

CANADIAN.

The Canadian Pacific railway has issued a new grain tariff, making three cents reduction per hundred pounds.

Mr. W. H. Bennett, M. P. for East Simcoe, who has been seriously ill, is almost completely restored to health.

A forgery was committed on three banks in Peterborough, the other day, by which two hundred and twenty-five dollars were obtained.

Large catches of mackerel have been made along the coast of Nova Scotia, adjacent to Halifax. They will be mostly shipped to the United States.

The ceremony of laying the corner-stone of the monument to M. de Maisonneuve, the founder of Ville Marie, took place Monday morning on the Place d'Armes square, Montreal.

It is understood that a meeting is to be called in Windsor at an early date to organize an Independence of Canada party, and to select a candidate to contest a seat at the next elections.

The inmates of the Hamilton Insane asylum were on Saturday given a trip to the Beach by the steamer Mazaepa. On the return a patient named La Fortune jumped overboard and was drowned.

The Quebec Government has cancelled the unearned provincial subsidies to the extent of nearly three million dollars of all railways which have not complied with the conditions under which such subsidies were voted.

Lieut-General Laurie, ex-M. P., who is now in Ottawa, says that he will again be a candidate for the British House of Commons at the next general elections, and that he has strong hope of succeeding next time.

The Labor day procession in Montreal was a very large one. It extended along the streets for more than a mile, and it was estimated that upwards of four thousand members of the various labour unions were in the parade.

The parishioners of Varennes held a meeting on Sunday to discuss the proposed change in the tithing system, by which the dues are to be paid in cash instead of grain, etc. The change is agreeable to both the curés and the people.

Sir Charles Tupper, in an interview at Winnipeg, said that he was confident that he could offer to the British Department of Agriculture such overwhelming testimony that the Government must give way and remove the embargo on Canadian cattle.

Mr. Haddart, of the Australia-Canadian steamship line who sailed by the Parisian for England on Sunday, is sanguine of securing a subsidy of fifty thousand dollars a year from the Queensland Government, and proposes asking the Victoria Government to give a liberal subvention to the enterprise.

BRITISH.

Owing to the exceptional and long continued heat of the summer, both England and France are suffering from a plague of wasps.

Floods are causing great damage in the Province of Behar, Bengal. The rice crops are ruined, and thousands of people are homeless.

The British residents in Paris intend giving a wedding present to the Duke and Duchess of York, consisting of a Sevres dessert service.

The Bangkok correspondent of the London Times says that England is attacked through Siam, and has already lost prestige in the East thereby.

Ten thousand more miners in South Wales and Monmouthshire have gone back to work in the collieries. The number of men still out is about thirty thousand.

The Durand Government will send Sir Michael Durand shortly on a special mission to Kabul to settle with the Ameer the question of succession to the throne of Afghanistan.

Another patient, the daughter of a previous victim, died of Asiatic cholera in Hull on Sunday, two more deaths are reported from Grimsby, and there was a fatal case discovered in Belfast.

The London Times says the friction between the Healyites and the followers of Mr. Sexton is growing rapidly on the one point of dispute as to whether the American Parliamentary fund can be rightly applied to the relief of evicted tenants.

It is learned that the Bank of England, having declined to lend three million five hundred thousand pounds to the India Office, the banking firm of Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie & Co. has now offered a loan of three million pounds to enable the Indian Government to force up the rate of exchange.

UNITED STATES.

President Cleveland and family are now in Washington.

Alonzo Clark, a racehorse owner of St. Louis, after shooting and dangerously wounding his wife, yesterday committed suicide.

Senator Sherman has expressed his willingness to vote for the passage of a closure rule in the discussion of the silver question.

A special from Savannah, Ga., says that at least eight hundred persons were drowned in that vicinity during the recent storm, and that when all the reports are in upwards of fifteen hundred will be found to have perished.

The United States Senate, by thirty to twenty-seven, yesterday voted to adjourn, so that Mr. Stewart might have needed rest and have the floor to-day to continue his speech against the repeal bill. The vote was a triumph for the silver men.

Governor Tillman, of South Carolina, referring to the silver question, says that the present scheme of the Democrats to make a gold standard is the most gigantic scheme of robbery ever attempted, and to frustrate it the people ought to rise in their might and hang some of its advocates.

GENERAL.

Lord Dufferin has returned to Paris in connection with the Franco-Siamese dispute.

Herr Pasch, the notorious anti-Semite, has been pronounced a dangerous lunatic.

Cholera in Hungary is now increasing rapidly. During 48 hours there were 81 new cases and 47 deaths.

It is thought that China may practically assert her rights of sovereignty over Siam, which she has never really abandoned.

The French commander at Chantabon, in Siam, asks for reinforcements from Saigon, as he considers his position unsafe.

Four women have been murdered and mutilated after the fashion of Jack-the-Ripper within the last few days at Oostburg, in the Netherlands.

Private letters from the Congo state that Kerckhovens's expedition was completely destroyed after their leader's death. Twenty white men lost their lives.

Gen. Dods, commander of the French troops in Dahomey, has telegraphed to the Government that he will be unable to start for Upper Dahomey until reinforced.

Thousands of Poles have left the Warsaw district in the last two weeks with the intention of going to America, but it is doubtful whether their money will enable them to get beyond England.

The Lucania, the sister ship of the Campania, which is on her way from Queenston to New York, did the first one hundred and nineteen miles of her voyage at the rate of twenty-one knots an hour.

A four-year-old boy was rescued in an unconscious condition from the water in the Nordhafen, in Berlin, on August 24th, and has been attacked by cholera, going to show that the water is infected.

An Anarchist named Olves, supposed to be the author of the recent dynamite explosion at the residence of Senor Canovas del Castillo, was arrested at Lisbon, just as he was embarking for Buenos Ayres.

The overdue steamer Alvo, from New York to West Indian ports, with a valuable cargo and many wealthy planters on board, has not been reported at any of the Bahama islands, and she is now given up as lost.

The supplementary elections in France on Sunday have given both the Republicans and the Socialists many additional seats. M. Clemenceau, who was running in the Var district, was overwhelmingly defeated.

The New York World's Guatemala special says: Salvadorean influences are at work to keep up the turmoil in Nicaragua and Honduras, and it is feared Ecetza may yet provoke a general Central American war.

Emperor Francis Joseph, in his address to the Galician nobles, thanked them warmly for their fidelity and patriotism, with the object, it is believed, of enlisting Galicia on the side of Austria in the event of a contest with Russia.

In opening the State, telephone between Stockholm and Christiania on Saturday, King Oscar said he hoped to counteract the Separatist movement in Norway, the existence of which was the greatest affliction of his reign.

Money Well Spent.

The buffalo of Ceylon carries his head in a peculiar manner, the horns thrown back and his nose projecting on a level with his forehead, thus securing him from a fatal front shot. This renders him a dangerous enemy, as he will receive any number of balls from a small gun in the throat and chest without showing the least distress. In "The Rifle and Hound in Ceylon" an account of a dangerous encounter with this animal is given. The writer had fired without killing the buffalo, and had not a single ball left. With a stealthy step and a short grant the bull advanced upon the man, seemingly aware of his helplessness.

Suddenly a bright thought flashed through my mind. Without taking my eyes off the animal, I put a double charge of powder down the right-hand barrel, and tearing off a piece of my shirt. I took all the money from my pouch, three shillings in sixpenny pieces, and two anna pieces. I quickly making them into a roll with the piece of rag, I rammed them down the barrel. They were hardly well home before the bull sprang forward. I had no time even to replace the ramrod, and I threw it in the water, bringing my gun on full cock at the same instant.

I now had a charge in my gun which, if reserved till he was within a foot of the muzzle, would certainly floor him. The horns were lowered, their points were on either side of me, and the muzzle of the gun barely touched his forehead when I pulled the trigger, and three shillings' worth of small change rattled into his hard head.

Down he went, and rolled over with the suddenly checked momentum of his charge. Away went B. and I as fast as our heels would carry us, through the water and over the plain, knowing that he was not dead but only stunned.

There was a large fallen tree about half a mile from us, whose whitened branches, rising high above the ground, offered a tempting asylum. To this we directed our steps, and after a run of a hundred yards we turned and looked behind us. The buffalo had gained his feet and was following us slowly. We now experienced the difference of feeling between hunting and being hunted.

By degrees the bull's paces slackened, and he fell. We were only too glad to be able to reduce our speed, but he had no sooner stopped to breathe than he was up again, and after us. At length, however, we gained the tree, and beheld him stretched powerless upon the ground within two hundred yards of us.

An Expensive Egg.

Two hundred pounds for an egg, now ever, is a large sum for a collector to pay. Yet this appears to be the market price of a perfect specimen of the egg of the gigantic fossil bird epornis. The egg is several times as large as that of the ostrich, but is not otherwise beautiful. But then it is rare, which is not surprising, since the epornis left off laying some thousands, or perhaps hundreds of thousands of years ago. M. Hamelin can get them if any man can, and he promises to put one or two on the European market. He is going back to Madagascar, notwithstanding the fact that having unfortunately got a chief, who was his "blood brother," killed in his service, he has had to take over all the deceased gentleman's family, including his wives. The orchid-seeker sees and does strange things.—[St. James Gazette.

The Way of an Empress.

The Empress of Austria is said to spend nearly half the day in having her hair cared for. During this time she is read to and smokes incessantly. She is credited with disposing of fifty cigarettes a day and after dinner she caps the climax with two or three of the biggest and strongest cigars.

A REPORTER'S BUSY LIFE.

At Ottawa During the Session.

Something About the Dominion Parliament Press Gallery—How the Debates Are Reported for the Press.

Once every year Parliament assembles at Ottawa, and its meeting necessitates the gathering of another, not nearly as large, but certainly as important a body—to wit, the parliament press gallery. The Canadian Parliament—so long as it has been worthy of the name of such—has never assembled without the presence of newspaper reporters, organized and united as that august body "the gallery." There is no knowing what might occur should the session ever open without reporters to give lustre and added dignity to the legislative body, and spread the account of its proceedings far and wide. The reporters themselves think that the Parliament would instantly adjourn, realizing the utility of transacting business in the absence of the representatives of the press, and that mandatory summonses would be forthwith sent to the various publishers, notifying them to instantly, under pain of enforced attendance at the bar of the House to answer for their contempt, provide for the proper reporting of the parliamentary debates. This however, is probably an exaggerated view due to the reporters' over-estimation of themselves because the press daily might disappear altogether, and the utterances of members would be still recorded and in verbatim form in the parliamentary journal which daily issues under the title of The Hansard.

The gallery's "herd book" contains names of men who have been eminently successful in various walks of life. It has fashioned many able and brilliant men for the political arena. The late Hon. Thomas White was a skilful writer in the early days of the gallery, but relinquished the pen to enter the Dominion house of Commons, and afterwards the Cabinet. Mr. Robert S. White wielded a trenchant pen in the gallery, and when the portals of the House of Commons opened to admit him, his late colleagues felt with pride that the ranks of journalism could have no better representative there. Mr. C. H. Mackintosh wrote brilliantly for the press. Hon. Mr. Nantel, of the Quebec Government, served ably in the gallery. And there are others of more or less importance who might be mentioned.

PERSONNEL OF THE GALLERY.

The press gallery proper consists of about 30 representatives of the leading Canadian papers. Toronto sends the largest number of reporters, Montreal being next. The other large cities outside of Manitoba and British Columbia generally have representatives at Ottawa, but sometimes assign the work to one of the numerous correspondents there. These gentlemen sometimes report for as many as half a dozen papers each. Of course, short reports only are required, otherwise they would not be able to cope with the task. The French press of Montreal and Quebec despatch special reporters to Ottawa. In addition to the gallery proper there is an upper gallery, where correspondents for the smaller papers and the country weeklies are accommodated. The affairs of the press gallery are administered by a president, executive committee, and secretary, who are elected annually. The annual meeting is generally held 20 days after the opening of Parliament. One of the most important duties of the executive is the receiving and considering of the credentials of applicants for admission to the gallery. This is a work of considerable importance, because year after year shoals of persons make application on the strength of writing a monthly letter for the Bunkum Bagle, or some other such influential journal, whose sole object is to avail themselves of the privileges of the gallery. Another important duty on the part of the executive is the allotment of seats. This is done soon after the opening of Parliament. The reporters of Conservative journals are given seats on the right, and those of the Liberal press on the left of the Speaker's chair, regard being paid to the importance of the paper and the amount of work to be done.

THE REPORTERS AT WORK.

The reporters' gallery in the House of Commons is about 5 feet in width, and stretches immediately above the chair of the Speaker. It contains about 30 seats, 15 on each side, but it is only on the occasion of important debates that these are occupied all the time. A long narrow desk runs down the entire front fitted with drawers for the storing of "copy" paper or copies of bills. So good are the acoustic properties of the chamber, and so well situated is the gallery, that almost the faintest whisper on the part of any legislator can be heard; and none of the cross-firing that accompanies a fierce debate is lost.

The rate of speed at which members talk in the House of Commons averages from 140 to 150 words. There are a number who talk far in excess of that rate. Judge Landry, formerly M. P. for Kent, N. B., when in the House used to rattle along like a steam engine. So did J. C. Rykert, of Lincoln. Mr. Northrop is gifted with remarkable fluency, and keeps the Hansard men hard at work. Dr. Weldon, of Alberta, is a very fast speaker and not quite easy to follow when engaged in an involved legal argument. Mr. McMillan, Liberal member for South Huron when engaged in his favorite occupation of denouncing the lavish expenditure on fences and pig pens at the Central Experimental Farm, fairly gabbles, and tears along at the rate of over 200 words a minute. Hon. Edward Blake, by reason of his long and ponderous sentences, very rapidly uttered, invariably flooded the unfortunate stenographer who tackled him for the first time. Sir John Thompson, Hon. George E. Foster and Hon. Mr. Laurier are gifted with remarkable fluency, and, although ordinary fairly easy to follow, will in the excitement of debate rush along at the rate of 180 words a minute. Hon. Charles H. Tupper, Minister of Marine, is a very fluent speaker, and sometimes tires the wrist of the stenographer. The late Sir John Macdonald was generally reported with ease. Sometimes, however, his address when more than usually anecdotal in character would be difficult to follow.

NOT ALLOWED TO HEAR PRAYERS.

Entrance to the gallery is obtained by a narrow winding staircase, opening off from

the members' corridor on the west side. Its guardian is a stout, clean shaven, benevolent looking, spectacled old gentleman named O'Keefe. He is very careful not to admit strangers and is very fond of "his byes," as he calls the reporters. One of Mr. O'Keefe's most onerous duties, which he carries out to the very letter, is to exclude the "byes" until prayers are over. The reporters are apparently considered a graceless and unregenerate lot, upon whom prayers would be wasted. In the meantime Mr. O'Keefe is upstairs peering anxiously over to where the sergeant-at-arms is sitting, and upon receiving a signal from that worthy official, touches an electric bell communicating with the press room, and then tramps downstairs to unlock the door. Sometimes the "byes" keep Mr. O'Keefe shut in for a few minutes. His surprise and bewilderment are then ludicrous to witness.

THE HARD WORKED REPORTERS.

Reporting in the House is sometimes of a very arduous character. The reporter is not like the member able to go and return when he pleases, merely leaving his address even with the whip. Sometimes it is a constant grind from 3 o'clock in the afternoon until 3 o'clock the following morning. The reporter's only hope of relief is when some unimportant member indulges in a long speech. When discussing the Franchise Bill in 1885, the House sat continuously until the measure was disposed of, Sundays excepted. Then the unfortunate reporters slept under the desks in the gallery, or laid themselves across chairs. The session of 1891 during which Sir John Macdonald died was a very long and trying one. The Privileges and Elections Committee, which investigated the charges preferred by J. Israel Tarte against the Public Works Department, met practically twice a day for about three months, Saturdays included. For a part of the same period a Senate Committee sat to investigate the Baie des Chaleurs matter. Other important matters were in progress at the same time, so that when the session ended the reporters were nearly dead and the newspapers almost ruined with heavy telegraph bills.

HOW THE NEWS IS GATHERED.

It is not only in reporting the parliamentary debates that the reporter is employed. Committees meet at about the same hour every morning in both the Senate and House of Commons to consider important measures. Then transactions have to be noted. Deputations constantly arriving in town have to be followed up and the object of their mission obtained. The various departments have to be visited every morning for items, and the mission of the news gatherer forces him to pry almost into the awful mysteries of the Privy Council chamber itself. Lobbying is an important part of the newspaper man's work. The corridors of the House are constantly explored for members who have any pointers to give. The most authoritative information, however, is to be got only from the Ministers themselves. They are only accessible when the House is sitting, their time during other portions of the day being wholly taken up. The enterprising newspaper man will seize the opportunity of accosting the Minister when leaving or entering the chamber, or if business is light in the House will send in his card with a shoal of others. He is generally received with affability, and frequently finds himself rewarded with a good item of news.

SOME OF THEIR PRIVILEGES.

From no part of the Senate or House of Commons is the bona fide reporter excluded. He can roam where he pleases through the corridors, drop into the members' smoking room for a friendly pipe, or a game of chess, and loiter at his ease in the reading room. He shares with senators and members the privileges of the library and of the restaurant. If he wishes to introduce friends to the reserved galleries, any number of tickets are placed at his disposal. In his own rooms he is monarch of all he surveys, and may smoke, dance or do what he pleases, so long as he does not exceed the bounds of seamliness. He is courted by senator and member alike, for they realize the power he wields. When Mr. Boreall, M. P. for Stick-in-the-Mud, makes a speech in favour of a Government grant for dredging "the best harbour in the province," he likes to be reported as fully as possible, and asks the reporter to give him a "good show." The reporter does not make any promise, however, because he probably remembers Mr. Boreall's rising will be the signal for his exit "to play the game."

A genuine spirit of camaraderie exists amongst the reporters. Politics nor race nor creed does not separate them. English journalists commingle with French, Conservatives chum with Liberals, and no jars disturb the intercourse of that large and happy family. At times when the work is hard reporters enter a "joint" to lighten each other's work, and this mutual intercourse sweetens the daily labor.

THE PRESS GALLERY DINNER.

The annual dinner is the great event to which members of the press gallery look forward. It usually is held at the Russell house, and is attended with much eclat. The leaders of both political parties sit at the banquet as honored guests, and the after-dinner speeches are models of post-prandial oratory. Then it is that the cleverness and industry of the parliamentary reporter are praised until his face is mantled with blushes, and his modest spirit would fain retreat within itself. But the object of the gathering is not so much long speeches as conviviality, and the reporter gets an opportunity of showing that he is versatile in other matters besides the use of the pen. He is able to sing well, to recite well, to tell a good story and "to hold his end up," and the good opinion of the guest grows as he listens to the entertainment provided for him.—[Nat in the Empire.

The Danube Navigation Company does the largest river business of any one company in the world. Its steamers carry 1,200,000 passengers and carry 1,400,000 tons of freight every year.

The mariner's compass was used for centuries by the Chinese before it was brought to Europe. Its invention or introduction is credited to Flavio Gioja, in the fourteenth century.

The origin of the American navy dates from 1775, when Congress authorized the equipment of two cruisers. By October, 1776, the American fleet consisted of twenty-six vessels, mounting 536 guns.

Britain on the Pacific.

That opinions have changed in England as to the value of Canada to the empire is well shown by some remarks in the London Times on the dispatch of three officers and 72 men of the Marine Artillery to aid in the construction of fortifications at Esquimaut. Some years ago in rather precise terms the Times intimated that Canada was a burden to Great Britain and that if she had a mind to shift for herself she was at perfect liberty to take any step she chose. Now the Thunderer, after noting that the only English military station in Canada is at Halifax, where there is a garrison of 1500 men, says: "The naval station at Esquimaut has hitherto been left practically to the Navy to defend. It is one of the results of the development of intercontinental communication, by means of the Canadian Pacific Railway, that more efficient provision for the defence of Esquimaut becomes at once desirable and feasible. So long as British Columbia was isolated from the rest of the continent by a sea voyage round the Horn, Esquimaut was valuable only as a naval station for ships navigating the Pacific coast. Now it is the western outpost at once of Canada and of the Empire. To hold Esquimaut is to hold the highway through the Dominion and to command all the defences of Canada in the rear. It is also to command the coaling supply of the north-western American coast. The beds of Nanaimo, on the island of Vancouver, contain the best coal which has been found in those regions, and supply a very large part of the coal used in the Western States. In addition to these considerations, the increasing commercial importance of the town of Vancouver, on the mainland, which, from being the terminus of the railway, becomes also the emporium of the maritime trade of the Northern Pacific, has rendered the question of defence of late years always more important. In the autumn of 1886 the town of Vancouver did not exist. It is now the port of shipment for Japan, China, and Australia. A successful Russian coup de main might, in the event of a European war, put the whole of this trade in Russian hands, and, though the coast must evidently depend for its main defence upon the ships of the naval station, it is only the more advisable that the naval station should be rendered practically impregnable by the resources of modern engineering and modern armament. The harbour of Esquimaut is one of the most lovely situations on a lovely coast." With those words ringing in our ears it is easy to believe, as an old military man remarked the other day: "When Canada agrees to annexation, if she ever does, and I don't believe she ever will, the greatest empire on earth will perform also have something to say in the matter. She will not hamper the people in making a free choice, but there are many details of importance that will have to be agreed upon."

British Revenue Returns.

British revenue returns for the fiscal year ending June 30, show that in almost every department of revenue there has been a decrease, except in the consumption of raisins, Geneva, foreign wines, and tobacco. Had the gross Imperial revenue kept pace with the ordinary annual increase of the population the receipts from customs for the last year ought to have been nearly half a million more than they have been. There has been a considerable falling off in the importation of tea. This is partly explained by an additional amount of tea having been imported last year on the expectation that there would be a reduction in duty. There is no evidence to show that the consumption of tea is decreasing, but there is evidence to show that the market is altering. The figures respecting tea are instructive. China tea is gradually being displaced by Indian tea. Of the latter kind there was consumed last year £22,500,000 worth, while there was only £17,840,000 worth of China tea consumed. Ceylon tea is steadily decreasing. It now amounts to about £12,000,000 in the year. The consumption of coffee is steadily declining; and, what is somewhat unusual, the consumption of cocoa and chocolate has declined during the past year; so, too, has the consumption of rum. This liquor reached its highest point of consumption in 1875. In that year there were 5,400,000 gallons consumed, when the population was only 32,700,000 but in 1892 there were 4,268,000 gallons consumed, when the population was 38,000,000. So that there is a decline of 20 per cent. in the consumption as against an increase of 16 per cent. in the population. The teetotalers may regard this as satisfactory; but the custom authorities think the decline is largely attributable to bad trade. Brandy, too, has decreased, but not to the same extent as rum. Whilst strong spirits have declined, the consumption of British wines and aerated waters has enormously increased.

Memorial Offerings.

There are offerings sacred to the hearts of kindred, such as only private grief may know; there are others in recognition of devotion to duty, such as the people make in a public manner. Of these latter, none is more suitable to the memory of the patriotic dead than examples of patriotism. It is, moreover, in keeping with the generous character of the soldier's profession that such examples may be drawn from the conduct of an enemy. A noble instance of this kind has recently been told in England.

When Lord Radwon was in South Carolina he had to send an express of great importance through a part of the country filled with Continental troops.

A corporal of the 17th Dragoons, known for his courage and intelligence, was selected to escort it.

They had not proceeded far when they were fired upon, the express was killed and the corporal wounded in the side. Careless of his wound, he thought only of his duty. He snatched the despatch from the dying man and rode on till, from the loss of blood, he fell. Then fearing the despatch would be taken by the enemy, he thrust it into his wound until the wound closed upon it and concealed it. He was found next day by a British patrol, with a smile of honorable pride upon his countenance, and with life just sufficient to point to the fatal depository of his secret.

In searching the body the cause of his death was found, for the surgeon declared that the wound in itself was not mortal, but was rendered so by the irritation of the paper.

Thus fell this patriot soldier—in rank a corporal, he was in mind a hero. His name was O'Lavery, and he came from the parish of Moira, in County Down, Ireland.