

The work of building the Transmarino Ship Railway at Baie Verte is going on briskly.

There is a great demand for houses in Truro. It is said that if 40 new houses were built, they could all be let without delay.

Amherst expects to have a boom in building operations during the coming summer. A large number of buildings are already under construction.

The Moncton correspondent of the *Sackville Post* gives currency to the report that among the contemplated improvements (in the near future) to the architectural beauty of Main Street is a three story business block, with a frontage of 100 feet, depth 90 feet, with a line of warehouses in the rear fronting on the I. C. R. siding.

We are afraid the subjoined description of the effects of the past winter on lumbering operations is as applicable to our own timber regions and business as to Michigan:—"Light snows and no heavy rains during the past winter have resulted in the most remarkable drouth this spring that the lumber woods of Upper Michigan have ever experienced, and over 1,000,000,000 of logs, banked and ready to be floated to the mills below, are hung up because there is not enough water in the streams to float them. Heavy and continued rains alone will be able to rescue this winter's cut, and thus keep the mills running the season through.

CITY CHIMES.

On Thursday evening of last week, the officers of the Halifax Provisional Battalion which left for the North-West in 1885, celebrated the Anniversary of the event by a dinner at the Queen Hotel. About twenty members of the battalion were present and spent a very enjoyable evening. It is intended to make this dinner an annual event, so as to keep alive the remembrance of the departure of the battalion, as well as promote a general feeling of good fellowship among those who spent three months together on the rolling prairie. So they will be able to sing

"And when with years and honors crowned
We sit some social board around,
And hear no more that stirring sound,
That spoke the trumpet's warning;
We'll pledge the memory of the day," etc.

when they were ready to face the Indians and the Half-breeds, but did not get the chance. There is no doubt that the annual dinner will be a pleasant event for them to look forward to.

A very tall young Halifaxian who has left the city for a trip to the West Indies could not be accommodated with a berth in the *Alpha* of sufficient length to hold him comfortably. It is understood that a place was found where he could sleep, but it must be inconvenient to be so "more than common tall."

The four year old son of one of our prominent divines evidently approves of Sunday observance. A few weeks ago he stood at the window on Sunday morning, and observing a crow on a tree making the unmelodious croaking wherewith that bird usually enlivens the vicinity where he may happen to be, said: "stop that noise at once, you old black crow, don't you know what day it is?" We are not informed whether the crow ceased or not, but as he was in the vicinity of woods and forests he probably pleased himself by singing his own song.

At a recent meeting of the programme committee in connection with the summer carnival, it was resolved to invite two representatives from all athletic, sporting and other associations, as well as the firemen's companies, in Halifax and Dartmouth, to confer with the committee, in order to arrive at a definite plan of action, and to see what assistance may be expected from the associations.

The choral services at St. Luke's Cathedral have on several occasions elicited high encomiums from visitors from abroad, and the members of the congregation have every reason to be satisfied with the excellent manner in which the choir is trained. Under the mastership of Mr. King Pooley, the choristers have achieved a high degree of musical culture; and it is satisfactory to note that the standard of the music in the compositions rendered has month by month been improved, so that now the Episcopal Cathedral in this respect can hold its own with any church on the continent. Very great pains have been taken to make the coming services on Easter Sunday more than ever effective, and it is probable that seating room in the Cathedral on Sunday morning will be at a premium. Among the selections to be rendered are the Canticles and Communion Office from Tours' "Cathedral Service," Stainer's Anthem, "They have taken away my Lord," and an Anthem by Handel "Since by man came death."

The well-known English actor and author, George M. Wood, supported by Miss Marguerite St. John and a company of English artists, has been engaged to perform in the Academy of Music for one week, commencing on the 22nd inst. The comedy "David Garrick," which will be the first piece put on the boards by them in this city, is said to be unusually good.

The evening sacred music in Grafton St. Methodist Church, on Monday was a great success. There was a large audience present, which

completely filled the body and galleries of the Church. The programme opened with an organ solo by Mr. Powell, and was followed by a chorus which gave evidence of great musical ability as well as careful training of the members of the choir. The several solos by Mr. Piers, Miss Piers, Mr. W. Bannister, Miss DeWolfe, and Mr. Norman were all well rendered, as well as the duet by Mr. and Miss Piers, "Prayer of the Wandoror," which was sung with much expression. Mr. Powell's composition, "Praise the Lord upon the organ," was given in public for the first time and was very much appreciated. The choir ought to be highly gratified at the result of their efforts, from an artistic as well as financial point of view. The proceeds are to be devoted to the choir fund of the church.

COMMERCIAL.

No material modification in the condition and aspect of general trade has been undergone since our last report. A fairly active volume of business has been accomplished in most departments and payments have, if anything, grown more satisfactory. As a rule merchants are not disposed to be over-sanguine regarding the future, though at the present moment there is no visible ground for anxiety, and on the whole a fair season at least is looked for.

Considerable rainy and cold weather has prevailed, which tends to make transportation on the country roads difficult and to retard early vegetation. Boisterous gales also prevent bankers from putting out to pursue their avocations. These features are customary, however, in our so-called springs and, while they hamper the development of trade, cannot be characterized as unexpected or unusual.

There has been little or no drift ice as yet reported off our coasts this season and a very considerable business is doing by coasting vessels. All the ports along the shores of this province are open. Farmers generally are busy in prosecuting their tilling operations and the present indications are that in most lines their labors will be rewarded with ample crops this year, though it is still too early to predict with certainty.

The following are the Assignments and Business Changes in this Province during the past week:—Jas. Fox, Sailmaker, Parrsboro, assigned; J. J. McLellan, Paper Bag Manuf'r., Halifax, sold out; Somers & Co., Grocers, Antigonish, admitted J. S. O'Brien & Duncan S. Chisholm into partnership; R. L. McLean, Grocer, Antigonish, stock sold out by Angus McIsaac, (McLean having left the place); Geo. W. Chisholm, Printer, New Glasgow, sold out; J. A. & Thos. M. Buckler, blacksmiths, Annapolis, dissolved; Dunlap & Fowler, Tailors, Amherst, Winifred Fowler sold out interest to Thos. Dunlap; Churchill & Cook, Tinsmiths, Lockeport, dissolved; J. P. Mitchell & Co., Lumber, Mill Village, dissolved; Arthur W. Phinney, store, Middleton, assigned.

Bradstreet's report of the week's failures:—

	Week Prev.		Weeks corresponding to		Failures for the year to date.				
	April 12, week.	1888	April 12, 1887	1886	1889	1888	1887	1886	
United States..	186	141	162	166	159	3873	3362	3492	3639
Canada.....	28	20	30	21	23	588	606	412	409

DRY GOODS.—A fair amount of trade is in progress, but at present it mainly consists in filling sorting up orders. Textile fabrics—both cotton and woollen—are very firmly held and manufacturers are confidently expecting gradual but steady advances in prices as the season wears on. Most mills refuse to accept large orders for future delivery on the basis of present quotations.

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—There has been a fair movement in all branches of iron and hardware, and the market has ruled active, with a large volume of business, both for present and future delivery. Stocks throughout the country are reported light, and as the prospects for the foundry trade are good, there will likely be a steady demand for pig iron during the early summer months. Warrants are cabled at 44s. 6d. Prices for tin and copper plates are unchanged, and, if anything, show a weaker tendency. In Pittsburg, Pa., very little improvement has taken place in the iron trade. The pipe trade is improving. Advices from outlying centres indicate a slight improvement. An active demand for lake ore is setting in. The present production of iron in Pennsylvania is just equal to the consumption, and as there are no stocks in hand a slightly higher range of prices is looked for when summer requirements are covered.

BREADSTUFFS.—Business in flour has continued quiet, and seems likely to remain so for some time, as buyers generally have fair stocks on hand. The demand is slow and sales were confined to a few small lots. The stock of flour here is comparatively large, and offerings are made freely, but without leading to business. The feeling in the market is easy, and dealers would probably readily shade prices for a round lot. In England wheat has a downward tendency, and corn is quiet. Weather in England is unsettled. French country markets are dull. There has been considerable activity in the Chicago wheat market, and a large volume of trading was transacted, but a weak feeling prevailed, and prices declined $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢. to $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢. Oats were weaker, and declined $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢. to $\frac{1}{4}$ ¢. A New York report says:—"For several days, without much rebounding force, the wheat market has nevertheless been striking a hard foundation, and to-day, after opening $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢. under the bear attack, it became apparent that the shorts were the only sellers, and a sharp upturn followed, and on this a small business, leaving the impression that the bears still believe that the intrinsic worth of wheat is lower than yet marked. Indeed 80¢. for the old crop is the talk, with a phenomenal new crop on the basis of prediction. For all this some of the best men on change are growing friendly to wheat, both on its intrinsic value and the idea that the market is oversold."

PROVISIONS.—There has been no change of any importance in the local provision market: prices have continued steady all round. The demand for

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