

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 sixteen. For \$2.50 in cash we undertake to send *THE CRITIC* to any subscriber for one year, supplying him in addition with seventy-nine 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 Joggins railway is to be operated by telephone, thus obviating the necessity of employing skilled telegraph operators.

A heavy fire in Winnipeg has destroyed property to the value of \$24,000, only a part of the loss is covered by insurance.

The Canadian Pacific will expend over \$1,000,000 upon its Montreal station and its approaches. The foundations for the new station are to be completed within six weeks.

The brig *Hebe*, bound from Rio Janeiro, has been stranded in the Magdalen Islands, and her crew are down with small-pox. Every precaution will be taken to quarantine the shipwrecked sick ones.

Dr. Brodeur, who made a post-mortem examination of the body of Senator Senecal, says that the development of his massive brain reminded him much of the brain of Gambetta, which was of abnormal size.

Harrison R. Forbes, of Forbes & Co., of Toronto, has crossed into the United States, not being in a position to meet the liabilities of the firm of which he was Forbes and also Co. The bucket shop business was the cause of his ruin.

The rolling stock of the Intercolonial railway consists of 60 first-class cars; 72 second-class and emigrant cars; 11 sleepers; 42 baggage, express and postal cars; 1,529 cattle and freight cars; 1,442 flats; 1,828 hoppers; 83 vans, and 164 locomotives.

Bridgewater is one of the most enterprising towns on the Western Shore. Its trade is large, and its people wide awake. A shoe factory is, it is said, shortly to be established in the town. According to the growth in our population, we require annually 15,000 pairs of shoes more than in the preceding year, so the home market is all right.

The City Council should take up the matter of an Exhibition in Halifax next year, and push it with energy and determination. If the Exhibition is to be a success, the thousand and one details of its carrying out should not be left until the eleventh hour. If Halifax is to have the Exhibition, it should do it well, otherwise it had better be left alone.

It has more than once been hinted that a syndicate of capitalists were desirous of purchasing the Intercolonial Railway, but it is said that the Government will not entertain the idea of its sale until the completion of the Short Line. For our own part, we hope that they will not entertain it even then, as the road, which belongs to the people, should remain under Government control.

It is satisfactory to note that the Opposition, as well as the Government press, unqualifiedly endorse the appointment of Sir Charles Tupper as the Canadian representative upon the Fishery Commission. Sir Charles is unquestionably the strongest man that could have been appointed, and as he will be supported by the Minister of Justice as legal adviser, both parties may rest assured that the Canadian case will be presented in a proper manner.

Dalhousie College was formally opened on Tuesday last by appropriate ceremonies, which were held in Orpheus Hall. The addresses by Professor Seth was decidedly profound, and his arguments in favor of his claim that philosophy is the science of sciences, were logical throughout. The new college building is almost finished, indeed, so near has it approached to completion that several of the lecture rooms will be ready for occupation on Monday next.

A definite offer, it is said, has been made to the Dominion Government by a syndicate of English capitalists, to construct the subway connecting Prince Edward Island with the mainland. Twenty thousand dollars a year for twenty years is the subsidy asked for. The sum appears modest, as compared with the estimated cost of the work as laid down by Senator Howland, but if a company can be found to do it for the money, the chances for the subway project are decidedly bright.

Crowded houses nightly greet the J. S. Murphy company at the Academy. Some of the scenes in "Kerry Gow," which was played during the first three nights of the week, are strikingly realistic, notably the one where Murphy actually forges a horse shoe, and where the carrier-pigeons bring home the result of the race. The company is well fitted to produce this play, but are expected to surpass themselves in the production of "Shaun Rhue," which is put on the last three evenings of this week.

The Victoria County Election case, which was settled this week, has excited no little interest in political circles. John A. MacDonald, member of Parliament for Victoria, was accused of personal bribery, and Mr MacCurdy, the petitioner, protested against his holding the seat for that county. The evidence given at the trial can leave no doubt in the minds of those who have read it, that corrupt practices were indulged in by those who supported Mr. MacDonald; and on account of these the election has been voided. The charges of personal bribery were not sustained by evidence such as in the judgment of Judge James, was sufficient to disqualify Mr. MacDonald; but stripped of the technicalities of the law, most persons would be forced to conclude from reading it, that the respondent's conduct defied the spirit, if not the letter of the Election Act, and that he had in fact a very close shave.

The *Springhill News* evidently believes that Springhill is to be the Newcastle of Nova Scotia, as it calmly suggests that that place should be the shire town of the County of Cumberland. Amherst, the present municipal capital, has always had the credit of being a wide-awake place, and, if we mistake not, will smile at the pretentiousness of the big settlement at the black diamond mines.

Several gunning accidents are reported during the past week. In one, the son of Mr. B. A. Smith, of Halifax, while out shooting near the North-West-Arm, was accidentally shot in the legs by his brother; the wounds are of a most serious nature, and it is feared one, if not both legs, will have to be amputated, in order to preserve his life. Another is the fatal accident which befell Edward Rafuse, of Chester, who, while out gunning, undertook to destroy a snake, which was lying in the road, by striking it with the butt of his gun. The fowling piece was loaded, and young Rafuse received the full charge in his body. Death was almost instantaneous. The lad was eighteen years of age. These are sad lessons, the effect of inexperience and thoughtlessness, and parents should see to it, that their sons are thoroughly trained in the use of fire arms before allowing them to handle such dangerous weapons.

A sad case of death resulting from a mistake happened in Lorne, Pictou Co. A daughter of Mrs. MacKay had been taking beef, iron and wine as a tonic, and her mother, mistaking a bottle containing carbolic acid for that containing the usual medicine, administered a half wine glass of the poison. The girl, discovering the mistake, told her mother, and desired that her father might be called at once. She lingered until the next day, the physicians being unable to counteract the effects of the acid. This story, which appeared in the Halifax dailies, is no doubt true, but it is somewhat curious that a mistake should be made between dark-colored beef, iron and wine and light clear carbolic acid. It is also strange that the mother should have asked the daughter to drink it down quickly, seeing that beef, iron and wine has quite a pleasant taste. At any rate, the folly of leaving bottles of mixtures without labels has been sadly proven.

The *Bridgewater Enterprise* says:—"The Nova Scotia Telephone Company propose completing the telephone system throughout the Province as soon as possible. Already they are established in some of the leading towns of the province, and are now making arrangements for connecting the Western Counties with Halifax. In Lunenburg County the company have met with signal success through the energetic canvassing of Mr. Wm. M. Duff, who is acting for the company, and in less than three days secured subscribers in Lunenburg and Mahone Bay for about fifty private instruments, and in Bridgewater about thirty. In all probability there will be taken in these places, in all about one hundred instruments. The company are in a position to furnish telephones at an exceedingly cheap rate, and in this go-ahead age the convenience and practical advantages of the telephone have been fully demonstrated, and every business man should have one. Mr. Duff will be pleased to talk with any one upon this great enterprise."

Geronimo, and fourteen other Apaches, have been indicted for murder by the grand jury of Arizona.

The U. S. Government is in constant receipt of telegrams from Socialist organizations, praying that the sentence of death passed upon the Chicago anarchists may not be carried out.

A second steamer has arrived in New York from Italy, and is proved to have several persons afflicted with cholera on board. The New York authorities have quarantined the steamer, and will take every means to prevent the spread of the disease.

Farmers living in Howard County, Indiana, in the vicinity of the great Shradler gas well, near Kokomo, go on record as harvesting the first wheat by natural gaslight. A dozen self-binders, and men shocking wheat by this light, was, says the *Indianapolis Times*, truly a novel scene, which was witnessed by hundreds of people, who surrounded the fields of grain in carriages.

Train robbers appear to have superseded the highwaymen of old. The other day, three of these hardy villains, closely masked, stopped an express train a few miles out of El Paso. Two of them covered the engine-driver and fireman with revolvers, while a third attempted to blow open the door of the express car, but the agent in charge shot him dead just as he was about entering the carriage. For cool audacity these train robbers are the equals of Blue-skin, who figures so largely in Newgate's fiction.

The *Marine Industrial News* says that the stuffed skin of a sea serpent is now being exhibited at Peake's Island, Portland harbor, by W. H. Ordway. His snakeship was captured on the Banks of Newfoundland, Oct. 11th, 1886, by Capt. E. F. Barnstead of the sloop *Hattie F. Walker*, Halifax. Its length was 47 feet, 3 inches, and its weight 900 lbs. Its mouth contains a fine set of teeth, and on its upper jaw are two fangs, each 13 inches long. Five feet back of his head are flukes on each side, and the end of his tail is formed like a sculling oar, being flat and 9 inches in width at the end.

A young man named Charles Francis Stain, now undergoing his sentence in a Connecticut State prison, has made a confession which implicates his father and one Oliver Smith, as being the murderers of Mr. Warren, the Treasurer of the National Bank at Dexter, Me. This case has been wrapped in mystery for the past nine years, and never before has there been the slightest clue discovered as to who committed the act. It has often been more than hinted that the treasurer was a suicide as well as a defaulter, but such gossiping stories have never been contradicted nor substantiated. Now, the truth is coming to light, and Mr. Warren's character will be vindicated.