

CITY CHIMES.

A very creditable oil painting of Halifax from Green Bank, Point Pleasant, has been on exhibition for some days past in the window of A. Stephen & Son's warerooms, Barrington Street. The picture is the work of Miss Cassio Murray, and shows evidence of careful work, being very true to nature. It is large sized and makes a very pretty view.

The weather this spring has been so cold, almost severe, that it has astonished the oldest inhabitant. The first of June usually sees the foliage well advanced, if not fully developed, on our trees, but this year it is probable that they will not look like summer until the middle of the month. Talk about our climate changing! Why winter and summer seem to be getting so mixed up that soon we shall not be able to tell the other from which unless the good old times come back when we used to have snow banks in the winter, and warm, not to say hot, weather in the summer.

The annual meeting of the Protestant Industrial School was held on Saturday last, S. M. Brookfield being in the chair. From the reports of the Board of Directors and the Superintendent we gather that the school is now to be opened to the youth of the Province, that twenty-nine boys are now in attendance, that the boys are receiving a good industrial training and last, but not least, that more money is required to keep the school up to its present state of efficiency. The work of the school was commended in excellent speeches given by Dr. Maurey, Hon. W. S. Fielding, W. J. Stairs, Rev. Mr. Strothard, C. H. Cahan, J. C. Mackintosh, Geo. E. Boak and others. The Superintendent gave some interesting statistics in respect to the present occupation of those who had passed through the school. After the meeting had adjourned Mrs. Norman, the genial matron, refreshed the visitors with tea, coffee, etc. Halifax should rally round this institution and see to it that its work is not hampered from lack of funds.

Mrs. Burnett's beautiful story, "Little Lord Fauntleroy," is being performed at the Lyceum Theatre. The first performance took place last night. This afternoon and evening will conclude the engagement.

The old Police and Watch Station in the basement of the old city building is now closed up, and its gloomy cells will no longer shelter the homeless wanderer or detain the criminal within them. It is not to be regretted that a change has been made and the dismal place forsaken for the new City Hall. It is to be hoped, however, that Water Street will not become noisy and rowdy owing to the removal of that preservative of law and order, the Police Station.

The Warships *Bellerophon*, *Comus*, *Canada*, *Partridge* and *Buzzard* arrived at Halifax last Monday morning from Bermuda. Halifax people always welcome the arrival of the fleet, and are ever ready to make it pleasant for their naval friends. The French warship *Bisson* also arrived on Monday evening from St. Thomas. She leaves in a few days for Newfoundland.

Much interest is felt among temperance workers in the coming visit of Miss Frances E. Willard, President of the World's W. C. T. U., and of the National W. C. T. U. of the United States. This talented lady has been speaking in the principal cities of Canada, and will doubtless draw a large audience in Halifax.

A bazaar is to be held in September by the ladies of the Seamen's Friend Society for the benefit of the building fund of the Sailors' Home. A concert is also in preparation to take place during the summer for the purpose of purchasing a piano for the home.

The Zeffie Tilbury Company is occupying the Academy this week and attracting very large audiences. Miss Tilbury is a clever actress and her manner is winning and impressive. The other members of the Company are well up to the average, and give Miss Tilbury able support. The "Silver King," which was given on the first four evenings of the week, is a play full of striking instances, which are well calculated to make it exceedingly popular. This and to-morrow evenings "Peg Woffington" will be produced, while for the first four evenings of next week the "Lights of London" will be put on by the same Company.

The doll show held in the Church of England Institute this week is a novel and interesting exhibition. Much taste and ingenuity is shown in the dressing and grouping of the dolls, some of the more noticeable being Queen Elizabeth, Berengaria, Bubbles, a copy of Millais' picture, Aaron, the high priest, Hamlet, the Three Little Maids from School, Tea and Tennis, besides many others too numerous to mention. Delicious tea and coffee was served by the ladies, and a candy table loaded with tempting sweets, seemed to be doing a good business. We trust that a large sum of money has been realized in aid of the new Hospital.

COMMERCIAL.

The general wholesale trade has not developed any markedly new features since our last review, but on the whole some hopeful symptoms are apparent, and taken all in all prospects indicate a turn for the better, though in a quiet way. More orders for iron are coming in, and leather is picking up with all appearances of continued activity. There is no special call for mention in other lines. According to some payments do not show any great

improvement, but all anticipate better things as this month progresses. While it is evident that no country merchant will take more than he actually wants, still these wants are expanding with a consequent accession to business.

Quite a flurry was occasioned in commercial and financial circles here by the announcement that a gentleman, who, it is alleged, represents an English syndicate which had already secured the option of buying the Montreal, St. John and Moncton sugar refineries, was endeavoring to also bond the Nova Scotia refinery in this city. It is understood that the terms—which at the present writing are kept secret—offered were so favorable that a large majority of the stockholders hastened to sign the agreement. In consequence a big boom in the value of the stock of this company has taken place, and it is said that the shares—par value \$500, which cost the original holders only \$250 each—are now held at \$1250, but we have not heard of any actual transactions at that figure. While we hope that the expectations of our citizens will be realized, we are not unmindful of the fact that in the past these gigantic combines have always brought disaster to those who took part in them. Dozens of instances might be adduced to prove the truth of this assertion, from George Lowe's South Sea Bubble to the Credit Foncier, and, though we sincerely hope that the present syndicate may be more fortunate than its predecessors, we can see no good reason to expect that it will be the single exception to the universal rule. The first object of the syndicate will be, if it secures the general control at which it aims, to reduce the price of the raw material. This must force many producers to abandon the cultivation of sugar-yielding plants, which will in time enable the operators to advance their figures for the refined articles, by which process both the cultivators and the consumers will be robbed and put in a worse position than they now occupy.

Regarding the McKinlay Bill, which passed the U. S. House of Representatives two or three weeks ago, a New York firm writes:—"We think it will pass the Senate when it is called up, although, perhaps, with some modification. However, it is a question whether the egg duty will be modified or not, and we are of opinion that that part of the bill will pass as it is. But another question is as to how long it will be before it goes into effect after passing the Senate. Opinions differ, but we think that the bill will not go in force for at least 90 days afterwards. One reason we have for believing that it will pass the Senate is the fact that the Republicans have the majority."

Bradstreet's report of the week's failures:—

	Week May 30.	Prev. 1890	Weeks 1890	Weeks 1888	Weeks 1887	Failures for the year to date.
	1890	1890	1889	1888	1887	1890 1889 1888 1887
United States	140	186	735	123	110	4767 5044 4511 4514
Canada	12	28	18	28	19	780 771 800 556

DRY GOODS.—A somewhat better feeling prevailed in this branch of trade, but there is nothing marked one way or the other. As it is now entering the "between-season" the wholesale trade is expected to be quiet for some time to come. Still the reasonable weather has called out a little wider movement in a sorting way and matters show more activity. Samples of fall woollen dress fabrics have been shown, but as yet few orders have been booked for them. Cotton goods remain firm under a fair enquiry, and are likely to continue to do so in view of the strong tone of the market for the manufactured article. The city retail business has within the past few days shown some improvement.

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—While no very great change is noticeable it is worth while to remark that a firmer feeling prevails in this market. Buyers are beginning to discover that they need material, consequently they are coming in, and most people in the line admit that the position at the sources of supply is as low as it is likely to be. Action is, therefore, in accordance with this conviction, and our home houses are beginning to experience a little more trade. Pig and bar iron for future delivery have been sold in fair lots during the week. A quiet, steady trade has been going on. No change in prices can be noted, and it is thought that figures are likely to remain as they are for the present.

BREADSTUFFS.—Flour meets with a generally fair local jobbing enquiry and that is all. Prices are firm as a rule and we hear of no change. If there are periods of depression and losses in the flour and wheat business there are also times of activity, animation and profits. Since our last report certain Duluth, Manitoba and Montreal speculators have made handsome gains on lots that they held for several months subject to a favorable change. The real scarcity of wheat in Canada and the decreased supplies in the United States appear to exert very little influence on the English markets, which have recently held a tendency to lower figures, as stocks have increased and the demand has fallen off. Advices from England show that farmers in the United Kingdom continue to deliver wheat at an almost unprecedented rate, which can only be explained on the ground that there is more wheat in their hands than was generally surmised. The free deliveries of British farmers and increased shipments from Russia and India have more than counterbalanced the decreased shipments from this side, and have caused values to decline in both Liverpool and London. Late mail advices from the European Continent state that importers are much discouraged at the unsatisfactory demand for wheat, as supplies are very large and accumulating, while sales of flour continue to be made on a basis which is very unremunerative to both shippers and importers. Berbohm's cable reports as follows:—"Nothing is doing in either wheat or corn. Reserved supplies of British wheat are pouring into the market and glutting it, so importers find it very difficult to place their receipts. French country markets continue steady. In New York wheat declined 1½c. to 2½c. At all the grain centres in the west wheat similarly declined in value."

PROVISIONS.—The local provision markets continue without change, the trade in pork being confined to the jobbing branch with almost nothing doing in that. Quotations may, therefore, be looked upon as being, to a large extent, only nominal. There were no changes at Liverpool, G.B., in