

CITY CHIMES.

CAMPING OUT.—The season for camping out is at its best just now, and goodly number of Halifaxians and Dartmouthians have forsaken their comfortable homes and gone into camp. The shores of the First Lake, Dartmouth, is a favorite tenting ground, although the Arm or Stevens' Island are preferred by some. It is great fun undoubtedly, and if one can become sufficiently enthused with the novelties of the situation and the delights of "roughing it" to overlook such trifles as hard beds, the attention of the seemingly ubiquitous mosquito and such like, there is no doubt of a week or so in camp proving most enjoyable. Given a merry and congenial party, a suitable spot upon which to pitch the tents, agreeable chaperones, plenty of good things to eat, an abundance of pleasant reading, with rowing, sailing, fishing, tramping, and perhaps once in a while a few mild flirtations as recreations, it stands uncontradicted and uncontradictable that camping out is a decidedly pleasant way in which to spend a short vacation.

THE CHILDREN'S RED LETTER DAYS.—Probably if the average attendance of the Sunday Schools of our city during this month was computed it would be found to be exceptionally large. It is picnic season, and the young folks are having a good time. Almost every day for the past two or three weeks some one or more of the city churches have given their little folks an outing. Hesterman's grounds across the Arm, Gray's at Prince's Lodge and Donaldson's at Birch Cove have been the favorite resorts, lovely places each one, and fully enjoyed by the boys and girls as well as by their elders. Halifax is simply surrounded with delightful spots for the enjoyment of a day's outing.

MY COUNTRY, 'TIS OF THEE.—This week the various transportation companies have brought from Boston hundreds of passengers. A large number of these of course were Nova Scotians who have been trying their fortunes in the renowned "States," but who when the summer sun beats upon the land of the stars and stripes gladly take ship for the cool shores of their own province, but a still larger number were Americans seeking rest and refreshment from the heat, the bustle and rushing confusion of Boston and thereabout. Some of these have been in Nova Scotia in other summers, and having found by experience that our summer climate is not to be excelled, and that the attractions of Nova Scotia's scenery and the hospitality of her people are not to be equaled, have come again bringing others with them. They are welcome one and all. We like to see them through our streets, we enjoy their enjoyment of our perfect weather, and note with interest their pleasure in the beauties of our city and province. I met this week a lady from Boston who had come to Halifax via Yarmouth, and who was so charmed with the magnificence of the scenery in the country through which she passed that she had written home to her husband and her lady friends that they must leave no stone unturned in their efforts to visit Nova Scotia this summer. We have the country, the weather and the numerous interesting attractions that Americans desire when they go in search of pleasure and relief from the unbearable heat of their cities, and we should within a very short time be able to offer them better hotel accommodations, a feature in which we have in the past been sadly remiss. Meanwhile let Nova Scotians at home and abroad speak well for their home land, and never neglect an opportunity to truthfully sound its praises.

LABOR DAY—The sun shone its very brightest upon the throngs of holiday-takers on Tuesday, labor day, and it seemed that a more perfect July day could hardly have been imagined, certainly a finer could not have been realized. The chief excitement of the morning was the labor day parade. Before the cocks had chimed eight crowds of men, women and children in holiday attire were gathered on the north common, where the procession was to form, and as time went on the scene became decidedly interesting. About nine thirty, everything being in readiness, the start was made, and, followed by hundreds of people, the knights of labor paraded the principal streets of the city. On the whole it was a very creditable turnout, although the demonstration was not nearly on so large a scale as that of last year. The men were well dressed and apparently enjoyed the novelty of the affair. After the route of march had been gone over a goodly number took passage for the picnic grounds at McNab's Island. In the afternoon the races and in the evening the gardens concert were the chief attractions.

THE GARDENS.—Never did the gardens look prettier than on Tuesday evening, and the cool evening, laden with the perfume of hosts of flowers, was enjoyed by a very large concourse of people. There is undoubtedly a sameness about these promenade concerts in our beautiful gardens, but it is a sameness which could hardly be improved upon unless by some special feature, such as that of Tuesday evening, when the presence of the Italian band proved a novel delight. The Liverpool band was also present, and both companies of musicians rendered most acceptable programmes. The commissioners merit appreciation for their happy thought of securing the services of the Italian band, and Admiral Giouani has won the sincere gratitude of the public for the favor granted in allowing his ship's band to perform. Bandmaster Saunders and the men of the Liverpool band acquitted themselves with credit and were loudly applauded. The gardens were beautifully illumined and the concert was a complete success. A large number of strangers were noticed among the crowds.

To gain strength—Hood's Sarsaparilla.
For steady nerves—Hood's Sarsaparilla.
For pure blood—Hood's Sarsaparilla.

THE RACES.—A big crowd paid their money at the gate of the Riding Grounds on Tuesday afternoon, and an equally large number of well-satisfied people passed through the gate "after the ball was over." Every one felt he had his money's full worth of pleasure, for better races have never been witnessed in the city. The first race, 3 minute class was won by "Major," owned by Geo. Hirschfeld, and the second, 2.40 class, by Claude, owned by Sam Caldwell. The third on the programme, free-for-all, was the most interesting of all. In it "Stranger," R. Mogenoy, Halifax; "Resolution," H. C. Lydiard, Yarmouth; and "Brazilian," J. C. Mahon, Truro, were close competitors, Brazilian finally coming off victorious. In No. 4, 2.55 class, Caldwell's Tam easily won. The truckmen's race, which finished the programme, caused much amusement.

THINGS THAT ARE NOT AS THEY SHOULD BE.—On Tuesday afternoon North Street Station was the centre of a most exciting, bustling scene. The beautiful weather had proved an irresistible temptation for city people to spend the day in the beautiful suburbs of Halifax, and consequently the waiting rooms were crowded upon the departure and arrival of the several trains. Perhaps the largest crowd of the day was that which boarded the 1.30 train, and I am sure the railway authorities are responsible for a tremendous amount of ill temper and profanity among the same crowd. About fifteen minutes past one the ticket office window was opened and the pushing, straggling mass of humanity which had lined up from the ticket window to the door breathed a sigh of relief. But their troubles had only commenced. With the exact change for excursion tickets in hand not a few were dumbfounded to learn that there were no excursion rates, but that regular return fares must be paid. Some of the sadly crushed females who were in the crowd of eager ticket-buyers would have gladly paid double fare to have gotten out. When they did eventually arrive at the other end of the line they were pitiful sights, pretty gowns soiled or torn, faces pale, and altogether looking entirely done out. Now this is a state of affairs that is simply a disgrace to the I. C. R. authorities, and should be loudly protested against by the travelling public. A holiday is sure to see thousands of people go out of town, and it seems but reasonable to suppose that some concessions in the railway fares should be made. However, if the public's interest are always to be secondary considerations in this respect it is no reason why it should prove more hard work than the outing is worth to secure tickets. Why is it an almost unknown occurrence for two ticket offices to be opened? It should not be a difficult matter to place an extra ticket agent on duty on two or three special occasions during the outing season; on the contrary it is absolutely necessary that such jostling and crowding as must needs take place under the arrangements of Tuesday should be stopped. Although the ticket agent who has filled his position most acceptably for many years continues to be polite and obliging, a favorite with the railroad patrons, yet he is often the subject of decidedly unkind remarks from people who expect, and have a right to expect, that the ticket office be open more than fifteen minutes before the departure of trains. In fact on public holidays the office should not be closed at all. Such scenes as were to be witnessed on Tuesday at North street station would surely have done much to efface pleasing impressions of Halifax from the minds of strangers in the city and to have caused Halifax people to be put down as a most easily tramped-upon people to submit to such accommodation, or lack of accommodation, on the part of the railways. It is not pleasant to have to find fault, but it is at times a positive necessity, and I feel sure I have many among our citizens who went out of town via the railway on Labor Day who will concur in all the foregoing remarks, and who will heartily unite in protesting against the inconsiderate arrangements for the accommodation of the public on Tuesday last. CHIMS.

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