

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 grain yield in the Northwest Territory promises well, and it is estimated will average twenty-seven bushels to the acre.

The Customs returns through the Dominion for the first two weeks in July exceed the estimate and augur a surplus for the current fiscal year.

The Khedive of Egypt will present the Canadian voyageurs who took part in the Soudan campaign with bronze stars, as a recognition of their services.

Five hundred hands have been thrown out of employment at St. Hyacinthe, P. Q., by the burning of the woolen and carding mills, the granite factory and the works of the royal electric light company. The properties were insured to about half their value.

Simon Burgoyne, Postmaster at Mahone Bay, while preparing a money order for a stranger who had asked for it, was knocked senseless by the applicant, and the contents of his cash-box, between two and three hundred dollars, appropriated. The stranger made good his escape before any alarm could be given, and is still at large.

It is understood that the Government will not take any steps towards the establishment of steam navigation between Canada and the West Indies until the results of Sir Charles Tupper's mission to Spain is learned. If his visit results in securing favorable facilities for trading, vessels will likely be placed on the route next year.

Cool pleasant weather on Friday and Saturday last was just such as cricketers appreciate, and was thoroughly enjoyed by the participants in the match between the Wanderers and the Garrison teams. In the second innings the Wanderers batted well, but their fielding was so loose that it gave the Garrison eleven an easy victory.

The man who has the conscience to read a paper without paying for it is seldom a desirable subscriber to any journal, and the sooner he pays up his account and drops out the better for all concerned. This admonition is intended for the dishonest but not for the dilatory subscriber. To the latter we would say, hurry up and remit your subscription.

The middle of July is a somewhat inopportune time to convene a meeting of the Fruit Growers' Association, and hence the gathering at Bridgetown on Friday last was poorly attended. Those who did put in an appearance were amply repaid, as the discussions, as well as the addresses of Professor Saunders and Smith, were of an eminently practical character.

Have you read the Jubilee Number of THE CRITIC? If not, send for it at once. It is essentially a home production, and home talent should be encouraged. Fourteen hundred copies still remain on hand, and can be obtained as follows:—Single copy, ten cents; three copies, twenty-five cents; fifteen copies, one dollar. Address, A. M. FRASER, Business Manager, CRITIC Office, Halifax.

Mr. McFarlane, chief analyst of the Inland Revenue Department, says that the Government milk inspectors in Canada were engaged in obtaining samples of the milk sold in the cities, which were being sent to Ottawa for analysis. The object is to fix a standard for the milk of each locality, so that persons selling milk below that standard may be fined. Samples have so far been examined from almost every head of cattle in the vicinity of Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, Quebec, Halifax and St. John, and standards fixed.

A gloom has been cast over Great Village, Londonderry, by the accidental drowning of three promising young men belonging to that place—named Peppard, Lindsay and Morrison. The boat in which the young men were attempting to cross Cobequid Bay was caught and capsized by a sudden squall, and the fate of the occupants might have remained a mystery had it not been that a woman on the Hants side, in looking through a strong pair of marine glasses saw the boat upset and witnessed the struggles of the drowning men before they sank beneath the waves.

Robbins Circus and Menagerie, which performed at Halifax on Thursday and Friday of last week, was one of the best combinations of its kind that has ever appeared here. All the performances drew the large audiences they deserved, and the company must have taken a "pile" of Halifax wealth away with it. Two rings and a platform were often occupied by different performers at the same time, with a rather bewildering effect on the onlookers, most of whom would have preferred a single large ring and one act at a time. All the events on the programme showed such great skill on the part of the performers that it may seem unfair to discriminate, but to our mind the wonderful shooting of Ira Paine or the performance of the herd of trained elephants were alone worth the price of admission. One especially noticeable improvement over other circuses was the politeness of the employees, especially the ushers. More tickets to the reserved part of the tent were sold than the seats could accommodate, but all those who could not secure seats had their money returned. Mr. Redmund, of the Redmund-Barry Dramatic Co., attended the circus on Thursday night in company with Mrs. Barry, and they were provided with comfortable seats in front of the reserved chairs—the ushers first making enquiries as to whether any of the audience would be inconvenienced thereby. This is such unusual conduct on the part of circus employees that we consider it worthy of being recorded.

Ninety thousand individuals in Canada have something to their credit in the Dominion Savings Bank. The aggregate of the deposits being \$20,000,000, which averages two hundred and twenty dollars a head.

The result of the election in Digby County last Saturday was favorable to the present Dominion Government, Mr. Robicheau, the Liberal candidate being defeated by Mr. Jones, Ministerialist, whose majority was thirty.

It is now conceded that the distress among the fishermen on the Labrador coast beggars description, and that unless means are taken to remove the people from that inhospitable shore, many will die from starvation during the coming winter.

The English yacht *Galatea*, which, it will be remembered, took part in the international yacht race won by the *Magflower*, arrived in port on Tuesday, accompanied by the yacht *Stranger*. Both have attracted much notice among our yachting and boating men.

One hundred square miles of timber land near Cow Bay, C. B., have been destroyed by fire, and it was with difficulty that the Reserve coal mine was preserved from the flames. The drought has been unprecedented, and the citizens of Cow Bay have been obliged to obtain their supply of water from Black Brook—a distance of eight miles—by rail.

The weather reports this season are phenomenal. In New York, St. Louis and Chicago, the heat has been simple terrific, and deaths from sunstroke and prostration from heat are daily recorded. From the South of Ireland comes the news that there has been no rain for two months, and that the hay, cereals and root crops have been scorched by the heat of the blazing sun. In Nova Scotia we have had both heat and drought, but neither have been of sufficient duration to consider worthy of note.

The Halifax Piano and Organ Co. seem never to tire of adorning their handsome salesrooms. They have lately imported a number of fine engravings of musical celebrities, which are speaking likenesses, and we would advise the public to drop in and see them. In the show windows the plans of the proposed new Cathedral attract the attention of passers, who fairly block the sidewalk in their eagerness to get a view. The company are agents for the celebrated Steinway, Weber and Fischer pianos, and have on hand an immense stock to select from.

The Redmund-Barry Company opened at the Academy of Music on Monday night with the "Midnight Marriage," a play that has become a favorite with Halifax audiences. Good acting was the rule throughout, Mrs. Barry being particularly pleasing, and acting her part with almost greater perfection than when she appeared here before. Her costumes were appropriate and elegant, and her pleasing acting received the well-merited applause of the audience. Mr. Redmund was as inimitable as ever, and as Casimir fully maintained his high reputation as a star of the first magnitude. A noticeable improvement in the play as presented last night, over the performance of two years ago, was the skillful swordmanship of Philippe de Brion (G. S. Moffitt). Mr. Fairbanks, as Counte St. Ange, made the most of his character and acted the boastful swaggering duelist to perfection. A large audience greeted the troupe on their opening night, and the superior acting of the company should draw crowded houses during their Halifax engagement. The "Merchant of Venice" is the play booked for to-night and to-morrow night, and a reference to our advertising columns will give the plays intended for production next week.

One of the saddest and most terrible accidents that it has ever been our duty to chronicle, took place on the Grand Trunk Railway at St. Thomas, Ont., on the evening of Sunday last. As an excursion train from Port Stanley was coming into the town, a train of oil cars on the Michigan Central crossed its track at right angles—into it the passenger train dashed, demolishing one of the tanks and at once igniting the oil which it contained. The wrecked trains, and likewise the surrounding buildings, were soon one mass of flames. Hundreds of citizens flocked to the scene of the disaster to render what assistance they could, when suddenly another oil tank exploded with terrific force, seriously burning many of the onlookers. Meanwhile the flames had demolished the passenger train, and so soon as the fire was got under it was found that about twenty of the excursionists had failed to make good their escape and had been burned so as to be quite beyond recognition. The accident was attributable to the carelessness of the engineer in charge of the locomotive of the passenger train, who failed to take the usual precaution of stopping before crossing the Michigan track. His carelessness cost him his life, and it has also brought mourning into many an otherwise happy home.

The Chickering piano has always been acknowledged to be one of the best instruments manufactured, but last winter improvements were introduced, and the Chickering's, with the new scale and repeating action, are magnificent instruments. A perfect furor for the artistic instruments made by this old firm has been created, and this season they have been played by the leading artists of America in the Convention of the Music Teachers' National Association, just closed at Indianapolis, and also by the many distinguished and eminent pianists who took part in the festivals of the Ohio Music Teachers' Association at Columbus, and the Illinois Music Teachers' Association at Central Music Hall, Chicago, and all of these experts in knowledge of what constitutes the very highest elements of a perfect instrument, expressed themselves as satisfied and delighted with the perfect scale, action and tone of these world famous pianos. Out of fifty-seven musicians that took part in the Ohio Music Teachers' Association concerts, forty-six played the Chickering, and it was agreed upon in advance among the dealers that the choice was to be left to the artists themselves. W. H. Johnson, the well-known dealer in pianos and organs, is agent for the Chickering and Knabe, besides other leading makers of pianos and organs, and his warerooms, 121 and 123 Hollis Street, are filled to repletion with the finest instruments manufactured.