

CITY CHIMES.

Last Friday was a typical St. Valentine's day, so bright and genial that even in the city wherever there were trees the cheerful chirping of birds brought to mind the old tradition of their pairing on that anniversary. So fine and pleasant was it, however, that one felt that it must be what is commonly called a "weather breeder." Accordingly it blew hard and and rained in torrents during the night, but Saturday still remained a phenomenally mild, not to say close, day. On Sunday it became cold again and continued so on Monday with every indication of a second edition of winter, and Tuesday's snow-fall settled the question that winter is still here beyond doubt.

All the world (without his wife) partook last Saturday evening of the genial hospitality of the 66th P. L. F. This was the second of the pleasant "At Homes" of the regiment, combining the pleasure of hearing some very good singing by Messrs. Bank, Gillis, Ward, Macdonald and Sobieski and some selections by the excellent regimental band, with the enjoyment of a smoke and much pleasant conversation. Mr. Sobieski is a valuable addition to the musical talent of the city, possessing a good and well cultivated baritone voice. Almost every class and profession in Halifax was represented, including the regulars, amongst whom we noticed Col. Fenn of the Duke of Wellington's, Lt. Col. O'Brien, commanding Royal Engineers, and many other officers. Lt.-Col's. Worsley and McShane were also present. Whatever the 66th do, they do well.

The third Subscription Concert of the season was given by the Orpheus Club and Ladies' Auxiliary in Orpheus Hall on Tuesday evening. The weather was not pleasant, but notwithstanding that a very large audience was present. The programme consisted of three of Mendelssohn's works. No. 1, Sacred Cantata, "Praise Jehovah," composed for the church festival at Liege, 11th June, 1856; No. 2, Concerto for violin; and No. 3, "Loreley," an unfinished opera. The opening chorus of the Cantata by the Orpheus Club and Ladies' Auxiliary was too powerful for the building, the volume of sound being quite overpowering, and the tenors were slightly out of tune. Miss Laine's solo, "Sing of judgment," with chorus, was beautifully rendered. The quartette, "Ye, who from his ways have turned," by Miss Laine, Mrs. Taylor and Messrs. Gillis and Ward, is a beautiful composition, but unfortunately the voices did not blend, and a disappointed feeling pervaded the audience. The second chorus was well done, and Miss Laine's solo, "Lord at all times I will bless Thee," was sung with much feeling and elicited a burst of applause. The inconsiderateness of many in the audience in turning over the leaves of the programme during the last verse of this beautiful solo was aggravating to those who wished to enjoy the closing strains, but it must have been simply exasperating to the singer to have her voice drowned in the rustle of paper. The third chorus was a good one, and was well done, as was the closing quartette and chorus of the cantata. Herr Klungenfeld's violin solo was performed in a masterly and finished manner, and called forth an encore, to which he responded with a cavatina by Rasse, which was even more appreciated than the concerto. "Loreley" opened with a chorus, "Ave Maria," which was very pretty, and Miss Laine's solo as Lerora deserves nothing but praise. The male chorus was given with much spirit, and the solo and chorus, "Hither we sweep," was well done. Miss Laine's last solo, with chorus by the Club and Ladies' Auxiliary, was very passionate, and was marked by fine expression. Miss Laine was the recipient of a handsome bouquet. The nature of the programme precluded encores, except in the case of Herr Klungenfeld's violin solo, but the "gems" were not the less appreciated for this cause. Mr. Porter deserves unbounded praise for his able conductorship, as does Mr. Payne for his services as accompanist.

The Childrens' Carnival at the Exhibition Rink last Friday evening was a great success. About five hundred skaters in costumes were on the ice and the brilliant scene was viewed by over 2,000 spectators. The costumes were varied and most of them pretty, ladies of ye olden time, colored folk, fat boys, butterflies and fairies, soldiers and sailors, all skating round and round, the kaleidoscopic scene changing every minute made a very attractive picture. A group of infants followed by their nurse carrying a bottle of nourishment were funny, and many of the boys got up were of an amusing nature. A fisherman carrying a couple of real cod fish, and a painter carrying a can of paint, seemed to march very well for ugliness. The prize for the handsomest girls' costume was awarded to Miss Cora Macdonald, who looked very pretty in her light blue dress trimmed with awnsdown and stuffed birds. Mr. Leigh Guldie obtained the reward for the best boys' costume. Little Miss Lockhart as a butterfly was judged to have the most original costume. The "butterfly" was made up of blue stockings, light blue satin skirt, pink bodice and blue wings. Stanley DeWitt as a "Viking" took first place for the most original boy's costume. A rival to the military bands was in attendance and appeared on the ice later on in the evening in the shape of the "New German band." They were dressed as fishermen, in canvas overalls, blue and white guernseys and sou-westers. They discoursed a choice (?) selection of music, much to the delight of the children. The ice became very wet as the evening wore on and some of the skaters found a fall very uncomfortable. The children who attended pronounced the carnival "just splendid," so it may be considered a success.

COMMERCIAL.

Though a little improvement is noticeable in the aggregate volume of trade business continues to be slow in most departments.

The weather has continued to fluctuate so as to prevent any real revival as yet in any branch of business, but the indications seem to favor the impression that the spring trade will be of larger volume than that of the same season last year.

Several real estate owners, especially in the suburbs of this city, are preparing to erect new dwellings on their lands during the coming spring and summer. While we are always pleased to note any evidences of a tendency to "improve the waste places" within our limits, we confess to grave doubts as to the wisdom of rushing up a lot of dwellings for which large rentals will be expected, while many places in the business portions of the city stand idle, and do not even earn enough to pay interest on their cost, repairs, insurance, etc. If some of the gentlemen who propose improving their properties in the outlying districts would expend the same money in bettering the condition of their holdings in the city proper it seems probable that their investments would yield more ready and satisfactory returns.

The matter of a safe currency for Canada seems to hang fire in parliament. While ministers have made vague promises no such comprehensive measure of reform in this respect as the people have a right to expect has, as yet, been introduced. As things now stand Canadians are obliged to accept a currency that under certain conditions is not good for its face value. As, for instance, in the case of a bank failing, the notes of that institution are immediately depreciated below their par value and the holders thereof cannot use them as a medium of circulation except at a loss, notwithstanding that they rank as a first lien on the assets backed by the double liability clause. This means that the poorer traders and working people have to stand the brunt of the temporary depreciation of the notes of the failed banks, as they cannot afford to wait from six months to three years until the notes are redeemed in full. The people of this country are quite right in insisting upon having a currency as secure as that in use in the United States, which will pass current at its face value in any part of the world, independent of any consideration of failure of the bank that issued it. In other words the promise to pay on demand on the face of five, ten or twenty dollar bills must be so genuine that they can in no way be affected by any mismanagement or downfall of the banks issuing them. That the government means to do what is right by the public, and that the Banking Act will be so revised as to render our present insecure currency as safe as the National Bank circulation of the United States, we thoroughly believe, but we think that such an important measure should not be deferred till the closing days of the session and then pushed through hurriedly. The sooner that the Bill is brought down the better for the country.

The following are the assignments and business changes in this Province during the past week:—Union Furniture and Merchandise Co., Bass River, capital to be increased to \$40,000.

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

	Week	Prev.	Weeks	Weeks	Failures	Failures	Failures	Failures
	Feb. 14.	1890	1889	1888	1887	1890	1889	1888
United States	213	259	311	243	244	2100	2182	1929
Canada	46	57	46	41	35	250	274	289

DRY GOODS.—This trade is not as promising now as has been anticipated. Sellers continue to be very cautious owing to payments being far below what were thought probable. On the other hand buyers will only handle what they see an immediate prospect of raising on and are indifferent. This is evident from the fact that some lines which last year were long ago placed in consumption have not been touched as yet, but purchasers do not seem to care at all, whereas last year postcards and telegrams were in order with urgent demands for either "immediate shipment or cancel our order." Advices from England report a further advance of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in cotton goods while woollens have moved up another penny.

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—The iron market in the United Kingdom having quite unexpectedly broken down to far as prices are concerned, the tone of trade on this side of the Atlantic is notably weaker though holders claim that, as their stocks are reduced to a minimum, they cannot lower their quotations. We do not hear of any changes in bar iron and a fair jobbing movement is reported in shelf hardware. Cable advices indicate continued irregularity in the speculative branch of the British market with an under current of weakness that extends to other departments; but one fact is to be noted: that is the wide range between warrant quotations and the prices of makers' brands, and it is claimed that, with the orders on hand, the makers will not be compelled to materially alter their figures. Still it is stated that iron can be purchased at lower prices than have been previously quoted since the holidays.

BREADSTUFFS.—The local wheat market has been quiet and without alteration and very little business is heard of: the movement is purely of a jobbing nature restricted entirely to supplying actual consumptive requirements. Beerbohm's cable reports wheat and corn very quiet and unchanged. Weather in England fine. The Chicago wheat market has been merely a repetition of the previous report. The weather continues to be wonderfully fine. It is the same in Europe and has had similar effect there. They had no frosts in January and the crops are all looking fine. Cables are naturally heavy. In New York wheat closed $\frac{1}{2}$ c to $\frac{3}{4}$ c lower than at last quotations. The St. Louis wheat market dropped $\frac{1}{2}$ c to $\frac{3}{4}$ c. In Toledo wheat fell $\frac{1}{2}$ c to $\frac{3}{4}$ c.

PROVISIONS.—We have nothing new to report in the local provision market, the situation being unchanged with a small trade doing on consumptive account. Dressed hogs have been about steady with a fair demand for light weights in jobbing lots. In Liverpool provisions have been unchanged. Pork in Chicago moved up 5c. The hog market in that place has also advanced about 5c. The cattle market was steady.