

News of the Week.

CANADA.

Fire destroyed several buildings in Farnham, P. Q., Thursday.

J. Harry Robertson, a young man who saw service in South Africa, committed suicide by taking carbolic acid, Wednesday, in St. John.

Dr. Maddar got a verdict of \$7,500 against the Halifax Street Railway Co. for injuries received.

Two cars, including the baggage car, were burned on the Aroostook branch of the C. P. R. a few days ago.

The report of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, showing the total yields in the various classes of farm produce in the province for the year 1904 is a disappointing statement. The production of nearly all the agricultural staples was below that of the previous season, and there was little cause for satisfaction in regard to any particular item.

Messrs G. D. Campbell and Co., lumbermen, of Weymouth, have purchased the two mills and extensive timber limits of the Sissiboo Pulp Company, at Sissiboo, near Weymouth, N. S.

At Lunenburg, Wednesday night, John Springer fell down stairs in his boarding house and broke his back.

The Salvation Army is taking steps to assist in solving the vexatious servant girl problem. Miss Eva Booth has made a statement in Toronto that a movement was on hand to bring out a shipload of 500 domestics.

At Big Bras d'Or, C. B., Monday, Roderick McNeil was drowned by the upsetting of a boat.

The Dominion Coal Company has placed a contract for 25,000 tons of coal in Vera Cruz, Mexico. This is the result of a trial cargo of 5,000 tons sent there some few months ago.

The mining committee of the Halifax Board of Trade are asking the Dominion Government to send an expert from the Dominion Geological Survey to come to Nova Scotia and investigate the iron ore deposits of the province.

The Halifax Board of Trade and City Council and town of Dartmouth, have organized a special shipbuilding committee. There is a probability that a company will be formed, with English and Halifax capital, to operate a shipyard there.

Alphonse Hamel, ex-city paymaster, of Montreal has pleaded guilty to forging, signing and obtaining money by false pretences.

Two stores at Belyea's Point, Kings Co., kept by Messrs. Belyea, were robbed of goods worth \$40 or \$50 a few days ago.

The official estimate places the increased area in grain for the Territories next spring at half a million acres, as owing to extraordinary open weather which prevailed up to date fall ploughing operations still continue. Such late breaking has not been known before for 23 years. The Dominion colonization agent, just come in from the west, says it is safe to predict settlers next year will crop 25 per cent. more than in any previous year.

John Colton, a rancher, near Kutawa, N. W. T., was accidentally killed by his daughter, Monday. He had been out shooting, and on his return laid his rifle on the table. His daughter, not knowing it was loaded, picked it up. It slipped from her hand and was discharged, the contents entering her father's back, killing him instantly.

Forest fires, fanned by a gale, have devastated the country northwest of Rosser, Manitoba. The whole population fought valiantly to stem the devastation and succeeded in saving Grosse Isle station. The extent of the country burned is some twenty square miles.

Some idea of the present traffic in and out of Winnipeg may be gained from the number of cars of freight. During the month of October the C. P. R. handled 39,617 cars, in and out from the Winnipeg yards, and during the corresponding month of last year the number of cars was 35,673, a gain for this year of 4,044. The heaviest single day was October 30, when 1,695 cars were handled, as against 1,474 for the heaviest day in October last year. From the first to the fifteenth of the present month the total is 21,472, against 18,124 for the corresponding period in 1903. The heaviest day for November, which is also the heaviest day in the history of the Winnipeg yards, is 1,815, of which 1,019 was in freight and 796 out-freight.

At Sand Point, St. John, Matthew Wells, ship laborer, fell between the Allan liner Ionian and the wharf and received injuries which resulted in his death.

Mr. J. J. Cowie, the Scotch fishery expert, has returned from the Pacific coast. He declares that the fishermen of British Columbia can give pointers to the fishermen of the Atlantic. At Nanaimo the methods employed are superior to those which are found in use on the Atlantic coast. The package in which the fish were put is a better package in every way, and the fish are better cured. The quality, too, is good. The fish were not quite so large as on the Atlantic, but that was so much the better, as when they get too large they become coarse. Nanaimo kippers are fully equal to the Scotch article. He saw no reason why an enormous business should not be done. There is an unlimited market for these fish in Japan, China and the Straits Settlement.

Mr. E. B. Winslow, K. C., died at his home in Fredericton, Thursday.

The steamer Melville, of the Elder Dempster line, is at Sydney loading Cape Breton coal for South Africa.

Herbert Leaman, charged with having stolen a large quantity of goods from the I. C. R. freight house at Moncton, pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to two years in Dorchester penitentiary.

Miss A. May Coburn, of Wallace, N. S., and her aunt, Mrs. James F. Black, whom she was visiting at Attleboro, Mass., were killed by a train Thursday.

A militia order just issued says that promotion subject to the necessary qualifications will take place as follows: After one year's service as lieutenant, to be captain; after four years' service as captain, to be a major; after ten years' service, as major, regimental medical officers may be given the rank of honorary lieutenant-colonel, and their period of service extended, or they may be transferred to the reserve of medical officers, or the retired list, as the case may be.

THE EMPIRE.

Heavy snow storms prevailed throughout England last week. Railway communication was delayed.

The temperature in some districts in England, although only twenty-five degrees below freezing point, was the lowest ever recorded there.

FOREIGN.

The Talautse islands, northeast of Celebes, Malay Archipelago, have been visited by a disastrous hurricane, causing the sea to rise to such an extent that it flooded the islands and left 30,000 persons destitute, their homes, boats and plantations being destroyed.

At Lebanon, N. H., William Henry Wilkins, formerly of Canterbury, N. B., was sentenced to an indefinite term in state prison for murdering his wife with an axe on September 29th. Sentence was given for "safety of the public," the court having accepted the plea of not guilty, by reason of insanity.

The Kaiser's government likes nothing better than statistics. It has just figured out how many ladies of Prussia have the twin, terzetto and quartette habit. Here are the figures: In the last 25 years 771,016 Prussian women presented their lords with twins, 8,509 women bore three children at a time, 123 gave birth to a quartette, and one woman bore five children at one birth.

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The latest estimates of the population of the world, based on the most recent and exact information, are given in the Bulletin of the American Geographical Society, on the authority of Dr. Supan, as follows: The figures in parentheses give the population per square mile: Europe, 392,264,000 (104); Asia, 816,556,000 (46.6); Africa, 140,700,000 (27); Australia and Polynesia, 6,483,000 (2); North America, 105,714,000 (13); South America 38,482,000 (5); Polar lands, 91,000. The total population is 1,503,290,000, an average of 30.6 inhabitants to the square mile of territory.

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