

The Governor of Massachusetts and Council have decided to sell the Hoosac Tunnel to the Fitchburg Railway Company.

New Zealand has annexed the Kermadec Islands in the South Pacific Ocean.

The London post-office employed 700 extra clerks during the Christmas holidays.

The English Admiralty have reported in favor of advising shipmasters to pour oil on the waves during storms at sea.

The French agent in Madagascar telegraphs that his relations with the Hovas are excellent and that a settlement of the disputes between France and Madagascar will be shortly effected.

The force of 3,000 Albanians which recently attacked a military depot near Mitrovita, was repulsed by Turkish troops and several were killed and wounded. It is reported that Roumania is inciting the Albanians to revolt.

Madrid is again excited over a revolutionary conspiracy. Government spies have learned that Zorilla has obtained loans to the amount of \$400,000 and has been plotting for a fresh uprising. A secret meeting of revolutionists was held in Madrid lately to discuss plans.

France is buying large quantities of sulphurite from a German manufacturer. This is the ingredient in the new explosive called melinita. The supply turned out by French factories has proved inadequate to the demand from the War Department.

It is reported that the German Government confiscates the property of, and condemns to prison by default, all the residents of Alsace-Lorraine who evade the conscription by emigrating. Forty-seven persons have already been summoned to Wissemburg for evasion. Similar steps are being taken elsewhere.

Serjt. Ballantyne, who died in England the other day at the advanced age of 75, is credited with having received the largest retaining fee ever paid. This was on the occasion of his travelling to India to defend a native prince in the local courts, and the fee was stated at the time to be \$250,000.

Despatches from Brisbane, capital of Queensland, state that that colony has been swept by a fearful cyclone, accompanied by a rain fall of such extraordinary copiousness that twenty inches of water fell in a short time. The result has been disastrous floods in the city of Brisbane. Some of the thoroughfares are submerged to a depth of 20 feet. The city is entirely cut off by floods from its suburbs. Reports say many persons have been drowned.

It is stated that England will not object to enter a congress of the Powers to settle the Bulgarian question. The other powers, with the exception of Russia, whose position is regarded as tentative, have been found willing to take part in the proposed conference. The question has arisen whether the conference should be held before or after a Bulgarian ruler is chosen. In diplomatic circles it is doubted whether the Regents will resign before the Sobrange has accepted a candidate for the throne.

It is reported, in connection with the vast wealth that lies in the Pitch Lake of Trinidad, that the former monopoly of "digging" the asphalt has been brought to an end, and licenses are now offered openly by the Government at a royalty of 2s. 6d. per ton. It is expected that this course of action will largely increase the asphalt trade. The exports of crude asphalt for the years 1883-4-5 were respectively 34,277 tons, 33,383 tons, and 28,505 tons; thus showing a decrease. In boiled asphalt, however, an increase has taken place, the figures for the same years being respectively 4,868, 6,564 and 6,371 tons.—*Industries.*

The Queen of Roumania has undertaken to deliver a course of lectures on national literature at the high school for girls in Bucharest. Her Majesty, who is well known as a poetess, under the pseudonym of "Carmen Sylva," has been accustomed for some time past to give lectures privately in her palace to the young ladies of the leading families in Roumania. These literary assemblies proved so attractive that the demands for admission to them grew inconvenient, so that the Queen thought of delivering her lectures in the high school to all pupils who cared to attend. Before Her Majesty could do this, however, she had to obtain a regular professor's diploma from the King and the Minister of Instruction. This required an examination, to which the Queen gaily and graciously submitted, and the diploma having now been won, not granted by favor, her Majesty will begin her lectures at the opening of term, after the New Year.

The *Cologne Gazette* publishes a very aggressive article entitled "Queensland and the interests of Germany there," in which it threatens the English colony with a wholesale invasion of Teutonic settlers. These emigrants are to form a party hostile to the interests of the British Empire, and to endeavor to secure a preponderant influence in that part of Australia, in preparation, it is hinted, for its separation from England and final annexation to the German Empire. Of the style in which the paper writes on this subject the following is a specimen:—"Australia's separation from England," it says, "is only a question of time." The question therefore arises "whether Germany's 'great' interests in the South Seas and the neighborhood of the 'immense' German Protectorate of New Guinea, whose development will lead to an active intercourse with Queensland, do not peremptorily demand the creation and strengthening of a 'Germanism' in Australia itself, following in the wake of the Germans already settled in Queensland, in order to counterbalance those well known tendencies, the final aim of which is the possession of the whole of the South Seas by Australia."

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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the undersigned and endorsed "Tender for McNair's Cove Work," will be received until Friday, the 28th day of January, 1887, inclusively, for the construction of works at McNair's Cove, Antigonish County, N. S., in accordance with a plan and specification to be seen on application to the Collector of Customs, Customs House, Antigonish, from whom printed forms of tender can be obtained.

Persons desirous of tendering are requested to make personal enquiry relative to the work to be done, and to examine the locality themselves, and are notified that tenders will not be considered unless made on the printed forms supplied, the blanks properly filled in and signed with their actual signatures.

Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted bank cheque made payable to the order of the Honorable the Minister of Public Works equal to five per cent of the amount of the tender, which will be forfeited if the party declines to enter into a contract when called upon to do so or if he fails to complete the work contracted for. If the tender is not accepted the cheque will be returned. The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order, A. GORELL,
Secretary.

Department of Public Works,
Ottawa, 31st December, 1886.

Notice to Subscribers.

A large number of subscribers have, during the past week, received their New Year's communication from our business manager. Regularity in publication and punctuality in mailing have been carefully observed in this office, so that our subscribers have received THE CRITIC by the first available mail leaving Halifax; care being taken to deliver the mail in the city post office so as to reach subscribers in the most distant part of the Province during Saturday of each week. Our subscribers will confer a favor by being equally prompt and punctual in remitting their subscriptions, with which they will please forward the bill rendered, in order that it may be receipted and returned again.

NOTE.—Any subscriber who does not receive his copy of THE CRITIC on or before Saturday evening of each week, will confer a favor by notifying the business manager to that effect, giving particulars as to the mail days in his locality.

A. M. FRASER,
Business Manager THE CRITIC,
Halifax, N. S.

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Mining Regulations

TO GOVERN THE DISPOSAL OF MINERAL LANDS OTHER THAN COAL LANDS

These Regulations apply to all Dominion Lands containing deposit of minerals of economic value, except coal.

QUARTZ MINING.

Area of location is limited to forty acres, except in the case of iron, when one hundred and sixty acres are allowed.

Claimants must stake out the location, and within ninety days afterwards make an entry for it with the local Land Agent, paying a fee of five dollars, and shall then have one year, with the sanction of the Minister of the Interior, two years within which to purchase location at five dollars per acre, cash. He must also expend within each year at least five hundred dollars in development.

No person shall hold more than one location on the same vein or lode.

Applicant must also when he pays for his location deposit fifty dollars with the Land Agent to pay for the survey, and the returns of such survey must be accepted by the Surveyor-General before the issue of patent.

Should an iron location prove to contain a deposit of valuable mineral other than iron the area shall be restricted to forty acres.

Provision is made for the manner in which land may be acquired for reduction and other works required for developing the mine.

PLACER MINING.

The Regulations for Quartz Mining apply to Placer Mining wherever possible.

The nature and size of Placer Mining claims are provided for in the Regulations and the rights and duties of miners fully set forth.

The Regulations govern the mode of acquiring, constructing and operating Bed-rock Flumes, Drainage of Mines, and Ditches.

The General Provisions of the Regulations define how disputes shall be heard and determined, leave of absence granted, &c., &c.

Copies of the Regulations may be obtained upon application to the Department of the Interior.

A. M. BURGESS,
Deputy Minister of the Interior,
Ottawa, 25th December, 1886.

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JOHN LOVELL,
Manager and Publisher.
MONTREAL, 4th August, 1886.

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