

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The new firm of Shatford Bros., Commission Merchants, Liverpool Wharf, has started under auspicious circumstances, in somewhat dull times. We wish the firm a long, useful and successful career.

The fresh fish trade of the Upper Provinces is now in the hands of Portland and Boston fish-dealers. Mr. A. Wilson, in a letter to the *Halifax Mail*, points out that Nova Scotian fish-dealers are prevented from securing these markets by the high freight charges and detentions upon the I. C. and G. T. Railways. This matter should at once be brought to the attention of the railway authorities.

In noticing in our last issue the spectacles recently imported from France, no reflection upon the well-known Laurance's spectacles was intended, for which J. Godfrey Smith, of the London Drug Store, is special agent, as spectacles of this make, being cut and ground out of pure crystal and pebble, are of first-class quality, and impart a clear vision to those affected with imperfect sight. We take pleasure in directing attention to Mr. Smith's advertisement in our Xmas Number.

The growth of Home Insurance Companies in Canada has been most marked during the past few years. The North American Life Assurance Company, which is one of the youngest of these associations, now numbers among those holding its policies some of the most prominent men in Canada. Mr. G. E. Lavers, the indefatigable agent of the company, has during the year 1885, done a remarkably large business. His advertisement will appear in our Christmas Supplement.

It is rumored that the French company, whose representatives visited this country the past summer, will, during the winter, close arrangements with the Dominion Government for the building of a railway from the Strait of Canso to Sydney, or Louisburg. "So may it be."

The fine display of Xmas groceries at the Army and Navy Depot is attracting many purchasers. James Scott & Son are always prepared to give their customers value for their money.

The handsome assortment of wood and rattan furniture, wall pockets, brackets, etc., recently imported by A. Stephen & Sons, are just the right things for Xmas presents. The advertisement of this enterprising firm appears in our Christmas number, as well as in our regular issue.

A. G. McDonald, Esq., Inspector of Schools for Guysboro' and Antigonish Counties, has been in the city attending the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Provincial Educational Association; also, Prof. Eaton, Truro, and Prin. A. H. McKay, Pictou.

One by one, the inferior buildings are disappearing from our principal streets. Among the late improvements may be noted the handsome building recently erected at the corner of George and Granville streets, by W. H. Newman & Co. The structure, which is of brick, is handsomely faced with stone, presenting a most attractive appearance.

The wholesale and retail departments of Messrs. Moir, Son & Co. now present a scene of bustling activity. Christmas orders for confectionery, etc., are coming in with a rush. All hands are kept busy in filling them. The advertisement of this firm, which appears in our Xmas number, should be read by all intending purchasers.

The advertisement of Bauld & Gibson in the Christmas number of THE CRITIC should be read by retail dealers throughout the Province. The firm is well and favorably known, both in the city and country, as one that can be relied upon to give satisfaction.

The *Halifax Chronicle* announces, upon what it claims to be good authority, that Sir Charles Tupper is shortly to return to Canada and enter the Government as Minister of Finance. It was admitted by all parties that the retirement of Sir Charles from the Cabinet of Sir John A. McDonald was a loss to the country, and that Nova Scotia would be the chief sufferer thereby. If the assertion of the *Chronicle* prove correct, the fact should be hailed with pleasure by Tories and Grits alike.

Attention is directed to the advertisement of James Dempster & Co., which appears in another column. Venetian blinds, shutters, stair rails, etc., are turned out from this factory in first-class style.

Those who have employed MacDonald & Co., brass founders, can testify that they always perform their work in a creditable and satisfactory manner. The heating apparatus put in by them in the School for the Blind, as well as in other public and private buildings, is little short of perfection.

The Servian successes were of short duration, and were soon followed by unexpected disasters. Prince Alexander and his Bulgarian forces are prepared now to act upon the offensive, but Russia and Austria have warned him that in the event of hostilities being renewed, Bulgaria would be occupied by Russian, and Serbia by Austrian troops.

Mr. Jakoman, V. S., has had a successful tour throughout the Province.

The patent carpet sweeper advertised in our Christmas number by W. & C. Silver, will be a boon to house-keepers. The carpets, oilcloths, etc., sold by this well-known house have a wide reputation for their durability.

The firm of A. Keith & Sons is among the most persistent of advertisers, and as a consequence their business has steadily increased, but advertising would never have paid them had their ale and beer been of inferior quality.

The memoranda upon the Short Line Railway question, which is unavoidably crowded out in this issue, is signed by J. C. Mackintosh, Mayor; W. C. Silver, Chairman Chamber of Commerce; and E. H. Keating, City Engineer. The memoranda sets forth the position taken by Halifax with respect to the Short Line Railway, the action of the Government with respect to it, the relative merits of the Pope and Combination Lines, and the reasons that still lead the signers to believe that the question is not a dead issue.

Journalism loses a devoted and popular adherent in the retirement from the sanctum of Mr. Smith of the *Windsor Courier*.

It is to be regretted that the City Hospital Authorities had not been more prompt in notifying Miss Boutillier of the death of her father, had they done so, they would have saved themselves a great deal of unpleasant criticism. The post mortem examination of Boutillier's remains was made, we presume, in the interests of science, and need not, therefore, be blazed abroad as a criminal act. The Commissioners of Public Charities promptly and thoroughly investigated the whole matter, and it is quite unfair to attempt to fasten any blame upon them.

W. L. Lowell & Co. are doing a large brokerage business in Halifax, and have won an enviable reputation as a first-class, reliable firm.

The annual meeting of the friends and subscribers of the Halifax School for the Blind will take place at the Institution, Morris street, on Saturday, the 12th inst., at 2.30 p. m. A large attendance of members is expected.

The revolutionary party in Spain have been thrown into a state of excitement over the untimely death of the young King Alphonso. The Republicans are organizing in force, and it is probable that the Spanish soil will again be stained with the blood of her opposing sons.

King Thobaw has proved himself more cowardly than was expected. His imperious threats have proved but empty boastings, and his Kingdom now lies at the mercy of Britain. Upper Burmah is the Christmas present made by General Prendergast to the Empress of India.

A white marble monument recently turned out by the firm of Griffin & Keltie, has been placed over the grave of Father Kearns in the cemetery of the Holy Cross.

A large number of orders for copies of our Christmas Number has already been sent in, and it will be advisable for those wishing to secure extra numbers to forward their orders at once.

Wm. H. Vanderbilt, the New York millionaire, dropped dead at his residence on Tuesday. He was 64 years old and died of paralysis of the brain.

The latest report from England about the elections give the Liberals a majority of 72 over the Tories, while the Tories and Parnellites combined have a majority of 10 over the Liberals.

Visitors to Halifax always admire South Park Street, and it is therefore pleasing to note that this handsome street has been extended southward for a distance of three quarters of a mile to the northern boundary of Point Pleasant Park, where, it is intended to place the handsome bronze gates presented by Sir William Young. With such a public approach and handsome entrance, our citizens will have double reason to feel proud of their natural Park.

Considering the importance of the Nova Scotian and West Indian trade, and the necessity existing for direct communication with Jamaica, the proposal to lay a cable from Halifax to Kingston via the Bermuda Isles, is one which meets with general approval.

Ugly rumours still come from the North-West as to the condition and attitude of the Indian tribes. Starving red men seldom stop to reflect upon the consequences that may follow from the depredations. Food they want, and food they must have in some form. Five thousand barrels of flour should be presented to the Indians at Christmas by the Government. It might save trouble, flour is cheaper than gunpowder.

1,265 of the electors of Hamilton are women.

The failure of the Servians to follow up the successes first gained by them is attributed to the wretched state of the Commissariat Department. Britain never had a Commissariat Department worthy of the name, until after the Crimean war.

The meeting of the French Assembly, on the 11th of December, is looked forward to with interest. The election of the President will be the first business disposed of. Should the health of M. de Grevy be sufficiently good, there can be no doubt but that he will be elected to serve a President of the Republic for a second term of seven years.

An Athletic Club has been organized in Dartmouth. They have already commenced preparing grounds on a portion of the common, and it is probable that their first games will be held early next season. Halifax and Dartmouth clubs will then have the great advantage of match practices.

It is reported that four new torpedo boats, each of 1000 horse power, are to be placed in Halifax harbor next summer. This reminds us that a writer in *Harper's* said recently that there are not 100 men in the United States' service who thoroughly understand how to work harbor defences; while the British Government maintains five times that number in Halifax alone.