

The Weekly Monitor.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 6, 1884.

— "Give your boys a trade," has almost become a trite expression among the journals of the day. The reason is not far to seek—the professions and mercantile callings have become crowded. An advertisement for a clerk in a city newspaper, will secure hundreds of applicants; but let a master mechanic advertise for a competent workman, and the result is far different. Really good, thorough mechanics are not men who go begging for situations. While we endorse the principle of giving a boy a trade, we would say further—see that he receives a master mechanic, and not a second-rate one. If a boy goes to learn a trade, and he has not sense or ambition enough to master all its details, he should be compelled to, if possible, and if not possible, let him be taken away and given employment suited to his ability. There is no more income for a boy than a master mechanic in the country. The old apprenticeship system had drawbacks undoubtedly, at the same time, it had one merit not to be underrated, and that was, after the apprentice was out of his time, his rights to the name of a journeyman, stand around and ask questions of his better informed comrades, take a long time over what was to him, a new job, &c., and thus give him a chance to obtain a more varied knowledge of his trade than he could otherwise. The employer could allow this, as the boy's time was of small value to him, and he was paid proportionately. In many cases he was paid to teach the boy his trade. Now a day's boy must have wages as soon as he goes to work, and as soon as he begins to be of some use, more pay is wanted, and his almost absolute freedom makes him independent of his employer's mind, and he is ready to "go to the States" or somewhere else to seek another situation. His services being paid for fully in proportion to his usefulness, his master cannot afford to let him dally, but must make him work, and work at that portion of the trade which will result in the most profit to the shop.

The outcome of this system is, in a large majority of cases, unless the boy is particularly shrewd and desirous to learn, an indifferent workman. Another reason why there are so many mechanics who are not thorough masters of their business, is the confining of men in large establishments to one department of labor entirely. A boy of ten goes into a large manufacturing concern "to learn the trade," and comes out finally perhaps a master of one branch of it, but would be of no more use in the other departments than a fifth wheel would be to a coach. Therefore, we repeat again, give your boys a good trade, but see that they are put where they can obtain what they go to learn, and see that they do it. The first few years' wages of a boy learning a trade is of entirely secondary importance. If he masters his business he will never want for money as long as he wishes to and can work.

The Scientific American, than which we have no better authority says: "Notwithstanding the present slackness in business, there is a demand for skill in the mechanic arts now, as there usually is. The proprietor of a small shop or machine tools recently supplemented a remainder on the shelves of the times by an inquiry for several first-class workmen. In explanation he said he had more than he needed of the qualities of a main shaft and stud, and that he had established a shop, and he had to get on his feet, which they have exercised ever since Confederation, and which are now established by the judgment of the Court of last resort.

It would now appear that the accident by which the Messrs. Fay and others lost their lives at Port Arthur, was caused by the dynamite exploding while thawing around a stove. A despatch says:—

Winnipeg, Jan. 30.—A terrible explosion occurred at the Fay & McCreary's store, near Michipicottan, on the Canadian Pacific Railway East, on the 22nd ult., by which Sydney H. Fay, John B. Fay, Joseph E. McGillivray, John A. McLaughlin and Magnus McCreary were killed. The explosion is supposed to have been caused by the thawing of dynamite near the stove in an adjoining office. S. H. Fay and J. McGillivray lived three hours, and the others were instantly killed. The family of the Fay brothers and McCreary reside.

Local and Other Matter. — Alfred Winchester, of Granville, has been appointed a Coroner. — The rate for letter postage is not to be changed, as will be seen by a paragraph in another column. — The steamer Widdington arrived at Annapolis on Thursday, and went into dock to load produce for London. — The annual gathering to make up balance of minister's salary will be held at the Baptist parsonage, Bridgetown, on Thursday evening next, the 7th inst. Friends are kindly invited to attend and aid in this behalf.

Among those lost by the wreck of the City of Columbus, were a resident of King Co., named C. A. Willett, of Canning and Fredk. L. Hale, also a native of the County, but who has resided for several years in Boston. — In his interview of Forester.—The Supreme Ranger, Dr. Cronhyatchka, intends shortly to return in the Maritime Provinces with the view of purchasing still more vigorously the interests of the order in the section, the purpose being to have at least a thousand members each in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia by the time of the next annual meeting of the Supreme Court. — The Windsor and Annapolis rail way announced a "great reduction in rates on potatoes to Halifax and Annapolis," going into effect Friday the 1st of February. The potatoes are of the best quality, and the consequence of the continued dullness of the potato market, and with a view to stimulate the business, and encourage shipments, large reductions have been made in the tariff rates for our loads from all stations to Halifax and Annapolis.

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— Wendell Phillips the distinguished orator and philanthropist is dead. He was aged 75 years.

— A fire in Toronto last week destroyed two extensive grain elevators, involving a heavy loss.

— The Windsor Cheese Factory was sold at auction on Saturday last. The amount of the proceeds received by the United States Government \$237,102.25. The Hamilton Tribune says:—

"We want a market for our iron ore, and they want a market for their coal; we want their coal, they want our iron. On the other side the manufacturers will be benefited at first hand, with us as small as well as large consumers. We should buy coal cheaper for the treaty. We hope it will be impossible for the retail dealers to bind us with a 'ring' that will prevent us from enjoying the rebate of duty. The policy of the treaty is, in effect, consistent with sound protectionist principles as taught by our schools. For, if there are any such things as raw material, coal and iron, they would seem to come under the head of our articles insisted on having lumber and salt added to the list. There is no doubt they will be accommodated. In the event of such an arrangement coming into effect we shall feel like repeating a late warning given in these columns concerning the tariff. The result would sell too rapidly the forests of our country. The treaty proposed is, in our estimation, a step in the wrong direction. It might give to trade the impetus needed for spring activity, and would possibly be the spring wedge for a broader and more advantageous reciprocal trade."

— The Nova Scotia ship Theodore H. Rand, from New York for London, has been in collision off Beaulieu Head with a steamer which was on board except one person were drowned. The Rand was slightly damaged.

— Our mountain subscribers must not blame us for non-receipt of their papers by the courier on Friday last. We sent them to the office in time, but they were with the rest of our correspondence, and the postmaster accidentally overlooked the bundles.

— The Rev. Stephen deBlasio, Baptist pastor at Wolfville died quite suddenly on Monday last. His health has been very poor for a long time past, and his death was not anticipated.

— Mr. Temple, conservative, was elected in the York Co., N. B., election.

— Tea is advancing in price, owing solely to the short crop of the year. In New York considerable interest is taking place in speculation in the article just now.

— Another horrible accident is reported for the week. An accommodation train on the Indianopolis and Chicago line went through a bridge on the 31st inst. Six persons were killed outright or buried to death, several were injured and the engine and tender with their occupants escaped. The fireman pulled open the throttle valve when he saw the bridge was sinking, the engine leaped forward and the engine jerked the coupling between the engine and the tender. The disaster was said to be the result of dishonest work by the makers of the bridge.

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS THIS WEEK.

— A New York man recently paid \$4,000 for a St. Bernard's dog.

— Troubles in the Sudan are increasing.

— A proposal is now being considered by the Government to establish a Government printing bureau.

— Terrible destitution is said to be prevailing among the poorer classes at Ottawa.

— The gold produced in Nova Scotia for the past fifteen years is valued at \$19,000,000.

— Mrs. Wm. McLean has a large and choice assortment of Valentines, Cupid's victims would do well to call and inspect them.

— The Marquis of Lansdowne, Governor-General of Canada, has been appointed Knight of the Grand Cross of the order of St. Michael's and St. George.

— A find of crude petroleum is reported in the North West Territories, near the North Saskatchewan, near Edmonton. If this be true, and we hope it is, it would be a fortunate find for the North West.

— Go to Mrs. Reynolds' for prime sweet Oranges, choice Confectionery, Biscuits, Fancy Goods, etc. Luncheon may also be had.

— Mr. Smith, conservative, was elected in the York Co., N. B., election.

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NOTICE.

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A GRAND CONCERT.

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