

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Subscribers remitting Money, either direct to the office, or through Agents, will find a receipt for the amount inclosed in their next paper. All remittances should be made payable to A. M. Fraser.

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 any subscriber for one year, supplying him in addition with ninety-seven of the most readable of readable books. Those who are renewing their subscriptions, as well as new subscribers, should take advantage of this offer.

Moose are said to be unusually abundant in some sections of the country this season.

The population of Vancouver, British Columbia, not three years old, is estimated at 11,000.

Messrs. Churchill, of Hantsport, are building a steamer which they purpose putting on the route between Boston and Shelburne.

The people of Fredericton, N. B., do not want the assessment increased to provide for electric lighting, having voted against it by 342 to 126.

Toronto has a bountiful supply of the beautiful, and sleighs have been substituted for the ordinary cars of the Street Railway Company.

The lumbermen on the head waters of the Miramichi report four feet of snow in the woods, with a heavy crust, which they have to shovel through.

Vancouver, British Columbia, is now united with this side of the continent by the C. P. R. telegraph system, which is in operation as far as St. John.

We are indebted to Messrs. A. Keith & Sons for a calendar in the best taste, adorned with one of those artistic groups of dogs, of which we saw the first last year.

The Scott Act has become very unpopular in many places where it has been in operation, and the Department of State at Ottawa is besieged with petitions for its repeal.

A night school has been organized in Springhill by Mr. Robert Redpath, the mining instructor appointed by the Provincial Government. There are fifteen pupils in attendance.

There is to be a complimentary benefit concert to Miss Josie Schaefer in Orpheus Hall on the 12th inst., when no doubt the many friends of this popular singer will turn out in force.

The Steamer Esme, from London to Annapolis, has been wrecked on Barrington Head. The crew are understood to have been saved. She was going to load fruit for the London market.

The New Glasgow Enterprise says that "there is no more popular man in New Glasgow than H. F. Sutherland, who has been elected Mayor by acclamation. We congratulate our friend."

Hon. T. W. Anglin, of Toronto, will deliver an address in St. John next month on the Irish question. The proceeds will be devoted to the Parnell Defence Fund, which now reaches the sum of \$152,500.

On Saturday last the property of the Nova Scotia Telephone Company in New Brunswick was formally transferred to the New Brunswick Company, and will hereafter be managed by them. A. A. Knudson is electrician for the company.

A meeting was held in Argyle Hall on Tuesday evening, for the purpose of diffusing information as to the position and prospects of the Church of England Institute. Bishop Courtney occupied the chair. The meeting was well attended.

The Dominion Parliamentary Library has received several valuable additions during the past year. The printing of the American-Canadian catalogue is delayed until the work can be performed by the Government printing bureau.

Dr. D. H. Muir has been elected Mayor of Truro, by a majority of 235 votes over Dr. Bent. Mr. McKenzie has been elected Mayor of Sydney over Dr. McKay McLeod. Mr. Fred. Scarfe has been elected Mayor of Dartmouth without opposition.

Moncton's new electric light street service was put in operation for the first time on February 1st, and worked in a very satisfactory manner. The company have 95 arc lights on their circuits, and intend introducing the incandescent light as soon as possible.

R. E. Bossiere, of the French steamship line running between Canada and France, has arrived at Ottawa from Havre, to secure a renewal of his contract with the Dominion Government. Bossiere is prepared to improve the service by putting on a faster steamship.

The Carnival number of the Montreal Witness did not reach us in time to be noticed in our issue of last week. It is well illustrated and filled with interesting reading matter about Canada, which is calculated to remove the idea that this is a land of perpetual frost and snow.

The Montreal Carnival has been in full swing this week. The Governor General formally opened the ice palace, which is a beautiful structure one hundred feet in height, on Monday. A number of Halifax pleasure-seekers are in Montreal enjoying the festivities of this gay week.

The Ferry steamer *Mic-Mac* has been undergoing repairs for some weeks, and is to have new boilers. It is understood that she will not be finished and ready for service again until April or May. Meantime the *Dartmouth* plies between the city and the town on the other side of the harbor.

Owing to the mildness of the weather, the Curling Bonspiel which was to have taken place on Wednesday had to be postponed. The citizens generally sympathize with the curlers in their disappointment, but of course we do not control the weather and are not responsible for its vagaries.

The introduction of the water system in New Glasgow has wrought a great change in the fire department. Three new fire stations have been built and well equipped with all the necessary appliances. The strength of the department now numbers in all 57 men. During the past year \$1405.63 was expended in improvements.

An order in Council has been passed on the recommendation of Mr. Dewdney, Minister of the Interior, cancelling twenty-five more ranch or grazing leases, comprising an area of 360,000 acres, on account of neglect to comply with the conditions on which they were granted. Another set of monopolies has thus been upset.

The sub committee of the Inundation Committee of Montreal, reported last Friday in favor of a scheme for improving the Harbor of Montreal at a cost of \$3,000,000, about \$1,000,000 to be paid by the city and the rest by the harbor, Government railways, and other parties interested. The question is to be submitted to a popular vote.

All are pleased to learn that the Government has decided to grant the genial and accomodating ex-collector of this port, Hon. W. Ross, a retiring pension of \$1,500 per year. However opinions may differ as to the policy of requesting his resignation, the consensus of public opinion is that he was a faithful and good officer, who deserves well of Canada.

An appeal with which we entirely sympathize has recently been made through the columns of a contemporary in the matter of cutting down the trees at Willow Park. It can, perhaps, hardly be called an appeal for those particular trees, as the vandalism is already perpetrated; but the correspondent justly points out that it would take fifty years to restore the locality to anything like its former degree of picturesqueness.

Mayor Erratt, of Ottawa, is giving the members of the swell club who blackballed him lately a lesson that they will not soon forget. The mayor is a large furniture dealer, and those members of the club whose names are on his books have had summonses served on them. The mayor says he will show no mercy to any of them, that men who can pay club fees and have club dinners should be able to pay their debts.

The Quebec Government seems to have quietly abandoned the attempt to secure the Megantic murderer. This episode has been one of the strangest, and at the same time the most disreputable, that has ever discredited a civilized community—a criminal, and his apparently numerous friends, coolly setting at defiance the machinery of the law of a great province. We believe this disgrace to have been entirely a question of votes.

Truro is trying to keep up with the times. The rate-payers are asked this year to consider the advisability of erecting an academic building for the higher departments of the school at a cost of \$10,000, a town hall and firewards building with site included at a cost of \$5,000, making improvements in the water system to the tune of \$11,000, and to vote \$900 for the payment of bills for other improvements during the past year.

The school board recently instructed teachers that they were not to detain pupils in the school-room during any recess or dinner-hour for any cause whatever. This is a move in the right direction, and if all the teachers in the Province had similar instructions it would be of great benefit to the pupils. It is a positive cruelty to keep children sitting still for a long time, but in the past it has been a frequent mode of punishment.

A society has been formed in Hamilton, Ont., called "The Church of England Defence Association of the Diocese of Niagara." It has been formed for the purpose of opposing the ritualistic tendencies of the Bishop of Hamilton, who has aroused the indignation of many of the people by burning candles about the coffin of a late member of the church, and in many other respects running contrary to the expressed wishes of the people.

"On Saturday evening, * * *, a well known mechanic, went to his home, and after tea went out and bought a copy of the Recorder. After his return, while reading, he complained of a pain in his chest. About 9.30 he retired, and shortly afterwards asked for the doctor and priest. His request was complied with, but before midnight he had expired." The above is from the Recorder's own columns, or we should not have felt justified in re-producing it. We had not the least idea that the perusal of our contemporary was of such instantaneous and deadly effect.

The Second Subscription Chamber Music Concert of the Beethoven Trio, on Thursday, January 31st, at Orpheus Hall, was thoroughly enjoyed by the large and appreciative audience present. The opening trio by Raff-Opus 102, Mr. C. H. Porter, pianist; Herr Klingensfeld, violinist; and Herr Mahr, violincellist; was beautifully rendered. The rich tone of the instruments blended most harmoniously. Each movement was brilliantly and almost faultlessly executed, and met with well deserved applause. Miss Louise Laine followed with three songs—"Lungi dal caro bene," by Sigr. Sarti; "Faithfulness" by Brahms; and "Solvey's Song," by Greig. Each number was warmly applauded, and Miss Laine with her rich well-cultivated soprano voice and clear enunciation, is certainly a great acquisition to the musical talent of Halifax. Herr Klingensfeld's violin solo, "Spanish Dances," by Sarasata, in which he was accompanied on the piano by Herr Mahr, displayed to advantage his wonderful mastery of technique. The performance was, however, somewhat marred by the Herr evidently forgetting the music in the midst of one of the most difficult passages. He quickly recovered himself by a glance at the score, and concluded amid a turore of applause which did not subside until he had responded with an encore. "Dream Singing," music by C. H. Porter, words by Miss Havergal, was charmingly sung by Miss Laine, the audience insisting on an encore. Mr. Porter has secured another decided triumph as a composer with this song. The concluding Trio by Rubinstein, Opus 15, No. 2—was played in a masterly manner, and brought to a close an evening that was a rare treat to all those who were fortunate enough to be present.