



GENERAL POST OFFICE, EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND.

Gossip from Nova Scotia



SEE that the prize list of our provincial exhibition is now out. It is a fairly well printed and neatly arranged pamphlet of more than 100 pages. The exhibition will be held on the four days following the 28th September; the sum of \$12,000 is offered in premiums, and every branch of agricultural industry is provided for. Races and concerts, pyrotechnic displays and other attractions will draw large crowds to Halifax during the week of the exhibition who may have no other interest in the days' proceedings.

The regatta of the Ladies' Rowing Club which took place recently in Halifax was a success in every sense of the word. The young ladies were all well-known members of society and great interest was taken in the race. The boats started from Thorndale, the residence of Mr. T. E. Kenny, M.P., and proceeded along the North-West Arm to the residence of Dr. Greer, where the course ended. The day was a glorious one, and the fair competitors in their pretty sailor costumes pleased the eye and satisfied the host of friends and spectators who were present. The water was covered in all directions with boats and launches occupied by those who preferred viewing the scene from the water, conspicuous among which were the launches of the Admiral and the General. The young ladies deserve a great deal of praise for their fine rowing; Misses Almon, Flood, Stokes and Story were among those who attracted attention on account of their graceful motions and easy and swift strokes. The honours of the day fell to the share of Miss Abbott and Miss Kitty Kenny, who, from the start, gave every expectation of being the winners of the race, and who gained a well contested victory. This is the sort of amusement and exercise in which we like to see our young ladies taking part; well-developed muscles are no disfigurement to the feminine frame, and the gain in healthy beauty to these fair society damsels from their strong out-of-door exercise is not to be despised by them. A swimming match would be a

new and interesting way of testing the muscular development of our Halifax girls; many of them swim well, and would make good time and distance.

Professor Roberts' guide book to Eastern Canada, published by Appleton & Co., is meeting with a good reception. A well-known New York paper calls it "A guide book that will guide," which description is eminently true. There is no need for me to comment on the workmanship of the book; that it is compiled by our gifted writer, Charles G. D. Roberts, is endorsement enough to the minds of Canadians.

Mr. James McG. Mason, of New Glasgow, N.S., seems to have perfected a very successful invention. Mr. Mason's device is a car coupler which does away with the necessity for a brakeman to go between the cars, and permits him to uncouple the cars while some distance away. "The device," says a prominent American scientific journal, "is so simple, reliable, safe and economical, as to meet in the most effective manner all the mechanical and financial requirements in the case. That Mr. Mason is a man of rare mechanical genius will be evident enough to any practical man who will carefully examine the specifications on file in the Government archives at Washington." We extend our congratulations to Mr. Mason; we are proud that he should be one of us, and trust that he may find his invention the financial satisfaction to him that the complete success of his scheme must always be.

We hear that Sir Arthur Haiburton, youngest son of that famous Nova Scotian judge, Thomas Chandler Haliburton, who is so well known as the "Sam Slick" of literary fame, has been appointed Under Secretary of State in the English War Office. Sir Arthur was called to the English Bar, but left the Law for the Army, and served with the commissary department in the Crimean war. He has distinguished himself in various parts of the world, and his home in London is filled with rare and beautiful curiosities collected by him from all quarters of the globe.

Mr. Leary's big raft, containing 3,500,000 feet of lumber, enough to have loaded 35 schooners and to have built a small village, arrived safely in New York from St. John after a voyage of 16 days. Not a stick was lost, though, in a big storm off Mt. Desert, 13 sections of the raft were carried away, and had to be followed and secured by the

"Ocean King," one of the tugs which accompanied the raft. This is the largest raft that has ever attempted an ocean voyage. It was an unwieldy mass, but the tugs made an average of two-and-a-half miles an hour in their journey. It is estimated that Mr. Leary cleared \$9,000 or \$10,000 by his clever device; he is wise to make the most of his time, before legislation interferes with him.

Here is an amusing anecdote, for which the *Charlottetown Guardian* is responsible:

A San Jost law story from the repertory of W. L. Gill: A young lawyer, a friend of his, not noted for intelligence, succeeded in having a client acquitted of murder. Meeting him a few days afterwards Gill was quite warm in congratulations.

"Yes," said the young lawyer, mopping his brow. "I got him off, but it was a narrow escape."

"A narrow escape? how?" enquired Gill.

"Ah, the tightest squeeze you ever saw. You know I examined the witnesses and made the argument myself, the plea self defence. The jury was out two whole days. Finally the judge called them before him and asked what the trouble was."

"Only one thing, your honour," replied the foreman. "Was the prisoner's attorney retained by him or appointed by the court?"

"No, gentlemen; the prisoner is a man of means," said the judge, "and hired his own attorney."

"I could not see what bearing the question had on the evidence," continued Mr. Gill's young friend, "but ten minutes later in filed the jury, and what do you think the verdict was?"

"What?" asked Gill.

"Why, not guilty, on the ground of insanity."

This year promises to be a most prosperous one in all departments of agriculture in our province. The strawberry crop is a most wonderful one. Four hundred crates of these delicious berries leave King's county daily for outside consumption, and the quality seems to equal the quantity in point of excellence. All the crops are doing well, and apples are going to flood the market. The sea, too, seems to be doing its part well; the lobster fishing has quite satisfied expectations, and the mackerel catch is an exceptionally good one. Verily our people will be able to keep a hearty Thanksgiving Day if all present expectations are fulfilled.