

## 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 15. For \$2.50 in cash we undertake to send THE CRITIC to a 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.

**We learn that many of our subscribers are awaiting a visit from an Agent for THE CRITIC to pay their subscriptions. This course may entail considerable delay, and we would request those who may be thus in suspense to remit the amounts due by Registered letter or Post Office Order. This only involves an expenditure of 2 (two) cents, and the money is transmitted at our risk. Any amount under \$1.00 may be remitted in Postage Stamps.**

An oatmeal factory is talked of for Pictou.

Dickey's exact majority in Cumberland is 1,057.

The public schools of Amherst have been closed owing to the prevalence of scarlet fever.

Hon. Mr. Chapleau's health is improving under the treatment of Dr. Guyon, of Paris.

The Independent Order of Foresters will apply next session of Parliament for incorporation.

The members of the Gold Miners' Club dined together at the Halifax Hotel Wednesday evening.

The Canada Meat Packing Company, Montreal, is building a factory in that city at a cost of \$18,000.

The gross earnings of the C. P. R. during the past year are estimated at \$14,000,000—net \$4,000,000.

Merchants all over say that this has been the busiest Christmas season for years, and trade has been very brisk.

The schooner *Carolina* has arrived at Bridgewater with 350 tons steel rails for the Nova Scotia Central Railway.

The *Gripsack* for January will contain a portrait and sketch of Joe Edwards, the popular W. & A. R. Conductor.

The Cotton mill at Kingston, Ontario, has orders enough to keep running till next July. Orders from China had to be refused.

The French Government threatens to drive all English settlers away from that portion of Newfoundland on which France has treaty rights.

Farmers living near the boundary in Manitoba, are petitioning the government to allow them to grind their wheat in American mills.

Mount Albion graduates will in future be admitted to all medical schools in the United Kingdom without having any preliminary examination.

The steam tug *Lillie* has been chartered to carry the mails and freight between St. John, Digby and Annapolis, until some other arrangement is made.

Recruiting for the Mounted Police will commence in the Eastern Provinces next March and April, when about one hundred vacancies will occur in the force.

We are in receipt of the *Canadian Voice*, a new prohibition weekly organ published in Halifax, which is doubtless of interest to persons of extreme views.

A special enquiry into the origin of the late Dorchester fire confirms the opinion that it was ignited by a pipe laid by the late deputy warden on a window sill before retiring.

The militia authorities are about taking action to compel the City of Winnipeg to pay cash for calling out the militia to preserve peace during the recent crossings trouble.

The Pictou Boot and Shoe Company promises to be a successful enterprise, nearly all the stock has been subscribed and the directors are taking active steps to promote the scheme.

The plaster trade of Hants County has been larger the past season than for some years, amounting to 124,500 tons, and which, but for the extremely wet summer, would have been much larger.

The *Stanley* is now running regularly between Pictou and P. E. I., and the transfer of the large quantities of freight she brings over furnishes employment to a great number of hands.

The *Echo* was right in stating that Hugh McD. Henry was President of the Barristers' Society, he having been elected to that honorable position last September, succeeding Mr. Harrington.

The Post Office Department has made proposals to the Government of the Leeward Islands, West Indies, for the direct interchange of money orders between Canada and the islands mentioned.

The police magistrate at Toronto recently convicted a faith cure doctor for practising in that city, but his conviction was quashed by the Court of Common Pleas, who held that healing or professing to heal by Christian science is not an offence against the medical act.

The postmaster general's report for the last fiscal year shows an increase in the postal revenue of \$150,000. The annual postal travel in Canada is estimated at nearly 25,000,000 of miles, an increase of 56,000 during the year. Eighty million letters and 16,000,000 postal cards passed through the Canadian mails during the year.

The New Brunswick Local Legislature will meet on Thursday, March 7th.

Mr. A. W. Colter has been unanimously re-nominated by the Liberal convention in Haldimand. The contest between him and Dr. Montague will be a keen one, with the chances about even.

In Ottawa the franking privilege has been so sadly abused in the departments that the Government has been compelled to forbid the carriage free through the mails of the private freight of the officials.

Sixty-one thousand cattle and forty-six thousand sheep have been exported from the St. Lawrence ports the past season. There is a slight decrease in the former, but thirty per cent increase in the latter, compared with last year.

The Deputy Minister of Marine denies the story which has been circulated to the effect that the Government proposes subsidizing the seal fisheries in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Nothing whatever is known of the proposal in the department.

The *Presbyterian Witness* draws attention to the presence in Nova Scotia of a number of Mormon propagandists and pervers, who have, it is said, "churches" in Hants and Kings counties. Some steps ought to be taken to stamp out this abomination.

Complaint is made that the arms supplied to the Canadian militia by the Dominion Government are purchased from Wilkinson & Son, the same firm that furnished the rifles and swords which the British troops found almost worthless during the recent fight at Suakim.

As soon as snow comes, and the swamps freeze up, the lumber camps of N. S. will be full. Between Stewiacke and Riversdale there will be about 400 men, between Musquodoboit and Sheet Harbor about 1,000 men, and about the same number between DeBert and Economy.

On Tuesday of last week Chas. Borden, the man who suffered imprisonment for incendiarism in Digby, died suddenly at Digby. He had been living in St. John, but recently returned to Digby and opened a grocery shop. He was seized with an apoplectic fit at noon and died that night.

We have to acknowledge, with thanks, handsome and useful calendars of the Guardian Fire and Life Assurance Company (Thompson & Devlin, agents in Halifax), and the Western Fire and Marine Assurance Co. (Geo. M. Greer, Esq., for the Fire Branch, and J. F. Kenny, Esq., for the Marine Branch, agents in Halifax.)

A very ugly case of imprisoning a young girl in the "Good Shepherd" Convent reformatory at Montreal, for three years for no offence whatever, but apparently by conspiracy, was before Chief Justice Dorion on the 13th ult. The Chief Justice stigmatized the case as "atrocious," but nothing is said of bringing the kidnappers to justice.

The "Jay Hunt and John S. Moulton Dramatic Company" will open at the Academy of Music on Monday evening next. The company is highly spoken of, and its members are said to work well together. "My Beside Girl" is the piece for Monday evening. It is to be followed by several other popular pieces, which will occupy the whole of the week.

The steamship *Yarmouth* made her last trip to Boston on Wednesday the 26th ult., and the *Dominion* her first trip to the same port on Saturday the 29th. The former is to lay up to paint and refit for the spring business. The *Dominion* has been re-classed for four years in the record A 1½ † under special survey, and put in first class order for the winter service.

Mr. John Lowe, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, who has just returned from a trip to Manitoba, estimates that about 25 per cent. of the wheat crop was touched by frost, but notwithstanding this the farmers have done remarkably well, and notes for agricultural implements have been more promptly met than ever known before, fully 90 per cent. of such notes being retired.

The Dartmouth reading room was opened on New Year's Day, and is well supplied with all the leading periodicals and newspapers. The room is large, and comfortably heated by a base-burner; the walls are nicely decorated, and the floor stained. The ladies of the W. C. T. U. have a coffee room in connection with the reading room, where cold and hungry mortals may procure refreshment at any time.

The Local Government has decided to open schools for the purpose of helping those employed in the coal fields of the province to become competent as over-men or underground managers. The following are the teachers to be employed:—James Baird, Maccan; Robt. Redpath, Springhill Mines; A. D. McKenzie, Thorburn, Pictou; Robert Robson, Sydney; Robert Anderson, Gourie; John Weir, Victoria; Hugh Campbell, Bridgeport.

A collision occurred on the Intercolonial Railway at Maccan Station, on New Year's Day. The special had just arrived, and had nearly come to a standstill, when the regular freight dashed in from the opposite direction. A sharp curve hid the two trains from view. Both engines crashed together and are badly damaged, as well as about a dozen cars. The train men concerned have been suspended. The express from Halifax was due, but passed on the siding and was not delayed.

Halifax has often been timed a "sleepy" city, but it is evident that Hattie & Mylius do not concur in this opinion, for in the future they are going to keep the "Acadia" Drug Store open all night. We have taken pleasure during the past year in noting the several progressive movements made by this live firm, but this step we consider especially merits commendation, as it gives to the people of Halifax advantages enjoyed only by those living in the larger cities of the United States, and shows clearly that H. & M. are imbued with nineteenth century ideas of business.

Cure Rousselot, of St. James Catholic church, one of the wealthiest and most important in Montreal, in a recent sermon urged his flock to continue