THE NEWS IN A NUTSHELL.

THE VERY LATEST FROM ALL THE WORLD OVER.

Interesting Items About Our Own Country Great Britain, the United States, and All Parts of the Globe, Condensed and Assorted for Easy Reading.

CANADA.

City taxes in arrears to date amount to $70,647.

A big departmental store is talked of in London.

Chatham will sink a civic test well for gas at a cost of $2,000.

Mr. O'Brien, Principal of the Hamilton College of Music, is dead.

Mr. A. J. Foran has been appointed a County Judge at Rossland.

Diphtheria is spreading in Montreal and in portions of Quebec Province.

There is a serious outbreak of diphtheria throughout the Province of Quebec.

Mr. Wm. C. B. Rathburn, aged 30 died Friday at Deseronto, Ont. He was found dead in bed.

Some of the fruit sent to the Queen by Grimsby fruit-growers was served at her Majesty's table.

Kingston electors will vote on a by-law to purchase the Midland Central Fair grounds for $17,000.

The Court of Revision has reduced the assessment of Ottawa by $92,525, making the final revision amount to $21,964,735.

A tall brick chimney in McClary's foundry at London fell while being repaired, but no one was hurt.

Ottawa University again won the football championship of Canada, defeating Toronto University 12 to 8.

A shipment of six thousand dollars' worth of carriages is to be made from Ottawa to South Africa in a few days.

John Bottrell was given three years in Kingston at Stratford for stealing a pair of boots. But he has a history.

James Burnet, the young man arrested in Bath, was taken back to Kentucky to answer a charge of murder.

Next year's meet of the American Canoe Association is fixed for Grindstone Island, in the St. Lawrence River.

Hamilton Aldermen are discussing the appointment of a purchasing agent to buy supplies for every department of the city.

Mr. Greenway is expected in Ottawa shortly to interview Mr. Laurier with regard to promoting Icelandic immigration to Manitoba.

An unknown man was run over by a train at London and so badly injured that recognition of the countenance is impossible.

A Hamilton man, who said he was Mr. Kuntz, the brewer, was arrested in Buffalo the other day for being disorderly in a saloon.

The sheriff has been put in charge of Hintonburg, a suburb of Ottawa, for the sum of six thousand dollars, owing to the Molsons Bank.

Some 8,000 water services have been cut off in Montreal for non-payment, and the Board of Health fears an epidemic in consequence.

Frank McLaughlin, St. Catharines, was knocked down by a runaway horse, which fell on him. The young man died in a few hours.

Mr. Alex. Bell, Manager of the Scottish-Canadian Loan and Investment Company, of Montreal, has disappeared, leaving a number of clients out of pocket.

An inmate of the Leeds and Grenville Counties jail at Brockville named Spellman attempted to set fire to the building, but the attempt was frustrated by the officials.

Letters have been received in Montreal from a number of those who left some months ago to settle in Brazil. The Canadians there are suffering great hardships.

Commander Spain, of the Canadian fishery protection fleet, has returned to Ottawa. He reports that the stories of destitution in Labrador are fully borne out by what he saw.

Ald. Seroggie was appointed City Treasurer of Guelph, and the Council passed a strong resolution in favor of more adequate punishment of the late defaulting Treasurer Harvey.

Mrs. Martin, an old lady of 72 years, of Hamilton, wandered away from home and was found near the bay half buried in mud. She was out all night and died from exposure.

Mr. Fisher, the Dominion Minister of Agriculture, will start for Washington in a few days to secure from the American authorities the removal of the ninety days' quarantine regulations.

The parents of the late wife of J. Reginald Hooper, for whose murder he is suffering life imprisonment, have petitioned for his release, being convinced that he did not murder their daughter.

By the accidental explosion of 150 pounds of dynamite at Round Hill mine, British Columbia, Charles Berger and Chris Miller were blown to atoms and the mine was badly damaged.

The Montreal Ladies' Benevolent Society has received an anonymous gift of $10,000, the annual income therefrom to be used for the maintenance of the inmates of the ladies' benevolent institution.

The Government proposes to arrange for an extensive service of refrigerator cars weekly on railways for the carriage of perishable food products in Great Britain. Plans for the cars are now being considered.

While in Nova Scotia, Dr. Borden visited Fort Anne, one of the oldest stations in the Dominion. It is in an extremely dilapidated condition, and the Minister is inclined to do all he can towards having it repaired.

Sir Richard Cartwright issued yesterday his first quarterly report as Minister of Trade and Commerce. The leading Canadian exports to Great Britain during the past nine months show a considerable increase over the corresponding period of last year.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The personal estate of the late Geo. Du Maurier amounted to £47,000.

The Hamilton district fruit-growers' present to the Queen has arrived in London.

Harding has accepted Barry's challenge to row for the championship of England.

At the Norwich Cattle Show the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York captured prizes.

The death is announced of Sir Edmund Hornby, who was an expert international lawyer.

Dr. Nansen has received fifty thousand dollars from a firm of London publishers for his coming book.

Last week a motor-car, running between London and Brighton, attained the speed of thirty miles an hour.

Admiral Sir George Richards, K.C.B., conservator of the Mersey, is dead. He was seventy-six years of age.

A telephone has been placed in a London pulpit, that the sermons of Canon Fleming may be heard by invalid parishioners.

Mr. Barney Barnato, the South African diamond millionaire, denies any intention of sending agents to the British Columbia gold field.

It came out on the London Stock Exchange last week that a commission of fifteen hundred pounds had been paid for securing an Earl as a company director.

Sir Henry Keppel, 87 years of age, is now the senior admiral in the British navy list, but Sir Alexander Milne, who is 90 and who entered the navy eighty years ago, is the oldest and the one who has served longest.

The British National Union of Conservative Association has adopted resolutions favoring a commercial federation between Great Britain and her colonies, the restriction of the immigration of pauper aliens and the creation of a national reserve of breadstuffs.

The British steamer Benin has arrived at Liverpool from the west coast of Africa and reports that she was not allowed by the Liberian authorities to communicate with Cape Palmas. As the Benin approached that place she was fired upon by the Goronamah, the sole vessel comprising the navy of Liberia.

UNITED STATES.

George W. G. Ferris, inventor and builder of the Ferris wheel, died at Pittsburg of typhoid fever.

At Torrington, Conn., a youth, after being accidentally shot through the heart, ran home a distance of half a mile.

The trolley cars of two lines operated by the Buffalo Railway Company are now propelled by electric power from the Falls.

It is claimed in Chicago that a vegetable powder has been discovered which mixed with water, develops a very high electrical power.

The citizens of Lawrence, Mass., have decided to ask the next Legislature to pass a bill making the playing of football a misdemeanor.

A Buffalo man has invented a machine to do the work of moulders. It is reported to have demonstrated wonderful results at a public test.

President and Mrs. Cleveland entertained at luncheon on Wednesday Dr. John Watson, known in the literary world as "Ian Maclaren," and Mrs. Watson.

Edward W. Curry, of Des Moines, Iowa, died on Wednesday of blood poisoning, the result of injuries he received at his initiation into the Elks' Lodge a few weeks ago.

Judge Isaac Parker, the well known jurist, is dying at Fort Scott, Ark. He has probably passed the death sentence on more men than any other judge in the United States.

In his last Thanksgiving day proclamation President Cleveland mentioned the named of Christ, and for this departure from precedent Rabbi Machol, of Cleveland, Ohio, is taking him to task.

St. Stanislaus Parish in Bay City, Mich., which has for two years been the scene of trouble over the deposition of its favorite priest, was the battleground for seven hours of two factions the other day. When trouble ceased one policeman and about twelve of the church members had been injured, but none seriously.

GENERAL.

Mrs. Scott Siddons, the actress, died in Paris.

Noel Parfait, the French politician and author is dead.

Twenty-five persons were killed in a mine explosion in Westphalia.

It is stated in Berlin that Prince Bismarck has decided to continue his newspaper disclosures.

It is estimated that seventy-two millions of people will be affected by the famine in India.

Placards have been posted in Canea inciting the Mussulmans to a holy war against the Christians.

It has been decided at Madrid to send ten thousand troops to the Philippine Islands at once.

The Spanish Government loan of two hundred and fifty million pesetas has been greatly over-subscribed.

Cardinal Vaughan gave an emphatic denial to a report published in London that the Pope was dying.

The famous medal presented by Charles I. to Bishop Juxon on the scaffold was sold last week for seven hundred and seventy pounds.

The Metropolitan and all of the leading newspapers at Moscow have opened subscription lists for the relief of the famine sufferers in India.

A great deal of excitement has been aroused in West African circles by a mysterious expedition which is being arranged by the Royal Niger Company.

Dervishes have raided the country in the vicinity of Tokar, killing five men and looting a number of cattle. Troops have been despatched in pursuit of the raiders.

Cuban advices say that a Canadian was murdered at Cienfuegos, Province of Santa Clara, at the end of October. The man's name is said to be Dalbrigeon.

Mexican tobacco promises to take the place of Havana tobacco in the markets of the world, and already great tracts of country are being operated as tobacco plantations.

The Pelee Island Oil & Gas Co. has just finished sinking the fourth well on the island. It is reported that a large vein of oil was struck, it being the best yet found.

By a clever ruse a man disguised as a postman on Tuesday secured a bag of registered letters, of the value of forty-two thousand francs, from a mail-cart in Paris, and decamped.

News has been received by the steamer Almeda, from Sydney, of the massacre of a party of gold hunters, composed of six whites and five natives, by the cannibals of the Solomon Islands.

Prof. Koch, who is on his way to Cape Town, intends to study, not only the rinderpest, but also the different local forms of leprosy, in which he has been taking great interest for some years.

French and Belgian capitalists are to construct large alkali works near the newly discovered rock salt deposits at Pola, in Central Asia. There is good coal at Bardimkul, near by. The salt is of very fine quality, with no

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Lloyd Osborne who has been appointed United States consul at Samoa, is a stepson of the late Robert Louis Stevenson.

THE CROPS IN ONTARIO.

BULLETIN ISSUED BY THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT.

An Enormous Yield of Apples Reported—Farm Operations Generally—Use of Corn for Live Stock—The Wheat Crop—Conditions of Labor.

The Ontario Bureau of Industries has issued its sixtieth bulletin, containing the final estimate of the yield of crops for the year 1896. The yields are based on actual threshing returns reported to the Bureau of Industries by over 2,000 correspondents. The statistics given in the previous bulletin, of August 13th, with the exception of those for hay, were estimated probable yields. The bulletin is as follows:—

THE WHEAT YIELD.

Fall Wheat—There are conflicting reports regarding fall wheat, but the crop may be fairly described as of good quality, although in some localities it was injured while in stacks and in hauling. Scattering mention was made of the Hessian fly and the weevil. The yield per acre is light, being only 17.2 bushels. There has been considerable increase in the areas of fall wheat sown this year. Seeding was done between the latter part of August and the 25th of September, with the soil in favourable condition, and while many correspondents speak of a good showing some complain that there is hardly as much top as usual. A few complain of brown spots which in some instances are ascribed to the Hessian fly and in others to lack of rain. Dawson's Golden Chaff, Red Clawson and Manchester appear to be the most popular varieties. Correspondents have less than usual to say about spring wheat. While the yield is regarded as almost an average one the grain is hardly as plump as was looked for.

OTHER GRAINS.

Barley—There was a good yield of barley, but frequent showers at harvest discolored much of the crop. In a few instances some of the grain sprouted. However a good deal of excellent barley has been saved. In various portions of the Province oats suffered seriously from the attacks of the army worm. The rainy weather at cutting was also injurious to late sown oats. Rust and smut were more prevalent than usual, and much of the grain has turned out light in weight, although in some sections the crop may be termed first-class in every respect. Comparatively little rye is grown for the grain. There has been an average yield and the grain samples well, while the area has been increased.

PEAS AND CORN.

Peas hardly fulfilled the expectations of August. In our present advices references to the "bug," are more frequent and considerable mildew, which resulted in some of the pods not fully maturing, is also reported. Despite these drawbacks the crop is fully an average one. Early sown turned out best this season. Reports regarding corn vary with local conditions. In different parts of the Province a portion of the crop was caught by frost, and consequently some of that grown for fodder will be injured in its feeding value. Frost did little damage to the ears, but in many instances these are hardly as plump or as fully matured as usual. The large acreage and the good yield, however, will ensure an abundance of fodder both as stover and silage. Rain at the time of planting hurt beans on low lands, and wet weather at harvesting also did injury. Some sections, however, report good yields, and the return per acre is about an average. Buckwheat is not a common crop, and reports are not unanimous as to its condition. What little was grown appears to have done fairly, except where the frost appeared while the grain was filling. A Glengarry correspondent reports that grasshoppers damaged the crop. Good fields of clover for seed have been the exception. The poor catch of last year and the trying winter have combined to thin the stand, and while there has been a generous growth, of stalk owing to frequent rains since the first cutting the heads as a rule did not fill out well. The midge has been active, especially in the western part of the Province. Alsike has done better than red clover.

THE ROOT CROP.

In many quarters the crop of potatoes was affected by drouth at the time of planting, but a large number of correspondents say that potatoes have yielded well and are of good quality. Rot was common on low-lying lands, more particularly in some of the Lake Erie counties. In the Georgian Bay group the potato is spoken of as an excellent one.

Dry weather at the time of sowing prevented much of the turnip seed from germinating and the attacks of the grasshopper further thinned the plant on many fields. While some correspondents speak of a good yield the majority of the reports are not so favorable. The turnips are said to be smaller in size than usual owing to the drouth. These and other roots have been well secured. Correspondents who grow mangels speak well of the crop, and none of the other field roots have done as well. Had they come up evenly the yield would have been an enormous one, but the drouth at seeding told against a successful catch.

As in the case of other field roots the carrot seed did not spring up fully on account of dry weather. Many correspondents speak of the crop as a good one, while others claim that it is poor. Like mangels, this crop has been almost free from insect nests.

FARM OPERATIONS.

In many sections fall ploughing has been completed, but taking the Province over, work in this respect is hardly as far advanced as at the same time in previous years. The immense apple crop and the larger area of corn have kept farmers busier than usual this fall, and in the Lake Erie counties, especially a good deal of fall ploughing had yet to be done as reports came in. With the prospects of open weather before them correspondents were of opinion that more land than usual would be turned under this fall. Some complained that the soil was rather dry for the best work; others claimed that everything was favorable.

Threshing began earlier than usual this year, and at the time of reporting a very large amount of it appears to have been finished. Very little marketing of grain is reported; some wheat and a fair quantity of peas, but little else. Farmers have a large quantity of coarse grains on hand with slight demand. There appears to be a hesitation to sell at the prices offered at the beginning of November, but, as some say, something must go, as "the taxes have to be paid."

FARM IMPROVEMENTS.

Underdraining with tile is being carried on as extensively this fall as usual. In some townships a very large amount is being put in, Essex and Kent as usual taking the lead. There is no scarcity of tile. The work is done principally by the farmers themselves, with here and there the help of an "expert." Draining machines are not heard of. In the west the zig-zag fence is still being replaced by various kinds of wire fence. There are several favorite kinds of the latter mentioned by correspondents. Considering the many complaints of the state of affairs there appears to be more building going on than would be expected, but the most frequent remark is, "raising barns and putting stone foundations under for basement."

HELP AND WAGES.

There appears to have been plenty of male help, and the tendency of wages has been downward. The farmers have tried as far as possible, to do their work within their own families. Increase of labor-saving machinery has helped them. The complaint as to scarcity of domestic help was quite common; those desirous of that class of work seeking the towns and cities. Wages for this class of work has been somewhat upward.

THE GREAT FRUIT CROP.

The remarks in the August bulletin regarding the great yields of apples are verified by the reports just received. The yield was enormous, the market is glutted, and in many counties, more especially in western Ontario, thousands of barrels of good apples are going to waste. The average price per barrel paid farmers is from 40 to 60 cents; extra choice bring slightly higher figures, and poor sorts go lower. For these prices the grower is usually expected to pick the fruit, board the packers, bring in the empty barrels, and carry the filled ones to the station. Some aver that it pays better to feed the fruit to live stock. The codling worm and the canker worm have been reported by a few correspondents, but the bulk of the statements regarding the quality of apples claim that the fruit is remarkably free from worms or other injury. Ice storms last winter and the heavy bearing of this season, have caused a good many limbs to break, but fruit trees generally are in good condition. Grape vines made a vigorous growth, and the yield of fruit was abundant.

LIVE STOCK.

As the drouth of last summer was very irregular in its distribution the reports as to pasture are varied. In a few townships of the west the grass was short even after the fall rains; in other townships the reports are that fall pasture was never better. In the east it has been good to excellent. On the whole there has been plenty of good pasture. Stock are in good condition, no trouble of any consequence being reported from any quarter. There appears to be plenty of fodder for winter feeding, an improvement on a year ago. The reports indicate that market supplies will be fairly abundant, but the universal complaint of low prices is again met with here. The lowest record is 1 1-2c per pound for cattle, live weight (Renfrew County). Apples have been freely fed to stock, to hogs especially. Millet and rape have turned out well as supplementary crops, but mention is made principally of corn as the most welcome addition to fodders. The effect of instruction is most apparent; farmers are growing their corn in drills in place of broadcast, and are growing the varieties recommended by the officers of the Ontario Experimental Farm and others, who are making special study of corn growing. The varieties are numerous; Mammoth Southern Sweet, Red Cob Ensilage, Compton's Early, Longfellow, etc., are frequently mentioned. Some stock it in the field for winter use; others dry and stand it on end in the barn, and many others store it in the silo. In some sections the silo is increasing in number, in others it is being discarded—opinions differ as to its being more profitable than dry curing. The acreage of corn is certainly increasing more rapidly than the construction of silos.

THE DAIRY.

Dairying began in the spring of the present year under rather depressing conditions; prives were low. In addition many western districts suffered from short pastures, and the low prices and reduced output of cheese factories caused a "blue ruin" feeling among many who had hitherto felt that dairying must always boom. Butter production suffered less than cheese. The eastern producers appear to have been on the whole, more generally satisfied with results. However, dairy prices, especially in cheese, took an upward move in the fall, and the tone at time of reporting was much more confident. Owing to increased prices, over 10 cents a pound, many factories were kept open longer than usual. Reports as to the success of butter-making vary with different townships, much depending upon the local market. Some speak of better prices in 1896 than in 1895; others of lower. On the whole there appears to have been an improvement in the quality of butter. As usual, correspondents differ as to the best dairy cows. "The good old Canadian cow," Durham grades and Ayrshire grades, appear to be the favorites. One man says the "scrub" must surely be the favorite in his township. Very many have strong recommendations for both Jerseys and Holsteins. As for fodder, one man sums it up by saying, "Corn is our mainstay; corn is all the go."

The reports as to bees and honey are on the whole encouraging.

HIS HEART BROKEN.

Samuel Luke, Disgraced by His Son, Swallows Carbolic Acid.

A despatch from Detroit says:—Samuel Luke, cashier of the Michigan Brass & Iron Works, died on Tuesday afternoon. He told his wife that he had swallowed some carbolic acid by mistake for bitters. Mr. Luke was 57 years old and came to Detroit many years ago from Hamilton, Ont., where he was employed by William Hendry. Arthur Luke, elder son of the dead man, is one of the five young men arrested last week on suspicion of having committed a number of highway robberies in the west end of the city. Mr. Luke was wholly broken down by the disgrace, but had given no indication of any intention to take his life. He was born in the same town as Charles Stewart Parnell, and was a schoolmate of his at Avondale, County Wicklow, Ireland.

OUR CHEESE IN BRITAIN

VERY NEARLY DISPLACED THE YANKEE ARTICLE.

Our Neighbors Formerly Held the Trade, But Now We Have the Best Part of It—They Try to Pass Their Cheese for Canadian Make.

A part of their trade which our neighbours over the border cannot regard with pride is their exportation of cheese. Here they see a once flourishing branch of commerce, not only checked in its growth, but showing unmistakable signs of decay. If it had kept on thriving it might easily have been of twice the magnitude it is now. The difference between what it is and what it might have been is a subject of vain regrets that find frequent expression in the newspapers of the country. Efforts have been made from time to time by the Department of Agriculture at Washington to rouse the cheese industry by exposing and commenting on its shortcomings. Considerable attention has been given to the question by agricultural bodies, dairy associations, and Boards of Trade. Every time the cheese industry ois reminded in any of these ways of the great disparity between its promise and performance, it has also the progress of the Canadian cheese trade thrown up to it. That is logical enough, because the two conditions are closely connected. Our neighbours had an immense export trade in England, and now we have

THE GREATER PART OF IT.

That is the issue of a competition in which the two countries were left entirely to themselves. The change in the relative cheese exports of Canada and the United States in the last dozen years is in no way due to outside influences whatever. Other countries offered comparatively little rivalry, consumption steadily increased, and there were no tariff preferences in favour of either. Entering late into the race when it seemed almost won by the United States we have wrested from that country the first place on the British market and have distanced it there, by the sheer superiority of our product. This fact, somewhat mortifying to our neighbours, is referred to as often by their statisticians and trade organs for the purpose of goading them to improvement. In the year book of the Department of Agriculture just issued at Washington, Henry E. Alvord, the Chief of the Dairy Division, refers to the humiliating shifts to which Wisconsin and New York cheese makers resort for the purpose of palming off their make on the British market as the product of Canadian factories. Of the 146,004,650 pounds exported from Canada in the fiscal year ending with June 1895, 9,776,322 pounds were from the United States. This, Mr. Alvord suspects, was passed through Canada that it might be reexported as of

CANADIAN MAKE.

Such fraudulent intent is in the highest degree complimentary to our cheesemakers. We want no compliments of that kind, however, and these attempts to trade under Canadian auspices must not be allowed to succeed. So far there is no reason to believe that they have been successful. A law on our statute book forbids the use of the word "Canadian" as a mark on the cheese or the package containing it that passes through this country in transit from the United States. The manufacturers of filled cheese in Wisconsin are shipping their make by way of Montreal this season, and the strictest precautions will be necessary to prevent them evading this law. If they should be able to land any considerable quantity of their cheese in England under representations that it was made in Canada, the injury to our cheese industry might be irreparable. It is to be hoped, therefore, that Mr. Fisher will see that the utmost vigilance is exercised to defeat the attempts of the United States cheesemakers to drag the quality and the reputation of Canadian cheese down to the level of that of their own. Our cheese now commands a high price in Britain. It is by all means necessary that it should be assured of the continued protection of the law against counterfeits and the protection of the tariff.

HUGE EGGS.

They Were 150 Times as Large as the Hen Product.

In the British Museum, London, the Museum of the Academy of Science at Paris, the National Museum at Vienna, and in the several institutions for the advancement of science, there may be seen specimens of birds' eggs which are almost as large as a two-gallon jug.

These eggs were laid by the epiornis, an extinct and gigantic bird of Madagascar. The cubic bulk of these eggs is eight times that of the egg of "the silly bird of the Sahara," which means that each of them is equal in point of capacity to 150 hens' eggs.

The first discovery of these interesting relics of past times was made by the Captain of a merchant vessel which had stopped at a port on the northeastern coast of Madagascar to trade with the natives. During the stay at the point mentioned the curious vessels used by the natives for water vases attracted the attention of the Captain.

Upon investigation it was found that these odd utensils were in reality gigantic egg shells cut in halves. Upon questioning the water carriers in regard to the bird that laid the eggs and the place they were procured, the Captain was given to understand that the bird itself was unknown, but that the eggs were discovered in a large sand bank some distance away in the up country, and could not be found elsewhere, to the knowledge of the natives.

An offer to purchase all that could be procured soon resulted in the discovery of several fine specimens, all of which fell into the hands of Isadore G. St. Hilaire, the French naturalist. These curiosities were afterward distributed among the largest museums.

NO RELIEF FOR THE AUDIENCE.

It has often puzzled the uninitiated to give a reason why musicians tune their instruments in public, and not before they enter the orchestra. If they tuned their instruments before entering the theatre or concert room the temperature is very apt to be different in the place of performance, and therefore the instruments would not be in tune. A piano which is in tune in a cold room would get out of tune if the room were suddenly heated.

A TERRIBLE NIGHT.

Heartrending Scenes at the Wreck of the San Benito—Crew in the Rigging—Helpless Spectators.

A despatch from San Francisco says—The Northern Pacific Railway steamer, San Benito, which left Tacoma for San Francisco on Thursday night with a coal cargo of five thousand tons and a crew of 43 men, was driven ashore early Tuesday morning, two miles north of Point Arena, in a heavy gale. Four of the crew were drowned, 10 others were picked up by the steamer Point Arena and the Captain and 27 men are clinging to the rigging, with slender hopes of their being saved. The vessel will be a total loss.

The steamer Wrott tried to assist the wrecked steamer San Benito, but found that she could do nothing. The watchers on shore tried to send a line over the wreck by shooting from shot guns and rifles, but without success. After the vessel parted just about amidship, the stern portion swung round and drifted to within 500 feet of the beach, while the forward section, to which the crew was clinging, turned broadside to the sea and there remained stationary. A huge wave washed three sailors from the main mast, two of them sinking and the third being dragged ashore by the life saving crew more dead than alive. After dark bonfires were lighted on shore and by the glare from them it was seen that the poor seamen were still struggling to retain their hold in the rigging, continually drenched by foam-topped waves.

The scene was heartrending. Men, women and children had remained on the beach since daylight. Farmers brought food and milk for them, but none cared to eat a morsel. Men were shouting, women were wringing their hands and crying, and everyone was trying to do or suggest something but without avail. The men who were rescued could give no definite account for the ship going so far out of her course.

Captain Smith and his officers, with the exception of the chief engineer are still on the wreck, and until they can be seen nothing definite can be learned.

LATER.

After clinging to the rigging of the wrecked steamer San Benito 27 hours, 23 men were rescued by the Steamer Wrott early Wednesday morning and transferred to the steamer Point Arena, which took them to Mendocino. The rescue was a most hazardous undertaking. Repeated attempts were made to reach the wreck, but the sea was so rough that it was impossible for a boat to live in it. After midnight, however, the waves began to abate and a boat from the steamer Wrott reached the wreck. The sailors were almost exhausted, and had to be assisted into the boat. Twelve men in boat returned for the others, they, too, were transferred to the Wrott and then safely reached the steamer, making a total of 35 saved out of the crew of 43 men. It is impossible to give the names of the rescued men as the Wrott immediately put to sea.

THE INDIAN FAMINE.

An Improvement in the Outlook—There Have Been Generous Rainfalls in Many Districts.

A despatch from Allahabad to the London Times on the breaking of the drought says:—"The storm has caused a rainfall right through Eastern Rajputana, which has reached the western parts of the north-west provinces. On Friday a good rain had fallen at Meerut, and a fair rain at Agra. This will be of the highest value, as Agra was suffering severely from drought. There are signs that the rain will extend further. Here the clouds have been banked up for the last few days, but only a few drops have fallen, though there were showers on Saturday night further north. The following is an accurate view of the position in the north-west provinces and Oudh:—The first area, where there is the greatest failure of crops, has 25,000 square miles, with a population of 13,000,000. Here the famine may be acute. The second area, where there is a severe failure, covers 30,000 miles, and the population is 14,000,000. The third area, where there is a considerable failure, has 25,000 square miles, and has a population of 12,500,000.

"The divisions which are worst off are Allahabad, Lucknow, and Faizabad, with a portion of Agra not protected by irrigation. The remainder of the provinces are those protected by canals, which do not depend so much upon the rice corn. Here there has been little failure, though the dearness will press heavily upon the poorest classes of the Khalif. The crops in the Meerut division are excellent, and are probably the best on record.

"As for the prospects, an inch and a half of rain within the next fortnight would reduce the difficulties by one-half to three-fourths. Favorable rains, at the end of the year would relieve from 4 to 8 per cent. of the population. The Government is preparing for the worst. Should the drought continue until June, prices would rule enormously high, but the Lieutenant-Governor does not apprehend a complete failure of supplies next summer, as local stocks will be supplemented by imports.

"A significant indication of the famine conditions is that in certain areas prices for fine and coarse grains are closely approximating. So far the relief organization is equal to the demands."

LONDON'S FISH SUPPLY.

The Sheffield "Telegraph's" London correspondent learns that a company, with a capital of £500,000, is about to be started for the purpose of bringing fresh fish right into the very heart of the metropolis. For this purpose thirty-four steam trawlers have been ordered, each one of which will cost £10,000. These will be in constant touch with the fishing grounds to bring the produce up the Thames to Billingsgate Market. Every requirement that science dictates for the preservation of fish during the voyage is being complied with, and the promoters of this giant undertaking the leading spirits of which hail from Grimsby, are confident of revolutionizing the only personally experimented with fishing industry as well as of establishing a most profitable enterprise.

ONTARIO ARCHIVES
TORONTO