

Established 1878. The Weekly Monitor, ISSUED ON WEDNESDAY, At Bridgetown, Annapolis Co., N. S.

TERMS: \$1.00 per annum in advance.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26TH, 1898.

Great Britain and France are again on the verge of war over their interests in Africa. A month or so ago and Western Africa was the scene of the trouble. A French expedition had encroached on territory claimed by the British, and war talk was in the press of both countries and in their parliaments, but the trouble was settled by France withdrawing her expedition and her claims to the territory over which her flag had been hoisted. Now we find the incident repeated in the upper stretches of the Nile, where Marchand has planted the French banner at Fashoda and refuses to admit that he is in a country over which Britain is an acknowledged sovereign. France has refused to recall her adventurous captain, but she is right under the guns of Kitchener's Anglo-Egyptian army and can hardly maintain his position when the word is given to remove him. This time Great Britain has evidently concluded that her trouble with France in Africa must be settled for once and all, and pending a declaration by the French Ministry as to its intentions, the British Ministry is making warlike preparations. The situation is acute, and though war would be a terrible game for these nations to engage in, it may easily be precipitated by an exasperating reply to Britain's demands.

A strong protest is being brought through out the United States against colonial expansion, and many of the strong men of the country are urging that such steps should be the most dangerous to the peace of the nation. The absorption of the Philippines will create a dangerous rivalry with European nations, who do not take kindly to the invasion of their hemisphere by a new world power. Trade will not prosper in proportion to territorial expansion unless conditions of peace and safety to commercial interests exist, and these elements are foreign to the history of any of the islands the United States is about to take over. To protect new territory and to maintain the reputation she is apparently seeking as a colonial power, will entail an enormously increased naval and military expenditure, but even with the establishment of a new army and navy the same security under which the United States has prospered so far is not guaranteed. The development of home industries will be sacrificed to a considerable extent in the acquisition of foreign trade, and there is a grave doubt as to the wisdom of the policy of acquiring colonies out of the way corners of the world.

The government of New Zealand has instituted another of those radical economic reforms for which that country is becoming noted. A bill has just passed the legislature providing that the country's poor, after they have reached the age of sixty-five years, shall be entitled to a pension of ninety dollars per year if they have lived in the colony for twenty-five years. The pension is restricted to those whose yearly income does not exceed two hundred and seventy dollars. Here is a practical way of dispensing with almshouses, though New Zealand has probably fewer paupers than any other country in proportion to its size and population, and the government do not anticipate any difficulty in providing funds for the carrying out of the project. New Zealand is apparently a model colony with a model government. The people are not socialists, in the generally accepted definition of the word, but the distribution of property and wealth is equitable and largely regulated by a government that is engaged in the practical and successful working out of many of the theories of the late Henry George.

The establishment of a pork packing factory at Middleton has not been given up, as the apparent inactivity of the company would indicate, but subscriptions to the stock lists are still being solicited, and when the whole amount of the capital has been subscribed, then work will be started in earnest. The scheme was formulated too late in the season to permit of a plant being installed this year without rushing matters, but next season will witness the launching of the enterprise, and many of our farmers are already importing bacon hogs to be ready to supply the demands of the factory. The industry will set much money in circulation and will give prominence to a new branch of farming, providing for the transition of many otherwise waste farm products into ready cash. The difficulty that has confronted the directors in placing the stock of the company is due to a scarcity of money among our farmers, rather than a lack of interest in the enterprise.

The prohibitions have been aggravated by the attention of a considerable portion of the Canadian press, which has presented to the government with the intention of bringing the government with a proper respect for the majority vote at the recent plebiscite. It is quite possible that this aggressive attitude. Common sense would say that it is a sufficient time to obtain full returns and to deliberate on the result allowed the government. Until such a period has elapsed it is an open expression of want of confidence to deluge the ministry with the resolutions of a multitude of temperance societies.

Moore, thanks to restrictive game laws, have increased in number in Nova Scotia, but now that sportsmen are beginning to understand that a moose hunt may be undertaken with a fair prospect for a kill, the hunters are increasing far faster than the game, and at the rate moose are being slaughtered now-a-days our antlered kings must be exterminated in a few seasons. The government should watch the situation closely and protect this game by will further shortening the season during which it may be hunted, and if necessary prohibit its destruction for a period of years.

The ambitious promoters of the new steamship line from Paspébe, Que., to Milford Haven, think to establish a new winter port for Canada and set largely into the business of Halifax and St. John. The new route is a short one and will be supplied with fast freighters, which will make their initial trips next month; but there is a doubt as to the feasibility of the winter port business when it is necessary to steam through the ice of the Gulf of St. Lawrence in order to reach an open harbor. There is certainly no credit attached to the venture.

The banking business in the Eastern States is evidently not prospering, in spite of the fact that general business is reported as better now than for years past. In Boston nine banks have decided to go out of business, and in New York two large concerns have just gone to the wall. The same condition, though less acute, prevails in Maine and Pennsylvania. These falling walls are burying enterprises and industry and shaking the confidence of the people in the remaining institutions.

Local and Special News.

Mallet's furs are selling rapidly. A large pipe organ was placed in the Methodist church last week.

Messrs. Cox and Hugh Richardson, of Annapolis, went west last week.

See the new Reifers for children J. W. Beckwith has just opened.

About 14,000 barrels of Valley apples, as the London City, went forward last week.

Oliver Branch Division, Sons of Temperance, will celebrate its 50th anniversary next month.

Stone street crossings on our principal business thoroughfares would be appreciated by pedestrians.

Cables this week from London report Gravestones selling from 12 to 15, and Ribbons 14 to 16.

Mr. C. C. Sweeney has imported a large quantity of sets in bulk and is putting it up in pound packages for retail.

What is advancing in price and local demand is the flour market will soon show a sympathetic advance.

The grand jury in our courts will be reduced from 24 to 12 jurors by a new law that becomes operative this month.

The Fifteenth Annual Session of the Grand Division of Nova Scotia met in Sons of Temperance Hall, Halifax, yesterday.

Rev. Adams Archibald, of Halifax, preached in the Gordon Memorial Church last Sunday morning and evening.

A team from the Evangelical Candy Kitchen, Wolfville, was in town last week catering to the requirements of the trade.

Granville Centre Agricultural Society will hold its annual meeting in Rossy's hall, Tuesday evening Nov. 1st. M. D. Best, Sec.

Geo. E. Corbett has a fine stock of Hard Coal—Parsons, Egg, Stone and Nut. He will deliver it in Bridgetown by cartload.

The schooner Annie G., loaded by Mr. H. J. Crowe, of Bellisle, was in port, came up the river on Thursday for a deck load of coal.

A meeting of the British and Foreign Bible Society will be held in the Gordon Memorial Church on Friday evening, 28th inst., at 7 o'clock.

The all night electric light programme is progressing steadily, and a cheaper and better service will, we are assured, be instituted in a few weeks.

The \$500 to \$1000 penalty for shooting partridge will have to be exacted from some of our reckless sportsmen before the law will be properly respected.

Bar River is keeping up its reputation as a sportsman's paradise this season. During the first fortnight of October fourteen moose were brought in.

Mr. Herbert Crookall, for many years deputy provincial secretary, has been superseded at his own request, and is succeeded by C. F. Fairbanks.

Mr. Wm. McLaughlin, of Round Hill, has purchased the James Messinger's property, at the western end of the town, and has moved to Bridgetown.

J. H. Hicks & Sons are headquarters for doors, sashes, sheathing, moulting and all kinds of building finish. Their prices are right. Correspondence solicited.

A heavy gale of wind from the south-west last Saturday night and Sunday made wind-falls of a large portion of the ungarthered apples throughout the valley.

The leaks in the water main at the bottom of the river, will be repaired, this week. The pipe will be taken up and re-laid under the supervision of a competent engineer.

A grey hawk, three feet long, is the pet of a youth of this town, who allows the reptile to wriggle playfully about his neck until tired, after which it nestles cozily in his coat pocket.

Mr. M. D. Messinger has sold his station farm to F. E. Parker, of Lunenburg. He is now driving Lady Rampart, 2250, and will let her loose for a new record next season.

An appeal has been taken against Mr. Justice Weather's decision awarding damages of \$200 to Mr. S. Miller, in his suit against Mr. Green, of the Confederation Life, for fire.

A Bean Social will be held on Wednesday evening, 26th inst., at the home of Eliza Whitman, Lawrencetown. If stormy, will be held Friday evening. Proceeds for benevolent purposes.

Mr. H. H. Norwood, government inspector of the Yukon mines, arrived at his home in Berlin last week from Dawson City. He will make the return trip on the ice this winter.

Halifax and St. John, 300 miles apart, are now connected by a direct telephone service. The two telephone companies concerned have instituted what is known as a double metallic circuit.

The Town Council will make an effort to improve Bridgetown streets. Two hundred tons of good gravel will, if properly applied to a properly drained street, effect a wonderful improvement.

The ladies of Morse Road intend holding a "pie social" at Mr. Miller Backler's on Wednesday evening, November 2nd. This sold at 70¢ a dozen. All are cordially invited and a good time may be expected.

Mr. C. H. Wright, of Brooklyn, raised a pumpkin measuring 36 in. in circumference and weighing 92 pounds. He also has an Essex Hybrid squash weighing 23 pounds, a Hubbard 19 pounds and a citron net 20 pounds.

Mr. T. B. Messinger, of Kingston, was unusually lucky at the Dominion Soap prize competition at the Halifax exhibition. He secured first, third and fourth prizes—a gold watch, pair of opera glasses, and two cigars.

The steamer Boston of the Yarmouth S. S. Co., will leave Yarmouth every Wednesday and Saturday evening, until further notice. The winter time table has gone into effect and the S. S. Yarmouth has been laid up.

The man who comes to town with potatoes to sell is likely to draw a long face, but when he meets the man who has hay to sell he sees a face so much longer that his own, but he has him half as much as it did—Maritime Merchant.

A bust of Sir Charles Tupper, designed for the educational museum in Toronto, is being completed, says the Montreal Star, as a mark of appreciation of that statesman's services as "Father of the Free School System of Nova Scotia."

Digby hunters after big game have been fairly successful this season. On the 21st, E. A. F. Smith and Gilbert Ellis returned from a week's outing, with a bag of four caribou and a bear, and two days before William Ellis secured a fine moose.

The regular communication of Roby Lodge, A. F. & M., will be held in Masonic Hall, Thursday evening, at 7:30. Besides the regular business, there will be the conferring of the 1st degree. The brethren are respectfully requested to attend.

The general remarks by customers now are that the ten per cent. discount J. W. Beckwith is giving off his Dress Goods together with the excellent variety to choose from places the fact beyond doubt that it does not pay to send abroad.

Nova Scotia apples are bringing good prices in the English market, we were packed and in good condition. Last week's sales reports were encouraging, Kings bringing from 17 to 21 shillings, Pippins from 23 to 30 shillings a barrel. The best Benhams brought 13 to 20 shillings, and Gravestones ranged from 12 to 17 shillings.

The Maritime Merchant says: Mr. J. E. Schaffer, of Lawrenceton, N. S., who professes to read the Maritime Merchant, was a recent visitor to this office and expressed his appreciation of the work we are endeavoring to do. Mr. Schaffer conducted a general store at the above point, and judging from the up-to-date ideas, with which he was kind enough to favor us, we believe that his store must be a pretty bright place to trade.

Normal School opened at Truro on the 19th. The attendance is larger than for years past. Annapolis County is well represented. Mr. S. C. Dukeshire, B. A., of Mailfield is in the A class and W. K. Crisp, Digbyville; Mrs. Eva Jackson, Clarence; Miss Ruby E. Darling, Paradise; Miss Myrtle Palmer, Milverton; C. C. Cochran, Paradise; C. C. Spiny, Milverton; S. A. in the B class. Miss Lilla B. Baker, Port George is in the D class.

Local and Other Matter.

County Court meets next Tuesday. Don't pay \$20 for custom-made clothing when you can get it at Mallet's for \$13.00.

Rev. R. G. St. Clair, of Canada, will preach next Sabbath in Gordon Memorial Presbyterian Church at 11 and 7.

A pair of 10¢ Goldfield Eyeglasses or Spectacles, with solid gold end pieces, warranted for 15 years, only \$2.50 at LANGTON'S.

There will be a degree work in Crescent Lodge, I. O. O. F., next Monday evening, and a full attendance of the members is requested.

The fittings for the Bank of Nova Scotia in the new Ruggles building are being put in place, but it will probably be six weeks yet before the bank will occupy the new premises.

J. W. Beckwith opened this week 3 cases clothing—Children's, Boys and Men's Ulsters, Overcoats and Reifers. Get his prices for your guide when looking for clothing.

Mr. L. D. Shaffer will build a school for the coasting trade in the yard here this winter, and then revive shipbuilding in Bridgetown. Work will be commenced next week, and Mr. John Wagstaff, of the Ferry, will be in charge.

Mr. F. W. McLeod will move from Bridgetown to Truro this week. He has sold his famous stallion, named "Wills," to the Smith brothers in South Brookfield, Queens County. Dr. Smith, of Mill Village, was crowned last evening, night during the fair.

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The Halifax Herald reports a strange coincidence in the death of a young man of the same name and age and both widowers. The name in each case is Ellen Gertrude Lindsay. They were born the same day and died the same day. They attended the age of 33. One lady died at her residence on Cornwallis street and the other at her home on Lock street last Monday.

Letter from the Capital.

Of news here there is plenty; but to get news that will be interesting to your readers, and which you have not been generally distributed by the daily papers of the city, is a more difficult task. So, for this week, at least, let me clothe my news in a garb of cheap moralizing just for a change.

What strange and almost inexplicable phenomena often strike the thoughtful and observant student of human nature in our nineteenth century. A few weeks ago I sat in a train or behind two society ladies who were discussing the shortcomings and private affairs of a neighbor in a tone of voice, necessitated by the noise of the car, which could be heard by many of the other occupants. The object of discussion in this case happened to be known to the writer, who knew also that the statements were grossly incorrect; and yesterday in a crowd it sounded strange to hear fashionably dressed women upbraiding her husband for neglect and unfaithfulness. It is strange too that an industrial fair, in order to be a success and draw a large crowd, must provide a programme of thrilling feats and amusing scene painting situations, entirely foreign to the original purpose of holding the fair; and also that the great majority spend one hour in superficial idleness, but the products and manufactures of their country, and three hours on the grand stand watching the variety show.

Another curious principle, and one which may be generalized, came under my notice last week. It was that of a company of doubtful character visited the city. One of the city clergy men, in pretty strong terms, denounced it in the daily paper, and the letter, together with the discussion which followed it, served as a better advertisement for the show than all the posters and notices that were posted on the theatre was crowded every night during the fair.

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