

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

North Sydney, C. B., is to have a new Post Office, which is to be in keeping with the requirements of a growing town. Contract has been awarded to Messrs. McDonald and Freer.

Prof. Proctor, whose visit to Cape Breton was noticed some weeks ago, says in the *Chicago Inter Ocean* that "as far as an outsider can judge, railways alone are needed to make this wonderful Island (Cape Breton) one of the most prosperous and most attractive places on the American Continent."

S. J. Walker of Truro, has established an excellent name as an engraver and sculptor, which few older establishments have succeeded in obtaining. Mr. Walker deserves the large patronage which he enjoys.

Dr. Washington is now actively engaged in the practice of his profession in Halifax, and has already secured a large share of patronage.

Principal Grant, during the course of his sermons preached on Sunday last, referred in most eulogistic terms to the moral, intellectual and material growth of Halifax. Dr. Grant is a keen observer, and a man more likely to point out our shortcomings than eulogise unreal advancement. Favorable criticism from such a quarter is most encouraging, and should prove a wholesome tonic to those in the community who are ever ready to decry Halifax, sneer at the culture of her people, and grow eloquent over the depth of their wickedness.

The yacht race for the American Challenge Cup, which was postponed from last week, was easily won by the American yacht "Puritan." In the first heat, which was sailed on Monday, the "Puritan" came in a mile ahead; but the second, on Wednesday, was closely contested from start to finish.

Messrs. Meikle and Gerrior, the well known evangelists, have been attracting immense throngs of people in their Gospel tent, which has been pitched during the past week upon the common. Thousands flock on each evening to the tent, and eagerly listen to the prayers and exhortations of Mr. Meikle, who appears to be a man of extraordinary influence. The singing of Mr. Gerrior is much appreciated, but the congregational singing lacks the heartiness and enthusiasm which is the most noticeable feature in the popular meetings of the Salvation Army. The fact that the Gospel tent and Salvation Army hall cannot accommodate 50 per cent. of those seeking admission, is a strong evidence that the spirit is abroad in the community. With proper direction these outside agencies should be the means of adding many names to the membership rolls of our respective churches, and the ministers should not be slow in realizing this fact.

Fifty-two miles of telephonic communication has been established during the present week, connecting Hantsport, Windsor, Brooklyn and Mount Uniacke with Halifax. We congratulate Mr. Clarence Dimock, the energetic president of the company, upon the completion of a work of such magnitude and utility. By request of Mr. Smith, the Halifax manager, we visited the office in the city, and enjoyed the pleasure of a brief chat with the President whose conversation was distinctly audible, notwithstanding the fact that the speaker was distant forty-five miles. The establishment of this line will be a great advantage to business men.

It is quite certain that the Dominion Government has decided to do everything possible to have a railway built at an early day from the Strait of Canso to Sydney or Louisburg. This is all that anybody expects that government to do for Cape Breton in the matter of railways. At the next meeting of the Local Legislature, Dr. McLennan will no doubt revive the discussion on his very judicious and moderately-worded railway resolutions. We hope the Local Government will then be ready to do something tangible towards getting a branch railway built from the Strait of Canso northwards. Without such a branch line the magnificent resources of Inverness and Victoria Counties cannot be profitably developed.

Messrs. W. L. Lowell & Co represent two of the oldest and most reliable Insurance Companies in the Dominion.

Mr. James McN. Gabriel, of the Postal Department of the Canadian Civil Service, having passed the requisite examinations, has been promoted to a first-class clerkship. Mr. G. has been for some years in the employ of the P. O. Department, and is in every respect a most efficient official. He well deserves his promotion.

The concert last evening attracted a large and fashionable audience. The stage was artistically decorated with flowers and foliage plants. Miss Thursby was most enthusiastically received and fully sustained her reputation as the leading concert singer in America. The playing of Chevalier DeKontski was superb, his technique and execution being masterly. Messrs. Sichel & Co., the local managers, are to be congratulated for their enterprise in bring to the city such an array of talent. The second concert to be given this evening will doubtless attract an equally large audience.

We beg to call the attention of the owners of horses and cattle to the advertisement of W. Jakeman, Provincial Veterinary Surgeon, which appears in another column.

The Forest and Stream Publishing Company announce for immediate publication, "Small Yachts," an elaborately illustrated Quarto by C. P. Kunhardt.

In an other column will be found the advertisement of the New Fruit Store of R. M. Brown, 52 Sackville Street. We hope that Mr. Brown's numerous friends will give him a share of their patronage.

The Critic will hereafter be published for subscribers only, and will not be for sale upon the streets.

It is currently reported that A. McIsaac, Esq., M. P. of Antigonish, is to be made a County Court Judge for the Counties of Inverness, Antigonish and Guysboro', and that his place in the Commons will be filled by Judge Thompson. If this be true, Nova Scotia will give the Dominion Cabinet an able Minister of Justice, and will be well represented in that body.

The opening session of the Institute of Mining Engineers was well attended. Sir Adams G. Archibald, chairman of the general committee, extended a cordial welcome to the members of the Institute on behalf of the people of Nova Scotia. He thought that this province was honored by the Institute in choosing Halifax as a place for their autumnal meeting; and he was of the opinion that the members would find in this, the greatest mining Province of the Dominion, much that would be of interest to men of science. The speech of Sir Adams was courteous throughout and was received with marked appreciation.

The Mayor, Mr. J. C. Mackintosh, chairman of the citizen's committee, referred to the pleasure with which the people of Halifax welcomed the distinguished members of the Institute, and expressed the hope that the visit might be profitable, not only to the gentlemen present, but to those engaged in the great mining industry in various parts of Nova Scotia.

J. C. Bayles Esq., President of the Institute, responded on behalf of the Engineers. The sessions of Thursday afternoon and evening were of great interest. In a subsequent number will be given the gist of several papers of special merit.

The excursion upon the harbour, given by the citizens of Halifax to the Mining Engineers on Wednesday afternoon, was a brilliant success, and the visitors, especially those from the Western States, were loud in their praises of the picturesque nature of much that they saw. By all it was conceded that Halifax people had good reason to feel proud of their spacious and beautiful harbour, and the Engineers acknowledged the good judgment of the citizens' committee in arranging such a charming trip for their entertainment.

The fourth concert of the year in the Public Gardens, which took place on Wednesday evening last, may be considered as one of the best during the present season, and although the attendance by no means equalled that of the concert given upon the return of our volunteers, the gate returns were very satisfactory. The pyrotechnic display was much appreciated, as was also the playing of the bands. The Garden Commissioners, having issued complimentary tickets to the members of the Institute of Mining Engineers, must have felt gratified in having such a large number of those gentlemen take advantage of the invitation, and certainly the Engineers could not fail to admire the gem of our city, which at this season of the year is more than ever attractive.

The gold mining district of Montague, near Halifax, was visited on Thursday morning by a number of gentlemen from Colorado, California, and other parts of the United States. The mine under the management of Mr. Baker was carefully inspected, and much astonishment was expressed at the unusual amount of free gold to be observed in the quantity now being taken out. The visitors were handsomely entertained, and took away with them many crack specimens. The knowledge that we have in this Province such valuable Gold Mines, will through them be widely diffused.

The Northampton, which through the kindness of His Excellency Vice-Admiral Sir J. E. Commerell was yesterday thrown open to visitors, attracted many of the strangers in the city. The officers of the ship were most courteous to those seeking information. Messrs. S. Cunard & Co., with characteristic forethought, placed the steam launch "Arrow" at the disposal of the committee for transporting visitors to and from the ship.

The reception given last evening by the citizens of Halifax to the Mining Engineers, formed a fitting climax to the meetings of the Institute in this city, and afforded ample opportunity for that social intercourse for which Halifaxians are proverbial. The easy conversational powers of the visitors proved them to be men of culture and refinement, and although their profession necessitates a knowledge of the hard facts of nature, they evidently find time for the cultivation of their literary tastes. Among the American ladies present were several pronounced blue stockings, but the majority of them were of that more attractive class known to us as well-educated and well-bred ladies. No doubt many of the latter will, during months of the coming year, again revisit Halifax, and should they do so they will find among our citizens many appreciative friends.

Last Saturday afternoon a very large crowd of Haligonians assembled on the Polo grounds to witness the Military Tournament. Some of the contests were of a novel character, others were old but seldom seen in this part of the world. The engagements between men armed with different weapons exemplified modern warfare much better than if the combatants were armed alike; and in the training of men for military action the fact ought never to be lost sight of. Another idea which would strike a non-military observer, is that the lance for cavalrymen appeared to be a superior weapon to the sword. The tent-pegging, tilting at the ring, lemon-cutting, and Turk's head splitting, brought out some clever contestants, but they were so numerous, and the feats were so very similar, that the spectators came to look upon this part of the programme as "weary, stale, flat, and unprofitable." But the last two events revived the flagging interest and elicited bursts of laughter from the hitherto stoical looking spectators. The efforts of the wrestlers to push, pull, twist, lift, crowd, cajol, or otherwise displace each other from their seats, and the tactics, or antics of the Zulus imported for the occasion (from the barracks) were droll enough to turn a smile on a statue of the Gorgon Medusa. A large number of the fair ladies of Halifax were present, anxious no doubt to see; and, if one might judge from their appearance, not expecting to remain quite unseen.