

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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Judge Coursol, of Quebec, Dame Rumor says, is to be the next speaker of the House of Commons.

Hon. J. J. C. Abbott has been elected Mayor of Montreal, having a majority of nearly 2,000 over his opponent, Alderman Rainville.

The annual meeting of the Nova Scotia barristers' society takes place in Halifax, on Saturday, the 5th inst. This society, by the way, is yearly growing in numbers. Is this a sign of progress?

The authorities of Acadia College, Wolfville, contemplate erecting an \$8,000 building upon the college grounds, for the accommodation of the ever-increasing number of students that are seeking admission to that institution.

A San Francisco despatch says the Canadian Pacific railway has completed arrangements with the Cunard steamship company for transfer of three of their fastest steamers to the Pacific ocean, in order to obtain a share of Shanghai shipments.

The 21st of June, which is the Natal Day of Halifax, has been decided upon as the day upon which to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. Special services will be held at Westminster Abbey, London, and the Queen will attend in state.

The City of Halifax and Province of Nova Scotia are now endeavoring to settle by arbitration their claims and counter claims as joint owners of the P. and C. Hospital and Poor House. Atty.-Gen. Longley and Recorder Sedgewick are respectively representing the province and city.

Sir John Hayes and several other Englishmen have formed a company with a capital of \$6,000,000, for the purpose of farming and ranching in the Canadian North-West. Ten model farms are to be laid off, and fully stocked. This should be good news for the C. P. R. authorities.

The Provincial Legislature of Nova Scotia has been called to meet upon the tenth of March. The Provincial Secretary has a magnificent majority at his back, and if, during the next four years, he conducts the Province as becomes an avowed economist and a Liberal statesman, Mr. Fielding will assuredly be reckoned a Mowatt in Nova Scotia.

The Truro Guardian, which is now issued semi-weekly, has recently been enlarged, and has become the property of the Truro Printing and Publishing Company, under the able management of the editor, Mr. A. C. Mills. The paper has steadily improved, and now ranks as one of the best country newspapers published in Nova Scotia. Brother Mills has our fraternal blessing.

Signor De Zea, the Spanish consul in Halifax, who has represented the Spanish Government for the past fifteen years, is shortly to be transferred to the consularship of Ecuador, the duties of which require an able diplomat. Signor De Zea has frequently given valuable assistance in charitable and other concerts held in Halifax, and his singing never failed to secure an encore.

The Imperial Government has just sent to Canada an officer and a veterinary surgeon to purchase horses for the English army. The officer is Col. Goldie, whose orders are to purchase 300 horses this year. His commission lasts five years. Canadian horse-breeders have in their own hands whether or not the export trade in horses becomes a success. If the quality is all right success is assured.

The Canadian Parliament will, it is supposed, be called for business on April 7th; but from private advices, we are led to believe that Parliament will not be convened before the close of April or 1st of May. Meantime, the eleven elections yet remaining to be contested will have been run, and the Government will be able to estimate its majority accurately. The first session of Parliament, it is thought, will be a short one.

About ten dollars a day is the cost of maintaining that most humane institution, the Infants' Home. Since the establishment of this refuge, 596 little helpless babes have shared in its benefits, and through it, 143 waifs have been placed in permanent homes. An average of 43 infants have been maintained in the Home during the past year, the death rate being 14 per cent as against 23 per cent last year.

The Montreal police, with the assistance of the Government detectives, have at length got upon the track of a gang of rascals who have been issuing the counterfeit bank notes before referred to. From information already secured, it appears that the traffic has chiefly been carried in Dominion \$2 notes, Bank of British North America \$5 notes, and Bank of Commerce \$10 notes. The said gang is said to have had its agents in all parts of the Dominion, and to have, so far, disposed of about \$30,000 in bogus notes.

The Liberal-Conservatives of Halifax held a grand demonstration in the Drill Shed on Friday evening last. Sir Chas. Tupper, Hons. A. W. McLellan and J. S. D. Thompson and the candidates elect were met at the railway depot by a large concourse of people. A procession with bands, transparencies, and torches was formed, and followed the ministers through the city to the Drill Shed, where speeches were made by the ministers of Finance and Justice, the Postmaster-General and others. The Conservatives kept up the jubilee into the wee small hours,

The members of the Ontario Legislature have again re-assembled, after a two weeks holiday devoted to political sports.

The new steel steamer *Yarmouth*, shortly to be placed upon the route between Yarmouth and Boston, was launched on the 28th ult., at Dumbar-ton, Scotland.

Prof. Alexander's lecture on "Robert Browning," delivered at Argyle Hall on Monday evening last, attracted a large audience of cultured Halifaxians. The lecturer's easy grasp of his subject, and the charming manner in which he read the selections from Browning's works, won for him high and well-deserved encomiums. Some of the lecture associations in our enterprising Provincial towns should invite Prof. Alexander to lecture for them.

Our Newfoundland brethren are in earnest over their fishery question. The Legislature has re-enacted the bill prohibiting the sale of bait to foreigners, and delegates have been sent to England to obtain, if possible, the sanction of the British Government to its becoming law. Owing to the bounty paid by the French Government upon each quintal of fish caught in French bottoms, the Newfoundland fish merchants are practically losing their hold on the European markets; but if the French cannot purchase bait, they will be handicapped, and the Newfoundland fish trade will again revive.

The vacancy in the House of Assembly, caused by the resignation of Mr. A. MacGillivray to contest that constituency with the Minister of Justice, has been filled, Mr. MacGillivray being re-elected by acclamation. Mr. William Cameron, of Pictou, has likewise been elected by acclamation to fill the position vacated by Hon. A. C. Bell. In Queen's County, Mr. A. M. Hemeon, Liberal, and Mr. James Collie, Independent, have been nominated to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Jason Mack. Polling will take place on Tuesday next. Political feeling in Queen's County always runs high, and the contest will be fought out as bitterly as if the nation's fate hung upon the result.

The Liberal press attributes the success of the Conservative party in this province to the manipulation of the voters' lists by partisan revisors, and to the use of immense bribery funds. If the result is really attributable to these causes there is one and only one way of settling the matter. The courts are open alike to both parties. If *malfesance* or bribery can be proved, the Liberals would be recreant to their duty as honest citizens if they do not bring the matter to an issue before the proper tribunal. Bold assertions and unsupported statements in party newspapers will not convict, nor will they convince the public that corruption is rampant in the land.

Over 500,000,000 cans of various kinds of food are annually consumed in the United States.

La Porte, Ind., has a toboggan slide 1,600 feet long, said to be the longest one in the west.

There are 300 people in the neighborhood of Bennington, Vt., engaged in gathering spruce gum for three dealers in that place.

The American yacht "Mayflower" is to cross the Atlantic about the first of June for the purpose of competing with the "Arrow" in the race for the Queen's cup.

Charles W. Talbot, the Memphis hotel clerk, who ran off with Fanny Davenport's diamonds, and some of the hotel funds, was arrested in Kansas City, Mo., by a Pinkerton detective. The diamonds and most of the money were recovered.

The Misses Caldwell, two wealthy heiresses, are attracting much attention in Washington this winter. They are bright, dashing brunettes, and have handsome bank accounts to their credit. Miss Caldwell donated \$300,000 towards the establishment of a Roman Catholic University at Washington.

The Secretary of the Interior has transmitted to Congress a recommendation of the Commissioner of Indian affairs that Congress appropriate \$50,000 for the subsistence of the remnant of Sitting Bull's band of Sioux Indians, now in Canada, for the ensuing fiscal year, when they shall return to their reservation in Dakota.

The first railroad was built in England on Sept. 27, 1825; second, in Austria, Sept. 30, 1828; third, in France, Oct. 1, 1828; fourth, in the United States, Dec. 28, 1829; fifth, in Belgium, May 3, 1835; sixth, in Germany, Dec. 7, 1835; and seventh, in Cuba, in 1837; and eleven years after, Oct. 24, 1848, was built the first railroad in Spain.

The "Canadian American" says that there is not a public building in Chicago that is worth what it costs. Contractors will erect a building for a private citizen at one half the price charged for a public edifice, and while the work in the former is satisfactory in every particular, that in the latter is ship-shod and almost worthless.

A deplorable accident happened a few days since on the Lehigh Valley, Penn., railway. Six little boys between the ages of ten and twelve, were returning from their homes after a day's sport in the fields. Taking a short cut by the railway track, they stepped on one side to allow a coal train to go by, and were almost instantly run over and killed by an express train. The blinding snow storm which prevailed at the time, prevented them seeing the approaching train, which was running on the parallel track.

The "New Somerset Hospital" at the Cape of Good Hope has been lighted with the incandescent electric light. The nurses and medical attendants are delighted with the result. The day may not be far distant before the City and Provincial Hospital in Halifax is lighted in the same way.