

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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Those who wish to secure pleasant and profitable reading matter for the winter evenings should note our exceptional offer which appears on page 16. For \$2.50 in cash we undertake to send THE CRITIC to any subscriber for one year, supplying him in addition with seventy-nine of the most readable of readable books. Those who are renewing their subscriptions, as well as new subscribers, should take advantage of this offer.

Mr. Blake arrived at Quebec on Tuesday. It is hoped his health is not so precarious as recently represented.

The annual match of the Provincial Rifle Association will be held at Bedford from the 14th to the 17th instant, inclusive.

All the frequenters of a Montreal Bucket Shop, except one who gave Queen's evidence, were heavily fined the other day by the Police Magistrate.

We have just completed a rearrangement of our mailing books. Any of our subscribers who do not receive THE CRITIC regularly will please notify us by Post Card.

Toronto has conceived and is carrying out, the sensible idea of converting the "Island" into a park. There will be 150 acres eventually, and the work is progressing fast.

Mr. Van Horne has been elected President of the C. P. R. in the room of Sir George Stephen, who goes to England, it is said, to act as Financial Agent of the Company there.

Owing to the rapid increase of American money at Winnipeg, the banks have decided to accept bills at 3 per cent. discount, silver dollars at 95 cents, halves at 45, and quarters at 20.

The first number of the New Glasgow *Enterprise*, published in that lively and rising town by Dennis Bros., is to hand. It gives every promise of the success which we heartily wish it.

The fisheries department has concluded payment of bounty claims to Canadian fishermen numbering over 45,000. Forty thousand checks, involving an expenditure of \$150,000, were issued.

The S.S. *Halifax*, the pioneer boat of the Canada-Atlantic S.S. Co., will arrive here about the end of this month, and will take a large excursion party to Boston during the first week in September.

Wednesday was nomination day for Colchester Co., the candidates being Sir Adams Archibald, Conservative; Mr. Eaton, Liberal; and Mr. Fulton, Prohibitionist. The poll is fixed for Wednesday, the 15th.

Sir George Stephen has resigned the Presidency of the C. P. R., and all sorts of rumors have been set afloat in connection with this circumstance, of which we shall doubtless not know the rights for a few days.

The singular amount of mortality among members of Parliament continues. The deaths are now announced of Mr. Coursol, M.P. for Montreal East, and Mr. J. S. McCuaig, ex-M.P. for Prince Edward, Ont.

A serious riot has occurred at Riviere du Loup between habitants, and thimble-riggers and loose characters, joined by the performers of a circus exhibiting there. One man is said to be fatally wounded and four others slightly.

It is understood a Nova Scotian syndicate has been applying to the Federal Government for a lease of Sable Island. Their scheme includes horse breeding on an extensive scale, there being a large number of horses in a semi wild state on the island.

The Pacific Mail subsidy has been settled. The Imperial Exchequer gives £45,000 and the Dominion £15,000 to a monthly line of steamers between Vancouver and Yokahama, Shanghai and Hong Kong for ten years. The service is expected to begin in about a year.

The City Council of Halifax is still disgracing the city and itself by unseemly squabbles. This august body seems to be utterly wanting in any sense of responsibility to the public, which elects them and pays the taxes. We shall have somewhat to say on this subject shortly.

So far as can be gathered the reports of the trouble with the Skeena (B. C.) Indians were much exaggerated. It will be a great disappointment to a section of the Press if the Government is not let in for another expensive expedition which it might charge to culpable neglect and mismanagement.

The state of that fine corps, the Governor-General's Foot Guards of Ottawa, seems one which calls for a Court of Enquiry. There must be something radically wrong on one side or the other, perhaps on both, where a commanding officer and his subordinates appear to be so utterly at variance.

The malignity of the tail-twisters has reached a pitch of intensity which can no longer restrain itself within any bounds of decency. It shows how deep lay the anticipation that Canada was to perform the ripe plum act, and justify the Monroe doctrine. One Senatorial blatherer howls for a chance of thrashing England "for the third time." All this vulgar insolence is only calculated to arouse the spirit of Canadians, and determine them more strongly than ever to uphold the autonomy of the broad heritage God has given them. There are some indications that pessimism is beginning to play out, and to follow Secession and Commercial Union into the limbo of dishonest cries. The *Amherst Sentinel* (Liberal) had the following in a recent issue. "Notwithstanding the unfavorable political atmosphere, the plague of politicians and potato bugs, we are enjoying abundance of peace and prosperity." The *Pictou News* (also a Liberal sheet) is likewise convinced "that the tide of prosperity has at last turned in favor of Nova Scotia," and comes out with a cheerful and patriotic article worthy of the great country we ought all to be proud of belonging to.

The Hon. Mr. Dewdney is the mark of such a torrent of abuse that we begin to think he must be a really good man and capable administrator.

The mortality statistics for the principal cities of the Dominion for the past year show that Halifax had a death rate of a little over 18 per thousand of the population, compared with 30 per thousand in Montreal, 28 in Quebec, 22 in Ottawa, 19 in Toronto, 21 in St. John and 24 in Winnipeg.

"A Landsman's Log Book." (T. C. Allen & Co., Agents in Halifax, price 50 cents.) by John T. P. Knight, is, to some extent, a reproduction of Sketches and Reports which have at different times appeared in the *Chronicle* and *Herald*, but they are so fresh and pleasant that, even if there were none in the little volume appearing for the first time, they would in their present form be very acceptable. "The Admiral and the Lieutenant," and the "Judge and the Journalist," are especially racy.

The "Pirates of Penzance" was given on Wednesday and Thursday evenings at the Academy of Music by the company of H. M. S. Bellerophon, assisted by a corps of amateurs of Halifax, whose selection does infinite credit to the management of Dr. Meikle. It was very satisfactory to notice the unusually full houses which rewarded the well directed efforts of the company. The efficiency of the management, and the great pains taken by all, were best evinced, as is usually the case, in the thorough drill of the choruses. If the actual solo-singing was not first-rate throughout, it was in every case far above mediocrity. It is almost invidious to particularize, but Prof. Currie as the Pirate King certainly bore the palm among the gentlemen. Mr. Macdonald, Mr. C. E. Stewart, R.N., and Mr. King-Pooley, as Frederick, the Major General, and the Police Sergeant, respectively, were excellent, but the former gentleman scarcely seemed in his best form of voice, tho' there was nothing to find fault with. The galaxy of prettiness which dazzled the eye in the shape of the numerous, but certainly not too numerous, daughters of the Major General, was somewhat calculated to cast a glamor over critical judgment. Mrs. Rose, Miss M. Duffus, and Miss Bligh made a captivating trio as Isabel, Edith and Kate. Miss Josie Schaefer's fine voice and splendid execution no doubt constituted the vocal gem of the evening, but the altogether charming appearance of Mrs. Tobin, as Ruth, the sweet quality of her voice, and her very excellent rendition, entitled her to a full share of the honors. The *tout-ensemble* was in fact more perfect than could have been expected, and the whole troupe have earned the gratitude of the play-goers of Halifax for one of the best entertainments ever put on the boards of the Academy. We could have wished a little more forbearance on the part of the audience in the matter of encores, and we were sorry to notice a development of savagery among the gods in the use of the abominable "cat-calls." Otherwise there was nothing left to desire.

Sunday, July 22nd was the 27th Anniversary of the battle of Bull Run.

Cleveland is 57 years of age, Thurman is 74, Harrison 55, and Morton 64.

There are in the United States 52,207 manufacturers and 17,329,099 farmers.

A syndicate has been formed in Eau Claire, for the purpose of "raising Buffaloes for the sake of their hides."

Over 300 Italians, disgusted at being unable to obtain employment, sailed for home last week from New York.

The decrease in Knights of Labor membership, in the July report, is said to be 50 per cent. in the large assemblies.

Duluth was visited last week by two separate storms of hail, rain and lightning, following each other at a very short interval, the fiercest ever known there. The damage done is estimated at \$150,000.

Two prompt and plucky maiden ladies named Reeves, sisters, shot two burglars on the 30th ultimo, who had entered their dwelling at Dunville, W. Virginia. One was killed at once and the other fell severely wounded.

A lady who lost her bonnet out of the window of a train near Cheyenne the other day, was mad enough to rush to the platform and jump after it. She was picked up senseless, and was supposed to be fatally injured internally.

Senator Morgan's proposition to withdraw the Fishery Treaty from consideration in the Senate, until that body is prepared to consider it on its merits, seems far from being an unreasonable one, under all political circumstances.

Another fool has been jumping from Brooklyn Bridge. If he recovers from the shock he has received, the Bridge authorities very rightly intend to make an example of him. He is liable to a year's imprisonment and \$500 fine, and it is to be hoped the courts will give him both.

The state of the working needle women in New York equals anything suggested by Hood's "Song of the Shirt." It is the old story of grinding tyranny and greed and the brutal callousness of employers of this sort of labor to any amount of misery existing among their employes.

English speaking miners are being driven out of the Lehigh coal region, Pennsylvania, by Hungarians, Italians and other foreigners, who work for half the wages. Nova Scotia coal is excluded for the alleged benefit of the American workman, who is himself driven away by foreigners.

Under the name of John Kenwood, there has just died in the penitentiary in Nashville Tenn., while serving three years for robbery, a man who is credibly stated to have been the younger son of an English nobleman and brother-in-law of a high Canadian official, who throughout his trial spent money like water in the endeavor to save him from punishment. His real name is known only to the governor and will not be divulged.