

steel that are turned out in Canada, skate factories, (the only ones in Canada) and biscuit and confectionery factories, brass goods, mining and mill machinery, stores, mantles and grates and a host of other articles, more particularly those entering into the construction of ships, are all manufactured to the point of perfection in the Maritime Provinces, and it is only now,—twenty-two years after confederation—that the upper provinces are beginning to learn how thoroughly equipped for business the Lower Provinces are.

We are in receipt of the prospectus of a branch of the Business Exchange and Ladies' Bureau of Information, established since 1874, in New York, Chicago, St. Louis, and other cities in the United States, and in St. John, N. B., now opened in Halifax, at 85 Hollis Street, with Reception and Consultation Parlors, in connection with their General Business Offices, for all business in which ladies are concerned. A record is kept of the past conduct of all applicants for work, which is open to the inspection of prospective employers. A first class agency of this kind has been long a desideratum in this city, and we have no doubt the establishment will be extensively patronized, as we have equally little doubt it will deserve to be. It includes a Real Estate and Business Chance Department, and a Room Renting Agency. The charges for Membership, which are moderate, can be gathered from the prospectus.

CITY CHIMES.

Visitors to Halifax during Carnival week should beware of pick-pockets, as they will require all their money for other purposes, and it is never satisfactory to get nothing for your money. Counterfeit silver and notes will no doubt be passed off on the unwary by the sort of gentry who deal in it, and a sharp lookout should be kept for it.

The flutter of excitement over the discussion of the Jesuits Estates Act has scarcely been perceptible. A few, very few, persons are interested in its disallowance, but the public take but little interest in the question, and hence the agitation has been fruitless.

The new hotel at Bedford is attracting a large number of visitors; but if the proprietor would consult the needs of many would-be guests he would have dinner served in time to enable people to return to town by the evening train. Mr. Hood knows how to prepare an excellent menu, and when time allows of it, we know how to appreciate the same.

The hotel accommodation in Halifax will shortly be increased. Mr. J. Mahar is about to open the St. Julian hotel, which is to be run on the European plan, that is you pay for what you get, (this is the case in most hotels), and it is certainly sometimes convenient to be able to order a chop or steak, instead of having to wade through a heavy bill of fare.

Everything is now in readiness for the next week's Carnival, and Halifax is prepared to give the incoming visitors a right hearty reception. The week will be given over to fun and frolic, hurry and hospitality, sociability and sight seeing, and in short to a mammoth merry-making.

Before the chief officer of the executive pulls the string and lets down upon our good old city the copious carnival shower we should like the authorities to take over for the week the old penitentiary, for the purpose of shutting up a lot of those pessimistic cranks who seem ever ready to belittle everything undertaken by Halifaxians, and to belaud the enterprise of other people. Let any Halifax man look back for the past few years and recall the enterprises undertaken by his fellow-citizens, and then let him recall the discouragements, set backs and hindrances to success that have been thrown in the way by men with minds no broader than a three-penny piece. If Halifaxians worked together with a will there is no placing a limit to our possibilities; but until we freeze out the cranks we must suffer. Let us, however, incarcerate them during the Carnival week, and so let the optimists, who believe in Halifax, believe in her capabilities, and believe in the enterprise of her citizens, have full swing, and our visitors will go away impressed with the idea that young Halifax, the Halifax of to-day, is wide awake and on the *qui vive* to take advantage of her great opportunities. We say, shut up the cranks.

Two wealthy American gentlemen now in the city have expressed their desire of making Halifax a fashionable resort for tourists. They say that what is required is a large summer hotel, good bathing facilities and less reserve among the elite of the city, with whom it is at present almost impossible to be on familiar social terms. Our Upper Ten should welcome their American cousins more cordially, and surely some way can be found for a gentleman, even though without formal introductions, to find his way into our best society.

Our visitors should not forget to visit the various pretty and interesting places in the vicinity of Halifax next week. The mornings are left comparatively free from public attractions so as to give an opportunity for strangers to drive about and enjoy the scenery. The North West Arm, Point Pleasant Park, Bedford, Dartmouth, Cow Bay and Lawrencetown, are some of the places that should not be missed. Cow Bay and Lawrencetown are almost too far away to be "done" in a morning, but to cross over to the Dartmouth side and drive over the common, from which a magnificent view may be obtained, and a few miles in the vicinity of Dartmouth lakes will well repay anyone for the time and expense.

The children of St. Patrick's Church held their annual picnic at McNab's

Island on Wednesday. It was a very pretty sight to see the procession on the way to the steamer, headed by the band. The girls walked next with their teachers, and lastly the boys and their teachers. They all wore pretty ribbon badges, and the procession was more pretty and interesting than many that are got up for effect alone. Much credit is due to the teachers for the thought and labor they have given to make the picnic a success. The games and races were much enjoyed by all present.

The Grayson Opera Company have been playing to fairly good houses all this week, and their performances are excellent. The Toronto cricketers were present by invitation on Wednesday evening.

The cricket match between the Toronto Club and Garrison resulted in a victory for the former, which, of course, is satisfactory for them and cheering after their defeat by the Wanderers.

The badges worn by the representatives of the press will be distinctive and pretty. What we would impress upon all is the fact that upon the reception of those representatives must largely depend the success of future carnivals. Let our citizens bear this fact in mind, and by courteous attentions and kindly acts show the quill-drivers that Halifaxians appreciate intellectual as well as physical muscle.

One of the most interesting events of next week will be the harbor illumination and procession of boats, which takes place on Wednesday evening. Her Majesty's ships of war will be illuminated and all along the water front, there will be a display of fireworks and bonfires. Dartmouth will also assist in this, Mr. J. F. Stairs has promised a bonfire on the common and Mr. G. J. Troop will give one on his property in the Cove. The steamer *Dartmouth* with band will make the excursion on the Harbor on this night and no better place could be found from which to see all around than the promenade deck of this steamer.

The excursion on the harbor by the *S. S. Halifax* on Tuesday evening was attended by about 200 people. St. Patrick's band furnished music, and the trip was much enjoyed. If it had not been postponed from Monday evening, owing to rain, the attendance would have been much larger.

COMMERCIAL.

There is but little new to report respecting the state of trade. The "Carnival" has attracted a large number of visitors who are buying freely, but it is doubtful if their purchases have been, so far, much beyond their actual requirements.

Payments have continued to be quite up to expectations on the average, and a healthy tone pervades the financial market. Of course some debtors ask for renewals, but in general country notes are more than fairly well met.

The present is, however, the "between" season and no large volume of trade is expected. Traders, like other people, are now "on pleasure-bent." The "horny-handed sons of toil"—a patent name for farmers and their assistants—are engaged in work too deeply to pay much attention to selling or buying. Practically impecunious clerks, school boys and girls, and others are now enjoying (?) their vacations. Merchants are also participating in the "lazy season" with their wives and families. The natural result is that the volume of business actually transacted is small. The indications for a large and profitable business being accomplished during the late summer and the fall are excellent.

The following are the Assignments and Business Changes in this Province during the past week:—Vooght Bros., North Sydney, burnt out; Carribean Co. (not incor.) W. I. goods, Granville Ferry, burnt out; Wallace Bohaker, carriages, Granville Ferry, burnt out; A. D. Messenger, blacksmith, Granville Ferry, burnt out; Jeffrey M. LeBlanc, genl. store, Arichat, stock advertised for sale by tender; Thomas & Co. (Est. of) hats and caps, Halifax, stock advertised for sale.

	Week		Weeks corresponding to			Failures for the year to date.			
	July 26, week	1889	1888	1887	1886	1889	1888	1887	1886
United States.....	221	170	217	163	162	6646	5911	5704	6133
Canada.....	29	16	40	17	22	954	1009	725	717

DRY GOODS.—Although this is naturally one of the quietest seasons of the year a fair amount of orders for fall goods is reported, at generally very steady prices for both cotton and woollen fabrics. Retailers are doing a brisk business in light and fancy goods, and they appear well satisfied with the condition of affairs. Prices generally are higher than they were a year ago, owing to the advance in the values of raw materials, which have been firmly held. The cotton and wool crops of this fall promise well, and the large yield expected—though it will be marketed too late to affect figures this year—cannot fail to depress those of 1890.

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—The improved feeling in pig iron on the other side has made itself felt here, where prices have advanced 25c. to 50c. per ton. Warrants in Glasgow are up to 45s. 6d. Wrought scrap iron is in demand at 64s c. i. f. Montreal. Rails, 71s., Montreal spot cash. Ingot tin and copper are unchanged. General hardware is quiet, as is usual at this season of the year, but remittances show a slight improvement.

BREADSTUFFS.—No new feature has developed in flour. The demand has fallen off considerably during the past week, owing to the fact that buyers generally have filled up their wants for the present and, in the face of a promised very heavy crop throughout the world, with consequent probable low prices during the coming year, they are averse to further stocking up. The local market has, in consequence, been quiet but firm, and prices are