

CITY CHIMES.

Last Saturday was not quite so hot as the preceding one, the approaching rain having the effect of making the air very pleasantly cool. Of outdoor attractions there was no end, and all of them were well attended. Saturday afternoon is such a general holiday in Halifax that almost everyone can manage to enjoy an outing.

The concert to be given in the Academy of Music this evening, in aid of the Sailors' Home, promises to be a brilliant affair. The names of the musicians who are to take part is a sufficient guarantee that the entertainment will be of a high standard, and the fact that Vice-Admiral Watson and officers of the fleet have promised to patronize it, assures a good audience. Prince George of Wales has also promised to be present. A large number of tickets have been sold. The Sailors' Home is one of the most deserving institutions in the city, and it is to be hoped that the concert will be the means of raising a large sum of money for it. A bazaar is to be held in the exhibition building for the same object in September.

We are pleased to see that our suggestion as to the concerts in the Public Gardens has been acted upon. Last night a band concert was given, to which the admission fee was ten cents. It is too late for us to be able to tell of the result of the experiment this week, but we have no doubt, if the attractions of the ten cent concerts are as great as the twenty-five cent ones, that they will be successful.

The yacht race on Saturday last was viewed from the Squadron's club house and lawn by a larger gathering than usual, the fact that it was the first band day of the season probably being an attraction. There were eight entries for the race, but only six of the number started. The *Calypso* won easily, with the *Mentor* second. Among those present at the club house were His Honor Lieut.-Governor Daly and Mrs. Daly, Sir Ambrose Shea and Lady Shea, General Sir John Ross, Consul-General Frye and Mrs. Frye, and many prominent society ladies and gentlemen. Some of the ladies were charmingly dressed, but the chill wind compelled many of them to put on their jackets, which they seemed loath to do, and cover their pretty light gowns. They need not have hesitated, however, on the score of becomingness, for the natty little coats which are now worn are very attractive. Tea was served about five o'clock, and was a welcome addition to the other attractions. "The cup that cheers" never seems to come amiss, especially where ladies are present. These "at homes" at the Yacht Squadron's grounds have become very pleasant gatherings, and to judge by the number of ladies who attend them, it would appear that guest day is appreciated by the fair sex. On other days ladies are only permitted in the boathouse for the purpose of embarking or landing, the club house being kept sacred to husbands and brothers. The boathouse is very complete in its way, and contains some luxuriously fitted boats. The machinery for taking out and bringing in boats is very convenient. It is a sort of pulley which slides on beams which extend overhead from end to end of the boathouse. It also has an arrangement for pulling a boat out from the side. This must save a great deal of unnecessary hard work. The facilities for bathing are excellent, and are taking advantage of in the early morning by members of the club. The grounds are neatly kept, and a quoit ground furnishes amusement to those who engage in the pastime of pitching quoits. Altogether the premises are most creditable to the gentlemen who have brought them to their present state.

The specimens of polished marble in the window of the Halifax Piano and Organ Company, Hollis Street, are being much admired. They are the property of the Bras d'Or Marble Company, Limited, and were taken from the company's extensive quarries at Marble Mountain, Cape Breton.

A deputation of gentlemen representing the Victoria School of Art and Design and the Institute of Science, waited upon the City Council last week and presented a petition signed by four hundred and seventy-five of the leading professional and business men of Halifax, praying that the southern end of the Parade be granted for the purpose of having erected upon it a handsome building, in which the Provincial Museum, the Provincial and City Libraries, the Art School and the Institute of Science should be housed. The idea of placing these institutions under one roof is a good one, and it is to be hoped that the City Council will see its way clear to grant the prayer of the petition.

COMMERCIAL.

While trade has, in wholesale circles, been quiet during the past week, a very fair volume of business has transpired in several lines. The prospect of good crops has engendered a considerable confidence in the future, and has caused some improvement in remittances.

The severe drought which prevailed for six or eight weeks throughout Canada caused the growing crops to wilt and wither, and considerable uneasiness was felt and freely expressed as to the ultimate effect, but copious rains have been experienced during the week now under consideration. This has revived vegetation so that it is thought that the yield will be, in most sections, fully an average one, and in some even more.

It is reported that the potato bug or Colorado beetle has appeared in large numbers in several parts of this Province. In the Preston district especially we hear that the potato vines have been entirely stripped of foliage, and the crop will probably be thereby destroyed.

Dry Goods.—No great change has been shown in the market for tex-

tile fabrics since our last, but the various wholesale houses are busy receiving and distributing fall goods. Business in this connection is now nearly over. It has dragged along later than usual this season, and is estimated to be about 25 per cent less than that of last summer. Very little new business has been accomplished as yet, though travellers have been out for some time with certain lines of spring samples. Buyers continue to be very cautious. Yet the position is a hopeful one with good prospects for the crops and about 70 per cent of maturing notes promptly met.

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—The strong feeling that we have noted in the iron markets for several weeks past continues to develop further force from pertinent causes. Late cable advices cite an advance of 10d. to 1s. in warrants. This has affected the feeling on makers' brands, and they are also very firm, while freights for fall shipments are about 1s. 6d. higher. Generally speaking, therefore, quotations are considerably higher than they were only a short time ago, and there is every prospect of the market being fully sustained to the end of the season. The general metal market in England is also very firm. In fact appearances, on the whole, indicate that bottom has been touched, and that higher figures may rule shortly and for some time to come. In a local way there has been a quiet business doing—nothing very special, but still sufficient to show the tenor of the market. Bar iron rules steady, and prices are without change.

BREADSTUFFS.—The local flour market is without change, the feeling continuing steady under a fair enquiry, and quotations remain the same. Beer-bohm's cable reports no changes in either wheat or corn in the English markets. French country markets are easier. Wheat in New York has re-acted, declining 7c. to 1½c. Corn remained steady. At St. Louis wheat was easier and experienced a slight decline. Crop reports show that throughout America the yield of both wheat and corn will be very large.

PROVISIONS continue to move in a hand-to-mouth way at quotations, dealers only buying sufficient for actual requirements. The Liverpool provision market has been firm, lard and tallow advancing 6d. and 3d. respectively. In Chicago the hog market was steady and the cattle market strong.

BUTTER.—There is no change in the butter market, except that it is reported that the enquiry for old has slightly improved. With regard to this season's market the position is essentially unchanged, there being a mere jobbing business, and that is all.

CHEESE.—There has been nothing striking to note on spot, and no one had to report any business in this line as accomplished. All seem to be awaiting news from the country and the upper provinces. The majority of dealers admit that they want cheese if they can get it at their own figures.

FRUIT.—The week has not developed any pronounced change in the market, but stocks of staple lines of both dried and green fruit show noticeable reduction and in consequence the feeling is firm. In green fruit lemons and oranges especially are well worked down. In fact of the latter there are none on the market in first hands, and the few of the former that remain are very firmly held at advanced quotations. Of new supplies we hear nothing, except that some oranges may come from Jamaica shortly. In dried fruit the prominent feature has been the firmness of currants and raisins, the former being specially active during the week. Stocks of raisins are small, and prices are firm at an advance on previous figures. Otherwise there has been no change.

SUGAR AND MOLASSES.—A good fair trade in sugar is being done at somewhat easier prices. There is a considerable scarcity of bright grades. The darker sugars can be bought quite low. Molasses is very quiet.

TEA AND COFFEE.—Low grade Japan teas are selling very freely and, as the same class of goods could not be laid down for within 1c. to 2c. of the price paid, buyers are generally well satisfied. Early Japans are being asked for, but none are to be had. Blacks continue to advance in England, and Canadians who cable orders have been unable to get them filled at listed prices. The position of coffee in the market is the same. There is little or none in first hands here and the trade are supplying themselves from England. Advices from primary sources are firm, the latest news being to the effect that the lowest grade of Rio suitable for the Canadian market could not be laid down here under 19c. to 21c.

FISH OILS.—In Montreal steam refined seal oil continues dull with a dragging market. Prices may be quoted same as last week at from 48c. to 51c. per gallon in round lots. In Newfoundland cod oil there is little doing with quotations at previous figures, 33c. to 35c. in round lots, with a slightly upward tendency. Cod liver oil is in better enquiry, though business doing is little more than nominal. There is a better enquiry and the prospect is that, as it is scarcely possible for prices to go lower, the upward turn will commence soon. We quote 40c. to 50c.

FISH.—There has been no change in the local position of fish, except that all kinds are more plentiful all along our shores and on the banks, and as bait is, though not abundant, still in better supply, better catches are being made, and fish is coming to market more freely. The West India markets do not improve, and there is no margin there to make shipments hence profitable. Our outside advices are as follows:—Montreal, Aug. 12.—"It is yet too early to talk of fish, and there is nothing of importance about them. Advices from the Gaspe coast, however, talk of pretty stiff figures, and we were informed to day that \$5.50 to \$6 was asked for dry cod, but could not learn whether it had been closed with or not." Gloucester, Mass., August 12.—"We quote new Georges codfish at \$5.25 a qtl. for large, and small at \$4.50; Bank \$4.75 to \$5 for large and \$4 for small; Shore \$5 and \$4.25 for large and small. Dry Bank \$5.25. Cured cusk at \$4 per qtl.; hake \$2.62; haddock \$3; heavy salted pollock \$2.25, and English-cured do. \$2.87 per qtl. Labrador herring \$5 bbl.; med. split \$4.50; Newfoundland do. \$5; Nova Scotia do. \$6; Eastport \$4; split Shore \$4.25; round do. \$3.50; round Eastport \$3.25; pickled codfish \$7; haddock \$6; halibut heads \$3; sounds \$11; tongues and sounds \$9.50; tongues \$8; alewives \$4; trout \$14.50; California salmon \$15; Halifax do. \$23; Newfoundland do. \$18."