

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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Notice is given that the fog alarm on Cranberry head, north side entrance to Sydney Harbor, Cape Breton, will be put into operation on the opening of navigation.

The Western Counties Railway Company are looking eastward. A bill authorizing the company to purchase other railways is to be introduced into parliament.

The New Brunswick Legislature is discussing the advantages of substituting biennial for the annual sessions of the legislature. If the measure be adopted a large saving of money will be effected.

A new cruiser named the *Triumph*, which is to take the place of the *Houlette*, has been successfully launched at Shelburne. She will be commanded by Capt. Lorway, and is registered at 105 tons.

The heaviest snow storm of the season was experienced along the line of the I. C. Railway last Friday and Saturday. The blockade was one of the most complete that has occurred this season, trains having been delayed on the road several days.

The Dominion Government receives letters fortnightly from Mr. John T. Wyld, the Canadian Commissioner, now in the West Indies endeavoring to promote closer trade relations with the Dominion. Mr. Wyld writes very encouragingly of the success of his mission.

The Prince Edward Island Legislature was convened on Tuesday last. The speech from the throne refers to the present winter communication with the mainland as unsatisfactory, and expresses the hope that the Federal government will agree to assist in the building of the projected tunnel.

The hubbub which has been caused in school circles by the discussion of the propriety of girls attending the public schools with their hair in curl papers is decided Pickwickian. One can scarcely imagine parents allowing their children to come to table with their hair in paper, much less their sending them to school thus disfigured.

The Avon River at Windsor, which is one of the largest tidal rivers in Nova Scotia, is to have a new \$46,000 iron bridge. \$25,000 is to be contributed by the province, the balance, \$21,000, will probably have to be borne by the municipality of West Hants. The bridge will be one of the best of its kind in the Maritime Provinces.

A private Infirmary, under the charge of the Sisters of Charity, has been established in Halifax. The staff will include several well-known city surgeons, and persons will be boarded at the rate of from \$8 to \$16 a week. The new private hospital will be known as the Victoria Infirmary. It is located in the building formerly known as the Waverley Hotel.

The North Sydney *Herald*, in referring to the murder of the boy McMullin, says:—"A terrible affair occurred at Mill River, near Mabou, last Saturday. It appears two boys, named respectively Worth and McMullin, in some manner got into a quarrel, and Worth becoming enraged picked up a hammer and struck McMullin a terrific blow on the head, killing him instantly."

No right thinking man can uphold the desecration of the Sabbath, but its proper observance is a question upon which there is a wide difference of opinion. The bill which has been before the Provincial Legislature this week, is remarkable for its Puritanism in some directions, and for its leniency in others. The secular law may prevent the desecration of Sunday but it can never ensure its right observance. This is left to the churches and the Christian ministers, and in their hands it should be safe without civil interference.

As to the composition of the new Canadian House of Commons, here are some figures which will interest our readers: There will be eighty nine members in the new House of Commons who were not in the last House. Of the 85 outgoing members 63 were supporters of the Government, and 22 of the Opposition. Of the Conservatives who were in the last Parliament, but who will not be in the new one, 32 did not offer for re-election and 31 were defeated. Of the returning Liberal members eight did not seek re-election and fourteen were defeated. Of the eighty-five new members so far elected two Conservatives and seven Liberals sat in former Parliaments.

The bill authorizing the issue of debentures to the amount of five hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars, to be used in creating a national park at Niagara Falls, which has been introduced into the Ontario Legislature by the Premier, is, as a matter of fact, the constitution of the "Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park Commission." The bill gives to a board of unpaid commissioners, whom it appoints, who are to act as trustees of the park for the Province, the power to issue debentures to the amount mentioned, and to expropriate and purchase the lands already selected. The grounds of the park are to be open to the public, but the commission is given sole authority to construct and operate inclined railways, boats and other conveniences for sight-seeing within the park. It is expected that the revenues derived from these sources will be sufficient to pay the current expenses of the park, and at the same time provide the interest on the debentures, and an annual sinking fund of one per cent. As there can be but little doubt that the measure, which seems to be both wise and liberal, will pass Ontario will celebrate the Queen's Jubilee by the creation of a magnificent people's pleasure ground bearing the sovereign's name.

Mr. Albert Borden, post-master at Canning was found dead in his residence on Saturday morning last, having been smothered to death by smoke. It is supposed that the unfortunate gentleman had fallen asleep during the evening, and that on rising during the night he upset the lamp, thus setting fire to the contents of the room. Some of the neighbors observed the light of the flames, and on entering the house were shocked to find the lifeless body of the deceased in one corner of the room. Mr. Borden was an able official and was very popular in Canning. Persons who are overcome by smoke would do well to remember that a cold current of air is always moving near the floor, and that by crouching and inhaling this comparatively fresh air they can counteract the effect of the smoke.

A villain named Stanley Steele, a native of Boylston, Guysboro' County, N. S., made a most cold blooded attempt to rob the Merchants Bank at Antigonish and murder Mr. Curry, the teller in charge. Entering the bank on Saturday, shortly before the bank was to close, he requested a private interview with the teller, and having entered a small adjoining room, presented two pistols, the one aimed at Curry's head, the other at his heart. Curry sprang at his would be assassin, the contents of the first pistol grazing his temple, and succeeded in seizing Steele just as the second revolver was discharged, the ball from which grazed his side, inflicting a flesh wound of about four inches in length. In the meantime, McGillivray, the junior clerk, had secured assistance, and Steele, who had already been overpowered by Curry, was seized and carried off to jail. Mr. Curry's pluck and resolution probably saved him from an untimely death, and his heroism is deserving of the highest praise.

The concert held in the lecture-room of St. Andrew's Church on Tuesday evening last, was successfully given and well received by an appreciative audience which fairly filled the building. The songs and music throughout was entirely Scotch. The opening piece, an instrumental duett by Miss E. and Miss Burns, was a brilliant performance, winning the prolonged applause of all present. "The Scottish Blue Bell," admirably sung by Mrs. Percy Lear in a clear and spirited manner, called forth repeated encores. A piano and organ duett by Mr. Powell and Mrs. Roy was given with pleasing effect—the time and execution being perfect. Miss MacKenzie appeared at her best in "Where Gadie Rins," and was encored again and again. A song by Professor Currie in his usual powerful manner was, of course, greatly applauded. "Scots Wha Hae" was sung by Mr. T. Murray with becoming life and energy. A well rendered quartette by Messrs. Gillis, Emmerson, Currie and Norman, followed by "Auld Lang Syne," admirably sung by Mr. D. C. Gillis and chorus, brought this pleasant entertainment to a close. These Scotch concerts are very enjoyable, but the committee in charge should next season treat the public to a programme of entirely new Scotch music. The old songs have certainly a traditional charm and many of them are very pleasing, but the public wearies of constant repetition.

On Wednesday afternoon there gathered at Mason Hall representatives of all the National, Masonic, Military, Aquatic, Athletic, Temperance and Benevolent organizations; delegates from the Oddfellows, Firemen, Anglo-African society, the City Council, Local Government and City Press. After a good deal of time was lost in wrangling over the manner of appointing an executive committee, a committee of seven was appointed to nominate the executive. After the former had retired the following programme was adopted by the meeting:

1. Laying the foundation stone of the new City Hall.
2. Grand gathering of the school children.
3. Procession of public bodies, National societies, Masonic, Temperance and other organizations.
4. A special dinner for all the inmates of the public charities of the city.
5. Review of the army and militia, and if possible to include all or representations of the several Nova Scotia battalions of militia.
6. Yacht and scull races and a general regatta; invitations to be extended to yacht clubs from abroad to participate.
7. Sports and games on the common.
8. Release of a number of the best behaved prisoners from jail and prison.
9. Torchlight procession of fire department.
10. Concert and fireworks in public gardens.

The Nominating Committee then returned, having nominated an Executive Committee of fifteen. The delegates of the organizations which were not represented on this committee, immediately clamored to have one of their delegates on the executive, and it needed just such an efficient chairman as Mayor Mackintosh to keep order. After a long discussion a committee of twenty-nine was agreed upon.

Maine proposes to quarantine against Massachusetts cattle.

It is reported that Sam Jones received \$19,000 for one month's work in Boston.

A State convention between Cuba and Porto Rico, on the one hand, and the United States on the other, which was to terminate in April has been prolonged to November in order to give time for negotiation of a treaty.

The ungallant Courts of Washington Territory have ruled out woman suffrage. The experiment, while it was on trial, seems to have produced no marked change in the politics, practices, manners, nor morals of the Territory.

Mr. Moody has raised his \$250,000 for the establishment of a school for Christian workers at Chicago. John B. Farwell gave \$100,000, Mrs. George McCormick is down for half that sum, and the remaining \$100,000 is subscribed in sums of \$1000 and less.