

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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The schooners *Laura Belle* and *Siber* have been crushed in the ice off the Cape Breton coast. Several other schooners are known to be damaged.

The war ships *Emerald* and *Lily* have arrived from the West Indies. These are always regarded as the harbinger of warm weather, but until the ice off the coast of Cape Breton evaporates or liquifies, we need not look for summer.

Towing schooners on the Great Canadian Lakes has now become very general, but the dangers of this method were recently illustrated. The tow line having broken, the two schooners being towed became unmanageable, and in a collision which followed one of them was sent to the bottom.

The *Island Reporter* says that the melting of the snow at Middle River, C. B., has revealed a number of empty whiskey flasks near to the polling booth. The discovery would have been worthy of comment had the flasks been full, but the *Reporter* is silent as to the cause of their emptiness.

The obsequies of the late Bishop Binney were of a very impressive character, and the thousands of citizens who turned out to view the funeral cortege, and to visit the grave of the deceased prelate, prove that the late Bishop was held in high esteem by those among whom he labored for the past thirty-six years.

The Salvation Army in Halifax held a grand jubilee during the first three days of this week. From the size of the turnout we should judge the army has obtained a permanent footing in this city, and from the number of the representatives from provincial towns in attendance, it is evident that the army is bivouacing in all parts of the province.

The Halifax Electric Light Company are now building a large and commodious electric light station near the Three Mile House, the company having secured all the best electric lighting patents now in use. Within five weeks it is expected that at least 1000 incandescent lights will be in use in the hotels, clubs, and private houses. The company are evidently determined to keep abreast of the times.

The City of Halifax has sustained a heavy loss in the removal by death of the venerable Sir Wm. Young. For fifty years Sir William has stood in the front rank of prominent Nova Scotians, and whether as a statesman, as Chief Justice, or as a private citizen, he always maintained his position with dignity and ability. At the ripe age of eighty eight years he has been called to his rest, leaving behind him a record which it will take centuries to obliterate. His funeral was one of the largest that has been seen in Halifax for many years.

Colonel Macdonald, Post-Office Inspector, has succeeded in trapping a man named Corey, alias Gilbert, of Economy, who has been using the mails during the past four months for shady transactions. Gilbert offered to furnish "green goods" at the rate of \$100 for \$5, which was understood to mean that he would supply his customers with \$100 in counterfeit notes for \$5 in good money. As a matter of fact, Gilbert had been selling worthless confederate notes to those who had been caught in his trap, and the dishonest purchasers who reckoned upon selling others, were themselves completely sold. Colonel Macdonald is to be commended for the prompt and vigorous steps he took to discover the fraud.

Mr. Wm. O'Brien, editor of *United Ireland*, has come to Canada to tell us Lord Lansdowne's wickedness as a landlord, with the hope that the agitation will result in making the Governor-General unpopular in the Dominion. However strongly we may sympathize with the Irish cause, it is plain that this method of carrying the war into Africa can serve no good purpose, and must tend rather to discredit the Irish cause among liberal-minded Canadians. Being the Governor-General, Lord Lansdowne's tongue is tied, and he cannot, therefore, answer Mr. O'Brien's charges, and Mr. O'Brien must not expect that a Canadian jury is going to decide and pass judgment in this matter without hearing both sides.

There appears to have been a good deal of opposition to the Dominion Government's action in setting apart 250 square miles of land in the Northwest Territories, to be known as the Banff National Park. Considering that the government has already realized \$15,000 on the sale of an adjacent town-site, in view of the setting apart of this park, the project is not altogether indefensible. After all 250 square miles is a mere bagatelle in a country which still has upwards of two millions of square miles of unoccupied territory. In the United States, where unoccupied land is at a premium, they have just set apart in the Yellowstone National Park 5000 square miles, and yet no one grumbled. We should like to see a National Park in every province in the Dominion.

The chief horror sensation of the week has been the terrible mining disaster at the works of the Victoria coal company, which are situated at Nanaimo, on the east side of Vancouver Island. The mine has been worked for a mile below the waters of the harbor, and at the time of the explosion two hundred men were in the pit—a large proportion of whom were married. The explosion fired the pit, and as there was but one exit the men were cut off from escape or assistance. Eighty of those in the pit at the time of the explosion were Chinamen. It is time that a safe portable incandescent light was used in coal mines, instead of the Davey lamp, the opening of which by indiscreet and ignorant miners has ever been the fruitful mother of mining disasters.

A serious accident has taken place on the Intercolonial Railway just west of Trois Pistoles, P. Q. A snow slide had fallen into a cutting on the railway fifty feet deep, and into this a train ran at full speed. Both the engine and four first-class passenger cars ran off the track and were piled up in a heap of ruins. The fireman was instantly killed, and a brakeman subsequently died from injuries received.

The inhabitants living in the valley of the River St. John are now beginning to feel the effects of the cutting down of the forests near the sources of its many tributaries. The rapid melting of the snow has this year caused a freshet which is quite unprecedented, and the damage to property has already reached enormous proportions. Barns and outbuildings have been floated off and carried down the stream, roads and bridges have been destroyed, and many sheep and cattle have perished in the unchecked floods. In the city of Fredericton many of the streets are passable only by boats, and the cellars of many shops and houses, as well as those of the new Parliament buildings, are filled with water. The worst of it is, that the freshets are liable henceforth to become unwelcome annual visitors.

Manager Clarke deserves to be supported in his efforts to afford Halifaxians a chance of hearing first-class singers. The Kellogg company, which is advertised to give concerts on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings of next week, comes to us highly recommended by the press of the United States, but to those who are at all familiar with the successful prima donnas of the day, no special recommendation of Miss Clara Louise Kellogg's attainments as a vocalist are required. Our advice to all is to attend at least one, if not more, of the three concerts. Every member of our city church choirs, and every one who is studying vocal music, should hear Miss Kellogg sing. It will be worth to all such many times the price of admission, as our opportunities for judging of finished and correct style are lamentably meagre.

Where is the individual who has not been tortured by the constant banging away at pianos by pupils? In hotels, in boarding-houses, and in what should be quiet homes, the pious "friend" manages for the time being to banish comfort and drive people with weak nerves almost frantic. Behr Bros. & Co., piano manufacturers of New York, have succeeded in mitigating the nuisance, and the public at large owe them a lasting debt of gratitude. They have established an enviable reputation for the superiority of their instruments, and have also patented several valuable improvements. By a simple but effective device called the "Muffler," a felt stop is thrown between the hammers and strings, producing a soft yet pleasing and distinct tone, scarcely audible beyond the room. With this attachment pupils can now practice their scales without annoying others and also without damaging valuable instruments, as the hammers are protected from wear. There are other important improvements which need only be seen to be appreciated. W. H. Johnson, always on the lookout to furnish his patrons with the best instruments, has secured the agency for these pianos for Nova Scotia, P. E. Island and Newfoundland, and we had the pleasure of examining some fine specimens that he has on exhibition at his warerooms, 121 and 123 Hollis Street. The Behr pianos took the first prize at the World's Exposition at New Orleans in 1885. We would advise intending purchasers to call at Mr. Johnson's rooms and inspect the superb pianos and organs which he always keeps in stock.

Mr. Frank B. Wilkies, of the *Chicago Times*, is lecturing on the somewhat original topic, "Is death worth dying." Really we cannot tell, perhaps Mr. Wilkies knows.

Queen Kapiolani and Princess Silinokalani, of the Hawaiian Islands, are now in the United States. They will shortly leave for England, where they go to attend the Jubilee of Her Gracious Majesty.

Walking on water is not unprecedented, but 'tis said that Wallace Ross is creating a great sensation in New York with his boat-like shoes, which he ties on and walks around on the water without difficulty.

Barnum is always striking out in a new line. He has exhausted novelties in the way of big elephants and little monkeys, and now proposes to add to his popular museum the French crown jewels, for which he has offered the government of France fifteen per cent. more than their appraised value.

The report of the Massachusetts commission appointed to investigate the cause of the accident at Massey Bridge on the Dedham branch of the Providence Railway, has been made public. As no competent engineer superintended the construction of the bridge, or has since inspected it, the company is held responsible for the fearful loss of life which resulted from its collapse.

The labor organizations of Chicago have at length cut the gordian knot, and have in distinctive terms disavowed any connection with the socialistic element in the great prairie city. This will remove from the minds of the timid the fear that labor, in struggling for its rights, had overstepped the bounds of prudence, and had thrown in its lot with the dreaming theorists and the socialistic cranks who are properly styled anarchists.

The young women of Newton, N. J., have formed an "anti-vice" society, having for its object the regeneration of young men. All members bind themselves to refuse any attentions from gentlemen using alcoholic liquors or tobacco in any form, and over fifty marriageable young women have signed such a pledge. The men generally refuse to submit to what they consider an arbitrary rule, and are seeking social enjoyment in the neighboring villages. The action of the women is the result of agitation of the temperance question, and creates a social *furor* never before equalled in that place.