

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Subscribers remitting Money, either direct to the Office, or through Agents, will find a receipt for the amount enclosed in their next paper. All remittances should be made payable to A. M. Fraser.

It is now over two years since THE CRITIC was established. Its readers have had a good opportunity to judge of the tone, character, enterprise, and worth of the journal, and if they deem its merits are worthy of their continuance and support, we ask their co-operation in still further increasing its circulation. Any subscriber renewing his subscription will, upon forwarding to this office \$2.50, be entitled to two copies of THE CRITIC for the ensuing year, one to be mailed to his own address, the other to any person he may desire. Ask your neighbor to club with you for THE CRITIC when you next renew your subscription; or, if you have a brother, son, or relative, resident in any other part of Canada or the United States, send in your order for two copies, and we will send the absent one THE CRITIC for the next year, post paid.

Don't fail to read the last page of this issue.

Ottawa is to have a literary weekly called *Every Saturday*.

Halifax exports for November were \$200,000 increase over November last year.

Owing to the repeated murderous attacks on the police of Montreal the city council of that place have decided to arm the policemen with revolvers.

The Manitoba provincial elections resulted in Norquay's (Conservative) government being sustained by a majority of seven.

Bishop Medley, of Fredericton, while caressing a pet dog was bitten by the animal upon the cheek. The Metropolitan is a man of eighty years of age, and is highly esteemed throughout New Brunswick.

Mrs. Frank L. Hazen, of St. John, while travelling on the train from Boston to New York, had her pocket picked of a purse containing \$1,000. No clue to the thief has been discovered.

Mr. McKie, of Prince Edward Island, has exported during the present season 300 horses. Island horses now find a ready sale in both Great Britain and the United States, and the trade is yearly increasing.

A Canadian cricket team will visit England during the season of 1887. Among those selected to "carry the war into Africa" are Messrs. W. A. Henry, of Halifax, and G. W. Jones, of St. John.

No one can afford to be without Belcher's Almanac, it is the only standard annual issued in Nova Scotia, and in its present convenient form—bound or unbound—will be found a ready book of reference for the thousand and one things we wish to know but never can remember.

An ex-director of the Exchange Bank, Montreal, states that the liquidators will shortly be able to declare a third dividend of fifteen per cent, which will make in all seventy-five cents on the dollar. He speaks very highly of the manner in which the liquidators have acted with the affairs of the bank.

We call the attention of our readers to the advertisement of Messrs. Clayton & Sons on our third page. This enterprising firm fully understand the merits of advertising, and any one in search of bargains in boys, youths' and men's clothing should not fail to pay their establishment a visit. Their custom department is in charge of a most artistic cutter, and all the work turned out is of the best quality and at prices that defy competition.

The annual meeting of the members and friends of the School for the Blind was held last Saturday, and the reports of the board of managers, superintendent and treasurer were read. The finances of the school are in a healthy condition and the internal affairs of the institution on a most satisfactory basis. Parents of blind children should not be slow in availing themselves of the advantages which this special school offers for the training of those deprived of sight. Belcher's, McMillan's, and McAlpine's Almanacs contain just the information which applicants require.

The auxiliary branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society held its annual meeting in Halifax on Monday last. The report of the committee shows that a large number of Bibles and New Testaments have been distributed by the society, but its work is hindered from lack of funds, for which an urgent appeal is made. The Rev. Dr. Macgregor was actively connected with this society for the past forty years, and the late Charles Robson for thirty years. Mr. James Farquhar, the energetic secretary, will be glad to receive contributions from those desiring to assist the work.

The Dominion line steamer *Sarnia* arrived from Liverpool at 7 o'clock on last Tuesday night with the mails three days overdue. When off Pickford & Black's wharf, one of the longest on the harbor, a schooner was in the way, and while attempting to get clear of her the steamer collided with the wharf, carrying away about thirty feet. At the time of the accident it was quite dark, and there was no light on the wharf. The steamer was going slowly and when the wharf was noticed she was put full speed astern but too late to stop her headway, and she cut through the wharf as though it were made of paper. There was, of course, great consternation amongst the passengers, but it was soon allayed and the steamer did not stop until the deep water terminus was reached. A man standing on the end of the wharf barely escaped, by running, from being crushed in the wreck, and the crashing of the timbers made a thundering noise and created quite a panic in the vicinity. Several thousand dollars damage was done the wharf, and there is a good deal of speculation as to who is liable for it.

Messrs. Moir, Son & Company are making special efforts to meet the Christmas trade. With this end in view they have opened the Whitehall on the corner of Barrington and Duke Streets, where they will exhibit the largest and finest stock of confectionery ever seen in this city. A most interesting feature of the new venture will be the manufacture of all kinds of caudics in the long show windows in full view of the public. Plum puddings, rich cakes and Christmas requisites of every description in their line, will be kept in stock or made to order. Don't forget to visit the Whitehall.

The system of leasing crown timber lands in New Brunswick is perhaps the best on the continent. The territory intended to be leased is offered for sale at public auction in blocks of not less than two square miles each at an upset price of \$8 per square mile, the terms of purchase entitling the buyer to a yearly renewal for the period of ten years, on payment of \$4 per year for each square mile. The stumpage charged under these leases is \$1.25 per thousand feet B. M. which is about the same price as is charged by private land owners, and thus money which should find its way into the public treasury really does so; and but little chance for speculation in leases is offered to individuals, which in reality means the putting of money into their own pockets that should have gone into the public funds.

A large audience assembled at the Lyceum on Wednesday evening to listen to an address by the Hon. T. W. Anglin. The meeting was opened by Mr. W. C. Silver, who made an able speech on the questions of the day, his main theme being that the "government must go." He then introduced Mr. Anglin with some very neatly-worded compliments, and that gentleman was greeted with a storm of applause as he arose and commenced his speech. In an address of some two hours in length he touched on the leading political issues of the day, and gave a masterly statement of the Liberal policy and position. He was followed by Hon. Alfred Jones in his happiest style, and by the Premier, Messrs. Longley and Roche. It was half-past twelve before the meeting adjourned. As is usual in Halifax the best of order was preserved, and the different speakers were listened to with marked attention.

Pursuant to notice a meeting of rate payers was held in the Y. M. C. A. building on Tuesday afternoon to take the necessary steps for the organization of a ratepayers' association, with objects as follows: 1. An equitable working of the assessment laws, and a satisfactory system of valuation for taxation purposes. 2. Effective police and other protection to property. 3. Effective influence on legislation as to civic affairs, and in reference to city expenditure, etc., etc. The meeting was largely attended by prominent citizens, and B. G. Gray was appointed chairman and H. P. Burton secretary. The chairman and Senators Almon and Power spoke at length in favor of forming a ratepayers' association, and a motion to the effect that the association be organized was unanimously passed. An influential committee was appointed to arrange for holding a public meeting, and any one who wishes to join the association can do so by calling at Mr. Gray's office.

Mr. Sandford Fleming has received cable information that a Pacific Cable Company has been formed in London under the name and title of "The Pacific Telegraph Company, Limited," with a capital of £2,000,000 sterling, in £10 shares, for the purpose of establishing, maintaining and working telegraphic and other communications between Australia, New Zealand and other places in the Pacific Ocean, Africa and America. The articles of incorporation were registered in London during the present month. A subsidy of £50,000 per annum is expected from the home government, and it is expected that the various colonial governments will co-operate. It will be seen that the company, which is composed of the following, is a strong one:—Lord Milton, Sir J. P. Corry, M.P., Sir Daniel Cooper, Bart., Lord Folkestone, Hugh G. Reid, Sir Alfred Slade, Bart., J. H. Heaton, M.P., Hon. E. M. Young, Sir Donald A. Smith, Sandford Fleming, Sir Samuel Wilson, E. G. Finch Hutton, Capt. Ed. Ward Palliser, Randolph C. Want, Sir W. J. Clark, P. Perkius, and Sir George Coote. The company are now awaiting replies from the various colonial governments before commencing operations.

Gen. Booth, of the Salvation Army, has sailed for England.

California's crop of walnuts this year is the finest ever raised there.

California raisin growers expect to make an average of \$400 an acre this year.

A member of the city council of Boston has introduced an ordinance to have the city purchase the street railroads and conduct them.

If New York will only be patient a few years, maybe France will present her with a monument for General Grant.

Speculation in mining stocks has lately been revived at San Francisco, and some of the old-time flurries and excitements reproduced.

The captured Apaches have been sentenced to life confinement in Florida.

During the year the health officers have seized a million pounds of diseased, decayed and adulterated food in the markets of New York city.

By the burning of a Mississippi steamer, the *J. M. White*, near Baton Rouge, several passengers and about twenty deckhands are supposed to have perished.

The wool clip of the United States and Territories for 1886 is estimated at 300,000,000 pounds, and the number of sheep at 48,500,000. There are fourteen States credited with 1,000,000 sheep and upward, Texas heading the list with 6,802,615 head, and California being a close second with 6,069,698 head. The estimated average weight of the fleeces varies from four to eight pounds. Arizona has the highest average, eight pounds; and Alabama the least, four pounds.