

## NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Subscribers remitting Money, either direct to the Office, or through Agents, will find receipt in next paper.

Harper's Magazine for March is teeming with interesting articles from the pens of some of the best-known writers on magazine topics. Perhaps our readers will be most interested in Mr. Farnham's description of "Cape Breton Folk," which is profusely illustrated by A. B. Frost. Mr. Farnham devotes himself to Canadian topics, and those who have read his masterly treatment of Labrador, will scarcely fail to study his Cape Breton article.

The freight charges on the Intercolonial Railway seem to be so irregular and indefinite that various and apparently contradictory complaints are made by the people of Halifax and Montreal. The managers of the Nova Scotia Sugar Refinery claim that the rates discriminate unfairly in favor of Montreal. In apparent, but not necessary, contradiction to this comes the report of a public meeting held at Montreal. The Chairman of the meeting gave figures showing that while the rates from Halifax to Montreal are 60 cents, those from Montreal to Halifax are 70 cents. Add to these facts the complaints of Halifax merchants of discrimination in rates in favor of St. John, Amherst and other places, and it would appear that there is probably much looseness and elasticity in the table of charges.

The Ontario Treasurer, in his Budget speech, gave a clear resume of the financial condition of that province. He states that the annual deficit is due to increased expenditures, and the absence of a corresponding increase in the revenue. The deficit for this year is expected to reach \$400,000, which will have to be paid from the standing surplus. This surplus is over six and three-quarter millions of dollars, which will allow the Mowat government, should the present state of things continue, a good many years to come and go on. A considerable amount of the expenditure for the current year is due to exceptional expenses on account of capital stock—such as increased lunatic asylum accommodation, revision of the Ontario Statutes, and enlargement of the Guelph Agricultural College. The operation of the Scott Act will reduce the revenue, but it is expected that the deficiency will be made up by an increase in the cost of licenses for shops and hotels.

Mayor Howland, of Toronto, owes his position to the "plump" vote of the Labor Union men, who had become offended at the *Mail* and decided to oppose its candidate. Mr. Howland's election is now being contested in the courts, on the ground that the Women's Property Act deprives him of the necessary interest in his wife's property, on which he qualified. The point raised is a legal technicality, after all, but it may invalidate the election. Should such be the case, Mr. Howland will have lost by a fluke what he gained by a fluke, and may thus "call it square."

The Provincial Government have made arrangements to buy out the present owners of the Avon Bridge which connects the farming district of Falmouth with the town of Windsor. This bridge is now the only remaining toll bridge in the province. The opening of its gates will be a boon to the inhabitants on both sides of the river.

Messrs. Forrest & Black have been nominated by the liberal conservatives of Cumberland, to represent that constituency in the next Provincial Parliament. On all sides are to be seen evidences of the interest taken by the people in the coming election. The result of that election will depend largely upon the action of the government during the present session.

The Truro boys have proved themselves expert curlers. They have just won the Governor General's prize, which is a handsome silver cup, and have shown to the citizens of Ottawa something of what they can do as curlers.

The St. John papers are having a controversy over bad butter. This article is certainly not worth quarrelling about, but if they can prove to our farmers that the rancidity of butter is in the main caused by the tubs in which it is packed, the controversy will have a good effect. Butter packed in green spruce tubs will turn rancid no matter how good it may have been when taken from the dairy.

The cablegrams imply that the Czar of Russia is just now in a perturbed state of mind. He is jealous of the efforts now being made by Austria, to place her army upon a proper war footing, fearing the consequences should the Austrian Government carry out its design of territorial extension in the direction of the Aegean Sea. Meantime the Czar continues to strengthen and improve the military force of Russia, in order that he may be ready for a possible Asiatic campaign. The Czar has fixed his eyes upon an outlet at the Persian Gulf, and the whole resources of his Empire will be employed in fathering this object.

The Governor's speech at the opening of the Provincial Parliament, contains an assurance that arrangements for the early construction of the Cape Breton Railway have been made. The people of Cape Breton have been long-suffering, but they will not long be satisfied to have their locomotives and railway carriages merely running on paper. Ten miles of track laid down will do more to convince them that the Government means business than scores of promises which may or may not be fulfilled.

It is estimated that 400 officers and men belonging to the "Queen's Own" will go to England in the event of Her Majesty's Jubilee being celebrated during the coming summer. Return passages have been offered to the men at the rate of \$35.00 per head.

Henry W. C. Boak, L. L. B., Barrister-at-Law, Solicitor, Notary, etc., 103 Hollis Street, Halifax. Mercantile Collections and Commercial Litigation a specialty.

A Flying Column is now being organized for service in the Canadian Northwest. Its presence will probably have the effect of preventing the Indians taking the war path in the early spring.

The recent fall of snow will cheer the hearts of our lumberers. Advances in the price of deals are reported in both New York and Liverpool, with a short supply on hand.

The American Bureau of Statistics reports 2000 murders in the United States for the year 1885. This gives an average of one murder to each 37,500 of the population.

The Publishing Houses in the United States complain that a large importation of bibles is carried on through the Post Office. Canadian dealers sending handsomely bound bibles to their customers in the United States by post as samples, the American publishers have asked Congress to prevent this importation.

Dr R. R. Stevenson, surgeon of the celebrated Andersonville Prison in 1864, and editor of the *Southern View*, is now in Musquodoboit, Nova Scotia, and has our thanks for the Christmas number of the Halifax *Critic*, containing a most interesting war reminiscence, giving a detailed account of the brilliant dash by which Gen. John Morgan surprised and captured Col. Moore and 2,000 Federal troops at Hartsville, Tenn., in 1864.—*Bristol News*.

It costs London \$3,000,000 a year for gas.

Miss Louise Alcott is said to have made over \$100,000 out of her stories for young people.

An English geologist thinks he has found evidence that the Mediterranean was at one time shut off from the Atlantic; that it was divided into two distinct basins by a strip of land extending from Italy to Africa; and that most of its islands, notably Sicily and Malta, were connected with the mainland.

The Parisian city fathers are much agitated over the decrease in population, which they believe is still going on. During the past ten years, the population of Paris has been reduced 115,000.

It is calculated that there are in Canada from 10,000 to 15,000 lacrosse players, 5,000 curlers, 4,000 snowshoers, 3,000 or 4,000 cricketers, 2,000 football players, 1,000 rowing men, 1,000 base ballists, and 1,000 bicyclists. This beats her militia by a large majority.

Prairie grass is now turned into paper. A mill at Quincy, Mo., has used 400,000 tons of the grass for that purpose since June.

Those who have employed the services of Mr. J. M. Whitman as veterinary surgeon, can testify to the skill displayed by that gentleman in the treatment of all classes of diseases from which animals suffer. Mr. Whitman is now located in Truro, and it is probable that in this agricultural centre he will find ample scope for the practice of the humane profession which he has adopted. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure;" this should be borne in mind by those whose horses or cattle are now suffering; the disease should not be allowed to become chronic.

W. H. Smith, the weather prophet, predicts that the month of March will be remarkable for its snow storms and its occasional spring-like days. If the oldest inhabitant were consulted he would probably consider himself safe in making a similar prediction. Snow storms and spring-like days in March are not very remarkable, at least, in Nova Scotia.

The removal of Mr. Stather from the Dorchester to the Kingston Penitentiary was effected in order to prevent the Supreme Court of New Brunswick from reviewing the decision given in Stather's case by the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia.

Whatever may be said of Mr. Miln as an actor, there can be but one opinion as to his power to please as a lecturer. The candles and the footlights, or the pulpit and the stage, as dealt with by Mr. Miln, was well worth listening to; although it is to be regretted that the lecturer could not have chosen a more suitable evening than the Sabbath upon which to address a Halifax audience.

Owing to the near approach of Lent, balls and parties follow each other in close succession, both in the city and in our provincial towns. Windsor capped an unusually gay season by the Fancy Dress Ball given last evening by the Arctic Club. The costumes were unique and tasteful, the ball being pronounced a success in every particular.

The magnificent C. P. R. depot at Winnipeg was burned on Monday last. The fire is supposed to have originated in the baggage room, the building which was of white brick faced with red was valued, with furniture, etc., at \$100,000, and was insured for \$40,000.

In several districts in Newfoundland the people are suffering for the want of food, the distress appears to be more wide-spread than at first reported, but the government are doing all in their power to provide against starvation.

Correct answers to Enigma published last week were received from Miss Ada T. Scott, St. Croix, Hants Co.; Miss Jean McMillan, Elmedale; Miss Maggie Croucher, Croucher's Point; Mrs. Henry Moore, Shubenacadie; A. B. Coldwell, Lunenburg; D. E. Clarke, Orwell, P. E. I.; P. W. Harding, Bridgewater; D. O'C. Madden, Arichat; A. F. Falconer, Sherbrooke; J. M. Creighton, 2 Creighton St.; F. H. Coops, 74 Gottingen St.; and C. R. F., 17 Maynard St. City.