

## 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 15. For \$2.50 in cash we undertake to send THE CRITIC to any subscriber for one year, supplying him in addition with seventy-nine of the most readable of readable books. Those who are renewing their subscriptions, as well as new subscribers, should take advantage of this offer.

There are several cases of diphtheria in Pictou.

Port Hawkesbury has unanimously decided in favor of incorporation.

The St. John Gas Company will reduce the price of gas after May 1st.

Toronto is taking steps to have all the wires in the city put underground.

Last week was the week of prayer, all the meetings were well attended.

Work on the Bay Chaleur railway has been discontinued for the winter.

The Liberal candidate for J. Lette has been returned by a majority of 150.

Digby is agitating for a Poor's Farm for the County. No County should be without one.

The Rev. W. B. King, has been unanimously elected rector of St. Luke's cathedral.

The grand curling bonspiel to take place at Halifax has been postponed until February 5th.

The new Roman Catholic church of the Sacred Heart at Sydney will be opened next Sunday.

The Victoria Jubilee Hospital, Vancouver, B. C., has been commenced. It will cost \$60,000.

The annual election for Warden and Councillors in Dartmouth takes place on February 5th.

For the past six months 1560 quarts of milk have been daily sent from Shubenacadie to Halifax.

A reading room in connection with the Band of Hope is shortly to be opened in Shubenacadie.

The Haldimand election will take place on January 30th, Montagu and Colter are again contestants.

The writ for Provencher, Quebec, has been issued—nominations on the 17th, polling on the 24th inst.

The new bridge across the east river of Sheet Harbor was formally opened for traffic on Tuesday.

The skating rinks have been doing a rushing business this week, thanks to the timely visit of Jack Frost.

Sydney Mines has decided against incorporation by a majority of 8, 104 votes being the total number polled.

The Maritime Province Stove Founders held a meeting last week at Amherst, and formed an association.

From January 1st 1889, the customs outport of Cornwallis is to be for all purposes of customs, known as Canning.

The Presbyterian, Baptist and Methodist churches in the City and Dartmouth, exchanged ministers last Sunday evening.

John D. Sperry, Liberal, was elected to the Local Legislature by acclamation in Lunenburg on Wednesday.

The skating rink at Sydney has been well fitted up this winter so as to give every comfort to those who patronize it.

Little Bras d'Or is having a substantial iron bridge erected, and when completed it will be the finest bridge in the county.

Chief Justice McDonald has been appointed Administrator of the province during Governor McLellan's absence in the south.

The postmaster general has issued orders that money order and savings bank business be transacted on all holidays until 11 o'clock a. m.

The seventy-fifth annual meeting of the N. S. Auxiliary Bible society was held in Grafton Street Methodist church on Tuesday evening.

There is a serious strike of miners in Wellington, B. C., the result of which will probably be to close the mines for two or three months.

Mr. G. Herbert Lee of St. John, delivered an interesting lecture on "Beaconsfield, his Life and Times," in Argyle hall on Tuesday evening.

Real estate is advancing in price in Kingsport, the terminus of the Cornwallis Valley railway. Some speculative purchases were made last week.

We have to acknowledge a plain and useful calendar of the Glasgow & London Insurance Company, J. S. Belcher Esq. General agent in Halifax.

The Historical Society met on Tuesday evening, when Mr. James Hanney's interesting paper on "The Early Settlers of Sunbury County" was read by William Dennis.

Pierre Cizol, a Montreal pork butcher, is in receipt of a letter from Paris notifying him that an uncle has left him real estate worth over a million francs, or \$200,000.

The first lecture of the Y. M. C. A. course was delivered by the Rev. W. B. Hinson of Moncton, in Association hall on Tuesday evening. The subject was "Infidelity."

A company is about being formed at Gaspé with a capital of \$150,000 to carry on the fishing trade of Labrador. It intends to construct special steam vessels for the work.

A scheme is afoot in Montreal to have the present postoffice turned into quarters for the Board of Trade and the Corn Exchange, and have a more commodious postoffice built.

There is a bountiful harvest of herring in the Bay of Fundy. All that is wanted is frost to freeze the catch. Fifty schooners are reported off Grand Manan, all doing a fine business.

The Fairbanks arbitration case was brought to a close on Wednesday, and the arbitrators have handed in their award to the Government. The nature of the award is not yet public.

Mr. G. McSweeney of the Hotel Brunswick, Moncton, managed by Mr. G. D. Fuchs, sends us some convenient blotting papers which inform us that the Hotel can accommodate 200 guests.

Messrs. Hugh McDonald and W. Moffat have been awarded the contract for building the railway wharf at Barrack Point, C. B. This firm has done considerable work in connection with the railway.

A sub-committee of council is considering the question of the Prince Edward Island mail service. The Charlottetown steamship men are vigorously pressing their claims for a renewal of contract.

The railway war is ended in Manitoba, as the crossing at Fort Whyte, where the Portage extension of the Northern Pacific crosses the Canadian Pacific Railway's south-western division, has been effected.

There are only 900 pupils at present attending the Moncton schools, the smallness of the number is probably owing to the numerous epidemics, which seem to have attacked the children all over the provinces.

Presentations have been in vogue for the past few weeks, and many of our ministers and teachers throughout the country, have been the recipients of valuable gifts, together with addresses from appreciative friends.

Smelt fishing must be a lucrative employment in Summerside harbor, P. E. I. A man recently made nearly \$40 in one day fishing with a small purse seine, and a boy with a hook and line can make about \$2 a day.

An unfortunate woman attempted suicide last Friday, by jumping off the market wharf into the harbor. She was rescued by a young man named John Powell, and taken to the police station where everything possible was done for her.

Ayer's American Almanac for 1889, handsomely bound, is a somewhat remarkable production, inasmuch as it contains the usual laudations of Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co's Medicines in no less than 21 languages, beside some humorous and other matter.

The curlers and snowshoers of Montreal have arranged with the railways for special rates at carnival time. It is expected that a large number of people will take advantage of this and visit the city, when it is to be seen at its best—if the weather is only cold.

Messrs Pickford and Black advertise an excursion by the steamer Alpha, which leaves Halifax on February 15th for Bermuda and Jamaica, at greatly reduced rates. The round trip occupies about three weeks, giving four or five days in Bermuda and Kingston.

Mr. T. Mitchell's attractive fruit and candy store on George Street is undergoing alterations and improvements, and, when completed, we may expect to see the windows more than ever enticingly arranged. For the present he has removed to 119 Granville Street.

"The *Empire* is represented in Montreal by Mr. Austin Mosher, a Hants county boy, and an able journalist, and we are glad to know that he has contributed an important part to the success which has attended the newspaper to which he is attached." So says *Le Monde* of Montreal.

There was a slight error in the report of Alderman Hechler's remarks regarding Rockhead in the last issue of THE CRITIC. The alderman referred to the want of separation between girls and older female criminals, and not to the mingling of sexes, which is impossible under the present arrangements.

The *Maritime Medical News*, whose second issue we have before us, says that it does not seem to have been perfectly understood that, at present, during its first year, it is only published bi-monthly, i.e. every second month. We gladly give our medical contemporary the benefit of this notice.

The new Roman Catholic Church at Parrsboro was opened on Christmas day, when Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Father Malone. The main body of the church is 70 feet long by 35 feet wide, with a vestry at the east end 16x18 feet. The spire from base to the top of the cross measures nearly 90 feet.

Surely our climate is changing. Reports come from all parts of phenomenal happenings, pansies in bloom in gardens, robins hopping about, and caterpillars crawling out to sun themselves. Next we shall hear of mayflowers blooming in mid-winter, and the festive picnic party will go forth to search for them.

The people of Yarmouth and Bear River are excited over sermons which have been delivered recently in those places by the pastors, Revs. Adams and Young. In Yarmouth, disapproval has been expressed by the smashing of church windows, and in Bear River the feminine portion of the congregation stampeded.

Life lines and buoys have been placed at the Poor House, Quarry, and Steele's ponds. At each pond a post is erected with a small roof on it, under which the line which is double the width of the pond, hangs on a peg. In the middle of the line is the buoy, on which the name of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty and the name of the pond is painted.

Work is still progressing on the Cornwallis Valley railway—two-thirds of the distance between Kingsport and Canning being already graded. The company has been much strengthened financially by the addition of Dr. Haley, the Messrs. Churchill, C. R. Burgess, and C. E. Borden as stockholders. It is the intention of the Company to put on a larger gang of men in the early spring and push the work forward rapidly, so as to have the road built, equipped, and running next September.