

THE NEWS OF THE WEEK

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.

Another case of smallpox has developed at Montreal.

Hamilton City Council has decided to abolish the street lighting tax.

Toronto had 61 deaths, 55 births and 19 marriages during January.

There is talk of a Temperance building, to cost \$50,000, being erected in Hamilton.

The Montreal Herald office has been damaged to the extent of \$10,000 by fire.

Chief Twiss of Dundas has been appointed High Constable of Wentworth County.

Mr. Mulock has given notice in the House of the bill to abolish the superannuation system.

The value of exports from Manitoba during January exceeded five and a half million dollars.

Customs collections at Brantford for January show an increase of \$5,256 over January 1897.

A pulp mill is to be erected at St. Joseph d'Alma near Quebec, by a company with a million dollars capital.

The financial statement of Nova Scotia shows the year's expenditure as \$263,698, and a deficit of \$21,458.

The C. P. R. contemplates making many improvements on the western section of the system during the present year.

Lieut.-Col. W. E. Hodgins, of the Governor-General's Foot Guards, has been appointed A. D. C. to the Governor-General.

The Citizens' Light & Power Company's premises at Cote St. Paul, Montreal, have been destroyed by fire. The loss is \$100,000.

The Canadian Pacific Railway announces that their direct cable connection between Halifax and Jamaica is now open for business.

Sr. Adolphus and Lady Chaplain have taken up their residence in Montreal, and his Honor announces his intention of resuming his practice of law.

Dr. Roche, M. P. for Marquette, is lying seriously ill in the Winnipeg Hospital, and will not be able to attend to his parliamentary duties for some time.

The duty collected at the Ottawa customs house for January last, was \$34,914, compared with \$26,303 for the same month last year, an increase of \$8,611.

Miss Cole of Hamilton, about 65 years of age, on Tuesday was found dead in a miserable house in which she lived alone on Jackson street, her body being frozen stiff.

F. W. Iosholofsky, of Vancouver, has secured \$2,000 damages from the British Columbia Electric Company for the loss of his right arm, as the result of a tramway accident.

The annual report of the Department of Marine just issued shows the expenditure for January, 1898, was \$792,970, about \$39,700 less than the Parliamentary vote.

Graham Waddell, a farmer of Newmarket, Ont., is in the General Hospital, Toronto, suffering from what is known as an X-ray burn in the abdomen, which refuses to heal.

Pressure is being brought to bear upon the Government to place an export duty on nickel ores. The matter will be left until Parliament has been held on the subject.

The customs returns for Hamilton for January, 1898, show duties collected amounting to \$417,532, compared with \$413,042.68 for January, 1897, an increase of \$1,711.14.

The Customs Department has received \$47,000 from the collector at Dawson City, making \$25,000 in duties received from the Yukon since the opening of navigation last year.

It is reported that Lethbridge that the Alberta Railway & Coal Company has sold to McKenzie and Mann for the 80-mile-teskin road steel rails for 80 miles of the roadbed, and also four locomotives.

The Vancouver Board of Trade has established an agency in Seattle, Wash., to afford information of Vancouver's advantages over the United States cities in supplying outfits for the Klondike.

Mr. Charles M. Hays, General Manager of the G.T.R., denies the report that the Grand Trunk is interesting itself in Premier Greenway's scheme for building a line from Winnipeg to Lake Superior.

Henceforth the recording of water rights under the irrigation act will be administered by the Northwest Territories Department of Public Works at Regina, instead of as heretofore in Calgary and Ottawa.

An outbreak of black diphtheria is reported at one of the camps on the Crow's Nest Pass Railroad. Two young men from Nova Scotia were left to die in a box car without medical attendance or comfort.

The Supreme Court of British Columbia has quashed the conviction of a coal mine owner for employing Chinese in the mines, on the ground that, while the Act prohibited the employment of Chinese, it did not provide any penalty for its infraction.

Mr. Charles Stiff, formerly Superintendent of the Great Western Railway, will probably succeed Mr. C. R. Smith as Secretary of the Hamilton Board of Trade. Mr. Smith's resignation has been accepted, as he is going to San Francisco.

Another fire insurance company has been formed to have its head office in Toronto. The company will be known as the Equity Fire Insurance Company. It has an authorized capital of \$1,000,000, subscribed capital of \$300,000, and paid-up capital so far of \$30,000.

A report comes from Salt Lake City of trouble in the Yukon between the Canadian police, and the American relief expedition, and it is said the mounted police at Lethbridge have received orders to hold themselves in

readiness to start for the scene at a moment's notice.

The request of the Bell Telephone Company for permission to increase their rates in the leading cities of the Dominion will shortly come up for a decision by the Government. Ald. Sheppard of Toronto was in Ottawa asking for a postponement of the question in the interests of the public.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Grass is being cut in the parks of London.

There is said to be an epidemic of threats to kill actors in London.

The London Morning Post approves the suggestion that Canada should organize a naval militia.

The late Charles P. Villiers' seat for Weymouth has been captured by the Conservatives, Dr. Gibbons being elected there by 111 majority.

The War Office has requested the resignation of Albert Frederick Calvert, charged with purchasing the colony of a Middlesex volunteer regiment for \$8,000.

The death of Lord Clonmell was caused by his dropping a little hot sealing wax on his hand, whereupon blood poisoning rapidly developed. He only succeeded to the title in 1896.

In the course of his tour of the United States and Canada, Prince Albert Leopold, the Belgian heir presumptive, will pay a visit to President McKinley. It is asserted in connection with the affairs of the Congo Free State. The visit will be of an official character.

A man known as Wilfred Kinny, belonging to the 8th Hussars, was placed on trial on Saturday at Caher, Ireland, charged with murdering a comrade named Albert Goodwin. The defendant, according to the testimony, is really named Warburton, is a native of Nova Scotia, and was formerly in the United States army.

The Duke and Duchess of Fife, a fortnight ago, agreed to open the new Hackney Town hall, and the vestry, by a large majority, voted to expend £200 to entertain them; but the minority in the vestry protested against the expenditure, and an angry discussion followed. The local newspaper cuttings on the subject were sent to the Duke and Duchess of Fife, who then declined to open the Town hall.

UNITED STATES.

The price of coal has advanced 10 cents per ton in New York.

H. C. Frick, of Pittsburgh, Pa., has purchased at Paris, Pascal Dagman, Frenchman's masterpiece, "Blessing the Bread."

The new United States postage stamps are out. The one-cent is green and the five-cent is dark blue. The new American post cards are a trifle smaller than the old ones.

The young white girl recently discovered among a band of Indians near Pierre, South Dakota, has been identified by Mrs. Burton of Cannington Manor, Moose Mountain, as her long-lost daughter.

Thos. L. Thompson, ex-United States Minister to Brazil, ex-Congressman and editor, committed suicide at Santa Rosa, Cal., on Tuesday, by cutting his throat. Despondency is supposed to have been the cause.

The trial of Sheriff Martin and his 82 deputies began in the Luzerna County Court, at Wilkesbarre, Pa., on Tuesday. They are charged with shooting and killing 22 striking miners, and wounding over 50 more at Lattimer in September last.

The Highland Park hotel, at Aiken, S. C., was destroyed by fire on Sunday morning. The loss is \$140,000, with \$98,000 insurance. One hundred and sixty-eight guests were sleeping in the hotel, but they had no trouble in getting away with their baggage.

A. E. Standen, of Chicago, travelling salesman, is about to start a campaign of advertising religion. He is of the opinion that if dead walls, etc., can be used to advantage in the sale of liquor, tobacco, etc., they can be put to the same use in the sale of the Bible.

GENERAL.

Fire on Monday destroyed the village of Randegrove, Switzerland. Three lives were lost.

Deaths from the bubonic plague at Bombay during the past seven days number 927.

Latest reports say that 20 persons were killed and 50 injured as a result of the recent earthquake at Balkeek, Asia Minor.

The Salvation Army has proposed to establish a farm as a reformatory for boys and girls.

A Government inspector who paid a visit to a diamond mine near Praetoria saw diamonds unearthed of formation similar to the Kimberley diamonds.

It is reported at Berlin that a conspiracy has been unearthed at Teheran, Persia, to murder the Shah and to install a younger brother at the palace.

It is reported at Constantinople that Emperor William of Germany has notified the Sultan that he maintains his opposition to Prince George for the Governorship of Crete, and would, if necessary, recall the German warship Odenburg from Crete.

A man named Luis Coro Lazo, who recently returned to Cuba from the African prisons, exploded a bomb at the private residence of the Conservative ex-Mayor of Havana, Senor Miguel Diaz. A number of doors were broken, and a large hole made in the house. The Diaz family and those inhabiting neighbouring houses were panic-stricken. Lazo was captured while attempting to escape.

SCOTCH TRAINS COLLIDE

Six People Killed and Four Injured in a Railway Smash.

A despatch from Glasgow says:—A mail train and freight train have been in collision on the Glasgow and South-Western railroad, near Troon.

The driver and fireman of the freight train and four workmen who were on board the mail train were injured. In addition, four persons were killed, some of them fatally.

The export and import trade of New South Wales for the past year showed an increase of £1,070,000. The exports of gold showed an increase of £207,145.

SULTAN AFFRONTS CZAR

A STATE OF AFFAIRS WHICH MAY CAUSE A CRISIS.

Germany Adds to the Gravity of the Situation. The Russian Government Makes Demand for Heavy War Indemnity. Emperor William Opposing Prince George's Candidacy.

A despatch from London says:—White public attention is being more or less monopolized by events in China the situation in the east of Europe is rapidly assuming once more so serious an aspect as to merit more than passing attention. Prompted, it is believed, by Germany, the Sultan is displaying an independence of attitude and boldness of front toward the Czar which cannot fail to bring about war, and that, too, at an early date. The Russian Ambassador at Constantinople has been treated with the most striking discourtesies. After presenting his credentials he asked the Sultan for a private audience. This, according to the customary usage, should have been granted at once. The Sultan, however, kept the Ambassador waiting for more than a fortnight before he consented to vouchsafe his request, although he received several other foreign envoys in the meantime.

Not content with this the Sultan responded to the demand presented by the Ambassador for the removal of the Turkish irregular cavalry from the vicinity of the Russian frontier, in consequence of the frequent acts of brigandage on Muscovite territory, by issuing a decree doubling their number along the frontier, and conferring decorations on their chiefs.

This irregular cavalry is composed in the main of the same Kurdish savages whose appalling cruelties perpetrated upon the Christian population of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia brought about the Russo-Turkish war of 1877.

A third manifestation of hostility is the Sultan's refusal to yield to the Czar's demand for the appointment of Prince George of Greece to the Governorship of Crete, while a fourth, and perhaps the most significant, circumstance is that Abdul Hamid is sending large reinforcements and supplies to the Turkish army under Edhem Pasha in Thessaly, and the latter, along with his German military advisers, has recently commenced to elaborately strengthen his position, manifesting no disposition whatever to withdraw from Grecian territory.

Of course the Czar has a very serious grievance against the Sultan, as a result of the war indemnity of \$150,000,000 of this war indemnity which remains owing by the Sultan to Russia. The Sultan is making no effort whatsoever to discharge this debt. The Czar has now caused his Ambassador to Constantinople to make a peremptory demand for the immediate payment of this amount, which is, of course, out of the question.

That Emperor William is still supporting the Sultan is demonstrated by the fact that he declines to endorse Russia's demand for the appointment of Prince George to the Governorship of Crete, and that he has recently conferred decorations upon the members of Edhem Pasha's staff in Thessaly, a sure sign that he is just as hostile to Greece as ever.

RUSSIA ANTICIPATES TROUBLE.

The fact that Russia anticipates trouble is shown by the Czar's action in restoring to grace Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria being a matter of importance to Russia in the event of a conflict with Turkey, Bulgaria having a well-equipped army of nearly 200,000 men to place at Russia's disposal.

Moreover, the Czar has within the last three weeks, increased his forces on the frontiers of Germany and Austria by two full army corps, and is again active in Bulgaria, in spite of his engagement contracted with Emperor Francis Joseph to take no steps in Balkan politics, save in conjunction with Austria. When it is added that with the first outbreak of a European war in the east of Europe, an anti-dynastic revolution will take place in Serbia, it will be seen that the situation is gradually drawing to a head.

NULTY TO BE HANGED MAY 20.

Jury Find Him Guilty of Murdering His Sisters and Brother.

A despatch from Montreal says:—The trial of Thomas Nulty, for the murder of his sisters and brother at Rawdon, which has been proceeding at Joliet for the past month, was concluded on Friday morning. Judge Delorimer charged against the prisoner, and the jury, after a short deliberation, returned a verdict of guilty.

The court sentenced Nulty to be hanged on May 20, at nine o'clock in the morning.

STORY OF THE CRIME.

Nulty's crime was a most diabolical one, and shocked the whole country. The murderer lived with his parents at Rawdon, Que., where they had a farm. The family, which consisted of Tom, the eldest, three sisters, and a young brother, a mere lad, were very poor, and like all the people in the district, densely ignorant. Tom desired to get married, and was courting a girl at the time. As he had no place to which to bring a wife, he seemed to have got the idea into his head that if he killed off all the rest of the family he would obtain the farm. In furtherance of this idea he went to the farm-house while the parents were absent from home and killed the four children with an axe. He then coolly left the scene and went to see this girl. Suggesting he fastened on him, and when arrested he broke down and made a full confession.

The defence endeavored to prove by expert evidence that he was insane, but the jury evidently thought otherwise, and he will now have to pay the penalty of his terrible crime.

THE ALIEN LABOR LAW.

Mr. Corliss Proposes Another Series of Amendments to the United States Exclusion Act.

A despatch from Washington says:—Representative Corliss of Michigan, whose amendment, intended to prevent Canadians from working in the United States during the day and returning to their homes each night, furnishing ground for the veto by President Cleveland of the immigration bill of the last Congress, on Monday, introduced a bill which he intends offering as a substitute for the so-called Lodge immigration bill, which has passed the Senate. Section 3 makes it unlawful for any male alien over sixteen years of age, who has not in good faith made his declaration to become a permanent resident of the United States, to come into this country for the purpose of engaging in any mechanical trade or manual labor for wages or salary while retaining his home or residence in a foreign country. Section 4 provides that such alien shall not be employed on public works unless he makes a declaration of his intention to become a citizen. Section 5 makes it unlawful for any firm or corporation to knowingly employ an alien in violation of section 3, the provisions of which, however, are not to apply to the subjects of the Provinces of Canada contiguous to the United States or sailors, deck hands or other employees of vessels, or railroad or canal employees, duties require them to pass over the frontier to reach the terminal of their runs.

Speaking of the bill Mr. Corliss said:—I still preserve in my measure the restriction of the 'birds of passage' covering all aliens over sixteen years of age, who come to this country like hawks for the express purpose of stealing from our wage-earners the fruits of American labor and taking them back to their homes and families in a foreign land. My investigations show that from 40,000 to 50,000 able-bodied men annually come to this country, and not exceeding 10 per cent, thereof come from the Provinces of Canada. I have therefore excepted from the Provinces of Canada contiguous to the United States. My measure also forbids the employment on any public works of the United States of any but United States citizens."

THE SNOW SHOVEL AT SEA.

A Familiar Implement of Land Use That is Found on the Water as Well.

The common idea of a snow shovel is that it is used to clear the sidewalk and that sort of thing, but the snow falls on the sea as well as on the land, and if there is a ship in the way of the storm the snow, of course, falls on its decks just as it would fall on anything ashore. It may be that the snow that falls on the ship will be washed off by the sea, or it may be necessary to clean it off, so as to give a better and safer foothold on the decks and to facilitate the working of the ship. This is often done with snow shovels, which are carried by probably nine out of ten of the deep-water ships, from one to three each, according to the size of the vessel.

The snow shovels used aboard ship are made especially for that use. They are not iron, or steel-shod along the edge, as most of the snow shovels used ashore nowadays are, and whatever metal is used in their construction is so placed that it cannot come in contact with the deck. No iron shovel is ever used on a ship's deck.

As a matter of fact the snow shovel is used on shipboard mostly when the ship is in port, where she may remain for a period of weeks, discharging and reloading; but when the vessel sails the snow shovels are stowed away, in the lazaretto, aft, or under the forecastle deck, forward.

On a ship bound for San Francisco the snow shovels may be needed when she is rounding Cape Horn, where snow sometimes falls in summer. Snow that falls upon the deck in the waist of the ship is likely to be washed away by the water she takes aboard; the decks more likely to need snowshoveling are those higher above the sea, the forecastle deck, and the quarter deck. In a time of 'now squalls' the Capt. would perhaps keep a man standing ready with a shovel to shovel off the snow after every squall. There might be times when the decks were icy and slippery, when the Captain would have ashes strewn upon them to give a securer foothold.

CURIOUS ACCIDENT.

A Ship Broke in Two As If Cut by a Monster Saw.

A curious accident happened recently to the British steamer Laura, bound for the north of England to Trieste, with a cargo of 700 tons of coke.

When off the Yorkshire Coast she ran ashore in a fog at the foot of the cliffs on the south side of Filey Bay, near Framboro Head. As the water was calm, a number of tugs undertook to float the steamer and pulled her off, but unluckily dragged her upon a narrow sand bank, with bow and stern both afloat.

The ship then snapped in two as clean as if she had been cut with a saw, the noise of the break sounding like an explosion and frightening horses on shore.

Stormy weather set in for some weeks during which the stern portion of the Laura was shifted around till it was at right angles with the bow half. The last accounts describe the two halves of the steamer as high and dry, and still in the same relative position.

HER REPLY.

He asked if he could kiss her, and naturally she blushed very prettily. "I don't know whether you can or not," she said, but if you can't you're not a very strong man.

It is necessary to say what happened.

SOME LATE CABLE NEWS.

INTERESTING BITS OF NEWS FROM THE MOTHER LAND.

The London Star Alarmed Over the American Klondike Expedition—To France by Balloon—Naval Programme Hinderer.

A despatch from London says:—The Star of Tuesday, under the heading of "Raid on the Klondike," quoted an anonymous American correspondent, who recently arrived in England as saying with reference to the relief expeditions to the Klondike, that those who are familiar with the facts "know that this excuse is as flimsy as Jameson's desire to relieve the women and children of Johannesburg." Continuing, the anonymous correspondent remarks:—"Every American knows this to be another Jameson raid, and that the Americans intend to keep control of the Klondike. The Klondikers have already announced that the Stars and Stripes will be flying at Dawson City by July 4. It would please a large body of Americans if the Klondike could be made a pretext for war between England and the United States, which would result in the annexation of Canada." There is much more in the same strain.

The Daily Mail, which on January 16 announced the engagement of Mr. Laurence Irving, son of Sir Henry Irving, to Miss Ethel Barrymore, the actress, now says that the engagement has been cancelled. There has been no sort of quarrel between Mr. Irving and Miss Barrymore, but they have recognized that in a romantically hasty manner, and are mutually convinced that their happiness will be best consulted by regarding it as premature.

An aeronaut named Spencer, who started in a balloon from the Crystal Palace on Tuesday morning for France, accompanied by a newspaper man, passed Boulogne-Sur-Mer at 2.30 p.m., going in a southeasterly direction.

The Daily Telegraph says it understands the Government's scheme is to separate civil authority from the trading powers of the British South Africa Company, the young Barotse whose financial and other troubles have attracted much attention, is to adopt the stage as a career.

The Daily News publishes a detailed statement showing that three-fourths of the entire British naval programme has been thrown back 24 weeks by the engineers' strike.

At the sale on Tuesday at Edinburgh of Burns' works a copy of the first Kilmarnock edition in the original paper covers, uncut, brought £572.

TRADE IMPROVING.

Imports and Exports at Montreal Show a Wonderful Growth.

A despatch from Montreal says:—The imports entered for consumption at the port of Montreal last month amounted in value to \$3,245,984, as compared with \$2,454,310 for the corresponding month of last year, showing an increase of \$800,000. This increase was proportionately about equally divided between free and dutiable goods, the former having increased from \$682,501 to \$912,265 while in the case of dutiable goods the increase was from \$1,758,000 to \$2,311,000.

The exports make an equally good showing, amounting in the aggregate to \$2,312,400, as compared with a total of \$1,415,000 in January, 1897. The total duty collected last month was \$71,288, compared with \$517,363 in the same month last year, an increase of about \$151,000.

TO LICENSE EVERY BRANCH.

Buffalo Board of Councilmen Act in Regard to Department Stores.

A despatch from Buffalo, N.Y., says:—The following resolution, which is self-explanatory, passed the Board of Councilmen unanimously on Wednesday:—"Resolved, that the corporation counsel be and he is hereby, directed to prepare and submit to this board, at as early a date as possible, an ordinance providing for the licensing of stores commonly known as 'department stores,' said stores to pay a license for every branch of business carried on by them, excepting their one legitimate business."

SIX FIREMEN KILLED.

Falling Walls Cause a Disaster at a Boston Conflagration.

A despatch from Boston says:—Six firemen, including a district chief, captain, and a lieutenant, were killed at a fire here on Saturday which burned out the interior of a five-story building on Merrimac street, occupied by G. W. Bent and Company, manufacturers of beds, bedding, etc. Falling walls caused the disaster. Four other firemen were buried in the ruins, but they escaped with more or less serious injuries.

THE RUSH TO THE GOLD FIELDS.

A despatch from Vancouver says:—Boats are crowding north to Dyea, Skagway and Warnez, crammed with Klondikers. On Monday the Thistle left Vancouver and was followed Tuesday by the Danube. The Thistle carried a party going in by Stikine River to Teslin Lake. The Danube took up a new mill to be erected at Lake Lebarge. She had to refuse two hundred tons of freight including three carloads of bacon from Omaha, for the United States relief expedition. Hon. H. B. Hulsey, Commissioner of the Government of the Northwest Territories, was on board. He goes to look into the question of the flour traffic chiefly. Most of the Klondike passengers insured their outfits.

OVER A SCORE KILLED.

FERRIBLE FIRE AND EXPLOSION AT PITTSBURG, PENN.

Great Storage Building and its Contents Destroyed—Eight Thousand Barrels of Whiskey Destroyed—Falling Walls—Many.

A despatch from Pittsburgh, Pa., says:—A fire of mysterious origin was discovered about 8 o'clock on Wednesday evening in the six-story cold storage plant of the Chautauque Lake Ice Company. The entire building will probably be destroyed, together with about a million dollars worth of merchandise of all kinds stored within its walls.

An explosion of whiskey occurred at 11.15, which blew out the alley wall on one side with terrible results. At the time the alley was filled with firemen, policemen, newspaper men, and others. Many were caught by the falling walls.

MANY FATALITIES.

There are rumours that at least 25 or 30 men still are under the debris. Six dead have been taken out, among them Police Capt. Berry. The other five bodies are at his morgue unrecognized as yet. Many people were injured by flying bricks and beams, and all the ambulances and patrol wagons of the city are in constant service.

LATER.

The loss of life and destruction of property by the fire at 18th and Pike streets on Wednesday night, was the greatest in the history of Pittsburgh.

At least fifteen persons were killed, over a score injured, and property valued at one and one-half million dollars was destroyed.

Some of the heaviest individual losses are: The Heany Distilling Company, 8,000 barrels of whiskey, worth \$750,000; Monohagasia Textile Company, wool dealers, 125,000 pounds of wool; Collins Cigar Company, 25 car loads tobacco; W. M. Williams, commission merchant, 20 car loads sugar. These losses are covered by insurance.

It was just 7.55 o'clock in the evening when smoke was seen issuing from the fourth floor of the Union Storage Company's building on Pine street, near 13th. The building was six stories in height and occupied almost the entire block between 12th and 13th streets and Pike street and Mulberry Alley.

Immediately upon the discovery of the fire an alarm was sent in and was responded to promptly, but owing to the construction of the building it was practically impossible to fight the fire from without, while the volume of smoke in the package division in which the fire occurred, made it impossible to fight it from within. The only openings in the three fire walls dividing the great buildings closed by

HEAVY IRON DOORS.

and these were locked.

For three hours the firemen worked, scarcely knowing what they were doing. The iron shutters were impracticable to their attacks. Finally, at 11 o'clock, the flames burst out through the roof and shot upward a hundred feet, making that part of the city as light as day.

Suddenly, above the roar of the flames and the puffing of the fire engines, came the first explosion. Those within the fire lines were seen to fall in all directions. Those outside the lines were not beyond the reach of danger. Those not prostrated by the first blast were knocked down by the reactionary waves of air, as the falling walls created a vacuum that seemed to draw in everything.

It was on the Mulberry Alley side where the least danger was expected that the force of the explosion was the most severe and there the greatest number of fatalities took place.

Explosion followed explosion, for about half an hour between 12 and 1 o'clock. Walls kept toppling down, and firemen, policemen and spectators were rendered almost powerless to act by the sense of awe and terror which the scene inspired.

ROTHSCHILD IN KLONDIKE.

Bankers Said to Have Invested on Hunker Creek—Will Spend \$150,000.

A despatch from Vancouver, B. C., says:—The Rothschilds, of London, have acquired from agents in Vancouver hydraulic gold gravel claims on Hunker creek, in Yukon. The deposit is said to be 120 feet thick, and enormously rich. As a rule, hydraulic mining for gold does not pay, as available and sufficient water pressure can only be secured for such a short season, but the Hunker creek claim is so especially rich that the Rothschild agent cabled to accept it at once. The lease will be for twenty years.

The original owner, a Swede named Anderson, retains an interest. The Rothschilds will spend \$150,000 at once in developing the property, and if it is profitable will invest a few millions in the country.

GREAT DISTRESS IN RUSSIA.

Worse Than During the Famine of 1891.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the London Times says:—"A failure in the harvest has caused terrible distress among the peasantry of the interior provinces, especially in Central and South-Eastern Russia. In some places they are worse off than during the famine of 1891. The Russian editors have been forbidden to refer to the matter. Private letters from Tamboff, in the province of that name, south-east of Moscow, say the peasants are feeding their half-starved cattle with the thatches of their roofs. Typhus and other diseases are making rapid headway among them."

The late Sir Percival Heywood, of Denstone, left personalty valued at £131,501 11s.