

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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It is now over two years since THE CRITIC was established. Its readers have had a good opportunity to judge of the tone, character, enterprise, and worth of the journal, and if they deem its merits are worthy of their continuance and support, we ask their co-operation in still further increasing its circulation. Any subscriber renewing his subscription will, upon forwarding to this office \$2.50, be entitled to two copies of THE CRITIC for the ensuing year, one to be mailed to his own address, the other to any person he may desire. Ask your neighbor to club with you for THE CRITIC when you next renew your subscription, or, if you have a brother, son, or relative, resident in any other part of Canada or the United States, send in your order for two copies, and we will send the absent one THE CRITIC for the next year, post paid.

The mortuary statistics of Halifax shows that 67 persons died during the month of September.

5000 head of Montana cattle have passed over the Canadian Pacific Railway to Winnipeg so far this season.

The Rev. H. Scomberg Kerr, who twenty years ago was a well-known mid-shipman in Halifax, has been appointed Archbishop of Bombay.

The Canadian Government, provided Parliament agrees, will grant \$100,000 towards the establishment of the Imperial Institute at London.

Lord Lansdowne is to return to Canada towards the end of November. He has just been visiting his tenants in Ireland, and evidently fully appreciated their situation, as he has reduced rents from 20 to 35 per cent.

The mills of the Canada Paper Company at Windsor Mills, P.Q., have been destroyed by fire. The loss, which is upward of \$150,000, is fully covered by insurance.

The Canadian Pacific Exhibition car, containing samples of the cereals, minerals, &c., of the N. W. T., is now being exhibited in the cities and towns of New England.

In the Scott Act counties of Ontario, liquor is now sold in oil cans. The vigilance committees have discovered the trick, and are on the lookout for illicit oil-venders.

Messrs. Hesslein, proprietors of the Halifax Hotel, are about to spend \$20,000 in extending, renovating, and improving the present building. An elevator for the convenience of guests, is one of the improvements promised.

William Boles, a colored man of Amherst, has been sentenced to 28 years in the Dorchester penitentiary. This is almost equivalent to a life sentence, but the prisoner, if his life is spared, may yet enjoy a short term of freedom after leaving the penitentiary.

Mr. Gale, the general agent for the Equitable Insurance Company at Montreal, who protested against the company's appointing a new manager, has agreed to withdraw his injunction, and the Company will pay him \$115,000 in settlement of all his claims.

There is to be a great gathering of curlers at Moncton during the month of January. At least 400 devotees of this popular Scotch game, are expected to be present. An enterprising Monctonian (Mr. George McSweeney), has offered as a first prize a handsome silver cup. The list will probably include many other valuable prizes.

A tunnel is shortly to be constructed under the St. Clair River, between Port Sarnia on the Canadian and Port Huron on the American side. It will be one mile in length, and will cost about \$2,000,000. It is to be a single track brick tunnel. Its construction is undertaken jointly by two companies, one of which is interested in the Grand Trunk Railway. The passenger and freight trains are at present ferried over the St. Clair in large steamers.

The handsome cars of the Street Railway Company have been most liberally patronized since they first commenced to run. Thousands of persons who seldom used anything but "Shank's mare" are now able to obtain a pleasant ride for a five cent bit. By the street railway the beautiful park is made accessible to the dwellers in the north end of the city, who have heretofore been limited to an annual visit to that delightfully rural spot.

Hospital Sunday, on which collections for the benefit of the Halifax City Dispensary are usually taken up, was observed in a few of our churches last Sunday, and will be observed in all of them within the next few weeks. One clergyman in appealing for assistance for the sick and poor of Halifax, reminded his hearers that the hand of the poor is God's treasure house, Those who have not already contributed towards the Dispensary funds should bear this in mind.

The new City Hall, the cuts of which appeared in the columns of our enterprising contemporary the "Chronicle" last week, is to be a fine, substantial structure, and will greatly improve the appearance of the parade. In this connection the City Board of Works should consider the advisability of having a balcony on the parade side of the building, such as could be used by public speakers in addressing large gatherings of citizens. It might also be worth considering whether the building could not be constructed of native marble, such as that found in Cape Breton. The use of this stone would probably not add to the cost of the new City Hall, while in appearance it would be preferable to either granite or freestone.

Montreal is becoming the city of refuge for American defaulters, boodle aldermen and such like. For consummate cheek one of the latter gentlemen deserves the palm. Although obliged to leave New York on account of his misdemeanors, he was drawn on the New York City Treasury for the amount of his allowance as an alderman, and the sum will, it is said, have to be paid. Slang words such as gall and sand are weak when applied to such a character.

The Convocation of Dalhousie College, which took place at the Provincial Building on Tuesday afternoon of this week, attracted, as usual, a large number of ladies and gentlemen. The address was this year delivered by Professor Russell, who managed to make a somewhat dry subject, "Law Reform," extremely interesting. \$12,500 will this year be awarded in bursaries to successful students. A lively interest is being manifested by the Alumni in the site chosen for the new College buildings, many persons regarding it as unsuitable.

As might have been expected, Justin McCarthy's reputation as an author and politician attracted an intelligent audience to the Academy of Music on Wednesday evening. The speaker was introduced with a few appropriate remarks by the Hon. Provincial Secretary. Mr. McCarthy dealt with his subject, "Statesmen and Parties," with the same impartiality that characterizes his popular "History of our own Times;" in fact the lecture throughout bore a strong resemblance to the best chapters of that well-known work. In a succinct manner he defined the position of the political parties in England, and in effective word-pictures he delineated the statesmen of the past quarter of a century. Gladstone came in for an unstinted meed of praise; Disraeli was depicted as the great master of satire; Bright was eulogized and politically shelved; Chamberlain was acknowledged to be a man of ability who had rendered his future career uncertain; Labouchere, the lecturer regarded as a man of great talent, which had never received proper recognition; Hartington had won his spurs by dint of self denying devotion to that which he considered as his duty; Salisbury was by cruel fate forced to take a seat in the House of Lords, which greatly restricted his influence; while Churchill, the present leader in the House of Commons, who had won his position by his bold criticisms of friend and foe, bore promise of yet developing that more solid statesmanship required in a leader. The Lecturer's delivery was calm and impressive throughout, and his audience left the hall well pleased with the evening's discourse.

The Nihilists, who a few months since escaped from Siberia, have arrived in San Francisco.

An extensive forest-fire in Minnesota has devastated 200 sq. miles of country. The damage is estimated at \$5,000,000.

Edward Parker, of Philadelphia, has bequeathed \$900,000 towards a house for aged and infirm colored persons.

The Pennsylvania Railway is about to try the experiment of using natural gas on the engines of the Pittsburgh division.

Southern Negroes are arranging for State fairs in Arkansas, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Florida, to show the industrial progress they are making.

After four long weary months the Indian War in Arizona has been brought to a close. Gen. Miles, the U. S. commander, stated that the prisoners would be treated honorably, according to the terms of surrender.

At Summerville; near Charleston, a recent earthquake shock has developed several geysers. The water does not spout high, but it is cold as ice and clear as crystal.

A form of disease resembling diphtheria has attacked the hogs in Indiana. Farmers have been heavy losers from the disease, which is epidemic.

Since the adoption of the two cent stamp by the Postal Department of the United States, the Revenue has greatly fallen off. The Postmaster General estimates that the deficiency this year will be \$7,000,000, which is \$2,000,000 less than his estimate at the commencement of the year.

Mrs. Charlotte Smith, President of the Woman's Industrial League in the United States, has requested the Knights of Labor to incorporate in their constitution a by-law making the support of wife and family obligatory upon members of the order; this, she says, will prevent wife desertion, which is becoming very common in America.

The friends and near neighbors of Miss Bailey, of Haverhill, Mass., who had assembled on the announcement of the young lady's demise, were much astonished when in endeavoring to dress her in her grave clothes, Miss Bailey suddenly sat up in bed apparently unconscious that anything unusual had happened. Miss Bailey had been in poor health for several months, and her death was looked for. The trance into which she fell lasted for many hours. The patient is now doing well.

The report of the committee appointed by the French Chamber of Deputies, favors the taxation of all foreigners doing business in France.

Mr. Scully, a landlord of Tipperary, in abating his rents 25 per cent, said he was prepared to share the inevitable losses with his tenants.

German Socialists are known to have incited the recent anarchist riots in Belgium.

An address has been moved in the Queensland Assembly to the Queen asking that a division be made of that colony.

The Republic of Columbia has gone in for wholesale protection. All unenumerated articles are to be subject to a duty of \$1.20 per pilogram, or two and a half pounds. Sugars, cottons, and sundry other necessaries of life, are to be taxed according to this schedule.