

OUR HALIFAX LETTER.

An epoch-marking event in the history of the city of Halifax took place last week, when the Imperial troops departed from this station, after having garrisoned it for over 150 years. Canadians are now in possession. There was a certain amount of sentimental regret at seeing the British soldiers depart, but their place has been taken by Canada's soldiers, and everything will probably go on as before. The loss is merely a sentimental one, as the departed garrison never were an integral part of our life, and were on the whole, not a great acquisition to society.

Rumors of the demise of King's College are again current. President Hannah has said that he finds the attempt to resuscitate the institution hard to accomplish, and has thoughts of abandoning the work. At present there are only sixteen students in the college.

Prof. Prince, the Dominion Commissioner of Fisheries, in an article published in the "Maritime Merchant," calls attention to the great damage done to our fisheries in the Maritime Provinces, by the careless way in which lumbering operations are conducted. Sawdust and other debris in the rivers kill the fry of the shad, the gaspereaux, and other fish upon which cod and mackerel feed, and which attract those valuable food fish to our shores. Dams with improperly constructed fishways (or without them altogether), also contribute to deplete the fisheries which are of such enormous value to this Province.

There has been considerable activity in real estate here this autumn. Large tracts of land on Jubilee Road and other portions of the north-western suburbs have been cut up into lots and sold at auction at fair prices, and real estate on the North-West Arm, eligible for summer residences has been changing hands. It is said that the large acreage held and owned by Sir Sanford Fleming will be disposed of before long for building purposes. The Canadian Bank of Commerce has secured for sixty thousand dollars an extremely good site on the corner of George and Granville Streets, and will erect a fine bank building thereon.

It is reported that an Ontario firm contemplates opening a large retail grocery on Barrington Street; and that a departmental store concern from the Upper Provinces is looking for a site here. There is a very large mail order business already done from this city with the Toronto departmental stores.

Work at the Londonderry Iron Mines continues active, and six hundred and fifty men are now at work. About one hundred tons of superior iron is being turned out daily. The ore is being secured at the mines on the spot, and from Torbrook in Annapolis County.

The cattle on the Dominion Experimental Farm at Nappan, N.S., which were found to be infected with tuberculosis are to be given the fresh air treatment, and dieted scientifically. This may seem peculiar, but it is true, and is believed to be the first time this sort of treatment has been applied to tuberculosis in cattle.

The annual report of the Acadia Sugar Refining Company has been issued, and the shareholders are apparently very well satisfied with the showing made, considering the peculiar position of the sugar market since the first of the year. The company had a heavy stock of sugar on hand at the time the last annual report was issued, but they have pretty well reduced this. Including \$5,895.93 brought forward from last year, the net profit, after providing for depreciation, was \$99,452.93. On June 1st an interim dividend of 3 per cent. on the preference shares was paid, and the same is recommended to be paid for the last half year; also a dividend of one per cent. on the ordinary shares.

The Nova Scotia Telephone Company has advised shareholders that it will accept payment in full for the new stock recently issued.

Provincial electric tractions show satisfactory earnings. The earnings of the Egerton Tramway and Cape Breton Electric show a fair improvement over last year. Halifax Tram shows a very small increase. The Gas Department of the Halifax Electric Tramway shows a decrease of earnings of over one thousand dollars. The price charged (two

dollars per thousand net), is, considering the proximity of coal supply, almost prohibitive. A very large quantity of oil is used in Halifax, owing to the high prices charged for gas and electricity.

Halifax, Nova Scotia, 20th November, 1905.

OUR RICH WEST.

A tribute to the richness and the attractive character of Western Canada is paid by Mr. A. E. Kirkpatrick, Canadian manager of the United States Fidelity & Guaranty Company, who has lately returned from a trip throughout Western Canada. He expresses himself as being especially struck with the remarkable growth and development of the West. So much has been said of the vast grain fields of the prairie section of Canada that the average Eastern man is well acquainted with that portion of the country; but, he says, we hear very little of British Columbia, where possibly changes of far greater import than the majority of people imagine, are rapidly taking place. "The country has gone through the various evolutions of a purely lumber country, then was added to this resource that of mining, and that province is now coming rapidly to the front in the most satisfactory of all industries, that of agriculture. In the Okanagan Valley fruit is grown that equals anything that is produced in any other part of Canada, its peaches and grapes comparing favorably with those of California. Cleared land is selling all the way from \$200 to \$400 an acre; and this can be better understood when one realizes that an acre of land in the prairie section will produce about \$25 per annum gross at its best, but an acre of land in the mountain district will produce in apples or peaches an annual gross return of in the neighborhood of \$500. The comparison will readily show what a valuable asset British Columbia has in its agricultural land, and few persons realize the thousands and thousands of acres of valuable property lying in the mountain valleys only awaiting the settler's hand." The company which Mr. Kirkpatrick represents has agencies now established throughout all Canada, and he says, "we are watching with keen interest the development of the business in the West. The principles of guarantee insurance are taken up more rapidly by the Westerners in a new country, than in the East, but a considerable amount of missionary work has to be done to defeat the principles of personal suretyship, which have such a strong hold throughout the whole country."

HALL MINING & SMELTING CO., LIMITED.

The sixth ordinary general meeting of this company was held on 30th October, in London, Lord Ernest Hamilton in the chair. A very hopeful address was delivered by the chairman who stated that "the general tendency of each separate branch of our business is in an upward direction." Looking back a short while, he said their affairs appeared to be in a bad way, "we imagined that we had lost our mine and the smelting business was being run at a loss." But an improvement came; a profit of \$8,000 was shown in 1903-04. We quote from his speech:

"The smelting business during the past year has been quite satisfactory. We have made a profit of over £5,000, as against a profit of £500 last year, and as against a loss in the year before (1903) of £4,300, so that you will see we have made £10,000 more net profit on our smelting business than we did two years ago, and there is no doubt that that is an extremely satisfactory position of affairs. (Hear, hear). This profit we may take as being due chiefly to three things: You will see, in reading the smelting manager's report, that he points out that the smelting profit this year has been made almost entirely owing to excellent metallurgical extractions, which, of course, is extremely to the credit of our smelting manager, and an indication that he has used not only great technical skill in his smelting business, but also extreme care and watchfulness. Our profit is



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