

CITY CHIMES.

The Church Hospital, which was opened in August, is shortly to be removed from its present location, 107 Queen street, to the house of W. H. Neal, on College street, which was formerly occupied as a school. This will give better accommodation.

Halifax had its Nautical Fair, which was a great success, and we hear that Ottawa has taken a leaf out of our book and held a Military Exhibition in aid of local charity. The ladies who took part were attired in attractive imitations of the uniforms of the swell corps of the Dominion, and went through the military drill before the eyes of admiring thousands. A number of prominent men were present.

Invitations are out for a dance at Maplewood on Wednesday next. The members of the Bankers' Club will be the hosts, and the names of five ladies appear on the cards as chaperons.

Sir Leonard Tilley, Governor of New Brunswick, and Lady Tilley, arrived in Halifax on Saturday last, and were the guests of Sir John Ross until Tuesday, when they returned to St. John.

A complimentary benefit concert is to be tendered to Mr. R. Blackmore by his musical friends, at Orpheus Hall, on Thanksgiving evening. Mr. Blackmore intends going abroad to continue his musical studies.

The Lytell Company are all in the city, and have been busy during the week preparing for their opening at the Academy of Music on Monday next.

Next Thursday will be our regular Thanksgiving Day, which will be kept pretty much as usual in spite of the McKimlay tariff or any other nuisance. We have had more abundant crops in former years, and sometimes we have had more to be thankful for generally than we have experienced this year, and yet who can say that Providence has not been good to our land? It behooves us to return humble and hearty thanks to the Giver of all good for having brought us safely to the day which is appointed to mark a nation's recognition of the Divine hand in all that transpires.

Diphtheria, sad to relate, is not yet extinct in Halifax. The schools re-opened on the 20th inst., and several cases of the disease have since been reported.

Once more the last day of October—mysterious Hallowe'en—has come around, and if the young folks do not have a good time to-night it will be very hard. Some people seem to forget that they were ever young, and they find it too much trouble to give the children a good old-fashioned taffee-pull and apple bobbing, such as used to constitute part of the night's enjoyment in their young days. This is not fair, but happily such "old cross-grained wretches," as a youngster of nine years old once called them, are not numerous. We try to believe that this is a children's age, as well as a woman's age, that we live in, and to do all that we can to promote their happiness and well being is a credit to us. And so it is. What can be a better act than to make life a bright and pleasant place for those little ones who look to us for all their pleasures. Let them have a good time to-night in the kitchen, making taffee, bobbing apples and roasting nuts; trying all the tricks that memory can retain or youthful ingenuity devise, to obtain a glimpse into the future, and find out if it holds for each anxious enquirer riches or poverty, and chief thing of all—whether they are to be married or not. No end of fun is the result of their innocent proceedings, but there is one precaution that should be taken in the apple-bobbing arrangements, and that is to have the water in the tub slightly warm. This will obviate the risks of colds and consequent doctor's bills. Older children, those who have got beyond their bobbing days and have not yet reached the stage where they are admitted to grown-up society, are quite satisfied with the delightful dancing parties which are now the thing for people of their years. Not a few dances of this kind will take place this evening, and we hope they will all be successful in giving each youngster the desirable amount of pleasure. These half-grown parties are very pretty sights, and people of maturer years who are privileged to be present at them seem to renew their youth and go in for a merry time too.

COMMERCIAL.

Since our review of last week general trade has undergone but little change. Syndicates of all kinds continue to be proposed and discussed in every direction. In this locality the Nova Scotia Breweries Company, limited, seems likely to suffer a collapse, and syndicates generally fail to command local capital. Of course outside capital to develop our natural resources and to enlarge our manufacturing powers and our markets, will always be welcomed, but combinations of capitalists with the sole object of creating monopolies and increasing the prices of necessities are not desirable. In the proposed cotton combine the intention is openly declared to stop several mills, in order to reduce production, and thus enhance selling values. It is further stated that the mills which the cotton syndicate proposes shutting up are working on small capitals and with inferior machinery, which they are not in a financial position to replace with newer and better works, and that they must, therefore, soon shut down of their own necessities. If this is the case, we fail to see why "the syndicate" should buy them.

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

	Week		Weeks corresponding to		Failures for the year to date.			
	Oct. 24.	Prev. week.	Oct. 24.	1887	1890	1889	1888	1887
United States.	202	177	190	208	213	8187	9132	8074
Canada.	33	29	26	28	25	1362	1293	1410
								1052

DRY GOODS.—Dealers in this branch of trade appear well satisfied, and point to the gratifying fact of ordering on spring account as a reason that they should be so. This is in favorable comparison with last fall, when buyers held off to the very last moment, and then ordered only very sparingly. It would seem, therefore, that the heavy stocks that were universally complained of last spring have been materially reduced. Sorting up trade this fall has also been very good, and a fair movement in this way has been going on. The demand for staple cotton goods is fair, and stocks in the hands of manufacturers are being well reduced. A hotter distribution of colored goods is reported from the mills, and prices are very steadily maintained. Woollens for men's wear have met with a little more enquiry from the wholesale trade, but sorting orders are on the whole limited. Heavy worsted wool suitings, cloakings and flannels are in moderate request. Quotations remain steady, although it is said to be difficult to keep all travellers to card figures. Consequently some cutting is occasionally complained of, especially in men's woollen underwear. The houses continue to report satisfactory payments, and there can be no doubt that the financial condition is improved considerably.

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—There is no change whatever in the general position, which remains firm. A few jobbing lots of pig iron are moving out to the smaller class of buyers, but no contracts of any magnitude have been made since our last report. Holders continue to entertain firm views of the market at present prices. *Advices from Great Britain do not show any great change.* The speculative branch of the market at Glasgow was slightly easier than it had been, but makers' iron continues tolerably firm, and must of necessity go up if the furnaces remain out of blast much longer. The reason that an advance has not been made already is probably due to the fact that several of the furnaces had comparatively larger stocks at the time that they shut down than most people anticipated. In other lines than pig iron the movement has been confined to small lots, bar changing hands at steady figures. In sheet material the stiffness continues, and buyers are finding some difficulty in having their orders filled. Further advices from primary centres confirm the information that we gave last week, that makers were behind with their orders, and would not guarantee delivery in any reasonable time. Tin plate is stiff at the advance.

BREADSTUFFS.—The local flour market continues unchanged, and business is still of a jobbing character. On the whole prices are about the same. Beerbohm's cable reports wheat firm and a turn dearer; corn firm. The Chicago grain markets were weak. Wheat declined $1\frac{1}{2}$ ¢, corn $1\frac{1}{2}$ ¢, and oats $1\frac{1}{2}$ ¢. The Cincinnati *Price Current*, which is regarded as an authority, claims that the wheat crop of the world this year will be 90,000,000 larger than last year, and equal to the average for the past years. At New York wheat declined $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ to 1¢, in St. Louis $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ to 1¢. Wheat was quiet at Toledo, where corn and oats were unchanged.

PROVISIONS.—Pork and lard continue to move in a satisfactory manner at steady prices, but the aggregate transactions are not large. At Liverpool there has been no change in provisions except an advance of 3d. in tallow. The Chicago provision market was easier. The Chicago hog market continues to rule easy, prices showing a further decline of 5¢ to 10¢. The cattle market was slow and sheep were steady.

BUTTER.—The butter market rules unchanged on the whole. Choice dairy is selling at fair prices, but only in a fair jobbing way. Creamery is being held in the hope of better prices later on, but there is no desire for buying evinced.

CHEESE.—The market continues dull, and we fail to find any activity, though some in the trade represent that there is. Of course there is always some little business doing, but after a careful canvass of the trade we cannot find any indication of activity.

FRUIT.—Currants are firm here at quotations, and advices from primary markets quote the market 1s. higher for all grades—Yates, Filiatria and Provincial. Supplies have been moving freely out of importers' hands during the week. There has been nothing doing in raisins in a wholesale way since our last report. Advices from Deni for raisins are firm at 19s to 19s, and 3d. cost, freight and insurance for first brands. In other lines of dried fruit there is no change, only a quiet jobbing business proceeding. There is no alteration in apples in this market, and holders of good fruit are firm. Advices from Liverpool continue to be encouraging, and sales are making on the basis of 24s. to 30s.

SUGAR.—There is no change in the general position of the sugar market. The tone continues strong, but no advance has yet been made. A good healthy business has been done during the week.

MOLASSES is stronger in anticipation of the removal of stocks bought by a Boston firm in Halifax, Quebec and Montreal. The present situation is rather curious, and is put by the Montreal *Trade Bulletin* as follows:— "Considerable interest is being manifested in the B's firm's deal in Barbadoes molasses in Montreal, Quebec and Halifax. It now appears that the American buyer made his purchases upon the belief that the duty of 4¢ per gallon on 56 test, and 5¢ per gallon above 56 test, would be rescinded by the McKimlay bill on Oct. 6th, whereas it will not be taken off before the first of next April, and by that time the United States will be getting other kinds of new molasses. So that unless prices advance considerably in the United States between now and next April, it will be useless for the Boston firm to remove them from this market and pay the duty. On the other hand it is claimed that as he has shipped part of his Halifax lot to Portland, Me., he may also send the whole of his purchases in Canada across the line. It is stated by well posted men in the trade, that if molasses had been admitted