

and repair of these machines requires a higher educated class of mechanics than were formerly called artizan. We are pleased in this connection to refer to a new firm of machinists who are just commencing business in our city. We refer to The Forbes Manufacturing Co. of 21 Bedford Row. The elder Mr. Forbes is a very old resident of Halifax, and has perhaps done more than many men to make Nova Scotia known over a large part of the world by his now celebrated Acme Skate. He is associated with his son Mr. E. P. Forbes, who is also a chip of the old block and a most excellent mechanic and machinist. Both these gentlemen have had training in some of the most celebrated establishments in the United States, such as the Brown & Sharp Manufacturing Co. of Providence, the Ames Manufacturing Co., and other establishments where the most accurate work is performed. Mr. Forbes, Senior, we understand, was engaged many years ago upon the first lot of gun-making machinery which the British Government purchased in the United States, viz., during the Crimean war, the English small arms being previously made by hand. This is another instance of the introduction of machinery to supersede handicraft. The Messrs. Forbes are prepared to undertake (as their card sets forth) the making and proper and accurate repairing of fine machine work generally, and the designing and building of any special machinery that may be required for any special purpose.

They also purpose manufacturing a most unique newly-invented skate, which the elder Mr. Forbes has invented, and for which he has obtained patents in the Dominion, in the United States, in England, and in Germany.

This skate they purpose making of the very best quality only, and it is certainly a most complete article, being capable of instantaneous application to any boot without any preliminary adjustment. Mr. Forbes has also perfected some very great improvements in the shape of the runner, which make the art and pastime of skating much more elegant in performance and decidedly more enjoyable than was possible formerly.

We are also pleased to note that fine machine tools are now made in the Dominion. Many of the tools which we saw in the shop of the Forbes Manufacturing Co. having been made by the London Machine Tool Co. of London, Ontario, and they are certainly, to judge by their appearance, admirable machines of their class, and Mr. Forbes informs us are equal to any hitherto imported from the United States or elsewhere. The machinery employed by the Messrs. Forbes consists of lathes, planers, punching presses, etc. The capacity of the plant is at present about 75 to 100 pairs of skates per day—in addition to much other work. The firm trust in the near future to furnish employment to a considerable number of work people of both sexes, and we hope that the enterprise of the Messrs. Forbes will be duly appreciated, as establishments such as theirs will go a long way towards building up Halifax, which some day is destined to become a great manufacturing centre.

CITY CHIMES.

Sometime during this month a grand sacred concert is to be given in the Public Gardens. There are to be one hundred voices, with full orchestral accompaniment, and it will no doubt prove a treat to thousands of people. The Oratorio Society met for a practice on Monday evening last in Argyle Hall, and again last evening. It is to be hoped that the concert will be a success, and not the last of its kind either.

Bellevue House, on the corner of Spring Garden Road and Queen street, has been entirely remodelled and fitted up in modern style as a residence for General Sir John Ross, who moved in last week. It is a fine old house, and many a gay dance have our fathers and mothers enjoyed there. It was always the General's residence until within a few years back, when it was found to be so out of repair as not to be suitable. A large amount of money has been expended on it, and it is now in first class condition.

Many well known Halifaxians are now visiting Halifax, indeed one can hardly walk along the street for a block without meeting some of them, and as for strangers, the place is full of them. Among those who have recently arrived may be mentioned—Professor J. G. Schurman, of Cornell University; Rev. Louis Jordan, of Erskine Church, Montreal, formerly pastor of St. Andrew's Church, Halifax; Mr. and Mrs. Sumichrast, and many others too numerous to mention. That they will enjoy their stay here goes without saying, for who could help enjoying the charming weather and all the natural advantages of this city by the sea? not to mention the pleasure of meeting old friends again.

The ferry steamer *Dartmouth* commenced her weekly trips to Bedford last Saturday, and many people took advantage of this pleasant way of spending a Saturday afternoon.

Zera Semon has been drawing crowded houses at the Lyceum for the past two weeks. He is a clever ventriloquist and wonder-worker. To add to the attraction of the programme, many valuable presents are given away nightly, and this fact is probably the cause of many people attending every performance. Gold watches and china tea-sets, to say nothing of barrels of flour and many lesser things, hold out irresistible attractions to many of the class who frequent the Lyceum. It is a good-natured crowd who go there, and the disappointed ones do not show their disappointment as a rule, but congratulate those who are fortunate.

The Halifax County Academy closing took place last Friday. During the morning the public examinations were held, at which there was a good attendance, and in the evening a musical and literary entertainment was

given by the pupils in the assembly room before a large audience, when the gold medals and diplomas were presented by Rev. Dr. Gilpin as follows: Gold medal for classics—W. E. Forbes; gold medal for modern languages—Miss Clara Hobecker. Diplomas—W. E. Forbes, G. F. Harris, Harry DeWolf, Adams D. Archibald, Alex. McL. Gordon, Agnes Stenhouse, Bertha E. S. Liechti, Clara C. Hobecker, Lena M. Morine, Helen T. Moody, Emma C. Whiston. The concert programme was a good one and was carried out in a highly satisfactory manner, every number being greeted with prolonged applause. An excellent valedictory address was delivered by Miss Stenhouse. The pretty faces and costumes of the young ladies were very attractive. The vacation will last for nine weeks, and to judge by the results of the past season's work shown at the examination, both teachers and pupils well deserve the rest.

The dance given by the Cambridge House Athletic Club came off on Tuesday evening July 2nd. The children turned out in full force and "tripped the light fantastic" to the excellent music provided by cornet, violin and piano. Miss Gliska's music too was much appreciated. The supper was on a most extensive scale, every dainty and delicacy being provided. The elders must have thought the evening too warm for exertion, for very few put in an appearance. Those who did go enjoyed the dance, how could they fail to do so, with polished floor in grand condition for dancing, good music, and a most entertaining little alcove for private conversation. Mr. and Mrs. Leigh are to be congratulated on the success of their efforts to please the young people, and we foresee that these dances will become a regular institution and will be looked forward to with increasing interest from year to year. The cricket match between the boys of the Collegiate School, Windsor, and the Cambridge House boys, was played on the Wanderers' grounds in the morning and afternoon. The Halifax boys were getting the best of it in the morning but the Windsor boys made up in the afternoon for their former short-comings and won by 24 runs. They were entertained at the dance in the evening and returned home on Wednesday morning. About \$50 was realized from the dance.

COMMERCIAL.

The condition of trade has continued to be of a fairly healthy and satisfactory character, which tone pervades every department. Although there has been no special rush or activity, the volume of distribution has been satisfactory and well maintained. Payments maturing have generally been fairly provided for; in fact a perceptible improvement is reported in some quarters. The outlook is regarded with confidence in view of the generally excellent condition of the crops, while cheese and cattle—two of the most important items to the country—are realising satisfactory prices. The weather has been extremely warm, and vegetation is progressing remarkably well. An early and abundant harvest is now practically assured, and the fall will in all probability witness an unusually active trade in all departments.

The following are the Assignments and Business Changes in this Province during the past week:—Wm. Gossip, book and stationery, Halifax, stock advertised for sale by tender; Theakston, Angwin & Co., Halifax, stock advertised for sale by tender; Alpheus Veinot, Barrister, Lunenburg, removed.

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

	Week June 28, week	Prev. 1889	Weeks corresponding to June 28	1888	1887	1886	Failures for the year to date.	1889	1888	1887	1886
United States..	211	234	204	176	157	5885	5885	5252	5102	5435	5435
Canada.....	35	28	25	21	34	880	880	914	637	652	652

DRY GOODS.—There has been a fair sorting-up trade in general lines, although not of large volume. Orders for fall goods have been coming in freely, and, in fact, show an increase over last year which is worthy of note. Travellers report that the prospects favor a steady country trade. Prices of woollen goods have a distinctly hardening tendency in view of the higher cost of the raw material, which, if maintained, must necessarily affect the goods market.

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—No new features have developed in this line since our last report.

BREADSTUFFS.—The market for flour has retained a firm tone under a good demand from local buyers. Values have been well sustained. Beer-bohm's cable reports wheat strong; corn firm. Arrivals off coast for orders are small, which materially strengthens the market there. French country markets are firmer. Wheat in Paris is quieter, and flour there is easy. English country markets are firmer. In Chicago the wheat market was decidedly weaker and prices have declined 1½c. to 2c. The market was active and considerable trading was accomplished. Corn was active but weaker and declined ½c. to ¾c. Oats were weak and fell off ¾c. to ¾c. The New York, Toledo and Milwaukee markets were strong, and prices were firmly held. Reports from Minnesota and Dakota, as well as other Western points, indicate a probable large falling off in the anticipated crop, owing to heavy and continuous rains which it is alleged will reduce the yield far below expectations. As, however, the rest of the world is practically certain to turn in a very large crop, Europe is not likely to starve because one corner of America cannot come to the front with its expected supplies of grain, etc.

PROVISIONS.—No important change has occurred in the local provision market, but prices have been well maintained. The volume of business transacted was fair, owing to the fact that the demand from local and country buyers for small lots of pork has continued good. The demand for lard was good and prices have been unchanged. Hams and bacon have met fair enquiry. A stronger tone has prevailed in the Liverpool, G. B., market as