

NEWS ITEMS.

The recent famine killed off 10,000,000 Chinese. The trial of the City of Glasgow Bank Directors begins on the 20th of January.

Some admirers of Mr. Gladstone propose to present him with an axe on his sixty-fourth birthday.

Computation from all sources in the United States, shows the aggregate wheat crop of the past season was 425 million bushels.

News from Turkestan says the Chinese are concentrating against Kuldja, a post in Kashgar occupied by the Russians.

Russia has now 25,908 elementary public schools, in which are instructed 1,162,712 pupils, 193,871 of these being girls.

A Michigan man tried to commit suicide by holding his head in a hot oven. After getting properly baked he saw his foolishness.

A Providence, R. I., watchmaker is credited with drilling a hole through the entire length of a common pin from head to point.

The amount of paper money in circulation in Japan is announced by the Government to be one hundred and fifty millions of dollars.

A fleet of Russian iron-clad and swift unarmed vessels is gathering in the Chinese Seas, but for what purpose has not transpired.

Ten thousand five hundred barrels are a good many apples—at this quantity left New York City for Europe on a recent Saturday.

The police of Berlin on the 1st of last August, notified the Kings of Spain and of Italy that an international plot was about to kill them.

A Boston physician tore up the prescription that he had written for a boy with diphtheria because the mother had no money to pay for it, and within a few hours the boy died for lack of medicine.

The supremacy of American industry is now established beyond dispute. The other week a butcher in New York made a sausage which measured seven-and-a-half feet in length and weighed sixty-one pounds.

The difficulty between Russia and China on the frontier is growing fast. It is reported that a Russian expedition from Yarkent has been sent upon by Chinese troops and forced to return.

In the following States and territories there is neither an insolvent nor assignment law, namely: Alabama, Colorado, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Wyoming and Washington.—American Paper.

At midnight on the first day of the year the normal hour is to be fixed throughout Sweden, and all the government, railway and telegraph clocks will set simultaneously. At Stockholm the clocks will be put back twelve minutes.

The standard for recruits for the infantry of the line is to be raised from 5 feet 5 inches to 5 feet 6 inches, and that for the Royal Engineers from 5 feet 6 inches to 5 feet 6 1/2 inches. The standard for recruits for rifle regiments as at present—5 feet 4 1/2 inches.

Twenty years ago the steel production of the whole world amounted to little more than 200,000 tons, at an average cost of \$30 a ton. Last year the production went beyond 2,300,000 tons, and its cost only showed an average of \$12 a ton.—English Paper.

English journals take a more hopeful view of the situation in the East. In the Provinces, stocks are reported to be somewhat low, and in view of the reduced production in Canada and the United States during the present season, prices will probably rise in the spring.

Mary Maples, the daughter of a wealthy man of New York, married a poor man, and her father's wishes. The death left all his property to her when she renounced her new-married husband.

She is quitting his home for the settlement on her own. He returned to his home with a broken heart.

The best land in New Brunswick is to be found on the St. John and its tributaries above Woodstock. The rock is largely slate and highly calcareous.

On the Tobique river there is a vast deposit of gypsum presenting a perpendicular face to the river of more than 100 feet in height. 500 tons or more could be thrown down at a time by means of nitro-glycerine or other powerful explosives.

The gypsum is now hauled 65 miles by sleds to the country of the moon where it is largely used for the production of paper.

By the people of the Province it has little value, although its use is now increasing. The French of Madawaska are experimenting on it. As a result of the district referred to, an exception forms but a very small "good" where on the lower half is largely covered by a heavy deposit of the flat lands bordering the river.

It is annually covered by the snow which leaves behind them a rich soil extremely fertile.

The good land on the Tobique River is covered by forest. The settlement on the Tobique River were the same, and the same purchase even the most of the land which did not reach the general by the time of the land on the Tobique River.

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Advertisement. Card of Thanks. It is with mingled feelings of pride and pleasure, that we avail ourselves of this, the earliest opportunity afforded us, to thank our many friends in town and country, for the liberal patronage they have favored us with since we opened our new store, directly in front of the City Hall, in October last, and more especially would we tender our heartfelt acknowledgments of their favors during Christmas week. It will always be our aim to give the very best attention to our patrons and keep them supplied with first-class Staple and Fancy goods at all times. We wish all our friends a merry holiday season, and a very HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Yours respectfully, A. A. MILLER & Co. P.O. Dec. 28, 1878.

The Agriculturist.

FREDERICTON, N. B., DECEMBER 28, 1878.

1878.

The obituary of 1878 will be written within the next three days, in the columns of a hundred newspapers, in the old and in the new world. It has been a very eventful year marked by the ravages of the three great scourges of humanity, war, pestilence, and famine, and by attempted assassinations of Kings, for the greater part it has been overshadowed by commercial depression and financial gloom, but it has shown bright streaks in the bounty of nature, and plentiful harvests. It has indeed been very full of incident. It opened with Turkey in the grasp and seemingly at the mercy of Russia and with Constantinople all but open to the advance of the Czar's flushed and victorious hordes. It found England paralyzed in action, agitated by the question of peace and war, with dissensions in her Cabinet, the resignation of the Earl Derby and Garnet-son following therefrom. Russia presumptuously confident of the strength of her position flung the peace of San Stefano in the face of Europe. Then came a warlike reaction in England, the fleet was sent to the neighborhood of Constantinople, 6 millions stg. were voted, the reserves were called out, immense preparations were made for conflict by sea and land, and lastly, Indian troops passing through the Suez Canal landed in Malta. The nations of Europe were surprised, and relieved by the resolute attitude of England. Russia drew in her horns, and consented to very considerable modifications of the peace of San Stefano.

Whether the Treaty of Berlin has secured "peace with honor," for England is a question, which cannot yet be answered with certainty. Peace certainly did not follow the treaty of Berlin, for besides insurrections in European Turkey, there soon came reports of difficulties in Afghanistan, through Russian intrigues, and eventually war with the Amir of Cabul ensued. The significance of the Afghan situation will be better understood two or three months from hence. It is certain that 1878 in leaving the Treaty of Berlin, still unfulfilled, and England's little war with the Amir unfinished has left a legacy of trouble to 1879.

In the beginning of 1878 Victor Emmanuel first King of Italy died, and the grief his people were testified in a spontaneous and fervid manner. In a few weeks afterwards the venerable Pontiff IX succumbed to death, and a remarkable era of the papacy closed. His successor Leo XIII, appears anxious to bring the church into peaceful relations with the States with which she is in conflict, and some way may yet be found to reconcile the differences between the Vatican and Germany.

Of all the nations of Europe France has been most peaceful and prosperous in 1878. Having early in the year escaped civil war by the good faith and sense of her President and some of her statesmen, her people were enabled to give their minds unreservedly to peaceful pursuits, and to make their grand Exposition a success. It is very remarkable that while France was acting as a peaceful host in the world, her victorious antagonist Germany was full of trouble, discontent and perplexity. Roused by the attempts on the life of the venerable Emperor of Germany made by supposed socialist fanatics, Prince Bismark finding a Parliament pliant to his will, with the view of crushing out socialism and revolution, placed great restrictions on the liberties of the people. This system of iron rule, that necessitates the maintenance of huge armies and police forces, and absorbs so much of the best blood and talent of the nation in militarism is becoming very burdensome to them. All over the continent of Europe in the lower strata of society there is a seething discontent, as if the forces were in preparation for a burst of revolutionary violence. The attempts to assassinate the King of Spain in 1878, has indeed, been a memorable year. In January, his nuptials with the beautiful Princess Mercedes were celebrated with great pomp, and attended by representatives of all the Crowned Heads in Europe; three or four months afterwards, he and his people mourned the untimely death of the youthful Queen.

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and the departure and arrival of Governors General. The defeat of the McKenzie government came upon the country as a regular surprise. Now, that the heat of the contest has had time to cool, and preconceptions have become rectified it would be rash to say that it was calamity. A better judgment of the effect of the transference of power from Mr. McKenzie to Sir J. A. McDonald will be able to be made this time next year. Canada had an affectionate farewell to the honey-tongued Earl Dufferin, and gave an enthusiastic welcome to the young Marquis of Lorne and his Consort Princess Louise. Every body in Canada hopes for the best from the rule of the new Governor General. May nothing happen to disturb the present happy relations. There is no doubt but that his royal wife has given Canada a lift in general estimation. People in England account it a place of more importance now, and even its republican neighbors, look upon it with more respect, and with just a dash of deference.

On the death roll of 1878, several distinguished names have been marked; we will not linger to make any record save that of the Princess Alice, daughter of the Queen, for whom the land is still mourning.

Beet Root Sugar.

The subject of sugar is being discussed very generally now in the United States, the frauds committed by many New York Refiners have attracted a great deal of attention, and even of consternation at the discovery that poisonous adulterations are being practiced by them. The manufacture of sugar from beets is now being much written about, and the indications are that it will become before long a regular industry, an industry in which farmers must be especially interested, and to which the attention of the materialist in Ontario, arrangements are being made to establish a Beet Sugar Factory at Hamburg, for which government assistance is to be asked. The Quebec Government has offered a bonus for a similar enterprise. The Toronto Mail of late date, writing on this Hamburg project says:—

Whether aided by a Government grant or not, the undertaking appears to have a fair prospect of success. Large crops of sugar beets can be cheaply raised in the Province and among the residents of the Dominion are to be found many who are well versed in the cultivation of the root can also be advantageously pursued in Quebec and the Lower Provinces, and there indeed, the subject is being much discussed. At the meeting of the N. B. it is proposed to enter shortly into the manufacture of beet root sugar. In several districts of New Brunswick crops of this valuable root have been grown to test the probability of its cultivation on the soil of the province. The results were eminently satisfactory, especially on light soils in the neighborhood of Woodstock. The seeds were sown in the month of August, and matured about the middle of September. The average weight of each beet was about four pounds, and some weighed as high as thirteen pounds. The average yield was about 100 bushels per acre. The sugar content of the beets has been found exceedingly useful as a rotative crop, and apart from its use as a sugar product, it is highly esteemed for its value for feeding cattle. Ontario cannot grow such a large quantity of beets as the industries connected with agriculture by any of its sister Provinces, and therefore the promoters of this new enterprise are entitled to encouragement and support.

In this connection we publish the chief portion of a letter from Mr. Ernest John Gemert, a native of Brunswick, Germany, and Manager of the Maine Beet Sugar Company. A correspondent of the Daily Telegraph having asked, if "it is certain that the beet grown on New Brunswick soil, of the proper seed, will contain the necessary percentage of saccharine matter," Mr. G. answers the question as follows:—

Beets grown in Maine, in whatever place, on the banks of the Androscoggin river, on the sea shore, in fact, any where, from sugar beet seed have proved equally good, and fully as good as beets grown from the same seed in Europe. Beets produced from "French" seed, which are the best, are not so good as those which are produced from the seed which was furnished by the Department of Agriculture in Washington. The beets produced in Aroostook County are not any better in saccharine properties than those which are produced in the same county of Portland. But if your cautious correspondent wishes to make sure, let him help me to contract in New Brunswick for from one to two hundred tons of sugar-beet seed, to be shipped to Portland. We will give him the privilege to be present when they are converted into sugar and give him a barrel of it to take home with him and analyze, if not satisfied, let him return the barrel to me. The beets grown in Canada, either from seed furnished by the Government of Quebec, or from private sources, as far as they have come under my examination and analysis, are not so good as those which are produced from the seed which was furnished by the Department of Agriculture in Washington. Beets grown in Ontario, near the lakes in Waterloo County, were fully as good as those grown in St. Hyacinthe, on black boggy land, which will burn, and the "French" seed, which are the best, are not so good as those which are produced from the seed which was furnished by the Department of Agriculture in Washington. Beets grown in Ontario, near the lakes in Waterloo County, were fully as good as those grown in St. Hyacinthe, on black boggy land, which will burn, and the "French" seed, which are the best, are not so good as those which are produced from the seed which was furnished by the Department of Agriculture in Washington.

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