

## NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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The S. S. Sardinian, which arrived in Halifax on Sunday last, brought out about 1,000 emigrants. The Sardinian is the last of the weekly boats for the present season.

The Dominion Parliament is rapidly disposing of business. Short, ten-minute speeches are the order of the session, and these are, for the most part, pithy and to the point.

The new steel steamer *Yarmouth* is now on her way across the Atlantic. She has a cargo of coal, pig iron and general merchandize. She will probably arrive in Yarmouth next week.

The Ontario Legislature, after working through the session sitting but three hours per day, finished it up by an all-night sitting, adjourning at five o'clock Saturday morning, and being prorogued on the afternoon of the same day.

Boating on the streets of Montreal is a sorry pastime for the poor people whose houses are flooded and who have to get into the boats out of the second story windows. Montrealers will now believe in the use of a great big dam.

The Halifax members of parliament are urging upon the Dominion Government the advisability of purchasing for railway purposes the block of ground on Water Street, opposite the deep water terminus. May their urging be successful.

A young man named Thomas Hewson was drowned while out shooting geese near St. Peter's Island. Hewson left his boat and got upon the ice in order to secure a wounded bird, the ice broke, and the young man fell in the water and was drowned.

The Street Railway Company are about to erect six double cottages at the north-end of the city. These will be occupied by the employees of the company. The moldings, sashes and doors are now being turned out from the factory of Mr. Wm. Curry, of Windsor.

A flock of wild geese, while flying over Moncton, became bewildered by the electric light, and forty five birds, in good condition, were killed or seriously injured by striking the electric wires. Sportsmen along the Straits of Northumberland are enjoying splendid shooting.

Potatoes are now selling in Toronto for sixty cents per bushel. The Ontario potato yield last year was below the average. There is now a brisk demand in that market for Nova Scotian potatoes - fifty thousand bushels have been bought up here and forwarded to Toronto.

By the breaking down of Nash's bridge, one mile east of Morrisburg, an engine and thirty cars on the Grand Trunk Road were utterly demolished. The engineer and firemen were killed. It is supposed that the accident was caused by the frost having undermined the stone piers.

A half-witted St. Catherine's man proposes to swim down the Niagara current and leap the falls on the Canadian side. He is to wear a rubber suit and encircle himself with bladders. Twenty-sixth of May is the day fixed for the experiment. The law should restrain these professional lunatics, whose itch for notoriety appears insatiable.

Windsor has received as a present from G. P. Payzant and others, the piece of ground which, from its shape, has hitherto been known as flat iron park. This will be beautified, and its name changed in honor of Her Majesty's Jubilee to Victoria Park. Upwards of \$1000 has already been subscribed for this purpose, and if this is not sufficient, Windsorians will double the amount.

Efforts are being made to induce the government to make a change in the duty upon printed books. It is now ad valorem fifteen cents upon the dollar, but the government are asked to make it a specific duty of twenty-five cents per pound. Our books cost enough now in all conscience, and we trust the government will positively refuse to make the change proposed. A tax on knowledge is a mean tax anyway.

The citizens of Halifax are thankful to be relieved from the dust which was so abundant last week. The four new watering carts, which with horses and harness, cost the city \$3,800, were placed on the streets early this week, and quickly laid the dust. These carts consume in their daily rounds about 125 tons of water, so that the dust has little chance to play freaks with pedestrians, choke carter's or damage the goods in our shops.

The real extent of the distress in Newfoundland, as to which there were so many contradictory rumors, may be measured by the timely relief which was promptly furnished by the government. A half million dollars, according to the Receiver General, was expended on public works, not that their construction was urgent, but in order that the poor and honest people might earn sufficient to keep them from starvation. Humanity prompted the expenditure, and utility the method of its outlay.

Archbishop Lynch, of Toronto, has sent a cablegram to his friends in Ireland, requesting them to urge upon Mr. O'Brien the inadvisability of his visiting Canada for the purpose of arousing popular feeling against Lord Lansdowne, but it is probable that Mr. O'Brien will come just the same. Lord Lansdowne's agents have evicted a number of tenants from his Irish estates, but as the Governor General has always been most popular among his tenantry, there is no reason for believing that the evictions were unjustifiable, much less reason for carrying the Irish campaign into Canada.

The civic elections on Wednesday last resulted in Mr. Patrick O'Mullin's election as Mayor by a plurality of 462, Messrs. B. F. Pearson, C. H. Smith, W. F. Pickering, David Roche, D. L. Johns and D. McPherson were elected Aldermen.

Postmaster-General McLelan is making an earnest effort to bring about the introduction of the parcel post system between Canada and the United States. This is a much needed reform which will doubtless be appreciated on both sides of the line.

Principal Grant has no idea of the University of Queen's taking a secondary place among similar Canadian institutions. He now proposes to raise a new endowment of \$250,000, which will help to keep the Kingston University in the very front rank.

Mr. J. T. Shatford, of Hubbard's Cove, has notified the city marshal of Halifax that a man named Henry James made a brutal attempt to murder a widow named Miller on Monday last. Failing in his fiendish design, James set fire to the widow's house, which, with its contents, was burned to the ground. The would-be assassin has been arrested.

The following sent in the correct answer to puzzle published on page 14 last week:—Jas V. Purcell, Jr., Port Mulgrave; A. W. Herdman, Wentworth, Cumb. Co.; J. T. F. Robinson, Windsor; John M. Kemp, St. Peter's, C. B.; John D. Matheson, do.; Mr. Goth Bayley, 79 Birmingham St., City; Miss Smith, 57 Hollis St., City; Hugh Murray, Lorne House, City; "W. H. S.," 105 Barrington St., City; Ed. Stairs, 28 Bland St., City.

The Intercolonial Railway authorities have decided to adopt the twenty-four-hour system of time-marking for their summer arrangements. Station masters of the Intercolonial are authorized to supply the travelling public with watch and clock dials showing the hours from thirteen to twenty-four. Persons sending for these should state the diameter of the watch or clock inside of the present figures, so as to insure getting a suitable new dial. The Truro local, which now leaves at five p. m., will according to the new time table leave at 17.

St. George's Society, of Halifax, celebrated its 101st anniversary on Monday evening last, by a banquet, of which about seventy-five persons partook, the bill of fare being decidedly English. President Murray discharged his duties as chairman most admirably, and was well supported by Vice-President Mr. John Overy. The Rev. Dr. Hole made a most stirring speech in reply to the toast of "St. George and Merry England," being most felicitous in his remarks. The toast list, including patriotic and loyal toasts, was duly honored, the company adjourning at thirty minutes past twenty-four.

The medical board of the Victoria General Hospital has issued a circular calling the attention of the public to the improvements proposed by the government, and giving data to prove that under the direction of the present board the hospital has fully sustained its reputation and is entitled to the continued confidence of the people of Nova Scotia. The medical men on the staff receive no remuneration for their labors in connection with the hospital, and only ask the public to judge their work impartially and not heed the disparaging reports which are set afloat by interested parties. Fair play is a jewel, and the new medical board are certainly entitled to fair play, even if the old medical board did not receive it.

A lady, without a name, has written a letter to the bandmaster of the 84th Regt., severely criticizing the performances of the band in church. In this anonymous critique appears the following paragraph: "Their inability to perform the sacred music customary to the usual Sunday morning service, is a fact which has been made the subject of general comment, and is, to say the least, excruciating to all lovers of music. Their ideas are good, but badly executed, and out of harmony with the service." Presumably this anonymous critic quite overlooks the fact that owing to the short service system, military bands seldom reach that degree of excellence formerly attained; but her criticism, if criticism it may be called, is so general and yet so indefinite, that it can serve no good object. The band does not take part in the service in order to entertain the public. Its office is rather to make the service more impressive, and if the lady critic can point out its failure in this respect, good may result from the "excruciating" torture which she suffered.

After the laying of the corner-stone of the new Dalhousie College, the annual Convocation was held in the Academy of Music on Wednesday last. The total number of graduates was twenty-nine, fourteen taking the degree of B. A., two M. A., one B. L., and twelve L. L. B. The Avery prize went to A. F. Stewart and W. S. Calkin; the Waverly to A. G. Laird; the Early Eng. Text Society's to Charlotte McNeil; the New Shakspere Society's prize to J. K. Henry; the Boak prize to C. A. McCready; and the prize for the Historical Essay to Geo. Patterson. The medalists were J. C. Shaw, (Classics), M. J. McLeod, (Mathematics), J. E. Creighton, (Mental and Moral Philosophy), and V. E. Coffin, (Eng. Lit. and History). Among the graduates were numbered three of the fair sex, who have become bachelors:—Miss Ritchie, B. L., Miss Forbes, B. A., and Miss McNeil, B. A. The Valedictories were not quite up to last year's standard, either in matter or in delivery; although that of Mr. Shaw was clear and interesting. The proceedings were very much enlivened by the antics of the sportive undergrads. Though their sallies were at times a little annoying to the sedate, no serious harm was done. The meeting was brought to a close by a most earnest, thoughtful and appropriate address from the Rev. Dr. Hole.

Prince Napoleon, it is said, will ere long bring out a book in reply to M. Taine's recent work on Napoleon I., under the title, "A Century of Electricity."