

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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Lt. Col. Oliver, R. E., has resigned the command of the Royal Military College, Kingston.

Mr. Chas. Tupper, member for Pictou, has been appointed Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

It has been stated that the appointments to Lieutenant Governorships, elsewhere indicated, will not be made until July.

Lord Lansdowne sailed from Quebec, on the 24th May, in the *Parisian*, amid the hearty cheers of an immense crowd.

Further honors at Rome are said to be awaiting Archbishop Fabre, of Quebec, whose conciliatory policy, no doubt, commends itself to the approval of the Pope.

Lt. General Sir Jno. Ross was sworn in as Administrator, pending the arrival of Lord Stanley, at the Waverley, on Saturday, by Judge Fournier, who arrived from Ottawa for that purpose.

General Lord Alexander Russell, family and suite left on Monday by the *Peruvian*, for England, Lord Alexander having completed his five years term of service in command of the Imperial Forces in the Dominion.

The folly of permitting the nuisance of fire-crackers in the streets on occasions of festivity has been illustrated at Selby, near Napanee, to the tune of \$18,000, by the destruction of two churches, a hotel, and several dwellings.

At a meeting of the Protestant Ministerial Association, a resolution was unanimously adopted expressing appreciation of Archbishop Fabre's conciliatory action regarding the proposed statue to the Virgin Mary in Mount Royal Park.

H. M. S. *Bellerophon*, Capt. Bouverie Clark, flag of Vice-Admiral Lyons, and the *Pylades*, Capt. Rolfe, C. B., left Bermuda for this port yesterday. H. M. S. *Comus* goes into dock at Bermuda. The *Tourmaline* is expected at Bermuda from Jamaica about the end of June.

The Public Park on the Canadian side of the Niagara Falls was opened last Wednesday week. It is two miles and a half long, and contains 118 acres. Canadians of every province will rejoice that the natural beauties of the locality have been taken out of the hands of the speculators who formerly fleeced visitors at every step, and secured to the people.

It is reported that Lt. Gov. Dewdney will enter the Cabinet as Minister of the Interior, and representative of the N. W. Territories and British Columbia; that Mr. McLellan is to be Lt. Governor of Nova Scotia, that Dr. Schultz is to succeed Mr. Aiken as Lt. Governor of Manitoba, and that Mr. Royal, M.P., will become Lt. Governor of the N. W. Territories.

The Senate has, after all, discussed the Fisheries treaty in open session. Senator Frye, as usual, was vigorous in denunciation, and in advocacy of the retaliation by non-intercourse. Of course, every one knows that the motive power of Mr. Frye's bitterness was the acceptance of his brother's resignation of the Consul Generalship at Halifax, by Mr. Cleveland, when the Democrats came into power.

Since the sweeping defeat of the Scott Act in several counties, many farmers in Lincoln have started cultivating grapes very extensively. The Louth Fruit Growers Association intend to memorialize the Government to place baskets and fertilizers on the free list, as an offset to the admission free of American fruit. One of the worst results of prohibitory legislation is the stoppage of the cultivation of the grape.

The King Hedley Company succeeded the Rehan Company on the boards of the Academy this week, and produced the "Wages of Sin," a highly sensational drama, to not very large houses. The fact is the theatre-going quota of a population the size of that of Halifax is soon exhausted for the time, and the engagements of companies are too numerous to draw good houses for more than two or three nights together at the outside.

The Allan steamer *Sardinian*, with the mails and 1000 passengers, bound for Montreal, was towed into Halifax Harbor on Wednesday afternoon with her screw gone. The shaft, it appears, broke about 750 miles from Halifax, and the engines ran wild, but were soon got under control. She was taken in tow by the "Norseman". This mishap, and that of the *Circassian*, will cost the Allan Line a considerable sum, as it costs over \$1000 to send the passengers on to Montreal by rail.

The Executive Committee of the Dominion Live Stock Association have taken an eminent legal opinion regarding the proposed insurance combine, and they have been advised that they have a good action for criminal conspiracy against the Allan, Beaver and Dominion shipping companies, the Marine Underwriters' Association, and Lloyds. The majority were in favor of entering action at once, but finally the President was instructed to again consult counsel before taking action.

We notice in the columns of our daily contemporaries the advertisement of the meeting of the Halifax Branch of the Imperial Federation League, at the Academy of Music, on Monday evening. We also notice with some amusement, the alarm of the annexationists at the discussion of the subject. It certainly cannot be a worse thing to discuss the possibility of closer relations with Great Britain than to discuss the handing over of Canada to the United States by means of commercial union.

Numerous bush fires have been raging during the week in the woods at the back of the Arm, at the back of Bedford, and elsewhere. The Presbyterian Church and Beech's Hotel at Bedford had a narrow escape of being burned on Monday. On Tuesday rain fell. These fires are no doubt mostly due to the criminal negligence of trout-fishers and others as to proper precautions in starting their fires in the woods, tho' no doubt some fires are due to the railways, but these latter are not the worst. If a few careless lighters of fires in the woods could be made severe examples of, it would be a blessing.

The following notice of the concerts given by the Cecilia Quartette Club was inadvertently omitted in our last issue. The Cecilia Quartette, assisted by Miss Park, the cornetist, gave concerts at the Academy of Music on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday last, which were listened to with much pleasure by comparatively small audiences. The Quartette of sweet singers has evidently been well trained, although the individual voices cannot be considered of first quality, but as the selections were, generally speaking, light and attractive, they were well suited to the attainments of the singers, and hence the effect was in every sense pleasing. Of the lady cornetist, Miss Park, we cannot speak too highly—the tones of her cornet are brought out with precision, and the control of the instrument which she exhibits, in executing the running passages, trilling and double tonguing, is simply wonderful, reminding us of the playing of the well known Arbuckle. We regret that the concerts did not receive a more liberal patronage, especially as the expenses entailed by taking the Academy instead of Orpheus Hall must have been unduly large in proportion to the receipts.

Halifax has again been favored with a visit from the celebrated Weber Quartette, and our citizens are indebted to the Orpheus Club for their enterprise in arranging for the two concerts given in Orpheus Hall on Monday and Tuesday evenings last. Mr. Payne, the leading tenor of the Quartette, possesses a well-trained, silvery voice, which no words can adequately describe; but we are safe in saying that such a tenor would always take a leading place, even in the largest musical centres. The voices in the Quartette are well balanced, and long practice has enabled its members to sing together with such accuracy, perfection of expression, and artistic finish, as must always delight the ear of the appreciative listener. Miss Hunt, the lady singer at present travelling with the Quartette, has a charming mezzo soprano voice, which is full, sweet, and rich in quality. The several numbers rendered by Miss Hunt in the two concerts won double encores from appreciative audiences, and we fear it will be many months before Halifaxians will again have an opportunity of listening to so finished an artiste. We trust, however, that concerts by the Weber Quartette Club will be given in Halifax during the next musical season; and as our people turn out in force when the performers are first-class singers, we can promise the Club crowded houses on all subsequent visits.

A telegram from St. John says:—Some startling facts relative to the defunct Maritime Bank have leaked out lately, in connection with the trial of the Bank of Nova Scotia vs. Harrison. A short time prior to the failure of the bank, A. A. Sterling, of Fredericton, who had been a director in the bank, sold out a large portion of his stock in that concern to W. F. Harrison, a St. John merchant, accepting the latter's note therefor. The note was deposited in the Bank of Nova Scotia, but when the time expired for the payment Harrison refused to meet it, alleging that Sterling was aware of the rottenness of the bank when he sold the shares. The trial of the case has resulted in a thorough exposure of the loose methods adopted by the bank management, and some of the evidence elicited justifies the suspicion that Mr. McLellan kept two sets of certain books, as to hide the true state of the bank's affairs from the directors. Sterling swears that, although he was a director and attended the meeting, held at the bank June 29th, 1886, he did not know that R. A. & S. Stewart had then drawn exchange on Stewart Bros., London, to the extent of over forty thousand pounds. The bulk of this exchange was without an endorser. Neither did he know that MacLellan, President of the bank, had surrendered \$75,000 worth of Guy, Bevan and Co.'s securities, and had accepted instead certificates of stock in a trading company, to the extent of fifteen thousand pounds. It has also been shown in evidence that although the trading company had a large amount to its credit in the bank when it failed, the bulk of it came from the Stewart exchange, and was really the bank's own money. J. F. McMillan, one of the liquidator's clerks, swore to-day that the deficiency of the bank, after deducting the value of the assets, was over a million three hundred thousand dollars. The liquidators had realized nothing from Stewart, or from Guy, Bevan & Co. From George McLeod, who owed a hundred and sixty-eight thousand when the bank closed its doors, they had got five thousand and the promise of a little more. The revelations are not calculated to inspire much hope in the breasts of note holders. MacLellan, who is largely responsible for the crash, is said to be operating in real estate in Omaha.

The *N. Y. Tribune* prints a letter from James G. Blaine, dated Paris, May 17, saying that under no circumstances can he accept the presidential nomination.

The senate has passed a bill to revive the grade of general of the army, conferring it on Lieut.-General Sheridan. There were only seven votes in the negative.

Christian scientists in Boston the other day undertook to mend a sailor's broken leg. After the formula, they commanded the unfortunate man to arise. He did so, fell down and broke his other leg. A fortnight ago, a woman stood by while her daughter and her new-born babe perished from sheer lack of medical attention. In each of these cases reliance was had on faith as a healing force.