

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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Those who wish to secure pleasant and profitable reading matter for the winter evenings should note our exceptional offer which appears on page three. For \$2.00 in cash we undertake to send *The Critic* to any subscriber for one year, supplying him in addition with forty-five of the most readable of readable books. Those who are renewing their subscriptions, as well as new subscribers, should take advantage of this offer.

The Russian seed wheat, which was imported last year into Manitoba, has given first rate satisfaction, the crop having been harvested in July.

The Mormons who have settled near Medicine Hat have intimated their desire to comply with the laws of the land, and not marry more than one wife. We will next hear of Mormon bachelors.

About eleven hundred militia men of all ranks will assemble at Aldershot on Tuesday next, for the regular annual drill. The camping ground is one of the prettiest and most suitable in the Province.

The Wolfville *Acadian* says that on Sunday last an attempt was made to make a breach in the Wickwire dyke, there being a large area of grain ready for the harvest. The perpetrator of such a crime as was attempted, deserves the lash.

Professor Hoinko, of Leipzig, who has recently arrived in Halifax to take charge of the musical department at Girton House, will doubtless be a valuable addition to our musical circles, being the fortunate possessor of both vocal and instrumental talents of a high order.

Montreal has eleven hundred liquor saloons, and yet the business pays so well hundreds of applications for licenses have to be refused. In Sweden, the liquor business is under the control of the government, and the marginal profit is so small that few persons care to open official bars.

Charles N. Bell of the Manitoba Historical Society, has by investigation proved that the mound builders of the Northwest and those of the Ohio and Mississippi Valley were sufficiently alike in their methods of construction, and in the implements they used, to warrant the belief that the latter came originally from the North.

The heaviest railway suit ever fought in Canada has just been concluded between the C. P. R. and Connell and McLellan. The latter have been overpaid upon their contract one hundred and sixty thousand dollars, which the arbitrators awarded to the C. P. R. The lawyers pocketed fifty thousand dollars out of this suit, and the arbitrators nine thousand.

Mr. Mercier is evidently not satisfied with the manner in which the public appropriation for books for the Provincial Library of Quebec has been expended. He says many useless books have been purchased, and that the accounts do not square. Mr. Mercier is evidently wide-awake, and hoodlers will have to keep both eyes open to get ahead of him.

Cannibalism is not by any means an unusual thing among the Esquimaux and Indians of the far North. Hunger is an intoxicating sauce, and when these half-starved savages become crazy from lack of food, they naturally prey upon the weaker of their own race. The recent account of cannibalism in Prince Ruperts Land are probably well founded.

Up in London, Ont., there is an agitation in progress in favor of the non-delivery of milk on the Sabbath. A man is not obliged to shave on Sunday, it not being a work of necessity, but as the cows have to be milked it would appear silly not to deliver it to those who require it. A weekday cow that will give a double supply of milk on Saturday, has not yet been invented.

On Friday of last week the Montreal *Herald* office was completely destroyed by fire, the loss of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars being partly covered by the insurance of one hundred and thirty thousand dollars. The *Herald* proprietors, with commendable energy, have arranged for the publication of their paper by Lowel & Co., and the readers of that journal again receive it daily.

We notice Messrs. C. C. Richards, & Co., the enterprising proprietors of Minard's Liniment, have pushed their business to the extreme west, and that even in British Columbia, the people all say it is the best. In Nova Scotia the majority of the physicians endorse it and use it in cases of sore throat, diphtheria, quincy, etc. They have put a corkscrew in each bottle package, and the price is still 25 cts.

Everyone who has read "Natural Law in the Spiritual World," will be glad to hear that the author, Prof. Drummond, is to address the students of Mount Allison College, at the opening of the coming term. Some of our Halifax literateurs and scientists should unite in an effort to induce Mr. Drummond to lecture in this city. Our opportunities for hearing men of his stamp are so few that we should not neglect them.

If Captain Kidd's spirit has any knowledge of what is transpiring on this earth, its piratical old shape must shake with laughter when it sees the efforts now being made at Oak Island and elsewhere in this Province, to recover treasure which it is supposed is hidden there. Just now an American Company is burrowing in the soil of Oak Island. When it finds Captain Kidd's treasure we will inform our readers of the fact.

Political picnics are becoming quite the order of the day. Not long since a Liberal picnic was held at Cape Traverse, and was attended by a large number of people. On Monday last the Liberal Conservatives of Hants Co. held a picnic at Mount Uniacke. There were about eight hundred people present, and after a bountiful luncheon had been disposed of, addresses were made by Messrs. Stairs and Tupper, of Halifax, Major-General Laurie, Professor Roberts and T. B. Smith, of Windsor, and others. The whole affair was pronounced quite a success.

The Board of Works had their annual jollification on Wednesday, and the taxpayers know who has to "pay the piper."

Chandler & Co. have put in a tender for the electric lighting of the city, which is much lower than that of the Gas Light Company.

Miss Jennie McGarry, the elocutionist, will remain in Halifax for a few days. She is the guest of Mrs. W. Powell, 104 Inglis street.

A site has been secured for the new St. Lawrence sugar refinery in Montreal. Meantime the Nova Scotia refinery is reaping a bonanza.

It is reported that Colonel "Bob Ingersoll," the celebrated freethinker and lecturer, and Sam Jones, the equally celebrated evangelist, are about visiting the Maritime Provinces. Where the poison is, there should be the antidote.

Report has just been received from St. Joseph, Beauce, on the line of the Quebec Central railway, that a large fire is in progress there. The convent of the Sacred Heart and a number of houses have already been destroyed.

There will be given in Orpheus hall on the 13th and 14th instants, a two act cantata, called "The Flower Queen," or "The Coronation of the Roses." Those participating will personate among others the rose, sunflower, dahlia, dandelion, touch-me-not, heliotropo, lily, hollyhock, japonica, violet, mignonette, tulip, heathorballs, together with the rieluse, a nightingale and a chorus of 30 voices. Those who attend may expect a treat.

It is now affirmed that the fires which so mysteriously broke out in a house at Woodstock, N. B., were caused by the sulphurized state of the cotton coverings and hangings, and the peculiar electrical condition of the atmosphere. Owing to sickness in the house, the rooms had frequently been fumigated by burning sulphur, and as they were poorly ventilated, the cotton coverings had become thoroughly saturated. The explanation appears as reasonable as the first reports were unreasonable.

Our Business Manager has been travelling along the Western Shore, and he notes that Lovett's Hotel at Chester is conducted in good style, and that Chester retains its popularity as a summer resort. That McDonald's is the place to stop at in Mahone Bay. That Lunenburg is going ahead, and that building operations are lively there. That the people of Bridgewater know how to enjoy themselves, and that it is the place to visit if you want a good time. That Mrs. Mack, of the Riverside House at Mill Village, is an excellent cook. That the Grove Hotel at Liverpool is one of the best on the shore. That the Liverpool people overcome all obstacles to enjoy a dance, as is evidenced by the fact that a party of them drove to Shelburne, a distance of 40 miles, in Balcom's "Green Maria," to attend the grand ball given by the good people of Shelburne on Friday last. That the Shelburne House is a splendid place for a dance, and would be a first-class hotel if the table was improved. And lastly, that Shelburne is a fine old town, and the people very hospitable.

The Montreal *Star* says that another Masonic quarrel is on the tapis, which promises to become as much a cause *celebre* as the recent quarrel between the Grand Lodge of England and Quebec in this Province. The present trouble is between the Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England, Wm. Hutton, and the Master of St. George's Lodge, S. H. Thompson. The former has requested Mr. Thompson to deliver an order to burn the books of the Lodge, which he has refused to do, and has consequently been suspended by the Deputy Grand Master from all masonic privileges. The suspension having been read in several lodges of the English register, it is understood that Mr. Thompson refuses to recognize Mr. Hutton, claiming that his appointment as deputy to Judge Badgoley is illegal, inasmuch as the constitution requires that the District Master should personally notify the lodges in the district, in writing, of the appointment of his deputy, that although the deputy himself did attend the lodges and verbally notify them, still this is not sufficient.

Brooklyn has now almost 1,000 electric lights on her streets.

Stepniak, who created such a sensation through his Nihilistic publications, is shortly to visit the United States.

Jacob Sharp, the aged hoodler of New York, may yet escape a term of years in the State penitentiary, Judge Potter having decided that Sharp has not been fairly convicted.

The widow of Dr. F. D. Standford, who died suddenly at Louisville, Ky., last week, is to receive his entire estate, estimated at \$3,000,000. She is only 23 years old and had been married but a few weeks.

An Act that no railroad which pays a dividend of 10 per cent. on the par value of its stock shall charge more than two cents fare per mile per passenger, has been passed unanimously by the New Hampshire House of Representatives.

An immense photograph, said to be one of the largest in the world, has been taken of the United States Treasury building at Washington. It measures seven feet by four, and is to be presented to ex-Secretary of the Treasury, Daniel E. Manning.

Drosbach and Rosenfelt, two wheat speculators in San Francisco, have failed. They were backed by the Nevada Bank, which had taken care to secure itself, and when the bottom dropped out of the corner in wheat, it was found that the speculators had endeavored to control 105,000 tons.

A passenger on one of the Fall River steamers lost two hundred thousand dollars worth of securities under his pillow, and when he arrived at Boston and discovered his loss, he sent a telegram to the officers of the steamer, and was fortunate enough to recover his property. Some securities are somewhat insecure.