

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The *Chronicle* has a witty correspondent at Backlands, Boulardario, C. B. He may be a veritable Mark Twain but unless excited by raspberry juice never deigns to give full play to his imagination—Christmas did it.

The imports of tea and coffee during the next few weeks will be very heavy owing to the rumor that the government intends reimposing the duties upon these articles.

The Annual Meeting of the Fruit Growers Association will take place at Kontville on the 26th and 27th of January. All persons interested in fruit culture are cordially invited to attend these meetings, and also to become members of the Association.

A programme of the proceedings will be published in due course. meantime the secretary, Mr. C. R. H. Starr, will be glad to receive papers and questions for discussion, or information, relating to horticulture or fruit growing, from any one.

A visitor to New Glasgow writes: "One cannot fail to notice a new hotel called the "Vendome" which is a development of the popular old "Banquet," and which, though pleasing and inviting in its exterior, is even more attractive within. The obliging and entertaining proprietor is too well and favorably known to require commendation. I would simply advise you and your friends when you come to New Glasgow, to call on Mr. D. McDearmid, and if you have never done so before I think you will feel I have done you a service."

Montreal has just extended the charter of the City Horse-car Railway for twenty five years. This appears to be a long time for a company to monopolize the chief carrying trade of the city.

The Government are repairing the Faulkner building, on Hollis street. Messrs. Dumaresq & Mott have the work in hand, and are pushing it through with their customary energy.

The Mayor has been requested to thank Dr. McLean for his thoughtfulness in presenting to the inmates of the Poores Asylum 120 pairs of spectacles. Such a kindly remembrance of the poor at Christmas time is worthy of imitation.

It is encouraging to find that some of our younger business men show a praiseworthy determination, not only to sell cheaply, but also to keep their stores neat and attractive. Rarely are dry goods more tastefully arranged than in the store of Mr. McColl, north end of Argyle street. He is one of our "coming men."

On Dec. 22nd appeared in Montreal the first number of a new monthly magazine, entitled *Le Colonisateur Canadien*. It is intended to be the channel through which the best French writers of the country will give the public their views, chiefly on matters affecting the future of the Dominion.

A despatch from St. Laurent, Manitoba, to the *Ottawa Evening Journal* says: "Everything is quiet around here. A good deal of distress has prevailed, but every case of want has been met. J. McRae, Indian Agent, is en route to Prince Albert. He has been visiting the reserves here. He reports the Indians all peaceable and inclined to remain so." Not long ago, as readers of the daily papers no doubt remember, a statement was published in Halifax about the Indians in the neighborhood of St. Laurent, in which it was made to appear that they were about to assume a hostile attitude towards their white neighbors.

Small-pox has entirely disappeared from Sydney, and from all parts of Cape Breton. All the Sydney schools, including the new Young Ladies' Academy, will be opened on Monday next.

Mr. K. Bent, the popular superintendent of the English mails, has taken to himself a young and handsome wife. The young couple have the best wishes of their many friends.

The barbers of Ottawa have refused to shave their patrons on Sunday, and the patrons have resolved to boycott the barbers on week-days. Shaving appliances will again be in requisition at home.

Pictou was one of the first towns in the Province to support a local newspaper. The *Colonial Patriot* was first published in that place, in 1830.

Rev. Abbe Provancher of Quebec is organizing a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. A similar scheme last year was abandoned, owing to the prevalence of cholera in the East. The pilgrims will sail from New York about March 10th. The trip will end with a passage from Liverpool to Quebec. The price of tickets for the round trip has been placed at \$400. Besides closely examining the chief points of interest in and around Jerusalem, the party pass through England, France, Italy, Switzerland, Upper Egypt and visit the famous shrine of Lourdes.

"Prof. Sayce has been lecturing in England on the origin of the alphabet. Persons differing from him in conclusions had (alpha) better say so." The address of the person that wrote the above is wanted at this office.

The reports as to the French triumph in Madagascar appear to have been exaggerated. At any rate it is certain that France is not to receive an indemnity for war expenses.

The German financiers have determined to advance to the Chinese Government the requisite funds for the construction of railways in different parts of China. The celestials are evidently awakening to the importance of having better means of internal communication and the Germans are always on the lookout to turn an honest penny.

Correct answers to Double Acrostic published last week were received from Wm. F. O'Connor, 88 Agricola Street, City; Miss Helen Creighton, 2 Creighton Street, City; Frank I. Stewart, Dalhousie College, City; and J. J. McLean, Ferguson's Cove.

A large quantity of American salmon fry have been taken to stock the rivers in France. To the French angler the pleasure of landing a salmon is unknown.

From the shipyards of Maine there have been launched during the past year fifty two new vessels, aggregating 22,627 net tons, or a total gross tonnage of about 23,608.

The war ships Boston, Atlanta and Chicago which were left in an unfinished state upon the failure of John Roach are now being completed under the direction of the Advisory Board of the U. S. Navy department.

France goes in for protection with a vengeance. Italian felt hats, Swiss hosiery, German boots, and Belgium woolen goods have for many years been shut out by the high tariff wall but France now proposes to levy a special tax upon the Italian, Swiss, German or other foreign workmen entering the country.

The family tomb of Vanderbilt cost \$225,000. A costly residence may be well enough for the living, but extravagance is unpardonable when no man, living or dead, derives any benefit from it.

Mr. Gibson gave to his employees, at Marysville, N. B., a monster Christmas dinner, upwards of one thousand guests were seated at the table.

The *City of Rome*, of the Anchor Line, and the *America*, of the National Line of Steamers, have been engaged for a special rapid service between the ports of New York and Liverpool.

The *Ottawa Journal* proposes reforming the Senate, by making all ex-Lieutenant Governors members of that body.

Boston hats are now lined with silk, upon which is stamped a map of the city. So long as a man does not lose his hat, he need not lose his way.

Twenty-six milk dealers, of Chicago, have been fined for milking the water pumps in the outskirts of that city. Their customers prefer watering the milk for themselves.

Gen. Beuregard will give a history of the Shiloh Campaign in the January number of the *North American Review*. He claims that Gen. Algernon Sydney Johnson acted only as a corps commander at Shiloh. Gen. Beuregard emphatically asserts (contrary to the common belief) that he was the sole commander on both days, and, without naming them, controverts the reports of Grant and Sherman as to the nation's forces being taken by surprise.

Florida is becoming a favorite winter resort for Americans. It is estimated that 200,000 Northern people will visit that State during the next three months.

Russia is now spending two and-a-half millions of dollars in the construction of a monster steam ram. By the time this leviathan makes its appearance, it will be out of date.

The British Navy, including the smaller craft, transports, etc., now numbers three hundred and four vessels.

Major-General Pendergrast, who so recently distinguished himself in the brief, but decisive, Burmese campaign, is but 51 years of age. His record is one of which any one may justly feel proud.

A correspondent wants to know whether the "Canada Roller Patent Flour" advertised in these columns by Mr. H. F. Worrall, is of as good quality as the American flour sold by the same gentleman. The question is one that can best be answered by Mr. Worrall. We refer our correspondent to him.

The enterprising firm of Austen Bros is pushing business despite the dull times. Their stock of railway, mining, steamship mill, factory and engineers supplies is large and well selected. Buyers of these classes of merchandise should certainly give Messrs. Austen Bros. a call before purchasing elsewhere.

Sewing machines were once considered a luxury, they are now considered a necessity. Mr. R. Wallace 194 Upper Water St. assures us that he is now able, owing to the increased demand, to sell his sewing machines at greatly reduced prices. Demand quickens trade and lowers prices.

The Dartmouth Exhibition of Childrens' work has attracted a large number of visitors, all anxious to see the first exhibit of the kind made in Canada. 1800 pieces of boys and girls work including fret work, toy ships, tables, chairs, fancy work, hooked mats, aprons, frocks, candies, bread, pies etc are on exhibition. Messrs Elliot and Congdon are to be congratulated upon the success of this new departure, and the children deserve credit for the excellence and variety of the articles displayed by them.

M. Grovy has been re-elected President of France for a second term of seven years. His majority in the national assembly was 350.

We have received from W. L. Lowell and Co. neat and pretty calendars of the Aetna and other well known Insurance Companies. Mr. Lowell is now absent from the city on business, but his partner, Mr. W. Lyle will be found ever ready to transact business in a prompt and satisfactory manner.

The Spring Hill coal, which has now found its way to the Halifax market, will undoubtedly find a ready sale. Messrs E. G. & C. Stayner, agents for the Cumberland Railway and Coal Company, have made arrangements to supply steam ships with bunker coal at special rates.