

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 occasional offer which appeared lately. For \$2.50 in cash we undertake to send *THE CRITIC* to any subscriber for one year, supplying him in addition with twenty-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.

Sir Jno. Ross, like Lord Alexander Russell, is a Rifle officer.

The *Baddeck Reporter* says that hay is selling at \$30 per ton.

The death, at Niagara, is announced of the Hon. J. B. Plumb, Speaker of the Canadian Senate.

The Earl of Londale left Ottawa on Saturday night, on a trip to the Mackenzie River region.

Rev. W. C. Calder has resigned the pastorate of the Presbyterian church at Woodstock, N. B.

The Imperial authorities have by no means given up the idea of purchasing cavalry remounts in Canada.

Rev. R. W. Hudgell has gone on a visit to England. His place is supplied at Stewiacke by Rev. F. Woolcott.

The St. John Board of Trade complains of vexatious discriminations in I. C. R. rates against St. John in favor of Halifax.

Capt. White, comptroller of the N. W. Mounted Police, denies that there is any foundation for apprehension of trouble in the N. W.

Miss Leake, who left Nova Scotia some time ago for British Columbia, is in charge of a home for Chinese children in that Province.

As a result of the special services lately held at Ottawa, nearly one thousand persons have joined the Methodist churches of that city.

The new Cavalry School is, it is said, to be at Toronto, with a branch at Kingston. It certainly should not be farther east than Toronto.

Rev. B. H. Thomas, of Sackville, has accepted a call to the Baptist church at Lakeville, N. B. and will immediately enter upon his duties.

The deaths have been recently recorded of the Very Rev. Dr. Boomer, Dean of Huron, and of John H. McTavish, Esq., ex Canadian Pacific Land Commissioner.

Negotiations have been set on foot for the introduction of Newfoundland, the Ancient Colony, into the Dominion. The measure will, however, be calmly and leisurely considered.

The Canadian Pacific is to build a house on each quarter section in the Belgian colony near Calgary, on which three hundred families are expected to settle in time to commence spring work.

A handsome church has just been completed for the Presbyterians of Upper Musquodoboit, and will be dedicated next Sunday. The Revs. Messrs. Bayne, Cairns, and Henry will conduct the services.

The United States Government, having refused to grant to Canada jointly the use of the Sault St. Marie canal in perpetuity, tenders for the construction of a Canadian canal are to be called for at once.

A recent Calgary paper contains cuts which were engraved and stereotyped in that town. The cuts are quite equal to those procured from the east. This is an industry which even Winnipeg cannot boast of.

St. Andrew's church, Winnipeg, evidently does not intend to remain without a pastor very long. It is stated that a call from that congregation has been extended to the Rev. Mr. McTavish, of Lindsay, Ontario.

Many conversions are reported throughout the Province as a result of revival services in the Methodist churches. Rev. David Savage, the leader of the band movement, is still engaged in evangelistic work at Lunenburg.

The tail-end of the New England storm struck Halifax on Monday night, during which it blew a strong gale, with torrents of rain, succeeded by a heavy snow storm on Tuesday night. There is some damage to telegraphic communication.

The delay of the Australian Government to take action has necessitated the postponement of the survey for the Australian cable from Vancouver. The steamer *Alert*, which was under orders for this service, will take the place of the *Newfield*, which undergoes repairs.

Dr. Platt (Liberal) has been re-elected to the Dominion Parliament for Prince Edward County by a majority of 162; and Dr. Roome (Conservative) for West Middlesex by a majority of 117. Both were unseated for corrupt practices, and both have been returned by increased majorities.

The Dominion Government is pressing for a speedy settlement of the Behring-Sea troubles, and for payment of damages by the United States Government to owners of British Columbia vessels seized during the past two years. Negotiations are at present in progress through the British foreign office.

The following item appears in the *Saskatchewan Herald* of the 11th Feb. last—"Conversation by telephone was successfully carried on between Battleford and Edmonton, a distance of 300 miles, on Thursday evening." The line referred to is on the new route via Fort Pitt, Victoria, and Fort Saskatchewan.

It is reported that the health of Principal Grant, of Queen's University, Kingston, is such that in all probability he will be compelled to make a long sea voyage the coming summer. This will be regretted by his many friends in Canada, especially as he has been nominated by almost all the Presbyteries for the position of Moderator of the General Assembly, which meets in this city in June.

Lt. Col. O'Brien having declined the command of the Wimbleton Team this year, we are glad to learn that the honor has fallen to a Nova Scotia officer Lt. Col. C. J. Macdonald, commanding the 66th (P. I. F.) Battalion. This is a command which cannot for any consideration be allowed to slip into incompetent hands; its bestowal is, therefore, in itself, one of the highest testimonials to the efficiency of the officer selected.

The I. C. R. is adopting electricity for lighting its cars. Sleeping, first-class, and postal-cars for two trains have already been fitted with the necessary apparatus at Moncton, and the light will be used on through express trains between Halifax, St. John, and Quebec, as soon as the arrangements at Point Levis have been completed. The lights will be put in by the Julian Electric Co., of Montreal, whose system of incandescent lighting is secured by patent.

Lt. Col. D'Arcy E. Boulton of the 3rd (Prince of Wales) Canadian Dragoons, is the senior Lt. Col. on the Militia List. During last year's camp at Kingston, Col. Villiers, D. A. G., sustained the affliction of losing his wife. The command in his absence devolved on Col. Boulton, who, with pardonable pride, refers in his report to his having, during the camp, celebrated the 50th anniversary of his entry into the "Queen's Own" in 1837. Col. B's seniority as a Lt. Colonel is 1857, and he served in 1837-8.

The Bishop elect will arrive in Halifax in good time for his consecration in St. Luke's on April 25th, the Festival of St. Mark. The consecrating Bishop will be the Metropolitan, who will be assisted by the Bishops of Quebec and Ontario, and the Coadjutor Bishop of Fredericton. He will hold confirmation in the city at once, and hopes to go to P. E. I. before the Encœnia at Windsor. The session of the Synod will probably take place about the same time as the Encœnia, probably the following week.

The amount of muddle in the Press over the succession to the Imperial Military Command is extraordinary. A dozen or so of papers suppose that Sir Jno. Ross succeeds Gen. Middleton, and seem entirely ignorant that the Imperial Command and that of the Canadian Militia are distinct offices. The *Ottawa Evening Journal* corrects the *Hamilton Times* on this point, but itself perpetrates the solecism of calling Lord Alexander Russell Lord Russell. The absence of a christian name implies a peerage. Lord Alexander is not a peer, but the younger son of a Duke. Legally he would be described as "Alexander Russell, Esquire, commonly called Lord Alexander Russell," the title being what is called a "courtesy title." It is confined to the younger sons of Dukes and Marquises. The younger sons of an Earl are simply "Honorable," though his daughters are "Lady Mary, or whatever it may be.

It is becoming a serious question whether—in view of the practical immunity which we enjoy from disastrous fires—the premiums exacted by the fire insurance companies are not very excessive. The companies are combined and agreed on certain rates, while the people are obliged to act independently of each other, and have to comply with the demands of the insurers or to run their own risks. The insurance men reap enormous profits, because their risks are in most cases merely nominal, and they are generally not called upon to make any return whatever for the large premiums that they receive. The best if not the only effectual remedy for this state of affairs would seem to be the appointment of a government board of Insurance commissioners, who shall be empowered to fix an equitable rate of premiums that shall properly protect both the public and their insurers. We commend a study of this matter to our legislators.

A Brooklyn dentist has placed a gold filling in one of the teeth of his setter, the dog undergoing all the necessary operations with exemplary patience.

Over 3,000 saloons in Philadelphia have been forced to close in consequence of the high license law, which is not a bad argument in favor of high license.

The Methodist Episcopal Church South will repeat its week of self-denial and prayer for missions this year. The results last year were gratifying in the highest degree.

The Baptists of the United States gave last year \$1,677,706 for home and foreign missions. For education and other purposes the contributions amounted to \$1,914,412, and for church support, \$4,924,553, making a total of \$8,516,671. The membership of the church last year was 2,700,000.

Washington people are beginning to doubt the stability of the Washington monument. The edges of the big marble blocks at the base are splitting and crumbling, and the blocks themselves are seamed and cracked by the pressure of the shaft. Never before in the world's history, it is said, has a foundation of any kind had to support so great a pressure.

The Pittsburg papers tell of an interesting scene at the Light Locomotive Works last Thursday, when all hands were made sharers in the profits of the establishment during the last year. The proprietors have for two successive years carried out the system of profit sharing. They say that it has been advantageous to all concerned. It was made evident by the scenes at the works that it had given rare satisfaction to the men employed in them.

The *Fishing Gazette* (American) says:—"Few people realize what an immense industry the oyster interest is. Returns show that the annual oyster product of the country is worth about thirteen millions of dollars. It employs 53,000 persons and over \$10,500,000 capital. It is worth three times as much as the cod fishery, four times as much as the salmon, six times as much as the menhaden, and over ten times as much as the shad and alewife fishery together. And yet the oyster business is only in its infancy."