

## CITY CHIMES.

The complimentary benefit concert tendered to Mr. Blackmore by his musical friends, took place in Orpheus Hall last night. It unfortunately comes too late for us to give an account of it this week.

Prince George of Wales and Hon. Edward Stanley, Sir John Ross and Capt. Jenkins, A.D.C., Admiral Watson and Capt. Trowbridge, Flag-Lieut., and Mr. E. Robinson, Private Secretary, Lieut.-Governor Daly and Capt. J. D. Ritchie, A. D. C., and the captains of the war ships in port are to be the guests at the dinner given by the Halifax Club this evening.

The bazaar season will soon set in with its usual severity. Dartmouth ladies are busy preparing for two. The ladies of Christ's Church intend holding a tea and sale for the benefit of that church, and the King's Daughters will have one some time before Christmas. They should both be well patronized.

For some time there has been a dearth of theatrical amusement in Halifax, and society has been taking its entertainment in the form of concerts chiefly, and not many of these. In fact there have been so many muffin worrys and balls that people have scarcely had time for public entertainments. That they only needed to have something tempting offered them in this line is evidenced by the reception of the Lytell Company at the Academy of Music on Monday evening, when the "The Great Metropolis" was presented. The house was packed, and the audience was a highly appreciative one. It is the first time "The Great Metropolis" has been played in Halifax, and it has taken well. The scenic attractions are especially good, and the acting is of a praiseworthy standard. Mr. Lytell is so favorably known to Halifax theatre-goers that his Company is almost certain to enjoy a successful season. The play last night was "Mauri Cree," a romantic Irish drama, which will be repeated to-night, to-morrow night and at to-morrow's matinee.

Yesterday was Thanksgiving Day, and turkeys are not so numerous in the land as they were before. Services were held in most of the churches.

The Banker's Ball at "Maplewood" on Wednesday evening was a great success. The votaries of Terpsichore kept up their gay whirl until an early hour on Thursday morning.

The Orpheus Club's first concert for this season will be given in Orpheus Hall about the end of this month. Nearly all the subscription tickets have been disposed of. The course will consist of seven concerts.

The Y. M. C. A. have arranged for Sam Small, the noted American revivalist, to come to Halifax and deliver his lecture "From the Bar-room to the Pulpit," on the 30th of this month. The audience will doubtless be large.

Hallowe'en was duly honored in many households last Friday night. The weather was perfect up to about eleven o'clock, when the inevitable rain began to descend and later on the first snow of the season—the earliest for years—made its appearance, but not in such quantities as to make us exclaim in the words of a level-headed poet:

"And thou art here again beau-ti-ful snow!  
With joy I hail thy coming, but before  
I write a poem in thy praise, I'll go  
And shovel off the walk before my door."

There was just enough to make the walking execrable, but towards the end of the next day it began to dry up. The weather has certainly deserved some hard names for the way it has behaved during the last month. Somebody who counted says that there were only four fine days. We did not count, but are willing to accept the statement as coming pretty near the truth.

## COMMERCIAL.

A nice balance is at present maintained in groceries between buyers and sellers. Any special effort to sell goods beyond the limit of the natural demand would most assuredly result in throwing the tone toward an easier basis, but a slightly increased demand would stimulate holders to take advantage. Business in this line can, therefore, be considered, on the whole, very good.

There is quite a boom in steamer enterprises in this Province. The Yarmouth Steamship Line is expecting to welcome its new steamer, the *Boston*, built to order and recently launched in Scotland for it. It will run between Yarmouth and Boston in conjunction with the Yarmouth, and the line will thus be enabled to make more frequent trips than heretofore. It is understood that the Canada Atlantic Line is seriously contemplating the ordering of a second steamer to run in conjunction with the *Halifax* running between this port and Boston. One of the chief objects of the managers of this line is to offer rapid transit and ample and comfortable accommodation to passengers. Their efforts in this direction have been very successful and the travelling public has shown its appreciation thereof in a marked manner. The Furness Line has for sometime past employed two of its steamers in making somewhat irregular trips, but averaging about one a month, between Liverpool, Halifax and St. John. Seeing a prospect that, with better accommodation and encouragement, a largely increased trade may be developed between the Maritime Provinces and the Mother country, they have announced their intention of adding five boats to the present branch line and of making regular trips of not more than a fortnight apart. There is some speculation as to what will be done with the *Ulunda* if she is successfully

repaired. One suggestion is that she be put on the route between Halifax and Yarmouth and touching at all intermediate points, possibly with a view of cutting out the smaller steamers *Electra*, *Arcadia*, *Bridgewater*, and *City of St. John*, each of which occupies portions of that route. Our opinion is, however, that there need be no cutting out, for, with the steady development of trade along our western shores, there will be plenty of work for all of them to do. It is to be hoped that all this energy and enterprise will meet with its due reward in the shape of a profitable and constantly increasing business.

Bradstreet's report of the week's failures:—

	Week Prev.		Weeks corresponding to		Failures for the year to date.			
	Oct. 31.	Oct. 31.	1889	1888	1889	1889	1888	1887
United States	104	202	251	220	207	8351	9383	8294
Canada	30	33	35	50	23	1332	1328	1450

DRY GOODS.—There is but little to add in connection with this line, as trade during the week has been on the quiet side. Several of the houses continue to report satisfactory orders on spring account—but this is all. The actual movement continues quiet, and what sorting up business there is is small, as stocks have not had time to be broken into materially as yet, consequently business in the way of immediate delivery is almost nil, or the next thing to it.

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—Since our review of a week ago there has been no change in the position and nothing worthy of remark has arisen. The tone remains firm as regards all leading lines and dealers do not look for any change in values in the immediate future. Advice from primary markets speaks of continued firmness, and all brands of makers' iron in Great Britain keep firm. There has been the usual amount of fluctuation to the speculative branch in Glasgow, but latest quotations show the market firm at £2 10s for Scotch warrants and £2 7s. 10½d. for No. 3 Middlesborough.

BREADSTUFFS.—The local flour market continues steady but quiet, with some little movement in low grades and extras. Prices generally rule steady, and holders do not seem to be making any concessions. In fact the influence of the wheat position is the other way. Beerbohm's cable reports wheat steady to firm, and corn quiet; French country markets quiet. The United States markets have undergone no important change during the past week, but the tendency is decidedly towards higher figures, and despite the now well-established fact that the world's wheat yield in 1890 was fully 90,000,000 bushels more than it was in 1889. The potato question is beginning to be discussed with more interest by our produce dealers, although there is no immediate indication of a boom, as the supply so far considerably overlaps the demand. It is known, however, that the production in the United States is considerably below the average of former years, and after the fall glut, which usually occurs in most of the great American centres every season, is worked off, it is contended that our neighbors will be compelled to look abroad for a supply of the favorite tuber. A large quantity of Canadian potatoes was shipped to the United States prior to the McKinley Tariff coming into force, and these importations, along with the large quantities of native production now offering there, tend to keep prices in check at present, but it appears to be generally conceded that values on the other side of the line are bound to appreciate as soon as the cold weather sets in. An extract from a letter received this week from Cincinnati says:—"I may be mistaken, but if our crop is as short as the Government reports show we shall be compelled to draw our supplies from Canada in spite of the duty. Of course there is not the slightest chance of taking your potatoes at present, but I look for a sharp rise in prices before long, when I have no doubt you will hear from me, and if prices on your side do not advance in proportion we may do some business together. A duty of 30c. per bushel is a big kind of a barrier to overcome, but I am of opinion that it will have to be done. Dealers on the American side of the border will have a fine time of it, as many will consider it no crime to take in such a necessary article of food without paying the duty."

PROVISIONS.—In the local market there is a good demand passing for pork, and short cuts are coming in for considerable attention. Lard is also moving freely. Prices are unchanged. The only change in the Liverpool provision market has been a further advance of 6d. on light bacon. The Chicago market was dull and easy. Pork declined 5c. Lard and short ribs dropped about 2½c. The Chicago hog market was stronger, advancing 5c. The cattle market was slow. Sheep were steady.

BUTTER AND CHEESE.—The butter market continues the same. No one seems able to say even approximately what the stocks in the country are, but the general impression is that there will be enough for every one when it begins to come out. At present, holders are stiff and do not give any indications of letting go, so that the movement is small and confined to such lots as there is an outlet for in a jobbing way at high figures. On the whole the market is quiet and indefinite with holders actuated by a firm tone. The cheese market remains essentially the same with little or no business noted.

FRUIT.—There has been nothing new doing in dried fruit since our last report, stocks held are very small, and there is no probability of any further supplies coming to hand this season. New York prices are higher than ours, so it will be impossible for us to draw from that market to supplement our present stocks. Sales of the first arrivals of winter apples have been made on the other side, and have netted shippers very satisfactory profits, several choice lots of Canadian Baldwins realizing 25s. to 27s. per barrel, Spies, Culverts and Greenings 22s. and Kings 31s. in Liverpool on Monday last, the sales of which were immediately cabled here. The decline in prices reported by us last week had reference to fall fruit, which it is said arrived in poor condition, but as soon as the winter-keeping stock arrived there was an active demand for it at the above splendid prices. Prices in Glasgow were also cabled firm on Monday under an active enquiry. In this market there has been a brisk demand for winter fruit, and sales have been made to agents of Glasgow houses at 16s. f. o. b. here, three different agents