

## News of the Week.

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### CANADA.

At Woodstock, Ont., Tuesday, fire destroyed the hardware store of Gardner & Co., Loss, \$20,000; insurance, \$15,000.

At Kingsport, N. S., Monday, an old man named Wm. Keddy was found at the roadside in a snow bank, frozen to death. He was between 80 and 90, and his home was at Hall's Harbor.

The residence of Geo. C. Oland, Dartmouth, N. S., was totally destroyed, and the home of John Forsyth badly gutted by fire Monday. Partial insurance.

The normal school re-opened last week, with fifteen new students in the French department. In the Sloyd school there are six special students, and more are expected to arrive. The number of student teachers entered for an advance of class is thirty-eight.

The total insurance losses paid in New Brunswick during 1904 amounted to \$360,000.

Thomas Cammack, for the murder of Wm. Doherty, was hanged in Woodstock Thursday morning.

At Truro, N. S., Wednesday, David F. Christie died as the result of a fall off a box car.

The Ross business block in Sydney, C. B., was destroyed by fire Saturday.

The Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, was badly damaged by fire Saturday. None of the patients were injured.

A Toronto school was destroyed by fire Friday. Seven hundred children were in school at the time, but they were marched out under fire drill without the slightest confusion.

The following new post offices were put into operation in the Province of Nova Scotia on the 1st inst.: Clam Bay, Halifax Co.; Pondville, Richmond Co.; Three Fathom Harbor, Halifax Co.

Boston took about half a million tons of coal last year from Cape Breton.

Thursday fire destroyed the carpenter shop of the Dominion Steel Company, Sydney.

William Martin, the oldest resident of Halifax, died Wednesday. He was 104 years and 10 months of age.

In Quebec, a coasting sled with three young sons of P. Chamberlain dashed over a high cliff Friday. The children were not missed till afternoon, and were then found lying in a snow drift at the foot of the cliff. One had apparently been instantly killed, having fallen on a rock, another is dying, and but slight hopes are entertained for the recovery of the third.

Merritt R. McKenzie, formerly of Nerepis, who went to the West last fall, died in Winnipeg Thursday. His father—Mr. M. O. McKenzie—having been notified of his illness, was on his way to see him, but did not reach Winnipeg before his death.

Canadian Pacific Railway land sales in December were 32,196 acres, for \$142,583. The big sale to the American syndicate of 54,000 acres is not included. Sales for previous eleven months were 488,467.74 acres for a total of \$2,097,946. Sales of Canada Northwest Land Company from January 1st to December 31st, 1904, amounted to 49,000 acres, at an average of \$6.60 per acre.

A C. P. R. freight car did a freak trick on the run to St. John Thursday. Near Lingley, the car, which was in the middle of the train, broke out, left the track and turned upside down in the ditch. The automatic air brake stopped the train, but meantime the section had come together and the car was not missed.

An accident occurred on the Fredericton branch of the I. C. R. about a mile from Cross Creek Station Thursday, when five cars of a freight train left the rails. Two refrigerator cars loaded with fresh fish were badly broken up.

Winnipeg customs receipts increased \$500,000 last year.

The opera house at Neepawa, Man., was destroyed by fire on Thursday. The loss on the building is \$12,000.

Miss Mary Smallie, who has taught in the Digby schools continuously for forty years and three months, has just resigned. She has had charge of the advanced primary department, and her work has always been satisfactory, alike to the school board and the parents. There is not a single record of any complaint or dissatisfaction with the teacher; the order of the department has always been excellent, and the room has been the best kept in the building.

There is practically no such thing as luck in business. Behind what is termed "luck" there is always a good and sufficient reason. The "good and sufficient" of "VIM TEA" success has been "VIM TEA" quality, not luck.

### THE EMPIRE.

The American steam dredger Texas foundered in a storm off the Hebrides. The crew entered the small boats, but one containing the chief officer and 31 men sank, and all were drowned.

The Bermuda dockyard has been closed.

Reports from the famine-stricken counties of Ireland show that the failure of the potato crop will plunge those districts into acute distress. In England, unusual preparation for relief are being made.

Joseph Chamberlain last week defended his fiscal policy for the first time before a Lancashire audience interested in the cotton question. Mr. Chamberlain asserted that he would never again hold office in the government unless he could advance the great cause to which he had dedicated the remainder of his strength and life. He declared that under no circumstances would he tax raw cotton or wool. Mr. Chamberlain said he desired to reduce the duty on sugar, and replace the loss to the revenue by taxing luxuries.

Premier Balfour, speaking at a banquet at Glasgow on Thursday night, said he hoped conference with the colonies soon would be quite as essentially a working part of the empire as the House of Commons. The two great problems with which the army had to deal, Mr. Balfour said, were the defence of Afghanistan and re-armament. When this was completed the British army would be in advance of that of any other nation in the world.

### FOREIGN.

Geo. W. Trask, 80 years of age, of Calais, Me., was found Friday in an abandoned camp three miles west of Jonesboro, where he had been three days without food, water, or fire. There is little hope for his recovery.

One of the largest buildings of the plant of Farr & Bailey Co., manufacturers of oil cloth and linoleum, Camden, N. J., was destroyed by fire Wednesday. Loss, \$175,000.

Four men have been instantly killed and two injured at a shaft at Rockland, Mich. The accident was due to the breaking of a cable while the men were coming to the surface.

China is arming and organizing her forces on the Japanese pattern.

Fire Thursday destroyed the Academy of Music and other buildings at Chelsea, Mass.

### PARLIAMENT.

The first session of the tenth parliament began Wednesday. Senator Dandurand was appointed Speaker of the Senate. Mr. R. F. Sutherland was elected Speaker of the Commons.

The Governor General's speech was read Thursday. The speech made the usual reference to the prosperity of the country and the rapid increase of population, and promised a bill giving the Northwest Territories provincial autonomy. After the appointments of a committee to name standing committees the house adjourned till Wednesday.

### THE MAGAZINES.

The *Delineator* for February, with a beautiful art cover and a varied table of contents, is an attractive number. The romance of Chopin and the beautiful Countess Delphine Potocka is charmingly related by Gustav Kobbe in the "Composers Series," and an interesting paper tells something of the origin and romance of that matchless hymn of Henry Francis Lyte, "Abide With Me." There are also good stories, in addition to the children's corner, which includes "Animal Fairy Tales" and a "Son Riley Rabbit" story. Some of the early Spring styles are shown, and of further interest to women is the chapter on "The Making of a Housewife." The department "Good Looks," which discusses the forehead, and the contribu-

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## CONSTIPATION.

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tion on "The Mistakes of Mothers" are other items especially helpful.

The *Canadian Magazine* starts the new year with a new serial story, the scenes of which are laid in the War of 1812. It is entitled, "The Builders." The author is a Canadian. A Canadian traveller writes interestingly of Curacao, one of the most important of the smaller West Indian Islands. Dr. Drummond contributes one of his famous habitant poems. There are the usual short stories, poems and departments—each depicting some phase of our national life.

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