

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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Those who wish to secure pleasant and profitable reading matter for the winter evenings should note our exceptional offer which appears on page three. For \$2.00 in cash we undertake to send *The Critic* to any subscriber for one year, supplying him in addition with forty-five of the most readable of readable books. Those who are renewing their subscriptions, as well as new subscribers, should take advantage of this offer.

The Wanderers Bazaar opens on Monday next, and should be liberally patronized.

The Pictou branch railway, it is expected, will be in full running order next month.

A Montreal despatch states that it is proposed to start a branch of the Merchants Bank of Halifax in Montreal, and that the business community expresses great satisfaction.

The Merchants Bank of Halifax has purchased a lot 30x50 feet, on the corner of Main and Westmorland streets, Moncton, and will proceed to erect a two-story bank building, to be completed by autumn.

Our militia men will now be on the *qui vive*, as General Middleton is shortly to visit the Province. When Sir Frederic goes to Aldershot he will find our boys in a position to give a good account of themselves.

A fire in the grain warehouse of the Montreal warehousing company raged for over six hours, but was finally extinguished after damaging the 320,000 bushels of grain in store. The loss was fully covered by insurance.

Changes have lately been made in the Cabinet of British Columbia, Robert Duusmuir, member of Nanaimo, having been appointed President of the Council, and J. H. Turner, a merchant, made Minister of Finance and Agriculture. The former is without a salary, and will not have to seek re-election.

At a meeting of the City Council on Tuesday evening, a motion that the meetings of the Board of Works be open to the press, with an amendment that all committee meetings be open to the public, was defeated after the amendment had been withdrawn. Notice of reconsideration was given, but it now appears that committee meetings will continue closed to the public.

The Dominion Government has called for new tenders for the weekly mail service between England and Canada. The tenders recently received are not regarded as satisfactory. The provisions of the contract provide for faster service, and only require that Halifax, Quebec and Montreal shall be the Canadian cities touched at in summer.

One hundred and nine delegates from various branches of the Young Men's Christian Association of the Maritime Provinces met in convention at Summerside, P. E. I., last week. Much regret was expressed at the unavoidable absence of Mr. John S. Maclean, who is at present in Baddeck, C. B. Mr. McLeod, the travelling secretary, appears to have done good work for the Association, and his services have been engaged for the ensuing year.

A correspondent asks how he will send in his yearly subscription for his paper, and whether he shall buy a post office order, inclose a dollar bill with stamps for the balance, or register the letter? When post-office orders can be obtained by all means send the money in this way, the order costs but two cents and never fails to reach the office. However, we are not particular what method our subscribers adopt, provided they remit promptly on receipt of bills.

It is not surprising that the Collegiate School at Windsor has proved such a success, seeing that its head master, Dr. Willets, spares no pains in procuring able assistants. Dr. Willets has recently made arrangements to obtain the services of Mr. F. J. Richardson as senior assistant master. This gentleman is a graduate of Trinity College, and holds certificates from the Science and Art Department, South Kensington. He will doubtless prove a great acquisition to the Windsor School.

The Halifax *Chronicle* is still hammering away at the City Council, which is mainly responsible for the disgraceful condition of our pavements, and strongly recommends the adoption of concrete with a slight covering of asphalt. Anything would be better than our present pavements, which are tiresome to walk upon, and, in many places, absolutely dangerous. By the way, could not the city afford to put down a few iron bridges at the street crossings? Those already in use have proved most convenient to pedestrians.

On Saturday last, whilst Messrs. Alvin Churchill and Osborne Foote were fishing off Chegoggin, they descried an object swimming about half a mile from shore, which excited their curiosity. They started in pursuit, and, upon nearing it, ascertained that it was a cow moose, about 3 years old. Attaching a line to its antlers they led it ashore, but, as they started to drive it along, it broke loose from them and again took to the water. Again pursuing it, the men secured it, this time more firmly, and succeeded in driving it into a barn, where it now remains, in blissful ignorance as to its fate.

Avonport bricks have a good reputation among builders, and according to the Windsor *Tribune* there is a hum in the brick yards. The *Tribune* says—"Mr. Jacob Walton, the enterprising brick manufacturer of Avonport, has now completed arrangements for turning out a large supply during the present season. His intention is to manufacture two million. One kiln has already been built, and another in process. With new and improved machinery he expects to be able to compete successfully for a good portion of the trade. Mr. Shaw is also manufacturing bricks extensively, and expects to complete one million during the season."

In the sculling match for the championship of the harbor, which took place on Wednesday last, Norris won an easy victory over Peter Day, his only competitor.

Sir J. Blackwood will, in the course of a few weeks, have crossed and re-crossed the continent on the C. P. Railway. He visits Canada as a representative of the British Government, in order that the feasibility of this northern route for the Asiatic postal service may be demonstrated to his satisfaction. Minister McLelan will meet Sir J. Blackwood by the quiet blue waters of the great western ocean.

A New Brunswick paper contains the following item, to the truth of which we can vouch—"E. S. Ritchie, proprietor of the Mansard House, has in his garden one of the greatest curiosities known. It is a rock maple and ash tree so closely united under one bark at the roots and for a short distance up the trunk as to make it impossible to trace the outlines of either tree. Above that point the ash begins to form, and at a height of nine feet from the ground entirely separates from the maple. They have the appearance of being twisted together, each making four distinct wraps around the other. This tree was transplanted about ten years ago, and is still alive.

In the town of Woodstock, N. B., there is great excitement over a fire-haunted house, which the occupants have been obliged to abandon. Forty distinct fires have broken out in different parts of the house within a few hours, and the family were kept busy in extinguishing them. At one time it would be the bed clothes that were on fire, at another the sofa, at another the window blind, still another, the clothes upon a child. The breaking out of the flames were preceded by thick smoke, and thus the family were enabled to guard against the flames spreading. No satisfactory explanation of the phenomenon has yet been made. Some persons assert it is due to spontaneous combustion, and it is noteworthy that the fire usually confines itself to cotton material. The foregoing is a synopsis of an account published in one of the St. John papers. We give it for what it is worth, but not having much faith in such mysterious occurrences, we believe that some human agency will be found to be at the bottom of the whole affair.

As we predicted, a deadlock resulted from the opposing votes of the clerical and lay delegates in the meeting of the Anglican Synod. The majority of the clergy were strongly in favor of Dr. Gilpin, and as strongly opposed to Dr. Sullivan as a candidate for the vacant Bishopric—while a large majority of the laity gave Dr. Sullivan their support, and opposed the candidature of Archdeacon Gilpin. During Wednesday four distinct ballots were taken for the candidates nominated, resulting as follows:—

1ST BALLOT—CLERICAL VOTE.		LAY VOTE.	
Archdeacon Gilpin	54	Archdeacon Gilpin	38
Bishop Sullivan.....	23	Bishop Sullivan.....	77
2ND BALLOT.			
Archdeacon Gilpin.....	48	Archdeacon Gilpin.....	34
Bishop Sullivan.....	20	Bishop Sullivan.....	77
Bishop Perry	8	Bishop Perry.....	7
3RD BALLOT.			
Archdeacon Gilpin.....	47	Archdeacon Gilpin.....	36
Bishop Sullivan.....	19	Bishop Sullivan.....	78
Bishop Perry	10	Bishop Perry.....	3
4TH BALLOT.			
Archdeacon Gilpin.....	44	Archdeacon Gilpin.....	40
Bishop Sullivan.....	18	Bishop Sullivan.....	74
Bishop Perry.....	3	Bishop Perry.....	1

It will be understood that a successful candidate must receive a majority of the votes cast by the clergy, as well as a majority of the votes cast by the laity, as now, if the candidates balloted for had received the support of the majority on each side of the house, it was mutually agreed that the names of Archdeacon Gilpin and Bishop Sullivan should be dropped, and a candidate mutually acceptable to both parties introduced.

At the adjourned meeting of the Synod, on Thursday morning, Bishop Perry, of Iowa, was unanimously elected to the Bishopric of Nova Scotia. It is understood that Bishop Perry, who will be in Halifax to-day, will probably accept the position. A large number of the Anglican clergy take part in the laying of the corner stone of the Church of England Cathedral. Several Canadian and American Bishops will take part in the ceremony.

It is said that the Chinese are becoming alarmed at the rate of mortality among themselves in New York from quick consumption. The physicians blame the light diet of the Chinese as being insufficient for this climate.

A very large whale, dead, floated into New York harbor last week and stranded on Bedloe's Island at the feet of Bartholomew's Liberty enlightening the world. Perhaps this is Neptune's mute offering of oil for her lamp.

Prof. Crouch, the composer of "Kathleen Mavourneen," has been elected a fellow in the London Society of Arts, Letters, and Sciences. He is living quietly and happily in Baltimore, and has just reached his eighty-seventh birthday.

At Rockaway Beach Prof. T. S. Baldwin has covered himself with water by leaping from a balloon at the height of a mile, his descent being retarded by a parachute. In less than a minute and a half he descended into the water a quarter of a mile from the shore.

Lord and Lady Herschell have arrived at Newport. R. J. Herschell is chairman of a committee of the House of Commons recently appointed to enquire into the causes of the continual depreciation of silver. He goes to Montreal and thence to San Francisco, where he will investigate the production of silver.