

## CITY CHIMES.

The carnival to be held in the exhibition rink next Monday evening is being eagerly looked forward to by the young people of the city. The decorations are to be particularly fine, and many attractions are being held out to both skaters and spectators to be present. There is to be a quadrille of all nations by ladies and gentlemen in costume, and some of the fairest maids and matrons in the city are going to take part. There is no doubt the carnival will be an immense success.

The Dartmouth lakes have been in splendid condition for skating several times this winter, and hundreds of people have taken advantage of the opportunity to engage in the invigorating exercise. Last Saturday the ice was very good, but skating was unpleasant unless going with the wind, which was strong.

The grippé microbe is said to have been discovered by a doctor in Vienna, but the report is contradicted by other doctors, who say that the grippé has no microbe, and that the "leasie" discovered by the Vienna doctor is the microbe of pneumonia, for which "la grippé" prepares the way, and which was discovered some years ago. However that may be, the fact remains that many, very many people in Halifax have been ill with the all-pervading disease, and some have joined the great majority. Society has been in a very quiet state since the advent of "la grippé," even the rink being to a certain extent deserted. The victims are recovering now and probably there will be quite an outburst of gaiety before long to make up for lost time before Lent, which begins on the 19th February.

McGinty is now raging in Halifax, having followed in the wake of "la grippé" with unusual severity. Many leading citizens have been seriously affected by it, and the sudden manner in which it attacks the victim makes it particularly hard to ward off.

Next Tuesday and Wednesday Miss Lule Warrenton will give a Shakespearian recital in the Academy of Music. The entertainment will be under the auspices and for the benefit of the Church of England Institute, and will be under distinguished patronage. Miss Warrenton is very highly spoken of, and those who attend the recital will no doubt be rewarded for their trouble.

At the opening performance of the St. Patrick's H. C. T. A. & B. Society minstrels on Monday there was a very large audience, standing room being at a premium. The troupe is an excellent one in all respects, far in advance of most professionals, and kept the audience in roars of laughter from the opening to the close of the performance. The vocal numbers on the programme were well rendered, the orchestra all that could be desired, and the jokes side-splitting. The end men were particularly good, acquitting themselves like veterans. The musical sketch the "Troubles of a Bandmaster" was very comical, and the concluding farce "The Queertown Carnival" fairly brought down the house.

The cantata "Flower Queen" was produced at the Academy of Music on Thursday evening of last week by a number of local amateurs in aid of the funds of the Royal Blue Athletic Association.

Rev. Dr. Maury lectured in Association hall on Tuesday evening to a good audience. The subject was "Life in Egypt 3000 Years Ago," and was interesting, instructive and amusing. This lecture was given in place of Prof. Seth's talk on the poet Wordsworth, which he was unable to deliver on account of the effects of a fall on the ice.

## PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW.

The introduction of Dalton McCarthy's bill to abolish the official use of the French language in the North-West Territories has aroused much interest, but it is doubtful whether the question will during the present session be fully dealt with. The French opposition to the measure will be unanimous, and when is added to this the indifference of many members of parliament as to whether the bill becomes law or not, it will be seen that its passage is by no means assured.

It is proposed to make the members of the government take an oath of office in addition to the oath of allegiance to the Queen, and a bill having this in view has been introduced by Mr. Casgrain.

In answer to Sir R. Cartwright, Sir John Macdonald said the receipts of the Intercolonial Railway for the latter six months of 1889 were \$1,582,897 and the operating expenses \$1,834,046.

Mr. Clark Wallace has presented a petition for the incorporation of the Orange body.

Mr. Wood has asked for returns as to the quantity of fresh beef imported into Canada during the past year. These imports, he asserts, have become so large as to seriously affect the interests of Canadian farmers.

No legislation with respect to the temperance question is likely to be accomplished during the session, at least, so say the knowing ones. As is usual in the early part of the session much legislation of a private character is predicted, but its volume seldom reaches the original estimate. The real work of parliament is done by committees, and already the committees are hard at it, and are busy engaged listening to the arguments of deputations from all the world and his wife.

## COMMERCIAL.

No change of importance has been noted since our last, and trade in general has not shown any particular liveliness. Indications are more or less indefinite at present, and expectations differ, for while on the one hand there are those who say that matters will turn out better than expected, others do not take such a sanguine view of the future, and incline rather to the idea that this season's turn-over will not equal that of last. But it is only a matter of opinion, and the best judgments are ever liable to error. In the leading trades we fail to note any particular feature except that quietness appears to be the dominant characteristic. Payments in some lines are not what merchants would like, while in others no complaint is made. They may be classed as on the whole satisfactory.

Hon. Mr. Abbott, it is reported, will introduce the new Banking Act into the Senate. His knowledge of the subject from his long connection with mercantile and banking affairs is considerable, and eminently fits him for introducing and pushing forward the new measure. It is thought certain that amendments will be made in the direction of increasing the security of the note issues, although what form they will take is not as yet divulged. One proposal is that the Government should assume the exclusive privilege of issuing the \$5 notes, but it is more likely that Hon. Mr. Foster will be strongly urged not to trespass further on the bank issues, but strengthen the basis of circulation instead. If the Government will not move in this matter we know that private members certainly will. It is stated that one of the suggestions at a late meeting of bankers held in Montreal was to ask the Government to pass a measure authorizing the payment of 6 per cent. interest on the circulation of banks that may fail from the time of their suspension until the notes are finally redeemed. It is, however, pointed out that if this measure was passed there would be a competition amongst banks to buy up the circulation of the defunct institutions at par, knowing that eventually the notes would be paid in full, and, in the meanwhile, the banks would receive 6 per cent for the outlay of their money. This, it was contended by some of the bankers present, would effectually give us a secured currency. We frankly say that we do not like this scheme, and believe that the U. S. system is the most comprehensive and efficient.

The following are the assignments and business changes in this province during the past week:—Owen Webber & Co., boiler makers, Dartmouth, dissolved, business continued by Alex. Webber and Richard Webber under style of Webber Bros.; John D. McCormick, genl. store, Leitches Creek, assigned to Blowers Archibald in trust for benefit of creditors; John A. Logan, blacksmith, Sheet Harbor, assigned to Ronald McInnes, in trust for benefit of creditors; James A. Scott, genl. store, Gore, assigned to Jas. N. Trider, real and personal property; D. P. Adamson, Hotel, Pictou, offering hotel for sale; E. Collishaw, grocer and fruit, New Glasgow, assigned to B. M. Davidson.

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

	Week Jan. 24.	Prev. 1890	Weeks 1889	Weeks 1888	Weeks 1887	Failures for the year to date.
	1890	1890	1889	1888	1887	1890 1889 1888 1887
United States...	324	355	331	259	248	1342 1312 1172 1255
Canada.....	59	36	32	60	19	160 129 152 92

DRY GOODS.—Business in this branch of trade has not shown any improvement since our last, and the dull feeling noted then continues. We have to note as an exception to this that in some lines of woollen specialties repeat orders are reported. These are, however, an exception to the general rule, and agents speak of great difficulty in placing orders, reporting that an extremely cautious and conservative policy characterizes the trade generally at the present moment in the matter of purchasing. Therefore the volume of trade is behind that of last year for the same period, and in fact for the past two months. As to tone the general feeling is strong, owing to the firm position at the centres of supply. One firm that does a considerable business in woollen specialties remarked in a recent conversation that, though they were sold up, they had as yet taken no steps to replace stocks, preferring to wait till they could see how to act with more certainty.

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—There is no change to note in this market, for the reason that there is no business to induce it. Of course now and then when some one runs out of something it has to be replaced, but this is exceptional, and trade on the whole is quiet, and will be so till March, for the reason that stocks on hand will carry most of the houses through till then. Therefore prices here are nominal, and we hear of no alteration. In the British markets the position of makers' brands is unchanged, and with them the remainder of the market is in sympathy, the position being a very firm one. The same remark in fact applies to the metal trade generally, and the Scotch warrant market has witnessed the usual amount of fluctuation which has been already noted in these columns. The position of the American markets is very strong, owing to the well-grounded belief that spring requirements will be presented long before winter orders have been executed. Locally we have no change to note in pig or manufactured iron.

BREADSTUFFS.—The flour market continues unchanged, and will doubtless remain so until buyers and sellers come nearer together on the matter of prices. At present holders are independent in their ideas. Business is therefore restricted, and, outside of a jobbing sale here or there, we hear of nothing. Then again, the lateness of the season and the unfavorable state of the country roads have acted as other bars to business; as, otherwise, a movement into farmers' hands was expected, as is generally the case at this season. We have no alteration in prices to note. Baerbohm's cables report wheat and corn cargoes off coast, on passage and for shipment steadier and firmer. Weather in England wet. Wheat and corn in Chicago have ruled unchanged but steadier.

PROVISIONS.—The local provision market has been quiet with a small jobbing demand at current prices. Dressed hogs were rather firmer in