

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

When Sir John A. MacDonald was in New York, on his return from England, Messrs. F. W. Cox, Colin W. MacDonald, Wade, and Fuller, young men from Nova Scotia, studying medicine in Bellevue, N. Y., called upon, and were genially received and kindly entertained for some time by the old "chieftain." We may expect to hear of these four gentlemen hereafter as "dyed-in-the-wool Tories."

A series of articles, on our present Assessment Law, and our need of a new one, will soon appear in *THE CRITIC*. They are not to be written by our regular contributors, but are to be from very competent hands nevertheless. They will be well-written, instructive, and worthy of attentive perusal.

The New Glasgow glass company report a profitable year's business. A dividend of 7 per cent. has been declared.

General Barillas has been elected President of Guatemala by an almost unanimous vote.

The New England faction who have been protesting in Congress against the appointment of a joint commission to settle the fishery question, have scant encouragement from their fellow citizens in the Middle and Western States. Brother Jonathan likes fish-cakes, of which the Nova Scotian cod is an important ingredient.

It is now proposed to open the meetings of the Toronto City Council with prayer. Evidently some mollifying influence is required in the Toronto bear-garden. Respectable Torontonians shun civic honors.

The Dominion Government has issued a Blue Book entitled, "The Queen versus Louis Riel." It contains a verbatim report of the evidence adduced at the trial, and will prove excellent reading for those who believe Riel to be a martyr, although it may not confirm their preconceived ideas on this point.

Mr. La Flamme, former Minister of Justice, has been awarded \$10,000 damages in his libel suit against the *Toronto Mail*. The case will be appealed.

Germany is not to be allowed to enjoy the undisputed possession of the Samoan Islands. Great Britain and the United States have prior claims upon the group, which they have not been slow in asserting.

Italy has a deficit of \$10,000,000 which the Italian ministry propose to wipe out by the levying of additional duties. Italy may be considered as financially sound, and as having the promise of a bright national future.

The Grecian Government indignantly protest against British interference. Greece is evidently in a fighting mood; but she will find it difficult to supply herself with the sinews of war should John Bull close his purse and refuse to discount her bonds.

Halifax has many deserving institutions, none however, is more deserving of support than the Sailor's Home. It is time the managers had a building suitable to its needs. Our benevolent people should bear this in mind.

The extent of the damage wrought by the recent floods in Russia exceeds that of any year since 1875. These floods, occurring as they do in the latter part of January mark the differences of temperature which exist in places having the same latitude lying east and west of the Atlantic ocean.

Prof. E. Stone Wiggins wants the government to buy out his stormology, which he claims to be the only perfect system of predicting climatic disturbances. In view of a probable deficit of \$5,000,000 in Dominion finances during the current year, we cannot see how the government can afford to buy Wiggins out, unless, indeed, they can make money on the transaction by the brokerage on the storms foretold in other countries.

The *Herald* in a leading article points out the advantages which would result from a commercial union between Canada and the British West Indies. It is a wonder that the Continental Annexationists do not steal the *Herald's* thunder, but perhaps the fact that the Union Jack floats o'er these Islands is sufficient to deter them from so doing.

Russia and Austria are each increasing the strength of their army corps and at the same time are manufacturing war materials upon a very large scale. It is thought that a rupture between these powers will take place in the Spring, in which case Bulgaria and Servia will again become the colosseum of Europe.

The Archbishop of Canterbury will introduce in the British House of Lords a bill, having for its object, "Reform in the Church of England." This is a step in the right direction, and the fact of its being taken by such a high functionary in the Church augurs well for its good effect.

Portugal and Germany having patched up their quarrel over the Caroline Islands, have found a new cause for disagreement in the boundaries of their respective possessions upon the west coast of Africa. In each instance Germany has been the aggressor.

The late John Rouse had one of the best collections of old-time engravings and oil paintings owned in the Province. This collection is now on exhibition at the old Mason Hall, between the hours of 11 a.m., and noon, and 3 and 4 p.m., and are to be disposed of by private sale.

The American papers continue to chronicle the indications of better times. The iron trade shows a decided upper tendency which is always considered a fair omen.

President Cleveland has removed from office a number of Republicans and the United States Senate, which is largely Republican, has asked the President to state the causes for removal in each case; this Mr. Cleveland refuses to do, and the Senate is indignant.

The Hon. J. S. D. Thompson, in his speech before a large public assembly at St. Jerome, fully vindicated the course taken by the Government in carrying out the sentence passed upon Louis Riel. His remarks will be endorsed by every Nova Scotian believing in the Majesty of the law. Riel met his well-deserved fate and any attempt to make political capital out of his execution must prove an unqualified failure.

The Queen's speech may be said to be non-committal. It refers to Burmah as having been incorporated in the Empire, and approves of the union of Eastern Rometia with Bulgaria. Its reference to the Irish question is vague, but announces the intention of the Government to extend the powers of the county local boards, both in Great Britain and Ireland, and its determination to put down crime in Ireland by vigorous measures.

Mr. Collings' amendment to the address in reply to the Queen's speech dealing with allotments of land, was carried in the British House of Commons by a majority of 79, the Parnellites voting with the opposition. The vote stood, Government 250, Opposition 329. The resignation of Lord Salisbury's Government will compel Gladstone to again assume the Premiership. The defeat of the Conservative Government is due to the notice given by Sir Michael Hicks Beach to the effect that a bill would be introduced to suppress the Land League.

Dr. T. S. Covernton, who, during the recent small pox epidemic, was appointed by the Ontario Provincial Board of Health to guard the interests of the premier Province, is now in Halifax, and in conjunction with some of our leading medical men is advocating the formation of a Provincial Board of Health for this Province. During the continuance of the epidemic Dr. Covernton and his eight assistants boarded every train leaving Montreal for the West, and personally satisfied themselves as to whether or not each passenger had been properly vaccinated.

Among the graduates of the training school for nurses in connection with Bellevue Hospital, New York, are the names of Miss Kimber of Sydney, and Miss Cameron of Halifax. These young ladies, who have just completed their course, have come off with flying colors.

S. Everett Cox Esq., the publisher of the *Schuyler Sun*, at Schuyler, Colfax Co., Nebraska, was formerly of Canning, N. S.

Over sixty young men from Nova Scotia are this year studying in colleges or universities outside the province.

Harper's for February contains, among other interesting articles, two excellent ones on educational topics. Charles H. Ham contributes an able and suggestive article on manual training. He makes a very instructive comparison between the European trade-school and the system known as the Russian-American; and his article is especially valuable as showing the progress of manual training in America. Charles Dudley Warner treats of "Education as a Factor in Prison Reform," in an article which should be carefully studied, not only by those interested in improved prison discipline but also by all educational thinkers.

Mr. J. J. Sangster, of Guysboro, one of our enterprising shipbuilders, is now in Halifax looking after his schooner "General Gordon" which is now taking in a cargo of fish for the European market. The schooner has a good record and will probably make a quick voyage.

The tight little Island of Prince Edward Island wants nothing more or less than its pound of flesh, but this, it is bound to have. Continuous winter communication with the mainland was one of the promised inducements which led the Island to enter the confederation. This not having been provided, a deputation has been sent to England by the Island Government, to lay the matter at the foot of the Throne, with the hope that the British Government will see to it that the agreement is carried out in letter as well as in spirit. The building of a sub-way appears to be the only practical means of solving the question.

Mr. G. P. Henry is now loading a vessel for Newfoundland. The trade between Nova Scotia and that ancient colony is, thanks to the energy of such men as Mr. Henry, steadily increasing.

The King of Bavaria, who is, owing to his extravagance, in straightened circumstances, is said to be insane; he refuses to speak to anyone, saving the members of his family; and a movement is already on foot to have him dethroned. Should he be deposed, his creditors will be in a position to take action against him, which they cannot do, so long as he still wears the Bavarian crown.

The Newfoundland Government objects to the appointment of Sir Ambrose Shea as Governor of the Island, upon the ground that he is an opponent of the present Coalition administration. The British Government are to be petitioned to reconsider his appointment. Newfoundland evidently clings to the pomp and state of the old-time royal governors, and its people have no faith in a native governor.