume large proportions, has been declared off.

Capt. J. W. Lawlor, who sailed from Boston in a twelve-foot boat on a trans-Atlantic voyage, has been given up by his friends as lost.

A tramp named John Wood has been arrested at Richmond, Va., who says he knows who committed the Borden murder, that it was not Lizzie Borden, but another relative, whom he refused to name at present.

A sea lion was discovered on Monday at Ludington, Mich., and a large crowd with all manner of weapons, assisted by a couple of tugs, gave chase, but without avail. The animal is thought to be the one which escaped from Chicago a short time ago.

The outbreak of pleuro-pneumonia among United States cattle on the steamer England at Deptford again postpones the free entry of United States stock to British markets, which the American Government has been strongly urging upon the new Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. John Hoissan, seventy-five years of age, who has recently arrived in New York from Amsterdam, and was on his way to join his son in Milwaukee, was run over and killed by a G. T. R. train on Wednesday night while crossing a bridge near Port Huron, Mich.

Mr. and Mrs. Matthews, of Columbia, S. C., desired to attend a religious service, and that their four little children whom they left behind might not do any mischief, they tied them up in a room and locked the door. During their absence the house caught fire and the children were burned to death.

## GENERAL.

Prince Alfred, the eldest son of the Duke of Edinburgh, entered the First Regiment of Prussian Foot Guards yesterday.

The Yaqui Indians in Mexico are on the warpath, and have defeated a detachment of Government troops, besides massacring settlers.

China intends sending a special commission to St. Petersburg for the purpose of negotiating a Russo-Chinese commercial treaty.

There is no doubt that cholera exists in the district of which Coblenz is the centre. A special cable despatch from Berlin says deaths from the disease are known to have taken place in that city and in Mentz, and it is feared the malady is on the increase.

The cattlemen in Southern New Mexico are moving off the ranges, the long continued drought having ruined the pasturage.

The Prince of Montenegro is showing signs of mental trouble which manifests itself in acts of despotism. The Czar has been petitioned to try and induce the Prince to abdicate.

It is expected that the French force under Col. Dodds will attack the Dahomeyans in about ten days, and it will be endeavored to make it the decisive engagement of the campaign.

Chancellor Caprivi's Military bill, calling for an expenditure of 57,500,000 marks has been approved by the Kaiser. The Chancellor is empowered to dissolve the Reichstag if it should fail to pass the measure.

There is a movement in Rome to erect a worthy monument to the memory of Christopher Columbus. A special cable despatch says the International Committee having

the matter in hand has decided to issue a circular to all existing Columbus Committees in Europe and America with a view to universal co-operation. It was also decided to invite Roman Catholics throughout the world to subscribe.

The striking miners of Carmaux held a meeting on Sunday at which a resolution was adopted declining the Government's offer of arbitration and declaring in favour of continuing the strike.

It is stated positively that a German firm has been supplying the Dahomeyans with quick-firing rifles in exchange for slaves, who were shipped under the personal supervision of the German consul.

## DIVIDING THE YEAR.

A New Scheme Being Evolved Which will Make the Year Appear More Evenly and Benefit Everybody.

Gen. Von Sichert in Mayence, who is a personal friend of the German Emperor, and is said to have the Kaiser's backing in his enterprise, is agitating the movement for a new division of the year's calendar.

The general pronounces it "foolish and unbusinesslike that seven months in the year have 31 days, four months 30 days, and one month 28 days, or 29 days respectively."

He says "It causes much confusion, and it is entirely unreasonable that a certain date should advance with every year one day, and with every leap year two days."

"Could it not be so arranged that those days were fixed on certain dates once for all?" asks the general, and continues:

"One year we celebrate Easter in the middle of March; in another year we celebrate it in the middle of April. There are hundreds and thousands of people in every city in the world who divide their business year according to the date Easter may fall on."

"Is it not unreasonable that their year's division should be a different one with every 12 months? By the same unreasonable reckoning, the schooling seasons are regulated. In one year the child has a month's time longer for preparation than in another."

"This may be greatly to the disadvantage of a child that is supposed to pass his or her examination within a stipulated period, not a certain number of months or weeks."

"In some parts of the world, in Germany for instance, five holidays occur successively within 10 ordinary days in all years when one of the Christmas holidays does not chance to fall on a Sunday."

"All this proves that the modern division of the year does no longer fill the requirements of a busy world. This is my proposition for a radical change:

"First—The year is to be divided into four seasons, the first three seasons to have 91 days, the first month in each season to contain 31, the other two months to contain 30 days. The fourth season shall contain 92 days, and in leap years the second season shall also contain 92 days. These two extra days shall be added to the last day of each season, December and June, respectively."

"Second—The first day of each season, i.e., the 1st of January, the 1st of April, the 1st of July, and the 1st of October, shall always fall on Sunday; by this arrangement the first day of each second month of a season falls on a Wednesday, the first day of each third month of a season falls on a Friday. This makes Dec. 30 and June 30 fall on Saturday every year in a century. The 31st day of December in each year and the 31st day of June in each leap year are to be called extra days and leap days respectively; they are to be added to the weeks closing on the 30th of December and the 30th of June as an eighth day."

"Third—Easter shall always fall on the 1st of April, Whitsuntide on the 19th of May. They are to be fixtures on those dates. Christmas is to be fixed forever to fall on Dec. 24."

"Fourth—The beginning of the year, Jan. 1, is to be dated back 11 days, that is, it is to fall on the shortest day of the year. By this arrangement the beginning of spring of the first day of spring, occurs simultaneously with the 1st day of April, the first day of summer falls on July 1, and the beginning of autumn on Oct. 1."

"Fifth—In order to do away with the 11 days the nine extra days and the two leap days are to be omitted in the first nine years after the adoption of the new calendar. The new calendar is to begin with the year 1901."

Michigan has been accorded the privilege of voting upon the Presidential election according to a common sense method. The practice in all the States has been to cast the whole vote in the Electoral College for the candidate who has a majority in the entire State. The new law divides Michigan into electoral districts and thus gives the minority in the State some representation. The result is that, while the electors in New York State will likely be pretty evenly divided, the sweeping thirty-six electoral votes held by that pivotal State will go solidly to one candidate. The minority in New York is thus given no voice at all, and the candidate who gets the minority of votes throughout the Union may be elected by this stiff-jointed arrangement. The Michigan law, however, would make this injustice much less probable, and is on the whole a fairer and more sensible scheme. Commenting on this matter the *Mail* says: "The American constitution is as yet far from perfection."

In a recent address before the London Peace Society, Rev. Hugh Price Hughes said:—"I wish especially to take this opportunity of informing those who do not yet know it that a very remarkable overture came to our own government from the President of the United States twelve months ago, proposing that the British Empire should make with the United States of America, not a treaty of arbitration to deal with one special case, as Lord Salisbury had so happily and wisely done, but a permanent treaty of arbitration binding both sections of the English-speaking world, so that if any difficulty arises the whole matter shall be referred to an impartial tribunal before any hot blood is aroused. I cannot conceive anything more for the glory of God and for the benefit of man than such a position as that. After we have done that we may not despair of persuading the French and Germans to take a similar course. I hold very strongly with Joseph Mazzini that it is the duty of good men to capture the Foreign Office. Suppose we succeeded in that, and had a Foreign Minister who made it his first business to promote peace, we could do a thousand times more than all the peace societies in the world."

## AFFAIRS IN AFRICA.

The Arab Slave Trader Has Risen in His Might—The Killing of King Msihi.

The white man is finding tropical Africa a hard road to travel just at present. If misfortunes never come singly anywhere, they are coming in droves in the Dark Continent. The worm has turned at last, and the Central African Arab, after being buffeted and beaten and taxed for a year, has risen in his might to assert his alleged right to kill or enslave negroes, to monopolize the ivory business, and to transport goods across Lake Tanganyika without contributing to the money box of the Congo Free State. He is supposed to have killed every white man he could lay hands on in a vast area between Tanganyika and Stanley Falls. Fortunately, owing to the paucity of the European population, his victims do not number more than seventeen. He has succeeded, however, in sadly vexing the peace of mind of the Congo Free State, and that young and shaky Government is now hurrying little steamboats up the Congo with black soldiers packed like sardines on the decks. These reformed savages are expected to restrain the blood-thirsty tendencies of the Arabs and restore peace to the primeval forests of the upper river. The Congo Free State is also involved in a war of words with the most important of the river trading companies, whom it has banished from 700 miles of the Mobangi River on the ground that the best interests of the natives require it. This is peculiarly aggravating to the company, as it had just struck an uncommonly rich bonanza in the shape of ivory accumulations to which the people of Bangasso had given years. The company asserts that this is the culmination of a long series of petty annoyances to which trade on the Congo has been subjected, and it is airing its grievances through the Belgian newspapers, to the great scandal of progress in Africa.

The agent of another trading company has succeeded in killing King Msihi, the most powerful ruler within the limits of the Congo State. This potentate was menacing the agent with a sword when he fired the fatal shot, which is perhaps regarded as providential by the State authorities. Missionaries on the Congo also have found reason to complain that the State has greatly reduced the duty on trade gin that it now flows in copious streams, and the natives are drinking themselves to death as fast as possible. The native Christians of Uganda have a grievance against their teachers of opposing creeds, who taught them polemics so successfully that they were ready to fly at one another's throats upon the slightest provocation. Capt. Lugard at last siding with the Protestant faction, and driving all the poor Catholics who escaped his rifles and Maxim guns out of the country. The Germans in East Africa are also bearing heavy burdens imposed upon them not only by the Arabs in Tabora, who have declared their independence of Emperor William, but also by the natives in various parts, from Kilima-Njaro to Lindi, who cannot accustom themselves to the German style, and whose protests take the form of killing the whites and their black servants whenever they get a chance. Some promoters of African progress are disposed to be discouraged; but there is really no reason to lose hope. Reverses and blunders have occurred. White men and their methods in the Dark Continent are not always wise or worthy. The fact remains that never in the early history of America was so much progress made in so short a time as has been made within the past fifteen years in Africa. Only yesterday, a continent larger than our own was as little known in its greater part as the Antarctic lands. To-day, our maps show it teeming with many millions of people, depict its mighty water systems, its mountains, lakes, plains, and forests; and the forces of civilization are pushing in everywhere and are getting a foothold too. May not the work on the Congo Railroad be fairly typical of the present and future of civilization in Africa? For two years the engineers have been blasting, inch by inch, a roadway out of the solid rock. Nature has not helped them to a rod of easy grading. To-day, they can see before them the end of this terrible labor, and new conditions that will make their progress easy to the upper Congo. No reverses or discouragements will defeat the purpose of the civilized world to help Africa to attain the full measure of development of which she is capable.

## Going From Home to Hear the News.

One of the curious experiences of some of the recent Greenland travelers was to learn after their return that an odd waltz performed by the South Greenland Eskimos was in reality a European dance all the rage last Winter in Paris, thence transplanted to Copenhagen, and by easy transition in a Danish steamer and in the person of a Danish official or perhaps officer, taken to the fjord-cut and glacier-browed west coast of Greenland. It is the old, old story of going away from home to hear news or learn something of that that we should have known from the very association with it; but the incident after all suggests what a compressed little globe this is after all. Paris and Upernivik, Hammerfast and Melbourne, Cape Barren and Cape Town are so near each other that one can almost touch them; while experience proves that to go to any out-of-the-way place and not find something in common with the locality, its people or its visitor is so rare as to almost be an impossibility. Every traveler, even the most casual, is impressed with this; and as for the globe trotters the world to them is but a little back yard geographical patch, in which kingdoms and empires take the place of the long rows of cabbages and turnips. It is either the same knowledge or common acquaintance that causes the outcry, "the world is small" and the outcry is as the age of electricity dawns made more than a mere metaphorical truth. We have minute girdles about the earth and five days steamships, and even our Captain Andrews in cockle shells make better time than Columbus; but even then were it not that one never seems to completely get away from a touch of home, the world would seem large enough. Yet with French dances in Greenland, your neighbor's son meeting you perhaps on the slope of Kilimayaro, in the universal language of the sciences we are gradually narrowing the actual circumference till as in the long equation of calculus a zero results. For in fact—

The world is small  
Not divided as old Gull.  
In Casbah's vale or Sahara's plains;  
Where Incas ruled; in the Bear's domains;  
In east to west, in north to south  
Lands verdure blest or bare from drouth

Where streamlets tinkle on their way  
Or icebergs note the hoar frost's sway,  
E'en to the ocean's rim you fly  
Or earth's remotest bounds espy.  
Your friends you'll meet or friends' friends  
see,  
Or cousins to the fortieth degree  
E'en the land's not known to Cook  
Nor mentioned in the latest traveller's book  
Some token, face, some common bond you'll find  
Connecting strangest present with the past  
You've left behind.

## News From the Holy Land.

There are now over 100,000 Jews in the Holy Land. The Jewish population there at present is larger than it has been at any other time since the end of the first century of the Christian era. Nearly four-fifths of them all have gone thither from other countries within the past few years, and they have been going thither this year more steadily than ever before. In former times only a small number of Jews were permitted to live in the country; but the restrictions upon their settlement in it and upon their ownership of land have been removed, and they are now at liberty to repeople it and take possession of it. The number of Jews who have returned to Palestine during the dozen years in which they have been free to enter, has been greater than the number who returned after the Babylonian captivity twenty-four centuries ago. In the city of Jerusalem itself, according to a report of the British Consul there, the Jewish population is now fully 40,000; and a large part of the real estate in and around the city is in Jewish hands. The number of synagogues, schools of learning, hospitals, and other public institutions is constantly increasing; the water supply has been improved; new streets have been opened beyond the walls; telegraphs and electric lights have been introduced; several factories have been set up, and the new railway to Jaffa has already stimulated the activity of the population in various ways. "Palestine will soon be ready for the Jewish race," says the Rev. Dr. Kelt of the Episcopal Church of Jerusalem, in a letter to the London *Times*.

The reports from the northern parts of Palestine are favorable. There is activity at Acre and along the route to Damascus. The wheat raisers there are rejoicing in the prospect of finding markets for their crops; so are the raisers of olives and other fruits. The soil in that region is well adapted to the growth of cotton. A number of important public works have been undertaken in various parts of the country between the river Jordan and the Mediterranean; and we hear of yet other projects in which the Hebrew capitalists of England and France are prepared to invest all the money that may be needed. It will undoubtedly take a long time to regenerate Palestine; but we infer from the news received from Jerusalem that the work of regeneration has been begun. It must take a good many years to give the predominance to the Jewish element in Palestine; but if the number of Jews there should increase for the next ten years at the rate at which it has increased during the past ten years, the Jewish population in the Holy Land will run over a million very soon after the opening of the twentieth century. The shutting out from this country of the Jewish as well as other European immigrants has already had an influence upon the Palestinian movement.

## The Secret Out.

In the narrative of a curious personal experience, Mr. Frederick Greenwood, editor of the St. James Gazette, has just revealed the secret of the late Marshal von Moltke's well-stocked pigeon holes. Years before the Franco-German war Mr. Greenwood was enjoying a walking tour in Hertfordshire. He came across, at a village inn, a young German hawker, whose ostensible calling in life was that of a peregrinating merchant in cheap German clocks for cottages. Mr. Greenwood "drew" the young fellow out, and discovered that the sale of clocks was but a pretext, under cover of which the intelligent Teuton was making a careful survey of the country, noting every trifle in the shape of bridge paths and isolated farmhouses or other structures of substantial appearance that he saw on the way. The guileless tradesman with his cry of "Von't you buy mein Cherman clock?" was in brief, an officially appointed and paid map-maker, entrusted with the important duty of supplying the Prussian Government with information as to English counties, not included even in the most minute of British maps. While Hertfordshire was being surveyed in this manner, there were doubtless numerous other German merchants in clocks, and the wretched colour-prints so familiar in English farmhouses and cottages, who were exploring the country for a similar purpose.

## Ranching in the North-West.

Right Hon. Sir Staveley Hill, Q.C.M.P. for South Staffordshire, Eng., who has large ranching interests in the North-West territories, arrived in Ottawa the other day. He says he found everything in the North-west territories looking well, the crops being good and the ranching business fairly prosperous. Before leaving the territories he made arrangements to ship two train loads of cattle, one to the English market via Bristol and the other for the Ontario market. Mr. Hill says that, judging from his own experience, ranching on a smaller scale would pay better than large ranches. On this point he said: "I think a system will yet be adopted by the Government by which the ranchers will have a proprietary interest in a portion of the land, instead of leasing the whole as now, and then the remainder might be used as in common to all. I have pointed out to the Government the system adopted in Sutherlandshire, Scotland, as one worthy of consideration by the Government. There they have large hills and pasture lands which are used by the farmers generally adjoining them for grazing purposes in the summer time, and each looks after his own on his farm on the lowlands during the winter season. It is likely that this matter will be considered by the new Minister of the Interior."

## The Man Went Off on His Ear.

An old man entered a crowded street car, and seeing a boy seated in the corner, asked if he would give him his seat.  
"Now," said the boy.  
"Do you think that is showing the respect to age that is becoming in a boy? If your father were to come into this car now wouldn't you get up and give him a seat?"  
"Perhaps so," said the boy. "But I ain't ridin' in a street car with any ghost."