THE ACADIAN.

The Shad Fishery.

A very important meeting is to be held in this town on Wednesday of next week, when the commission appointed by the Dominion government to investigate the shad fisheries of the upper waters of the Bay of Fundy will hold a sitting here. The meeting will be held in Temperance Hall at 10 a. m. The commission is instructed to obtain the fullest information on the history, growth and decline of the shad fishery; period of its best condition and causes of depletion; methods of taking shad, kinds of fishing gear, etc.; dates of arrival of shad in different localities; habits and food of these fish; spawning grounds and methods of artificial breeding; obstructions in rivers, enemies, etc.; curing methods and the marketing of the fish; recommendations for the preservation, restoration and improvement of the shad fishery. Persons having information or possessing records or accounts of catches and sale of shad, etc., bearing upon these points are invited to attend the meeting, at which every facility will be given to offer testimony. A similar meeting will be held at Canning on Tuesday and at Scott's Bay on Monday, and meetings are also to be held at other points in the province.

Our attention has been called to this matter through an advertisement which appeared in a newspaper published in another part of the province. THE ACADIAN has received officially no information, and not being a blind supporter of the government of course does not receive any government advertising. As a public journal, however, it is pleased to give the free use of its columns to the publication of this information, which is certainly important to the people of this county.

Twenty-five years ago the shad fishing industry was an important item in the yearly income of the people of this county. A large number of men were engaged in it and the profit amounted to thousands of dollars each year. During recent years, however, this industry has become almost a total failure, and the loss of it has become quite a serious one to many of our people. Many theories have been advanced to explain the departure of the shad from our waters, and if the commission is able to solve the difficulty it will prove a great boon to our people.

Sunday Schools in North America.

From reports of the 12th triennial Sunday-school Convention held at Louisville, Ky., June 18-23, 1908, we gather the following facts:

There are 170,028 Sunday Schools with 1,594,674 officers and teachers, 15,000 Schools more than three years ago.

The total Sunday-School enrollment of North America (15,110,942 members,) is nearly 1,000,000 more than reported at last convention (1905).

9,758 Teachers' Meeting is an advance of about 1,200 over former reports.

551,000 enrolled in home department.

39,000 Cradle Rolls, with enrollment 441,000, about three times the number reported at Toronto.

80,000 are now engaged in studying Teacher Training courses.

46 Associations report 903,208 conversions and additions to the church.

116 General Secretaries and Specialists are devoting their whole time to the work; 56 are working on part time.

The Canadian Magazine for August is light and summery, being composed mostly of illustrated travel and outing articles and short stories. In fiction it is particularly strong, the feature being a complete novelette by the popular writers Alice and Claude Askew, entitled 'Elizabeth's Lover.' Besides the novelette there are capital short stories by N. deBertrand Lugrin, H. A. Cody, Gower Glynn and Bradford K. Daniels. The leading article deals with the Indian tribes of Labrador, and is well illustrated. The author is Clifford H. Easton, who accompanied the late Leonidas Hubbard to that frozen region of the North, and therefore had excellent opportunity to study the native tribes. Other illustrated articles are 'Encouraging Native Handicrafts' by Katherine Reid, 'A Poacher of Renown' by W. Hickson, being an account of poaching on salmon fishing preserves in New Brunswick, and 'The Crab Fishers' by honeysuckle Dyke. All through the number is most seasonable.

From the returns completed by Lloyd's Register for Shipping, it appears that excluding warships there were 386 vessels of 799,178 tons gross under construction in the United Kingdom at the close of the quarter ended June 30, 1908, as compared with 364 vessels of 1,250,318 tons at the same period last year. Of these 386 vessels, 349 were steamships and 37 are sailing ships. The tonnage now under construction is 48,000 less than that which was in hand at the end of last quarter. The dullness in British ship yards is greater than for many years past, and there is no sign of improvement visibly.

The Olympic Marathon race in London on Friday was won by Hayes, who although described as an Irish American, is thought to be a native of Ottawa, Canada. The Italian, who was winning, and fell prostrate with a few feet of the finish. Tom Longboat dropped out in the 20th mile.

Work For the Young Men.

No response of a favorable nature has been given to the urgent appeal recently issued for the formation of Young Liberal associations to draw young men into politics under the leadership of the Ottawa Ministers. This is significant. It means that the young men of Canada, the owners and rulers of the country in the not distant future, are not satisfied with conditions which now prevail. Twelve years ago Young Liberal associations were very numerous, and very useful to the party as then constituted. But at that time Liberalism meant something. It promised reform. It professed to be honest. It claimed as its leaders respectable men. It had something to fight for.

To-day the situation has changed. The programme which once attracted young men has been wiped from the slate. It is in vain that a search is made for Liberal ideas. The great doctrine of provincial rights has been suppressed in order that attacks may be made upon the provinces. The proposal to reform the Senate has been abandoned. Seats in that House are wanted for men who can buy them either by rendering partisan service or by paying cash. The reform of the public service is freaked. Offices are needed as rewards for members of Parliament who vote or are required without the restraining influence of conscience. Railway subsidies, once condemned, are continued in an aggravated form. They are the raw materials for campaign funds. Patronage, the purchase of supplies without contract, and from party friends, has not been abolished. It is the inspiration to political service of the baser kind. The public expenditure has not been reduced, nor has it been kept well in hand. The domination of the grafter is so powerful that financial reform is out of the question. Freedom for the electors, formerly a Liberal principle, is now denied. The doctrines of Byron Lott and of Shibley, and the methods of Hyman, are tolerated, if not applauded. The personnel of the Administration has not been improved. Sir Frederick Borden leads it in moral tone, and Emmerson and Sifton are threatening to return. This is a state of affairs differing widely from that prevailing twelve years ago. It means that Liberalism, as once known, has disappeared, and that its place is usurped by a system of crookedness and graft. If the young men refuse to rally to the support of this immorality, who can blame them? If they resist the invitation to enlist in behalf of grafters, of improper politicians and of corrupt and played-out ministers, are they not amply justified? Why should any young man exert himself in the interests of the politicians who are enjoying 'take-offs'? Why should any independent man work for the supremacy of millionaire Sifton, or for the return to the Cabinet of Emmerson and of Hyman? But the attitude of the young men, although it negatives political wrong, does not go far enough.

The young men of to-day are to be the rulers of to-morrow. They will bear the burdens now being imposed. They will suffer from the misgovernment, and from the roguery practised at this moment. Neutral they ought not to be. As, in days not very distant, the young men sprang to arms to defend their country from the invader who threatened the property of loyal citizens, so to-day the young men of spirit should join in the campaign to set aside once and for all the Ottawa system which takes from the hard earnings of the people millions every year for distribution among politicians, who give nothing in return. As in the field of battle they struggled for the right of British men to participate in the Government which taxed them, so in the civil arena they may well declare for the liberty of the Canadian citizen to cast his own ballot and to have a voice in the affairs of his own land. There is work right now, for the young men of Canada, and we cannot doubt that the great majority of them will gladly perform it.

London, July 26.—Hyde Park, which has been the scene of so many remarkable demonstrations this year, was invaded again last evening by a gigantic concourse that demonstrated its support of the Government's Licensing Bill.

The estimates of the crowd vary from 300,000 to half a million. It was made up mostly of the members of temperance societies from all parts of London and the suburbs. There were 120 speakers, including such men as Winston Spencer Churchill, Dr. Clifford, Lord Kinnaird, and a number of members of the House of Commons.

One hundred bands enlightened the proceedings, and there was a remarkable scene when, at a given signal, they all struck up the hymn, 'Onward Christian Soldiers,' in which the demonstrationists joined.

The proceedings came to an end with the passing of a resolution demanding that both Houses of Parliament pass the bill without delay.

The New York Sun concludes an editorial on the recent development of Canada with the following words which indicate the change of American sentiment towards our country.

Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky, who commanded the ill-fated Russian fleet that was annihilated by the Japanese in the battle of the Sea of Japan in May, 1904, is not dead as some of the press reports asserted. He is living to have read all the devout-scratchy things that his obituary writers asserted. Poor old Rojestvensky. His is a case where the full reward of 'Nothing but good concerning the dead' did not apply. There had to be a scapegoat and he is it.

Wonderful Fireworks.

ST. JOHN'S EXHIBITION MANAGEMENT HAS SECURED BRILLIANT ATTRACTIONS IN THIS LINE.

The display of fireworks at the St. John Exhibition, September 12-19, promises to be magnificent. The executive has spared no pains or expense to get the best that could be had, and this popular feature of expositions will be more attractive than ever this fall in St. John.

Among the spectacular scenes to be shown in the heavens during the exhibition will be the eruption of Mount Vesuvius which will be a mammoth firework picture, delineated in colored lacework. At the beginning smoke is seen to be issuing from the mountain top. This is followed by spurts of flame and as small eruptions gathers force a ruddy glow is cast over the scene. Molten lava is thrown out. Clouds of sparks ascend high in the air. Great masses of liquid fire descend from the sky and at the end the air is filled with burning material of many kinds. This is accompanied by tremendous reports. The whole makes one of the most successful of the wonderful Pyro-Kinetic series that has been given of late years.

After a year's illness, Mrs. Rebecca Fitch, aged 80 years, widow of the late James Fitch, of New Minas, Kings Co., passed away on Friday, July 24th, at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. H. C. Church, Falmouth, with whom she had made her home the past six years. The deceased lady had been confined to her bed for over a year, and all her suffering was borne with the greatest Christian resignation. Mrs. Fitch was much beloved by a large circle of friends. Her immediate death was due to inflammatory rheumatism.

The deceased lady was a daughter of the late Theodore Harding Porter, and besides her daughter, Mrs. H. C. Church, she leaves one son, Theodore M. Fitch, who resides in California.

A funeral service was held at the home of Mrs. Church on Sunday morning previous to taking the remains to New Minas for interment. Rev. J. C. Spurr, Falmouth, conducted the service.—Hants Journal.

Learning Military Ways.

Fredericton soldiers, returning from Quebec by the Gibson train, Saturday evening, commandeered a basket containing eight dozen eggs, and devoured the lot. The eggs were the property of a traveller for a Fredericton wholesale house, who made an unsuccessful effort to collect pay for them. The soldier boys claim that they were without food since leaving Quebec Friday night, and took the eggs to appease their hunger.—St. John Times.

Wedding.

A very pretty home wedding took place on Tuesday evening at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Lamb, when their daughter, Frances F., was united in marriage to James A. Mackinnis of Wolfville. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. J. B. Donkin in the presence of a goodly number of guests, after which a dainty lunch was served. The bride received a number of useful and beautiful presents among which was a gold watch and chain from the groom. Our Wednesday morning the happy couple left Parrsboro for their future home in Wolfville followed by the best wishes of their numerous friends.

[The above is copied from the Parrsboro Leader of last week. THE ACADIAN tenders best wishes.]

The School Grounds.

To the Editor of THE ACADIAN.

DEAR SIR,—I was asked last evening if I had made any complaint to the Town Council of the school children that had in any way influenced them in restricting the use of the school grounds, as reported in your paper of recent date. As others may be having the same thought as the gentlemen had who spoke to me, I wish to say that I made no complaint and have had no occasion to make complaint, as the boys have, so far as I know, always acted honorably towards me. True, they often have to come into my garden for their ball, but I am quite willing they should, and to make it easier for them to do so I have made it a rule to leave an opening in the fence during base-ball season. Personally, I am sorry the restriction has been made.

Very truly yours,
A. ORPEN.