

## NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Subscribers remitting Money, either direct to the Office, or through Agents, will find a receipt for the amount enclosed in their next paper. All remittances should be made payable to A. M. Fraser.

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.

Parliament (the Dominion) is to meet on 31st Jany.

The new Conservative paper, the *Empire*, was to appear on the 27th instant.

Mr. Cochrane (Cons.) has been returned to the Dominion Parliament for E. Northumberland by a majority of 126.

The organization of the new department of trade and commerce will not be carried out until after the session of parliament.

The S. S. *Batavia* has arrived at Vancouver, B. C., after a most tempestuous voyage of 16 days and twenty-two hours, from Yokohama.

The buffalo seems to be not quite extinct even yet, if it is true, as reported, that a large herd has been seen 100 miles west of Battleford.

The appointment of Shakespeare, M. P., as postmaster at Victoria, will necessitate a new election there, and the writs will be used within a few days.

The western Infantry Schools of Instruction are overcrowded, and applicants are offering to forego travelling allowances if permitted to go to Fredericton.

It is understood that the petition for the repeal of the Scott Act in Westmoreland covers all the legal requirements, and a polling day will shortly be fixed for the contest.

Some carefully prepared statistics, recently published, show that while the New England States have doubled their population in a half a century, the Canadian Provinces have done twice as well.

A shooting affray occurred on Wednesday week at Myrtle, Ont., between two whiskey detectives and some anti Scott Act persons. Robert Brown, bar-tender of Port Perry, was fatally injured.

A series of bridges, to afford communication between Canada and the United States at the Sault Sainte Marie, is on the point of completion. This new international highway will be of great importance.

Mr. Norquay, Premier of Manitoba, has resigned, and Mr. Harrison has very rapidly formed a new ministry. Mr. Norquay indignantly denies that he has been offered official inducement by Sir John to resign.

Geo. Mann & Co., of the liquor-tea company, Toronto, have assigned with liabilities \$60,000, and assets \$40,000. The Central bank is the principal creditor. Other creditors are tea and book houses in New York and England.

The number of sudden deaths occurring during the Christmas week has been remarkable. They include Mr. Roche and Mr. Henderson, of Halifax, and Mr. Owen Conolly, said to be the wealthiest citizen of Prince Edward Island.

The *St. John Sun* says that Wiggins has scored a point, as he predicted a green Christmas. We do not quite see it. We understand a green Christmas to mean a soft one, and, though very fine, the Christmas week has been quite hard and cold.

Some busybodies and quidnuncs in England have been amusing themselves with discussing the state of the Militia of Canada, of which they know less than nothing. It is probable, however, that their promptings come from the disaffected here.

Six commissions in the Cavalry or Infantry of the Line are to be granted to officers of the Active Militia of Canada under certain regulations which are gazetted. Age, 19 to 22, must have served 15 months, and pass a rigid medical and literary examination.

Surveying operations in connection with the fortifications to be erected by the Imperial Government at Esquiault are being carried on by a detachment of Royal Engineers, in charge of Lieut. J. I. Laing, a graduate of 1883, of our own Royal Military College.

Enlistment for the new school of infantry, at London, Ont., will be commenced very shortly. The strength will be the same as that of the other schools—one hundred. The barracks are about ready for occupation, and the school is to be opened in April.

There is a rumor that the Dominion Government is about to take over the Canadian Pacific Railway, giving a perpetual guarantee of 3 per cent. on the stock. If there is any foundation for it such a transaction should be narrowly watched, and would require the fullest discussion.

The Imperial small arms committee have been conducting a series of tests of a new magazine rifle submitted to them, and the results have proved so satisfactory that they have been communicated to the Militia Department at Ottawa. They report a mean deviation of curvature of only twelve inches in one thousand yards, and no recoil when the shot is fired. These improvements are likely to cause a revolution in the use of small arms.

The sheep ranch of Ira Wilson, at Cadboro Bay, opposite San Juan Island, B. C., was seized by Customs officers, on Saturday last. The proprietor was accused of smuggling sheep and other stock on San Juan Island to various parts of Vancouver Island. Three hundred sheep, and other stock, were seized, and the matter referred to Ottawa. Wilson acknowledges having smuggled, and has put up enough security to cover the seizure and probable fine.

Mr. Langham, the well-known cattle exporter of Belleville, Ont., has just received through Lord Dufferin the appointment of manager, in India, of the cattle estates of the Nizam of Hyderabad, who will be remembered as having given \$2,000,000 towards the fortifications and defence of India a short time ago.

We have to acknowledge a very artistic calendar, with a Christmas greeting, from the Passenger Department of the "Chicago and North Western Railway." The tone of the colored engraving of two handsome dogs, and of the sporting scene above them is admirable, and quite novel in this sort of thing.

Messrs. C. C. Richards & Co., the proprietors of "Minard's Liniment," etc., have published an extremely pretty calendar for 1888, a copy of which they have kindly sent to us. This enterprising firm claims to have increased its sales 50 per cent. during the past year, and is preparing for a large extension of its operations.

A fatal dynamite explosion occurred at Brookfield on Friday morning last, by which four men were killed, and a man badly, and a woman less seriously, injured. The disaster was caused by the foolhardiness of A. Macdonald, (killed,) who persisted, against remonstrance, in thawing frozen dynamite in a kettle on the stove. The bodies were frightfully mangled.

Messrs. P. W. Ellis & Co., of Toronto, have just entered into a contract with the Dominion Rifle Association for the manufacture of a large number of silver medals annually distributed by that body, and which hitherto have been made in England. The samples shewn were fully equal to the imported article, and the Association decided that the work should for the future be done in Canada.

The Victoria or St. Patrick's hall on Ann Street, in Quebec, the property of St. Patrick's literary institute, was totally destroyed by fire at 3 o'clock on the morning of the 28th. The flames were prevented from spreading with difficulty, as an easterly gale was raging. Miss Hamilton had her leg broken, and the roof fell on four firemen, all of whom were promptly rescued, Mathew Gorman being the only one seriously injured.

Another railway collision: this time, fortunately, without loss of life, but resulting in injury to one man, the destruction of a number of coal and freight cars, and much damage to two engines. It occurred on the Pictou Branch, about 6½ miles from Truro. Luckily one train was going slow. But again, the mischief came about either from disobedience or misapprehension of orders as to the point of crossing. In the one case, the heaviest culpability—in the other, the grossest carelessness. Again, therefore, in either case, we demand, in the name of the public, which is at their mercy, special legislation and special punishments for the crimes and misdemeanors of railway officials, high or low.

The special committee to enquire into the charges brought against Mr. Chief Inspector of Licenses Mackasey met on Thursday of last week, when the accusers brought forward several small boys and two men, who testified to having observed infractions of the curious law, entitled the "License Act of 1886," together with a clergyman, who "gave away" some members of his congregation, who, he said, had "fallen into his arms in a stiff condition." But no attempt was made to connect Mr. Mackasey with these infractions, or even to show that he could have been cognizant thereof. After wasting an entire evening in taking useless evidence, the committee adjourned till the 5th proximo, when the complainants promise some more "evidence," which will, in all probability, prove as irrelevant as that which has gone before. The committee and the Council deserve much credit for the patience with which they have listened to the complaints of cranks; but we submit that their time is too valuable to themselves and to the city, to be thrown away in this manner.

Ripe tomatoes are hanging from the vines at Talahassee, Fla.

A man was plowing on the 16th of this month at Newton, Mass.

Great suffering and death from extreme cold are reported from Kansas.

St. Paul, Minn., claims to have spent more than \$11,000,000 in building this year.

It is reported by special telegram from New York, that the venerable Emperor William died on Wednesday.

The thermometer was reported as low as 51 degrees below zero in the mountainous parts of Western Colorado about the 22nd inst.

At the request of the American plenipotentiaries the next fisheries conference has been postponed from the 4th to the 7th January next.

Mrs. Ada List, of Chicago, was shorn of her long tresses on Wednesday night. While she was placing a letter in a pillar box, a man slipped up behind her, and, with a very sharp knife, clipped off the braid which hung down her back.

A great strike has been ordered on the Philadelphia and Reading Railway and Coal Company. 60,000 men say they can support a six months' strike. The company is preparing to fill the strikers' places, but the coal industry will be paralyzed for a time.

Another of the cool bank robberies, now becoming so frequent, was recently perpetrated by F. McNeally, a teller of a bank at Saco, Me. This latest specimen of bank-clerk rascality took \$3,500 in cash, and \$279,000 in bonds, made his way to Montreal, and afterwards indulged in a tour in Europe and Egypt. Coming to Halifax he was arrested. He seems to have regarded the bonds as a means of making terms with the bank, and, altogether, to be about as cool as this species of villiany has developed.