

A Summerside paper says: Over 1,400 loads of potatoes have been hauled to the Baltic starch factory this fall so far, and we learn that the Company have been paying 18 cents a bushel for them, which the farmers consider a very satisfactory price, as the factory takes them as they come from the field.—*Chignecto Post*.

A new schooner, the *Harry W. Lewis*, was launched about a fortnight ago at the Cape. She is a three-masted schooner 114 ft. keel, 31 ft. 6 in. beam, and 11 ft. 2 in. depth of hold. Registered tonnage, 298. Simon F. Rose superintended the work, and the vessel is pronounced thoroughly constructed in every particular.

CITY CHIMES.

The members of the Church of England Institute held their first social on Thanksgiving evening. This was the first of a series of six, and judging from the number that attended, they are likely to prove very successful. Mrs. A. Wiswell and Miss E. Weir were the hostesses, and to their efforts is due much of the enjoyment of the evening. Mrs. Rigby's songs as also those of Miss Wainwright and Messrs. Hoygate and Forbes were much applauded. Mr. Silver and Canon Partridge spoke words of welcome to all. The institute forms a meeting place for the members of the various congregations of the city.

The Thanksgiving service in Grafton Street Methodist Church last Sunday evening drew a large congregation despite the disagreeable weather. A very impressive sermon was delivered by the pastor, the Rev. Mr. Strothard, from the 100th Psalm. The choir, under the leadership of Mr. Powell, rendered a special programme of Thanksgiving music.

Last Saturday afternoon the weather was not very favorable for out-door sports, but in spite of the rain a splendid game of football was played on the Royal Blues grounds, between the Dalhousies and Dukes. The game was a return match and resulted in a draw. The second Wanderers vs. Ramblers also played on Saturday but discontinued after half an hour on account of the rain.

The grand benefit concert to Miss Josie Schoff, which took place at Mason Hall on the evening of Thanksgiving Day, was attended by a large and appreciative audience. Just here let us say, that those having the management of Mason Hall should take immediate steps to have it properly ventilated, and at the same time have the stage sufficiently lighted. Poor ventilation and scant illumination never tend to popularize a public hall. Of the eleven numbers on the programme, the first and last were quartettes, in which Miss Schoff, Mrs. Taylor, and Messrs. Gillis and Ward took part. These selections were well rendered, especially the last number, but the volume of tone of the bass was somewhat out of proportion to that of the other voices. Miss Louise Laines' rendition of the "Cantilena," from *Cinq Mars*, was most gratifying, and well merited the applause it received. Miss Laines' selections are always exceptionally good, but as her audiences have few opportunities of becoming familiar with musical gems, we trust that she will not hesitate to let us hear such a song as the above at least two or three times during the season.

Miss Schoff's earnestness in pursuing her vocal studies is evidently appreciated by her many friends, as was shown by the attendance at her benefit concert. Her rendition of No. 8 on the programme, "Cavatina-Foresetta," gave promise that, with additional training and hard practice, her voice in singing might reach a high level of excellence.

Herr Klingensfield's violin solo elicited a rapturous *encore*, in which Herr Klingensfield's bowing was illustrated to good advantage.

Mrs. Taylor sang her number with much precision, and Miss Magee, who appeared for the first time in Halifax as a reader, was well received.

Owing to Dr. Slayter's sudden illness, Mr. Geo. E. Boak was called upon to do double duty, and his good nature in this respect is deserving of kindly recognition. Whatever Mr. Boak's qualifications may be as a chorus singer, he has none as a soloist, and to "damn him with faint praise," would be to act the part of a false critic. Taken all in all the concert was a good one, and Miss Schoff has our hearty congratulations and our best wishes for her success in the prosecution of her vocal studies.

Seldom have Halifax theatre-goers had so good an opportunity of listening to such a clever company of performers as that now occupying the boards of the Academy of Music, and we would recommend our friends not to miss this chance of hearing artists of the recognized ability of Miss Arthur, Miss Vincent, Mr. Dowley and Mr. Norcross. The stage fittings are unique, the dresses of the performers handsome and appropriate, and the plays selected are of a good standard. In *Gwynn's Oath*, Miss Arthur, who took the part of Gwynn Archer, deserves special mention for the manner in which she acted as a somnambulist, proving her to be possessed of ability that will most assuredly win her a high place among dramatic artists. Miss Vincent, who is the personification of wit and humor, well deserved the hearty applause which she received as Miss Willoughby Parker in the same play. We trust Manager Clark will realize handsomely for his enterprise in bringing to the city the McDowell Company.

The McDowell Company are playing "Our Regiment" this and to-morrow evenings, and open next week in "Colleen Bawn."

The events of Thanksgiving Day could not be noticed in our last week's issue, owing to the fact that we took a holiday ourselves, and were obliged to go to press earlier than usual. There was not a very large attendance at

the churches, but the various amusements in the afternoon and evening were well patronized. A large number of people took advantage of the cheap railway rates and went out of town, many gentlemen went shooting, and so the day was observed in different ways by different people; but all must have found something to give thanks for on the day appointed for that purpose.

Rev. E. Scott, of New Glasgow, delivered a highly interesting lecture on the Holy Land, on Tuesday evening, in Park Street Church. Rev. A. Simpson presided, and the choir sang the anthem "O give thanks unto the Lord" very acceptably.

The Royal Artillery annual sports were held at the Riding Ground on Tuesday afternoon. A large number of spectators were present, including General Sir John Ross and a number of officers and ladies. The prizes were presented by Mrs. Ryan, wife of Col. Ryan, R. A. The band of the West Riding Regiment performed a choice programme of music.

COMMERCIAL.

Some branches of merchandise show a decrease in the way of distribution movements, but it is to be accounted for by natural circumstances. The rains which have been nearly continuous for several weeks past have reduced not only the city streets but also the country roads to such a state of mud that transportation of goods nearly as much resembles navigation as it does driving. The weather during the past few days has been pleasant, and, if it continues, the roads will rapidly improve. However, the jobbing trade in general presents a favorable aspect. On the whole, as will be seen from our appended reviews, the situation is fair.

The building of a competitive railway, giving the Manitobans a southern outlet for their produce, and an additional means of commercial communication with the United States,—though it will be a considerable time before the new road can be completed—has already forced the C. P. R. to reduce the rates on grain on all competitive points from Port Arthur 3c. to 5c. for 100 lbs. The fact that the rates have been reduced is substantial evidence of the benefits already derived from the new road. But the advantages accruing from the introduction of rival railway facilities are not exclusively confined to the people of the North-West, as the people of Ontario are also gainers thereby, the C. P. R. having made arrangements with the Grand Trunk to deliver grain from all points in Manitoba to Grand Trunk stations in Ontario, at the same rate as to Ottawa. This move is, of course, intended to prevent Manitoba wheat going over the Northern Pacific via Chicago all rail to Ontario points. Thus are not only the people of Manitoba reaping the benefits of this railway competition, but the older provinces are also gainers.

The following are the Assignments and Business Changes in this Province during the past week:—P. F. Boadrum, genl. store, Amherst, sold out and offering to compromise; Jno. E. Warner, grocer, Bedford, sold out to H. Betcher; Waterman Harlow, grocer, Malaga Mines, assigned to F. O. L. Patch in trust for benefit of creditors; Cape Sable Advertiser Printing Co., Barrington, assigned to Thomas W. Watson printing press, plant, stock, book debts, etc.; G. J. Hamilton & Son, W. and R. bakers, Pictou, sold out retail stock to J. W. Hogg & A. J. Craig; Archibald & Co., genl. store, ship owners, colliery prop's, North Sydney, agreement of co-partnership—Thomas D. Blowers, W. H. Archibald, Wm. Purves; A. G. McLellan, genl. store, Port Hood, re-conveyance of estate from H. G. Bauld, assignee, to Christina McLellan, \$1050.

DRY GOODS.—No new features have been developed in the wholesale trade since our last report, and the late open weather has caused dull times with retailers, many of whom complain of a poor country trade and worse collections. Most of the houses speak of a quiet business. This is attributed to the fact that payments to the retailers are not as good as all would like, and also that a noticeable lull in the enquiry for immediate wants is experienced. With regard to the country in the same particulars the same remarks apply, and, until the crop has been marketed, travellers report that they see little likelihood of activity. The prices of goods for future delivery continue firm with advices from abroad remaining strong, and, in this connection, there is a comparatively free disposition to place orders for spring goods when it can be done at a slight advance. In fact, in this particular, the houses have nothing of which to complain. On the whole the market is quiet but steady both in the city and country, and it may be expected to remain so until the holidays are nearer.

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—There is no sign of any interruption to the stringency of the iron market, and the tendency is to still higher prices with the market on the other side excited and upward on both pig and manufactured iron and tin plates. The movement on spot has been moderate with few sales reported—in fact there is very little stock that is not already spoken for,—and prices are firmly held all round, and holders are quite independent. Manufacturers are already beginning to look out with increasing anxiety as to what their raw material will cost, and the whole tone is strong. Manufactured iron follows the lead of pig, tin plate also manifests the strong tone already referred to, and the remainder of the market in proportion. Late advices from Glasgow state that the pig iron market shows further excitement. The price of warrants rose in the week, first to 57s. 1d., then to 58s. 9d., and finally the market touched the highest point yet, 60s., but afterward lost 5d.

BREADSTUFFS.—It is difficult to say anything definite about the local flour market, as though the demand is good, Ontario millers continue to instruct their agents to force sales, as they say they must ship more goods or shut down their mills. There is a great competition at Montreal in Man-