

## NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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It is now over two years since THE CRITIC was established. Its readers have had a good opportunity to judge of the tone, character, enterprise, and worth of the journal, and if they deem its merits are worthy of their continuance and support, we ask their co-operation in still further increasing its circulation. Any subscriber renewing his subscription will, upon forwarding to this office \$2.50, be entitled to two copies of THE CRITIC for the ensuing year, one to be mailed to his own address, the other to any person he may desire. Ask your neighbor to club with you for THE CRITIC when you next renew your subscription; or, if you have a brother, son, or relative, resident in any other part of Canada or the United States, send in your order for two copies, and we will send the absent one THE CRITIC for the next year, post paid.

The Government has decided upon the route of the Cape Breton railway. It will run via the Grand Narrows direct to Sydney with a branch line to North Sydney.

The Montreal city council has resolved to appropriate \$50,000 to establish a superannuation and accident fund for police, firemen and civic employes, payable in five yearly instalments.

Our wage earners are rolling up a handsome sum to their credit in the Government and Post Office Savings Banks. The amount thus far deposited and still remaining at call is \$38,500,000.

It has been decided that the cable between Halifax and the West Indies should be laid from Halifax to Sable Island, thence to the Bermudas, and eventually to Jamaica.

Among those who shook hands with Michael Davitt upon leaving Montreal, was an English pickpocket who served three years with him in Dartmouth jail, and who approached him on the occasion for a character.

The new electric light by which the North St. Depot is illuminated, is a decided improvement, and the travelling public will appreciate it. To arrive after dark at a gloomily lighted depot gives persons a poor idea of Halifax.

The total number of officers and men composing the force on service in the North-West rebellion of 1885, to whom grants of land or scrip were issued, is 5,367, of whom 409 were officers and 4,958 non-commissioned officers and men.

Moncton, which has now 7,000 inhabitants, aspires to be something more than a great railway centre. Her merchants, with an eye to the future, are about establishing a Board of Trade, so as to secure for the young city those commercial advantages to which she is entitled.

The inhabitants of Glenwood are dyking in the inlet known as Goose Bay. Between 300 and 400 acres of excellent land will in the course of a few years be reclaimed. The dyke between Robert's Island and Eelbrook will be broad enough for a waggon road across its top.

The winter service between Prince Edward Island and the mainland will be maintained as usual this winter by the "Northern Light," under the command of Capt. Finlayson. It has not yet been decided as to whether or not the Arctic steamer "Alert" will also be employed in this service.

An enterprising Montreal importer purchased and brought in free of duty as works of art, a number of paintings. These the customs authorities have pronounced as daubs, insisting that duty should be paid upon them. Just who is the art critic in the customs department is not stated.

Westport, Digby Co., has petitioned the Dominion Government to lay a cable between Westport and the mainland. The people of the island are at present without telegraphic communication, and the proposed cable with extensions on land would be of great service to both Westport and Freeport.

The Kentville Chronicle reports that a strange wild animal has several times been seen on the road to Hall's Harbor, crossing the North Mountains. Captain Morris was recently chased by the animal after dark, and being unarmed, sought shelter in a barn round which the animal prowled all night. The animal is supposed to be a huge wildcat or Loup cervier.

The Imperial Institute which is to be founded as a memorial of the jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen, is not likely to be in operation before 1889. Meantime Canadians who have exhibits in the I and C. Exhibition will have them returned at once to Canada, except such as may be forwarded to the Australian Exhibition to be held at Adelaide, South Australia, in 1887.

Mr. Bell, one of the inspectors of the Hudson's Bay Co., has just returned to Montreal after having visited 40 stations upon the North Saskatchewan. He reports a great falling off in the capture of muskrats and estimates that 100,000 of these fur-bearing animals were smothered last spring in the Saskatchewan through the sinking of the ice in the low water. The output this season in all lines will be considerably lower than usual.

Three Canadian millionaires are local preachers in the Methodist church. They are W. E. Sanford, of Hamilton; G. A. Cox of Peterboro; and John Macdonald, of Toronto. Mr. Sanford is a Conservative and a coming Senator; Macdonald is an independent Reformer who very soon tired of Parliamentary life; and Cox is a Reformer who, standing high in the councils of his party, is on the road to a seat in the Dominion House.

Rev. H. Bool has recently imported one of the newly invented Pampengos which is capable of producing dissolving views 10 feet square. Mr. Bool has recently been lecturing upon Temperance, also upon Pilgrim's Progress, illustrating the subjects lectured upon with appropriate pictures. The reverend gentlemen will be in Halifax on the 11th inst., and will remain in the city one week, during which time he will be open to engagements.

The "Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor" in Halifax is a most deserving organization. During the winter months it provides work for able-bodied and industrious men who may be out of employment. The Association assists but never pauperizes its beneficiaries, and the men who accept work under it never lose their self-respect. They do an honest day's work for an honest day's pay. The Association should receive the encouragement of the philanthropic in the community.

The milk dealers of the city and the farmers from the country who supply them are at loggerheads over 1½c. per gallon in the price paid for milk. The dealers complain that competition is making their business unprofitable and demand that the price of a four gallon can of milk shall be reduced from 35 to 30c. The average retail price of a can of milk sold by the quart is not less than 96c., giving the dealers a handsome profit outside of freight charges. Somebody must be making money out of the business or else the consumers are not paying at the rate of 6c. per quart for pure milk.

The want of a hotel of a good class in the north end of Halifax has been long felt. Proximity to the railway station is a great desideratum to travellers leaving by the early trains; while, to people living in the country, a house in which ladies can stay when going to north-end entertainments is a great convenience. This need has been recently supplied by Mr. Priest of the Revere House, the new part of which has been fitted in a style leaving nothing to be desired by passing occupants. The Revere has the advantage of a most kindly and attentive hostess in Mrs. Priest, and the charges are quite moderate.

The North British Society of Halifax celebrated the festival of St. Andrew by a dinner at the Halifax Hotel, on Tuesday evening last. The President, J. A. Turnbull, a Scotchman by birth, discharged his duties as chairman in a most satisfactory manner. The menu included ten courses, which were put on in a manner highly creditable to the Messrs. Hesslein. After the 110 members and their guests present had discussed for two hours the good things provided, a programme of loyal toasts and patriotic songs was gone through with most successfully. The St. Andrew's Societies of St. John, Montreal, and Toronto, celebrated the festival by balls.

Arichat says: The Government have failed to appoint any successor to the late Sheriff Fuller yet, although the appointment has been expected daily ever since the vacancy occurred, the evident intention of the statute being that such vacancies be filled as they take place, otherwise sheriff appointments might be postponed indefinitely. It appears the Government measures the requirements of Richmond by the standard of their own inclinations, for which the county ought to be thankful. It is said one of the representatives is desirous of posing in politics as a sort of "Old to-morrow" as his ambition is to be regarded as a second Sir John A. McDonald. Arichat looks commercially progressive deceptively, on account of the number of vessels that now lie at anchor in the harbor for lack of steady employment. In a few weeks they will lay up until Jack Frost abdicates his icy throne in Nova Scotia, and the music of the organ grinder will again be heard in the land. Political stock has somewhat fallen on account of the belief induced by recent rumors that the Dominion elections will not take place until next September. An American vessel, the A. P. Elliot (?) grounded near the south shore of the harbor on the night of the 27th of November, but by the aid of a few hands she was got clear again without having incurred any visible loss. The temperance organization here is doing good work. The society is largely attended, and still new members come. The meetings are usually both pleasant and instructive, and the society have a commodious well-built hall with appropriate appointments.

The New York Monument fund for General Grant increased one dollar during October.

The old Puritan spirit is still alive in Boston and its influence is now being felt in bringing about the proper observance of the Sabbath. Jews may object to keeping Sunday as the seventh day, but so long as it is the law of the land that Sunday should be observed, they should be obliged to conform to it.

The Sioux and the Crows have had a bloody fight on one of the Dakota reservations. It was a Helen-of-Troy affair, all about a beautiful squaw named Anna, whose charms caused a Crow to seek her hand. In the fight which ensued her tribe was worsted, and the Crows sang the old song, "Siouxanna, don't you cry."

The United States purpose holding an exhibition in London during 1887, for the purpose of encouraging trade between Great Britain and the Republic. The success of the Colindere will make our cousins doubly anxious to have their exhibition first-class in every particular. Next year Londoners by the thousands will be doing the Yankeries.

New Ulm, in Minnesota, is probably the only city on the continent in which German is the official language of the Municipal Council. The Mayor and all the Councilmen are Germans, and all business is transacted in German. However, the German Post, which had been the official organ of the Council for twenty-three years, has just collapsed, and every document will now have to be translated into English for publication in the Review, its successor.