

A telephone line between Digby and Westport will be constructed early in the spring. The Dominion Government has promised \$2,000 for the laying of cables across the passages. A large portion of the stock has been subscribed in towns in the vicinity.

A subscriber who speaks of THE CRITIC as "your valuable and valued paper," in remitting his back subscription sends us 50 cents as interest. This is quite unusual among newspaper subscribers, and our esteemed friend has our best thanks not only for the amount enclosed but for the principle involved.

The Hon. John Costigan has published a letter explanatory of the alleged interference, in conjunction with Sir A. Caron, with the rights of a settler. Mr. Costigan's exoneration from the charges of his political enemies appears to be complete, and no attempt, so far as we know, has been made to refute his plain statement.

We draw attention to the advertisement on our next page of the performance this evening of the Amateur Dramatic Society. The amateur actors of Halifax with a previous increasing reputation, have been strongly reinforced within the last few months, and we predict not only success to them, but full gratification to their audience.

The new Government steamer "Stanley" on the P. E. Island service gives great satisfaction. Dr. Robertson, Liberal member for Kings, P.E.I., called on the Minister of Marine and Fisheries at Ottawa, recently, and expressed the opinion that the "Stanley" will be able to keep up communication with the mainland at least eleven months of the year.

Dalhousie College and the City of Halifax will sustain a great loss in the removal of Professor Alexander, B.A., Ph. D., Munro professor of the English language and literature, who has been appointed to the Chair of English in the University of Toronto. Prof. Alexander is a native of Hamilton, Ont., and it is gratifying to find a Canadian distinguishing himself in literature, and taking a high position in his native land. The students of Dalhousie, without exception, will regret his departure from the College where he has become a prime favorite. He will not leave until the end of the College term.

Madame Albani, who has been delighting crowds of admirers by her singing in Montreal, Toronto, and other Upper Province cities, did a graceful act before she left Montreal. Having heard of the young blind singer, Miss Tessier, her beautiful voice, and modest hopes, she consented to hear her sing. The prima-donna, after listening to several selections by Miss Tessier, exclaimed "She sings with soul." Before she left the city she forwarded an autograph letter expressing admiration of her talent, which the blind girl, who is only twenty years of age, will doubtless treasure among her dearest possessions.

The U. S. Senate has rejected the British Extradition treaty by a vote of 31 to 15.

The New York papers have despatches saying that the Canadian Pacific railway intend building a bridge over the Niagara at Lewiston.

Smallpox is becoming threatening in several parts of the state of New York, and a grand vaccination of the people is urged, in order to check the spread of the disease.

The street car tie-up in New York is about over. Many of the strikers have applied for work in the stables, and cars have been running with only one policeman to every fourth car.

It is stated that Sir Julian Pauncefote, Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has been appointed British Minister to the United States. The report is not officially confirmed.

George H. Stayner and Henry S. Ives have been arrested for fraudulently appropriating the funds of the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton railroad to the extent of two million dollars, while they were President and Vice-president respectively of the Company.

A company has been formed in Detroit, Mich., to tunnel under the Detroit river. The tunnel will be begun about half a mile from the river, and run to the middle of the stream, or the national boundary line. The other half of the work is to be done by a company to be organized under the Canadian law.

A corps of American railway engineers have started for Coquimbo, Peru, under engagement to the Chilean Government, to superintend the construction of railway lines from coast cities to interior points adjacent to the Argentine Republic. The lines will penetrate to the silver mines and facilitate the settlement of the country.

The United States Senate has been discussing the question of styling their Ministers Ambassadors, which it would save trouble if they did, just as it was highly expedient to raise their Commodores to the rank of Admirals. But the debate is characterized by the *Montreal Witness* as more like one "among fifteen year-old schoolboys, or a difference of opinion in a backwoods township council, than the proceedings of a national assembly."

Bunmay, the new king of Annam, is only ten years old, and a regency has been established.

Russia is about to send a colony to a new Russian settlement in Abyssinia. Col. Aschinoff, the leader of the expedition, has received a grant of three million roubles to found a new Moscow on the Red Sea.

Dr. Hennem, a distinguished German specialist, considers the disease of the ear with which the German Emperor is afflicted very serious, and fears it may lead to meningitis. Should an abscess form, he says it may be necessary to resort to trepanning.

Sir Charles Fupper visited the exhibition building at Paris recently. He expressed regret that Canada was not taking part in the exhibition.

The electric light is making great progress in Berlin, the number of lamps now in use there being about 25,000, against 850 at the end of 1886.

Switzerland is making progress with the telephone. The system at Geneva has been put in connection with that of Berno, and five minutes of conversation can be enjoyed between the two towns for fivepence.

Newgate prison in London is soon to be demolished. A delegation of the Society of Architects lately visited the place and made an examination of the historic structure so soon to be numbered with the things of the past.

A riot has occurred at Ching-Kiang-Foo, China, during which the British Consulate and several houses belonging to foreigners were destroyed. The British man-of-war Mutine has been dispatched to Ching-Kiang-Foo to protect the lives and property of British subjects.

Twenty steamers have been detained at Glasgow owing to a strike of seamen. It is impossible to obtain a sufficient number of seamen and firemen to work the vessels. The strike has extended to Dublin, and some ship-owners have conceded the advance demanded by the men.

The Archduke Ludwig and his sons, to whom the Austro-Hungarian succession reverts, are neither notable nor popular, and there may be a possibility of some action being taken in favor of Prince Rudolf's young daughter, of the nature of the Pragmatic Sanction which seated Maria Theresa on the throne.

Queen Victoria is going to bequeath the whole of her jubilee gifts to the nation, from whom most of them came, and has added a codicil to her will to that effect. They will probably be placed in Kensington Museum after Her Majesty's death, when they will be open for all time to the inspection of the public.

There is an ugly rumor that it is intended to ask Parliament next session for an increased allowance to the Prince of Wales. The usual plea of duties performed for the Queen will be put forth, but it is felt that if that plea be sound, the Queen herself should do what is necessary. The Prince's income is estimated at \$620,000 per annum.

Circumstances point to the conclusion that Rudolf, Crown Prince of Austria, committed suicide by shooting himself with a revolver, though there are hints of foul play. He was devoted to scientific and literary pursuits and did not care for political life. He was much opposed to Bismarck and did not relish the superior airs of young Kaiser William.

The Barque Large Bay, bound for Auckland, was towed into Spithead on the 6th inst. in a sinking condition. She was in collision on Monday night with an unknown four-masted steamer off Beachy Head. The steamer sunk with all on board in about eight minutes, and the seamen of the barque estimate that there must have been about 100 persons lost.

There has been a sad state of affairs in Australia, owing to lack of rain for nearly two months. Millions of cattle are reported to have died for want of water. About the same time of the year we were being deluged with it on this side of the globe. Rain fell about Christmas, which is summer season in Australia, and the inhabitants in the country districts felt immensely relieved by it, the cottagers going out to catch it with all kinds of vessels.

TO THE DEAF.—A Person cured of Deafness and noises in the head of 23 years standing by a simple remedy, will send a description of it FREE to any Person who applies to NICHOLSON, 30 St. John St., Montreal.

AMATEUR DRAMATIC CLUB.

The first performance of this Club will be given under the distinguished patronage of His Excellency Sir John Ross, General Commanding, His Honor the Lieut. Governor, Col. Hill and Officers of the Royal Artillery, Col. O'Brien and Officers of the Royal Engineers, Col. Fenn and Officers of the West Riding Regiment and His Worship the Mayor.

ON FRIDAY EVENING, FEB. 8,
—AT THE—
ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

The first piece will be that new and ever charming Comedy,

"TIME WILL TELL!"

With an exceptionally strong cast. And the performance will conclude with the Roaring Farce,

"TURN HIM OUT!"

The proceeds, after meeting the expenses of the Club, will be divided equally between the Halifax Society for Improving the Condition of the Poor, and the Society St. Vincent de Paul.

The performance will open at 8 o'clock. Doors open at 7.30. Admission: Reserved Seats 75c. General Admission 50c. Second Gallery 25c.

The splendid Band of the W. R. Regiment will furnish the music. Carriages may be ordered at 10.30.

Justice SOAP

Has no equal FOR PURITY IN MAKE. FOR WASHING QUALITIES. FOR RETAINING ITS COLOR. FOR HEALING CHAPPED HANDS. FOR FULL WEIGHT. FOR DELICACY OF PERFUME.