

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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A branch of the Scottish Home Rule Association has been formed in Toronto.

Three boys at Cow Bay, C. B., played at killing pigs, and tied one of their number, named Anderson, six years of age, and cut his throat so badly that he died immediately.

Sixty-two thousand emigrants have become actual settlers in Canada, between January 1st and Sept. 1st, of the present year, an increase of 10,000 over the same period in 1887.

The death is announced of the Hon. James G. Ross, Senator and millionaire merchant of Quebec. The deceased gentleman was one of the most useful and respected citizens of Quebec.

The Lieut.-Governor and Mrs. McLelan will move into Government House this week and will hold a reception on Tuesday, the 9th inst., from 3 to 5 o'clock p. m. Mrs. McLelan will thereafter receive on Tuesdays.

H. M. Troopship *Orontes* left Halifax on Tuesday with the 2nd Batt. (84th) York and Lancaster Regiment, who must, on the whole, have been rather glad to escape from the slander and abuse they have lately been subjected to.

C. A. Pitcher, late teller in the Union Bank of Providence, was this week sentenced to seven years imprisonment for bringing stolen money into Canada. The judge remarked that the prisoner had done his best to wreck the bank.

Several seamen and marines lent their aid at the fire in Bedford Row on Monday night, and one, a marine of the *Comus*, sustained a rupture and other serious internal injuries from a fall. Thomas Bartelow, porter at the Halifax Hotel, was also severely cut on the arm.

The following, from a St. John Exchange, is an instance of the rapid circulation of aspersion:—"There is great fun at Halifax among the bailiffs and city merchants who are hunting for York and Lancaster regimental officers who are eluding their creditors. They embark for Jamaica on Monday."

We have received the Halifax *Philatelist* for September, and notice that Alderman Hechler of Halifax has been elected President of the Association for prosecuting this really interesting study. The new President intends to work for affiliation for the C. P. A. with all kindred societies throughout the world.

The gunboat *Ready* arrived on Tuesday, and was given a clean bill of health by Dr. Wickwire. Two of her seamen had been left at Jamaica with yellow fever, and died there. Fears were entertained concerning the *Wrangler*, but it is now said she did not sail till long after she was reported to have left.

The name of Messrs. Gordon & Keith was made to figure prominently in one of the charges recently brought against an apparently supposititious officer of the York and Lancaster. That firm has written to the *Herald* distinctly denying the correctness of the paragraph in every particular. This reckless playing with reputations is by no means creditable.

In another column will be noticed the advertisement of Mr. Fred. A. Bowman, M.A., B.E., consulting engineer. Mr. Bowman has had several years practical experience in workshops and draughting offices in connection with the I. C. R. Locomotive department at Moncton, the late E. Vossnack, of this city, and the London Iron Co., as well as a theoretical training in engineering. We understand that Mr. Bowman is a careful and conscientious worker.

The annual inspection of the 66th, P. L. F., by Col. Worsley, D. A. G., took place last week. After the inspection the battalion marched through the city to the drill yard, where they dispersed. Before being dismissed the officers and men were addressed by Col. Macdonald, who, on behalf of Deputy Adjutant-General Worsley, complimented them on their appearance and the manner in which they had done their drill, also on the muster, which was the largest the 66th have had.

The sudden death, from heart disease, is reported of Mr. John Charles Dent, one of Canada's foremost literary men. Mr. Dent, besides producing "The Canadian Portrait Gallery," (a very different sort of work from the fraud the *Chronicle* has lately done a public service in exposing,) "Canada since the Union," and the best "History of the Rebellion in Upper Canada," that has been produced, was also a powerful essayist, and a trenchant journalist. Mr. Dent was much respected, and is greatly regretted. He was only forty-six.

Says the *Fredericton Gleaner*:—"Ten arrests for drunkenness in one night in a Scott Act town of about seven thousand population, should force the temperance element to the belief that there is something radically wrong somewhere. Is the police department wholly at fault? Or are our temperance organizations and institutions of name merely? Or are both in fault? Such open and persistent violation of the law as has been witnessed for the past month, at least, is a disgrace to the city. Better, by all means, that we should cease to regard the Scott Act as one of our laws, and to take the earliest opportunity of returning to the system of licensing, than to allow the present state of affairs to continue."

It is understood that Parliament will be called together for the despatch of business about the third week in January next.

The fire which broke out in Bedford Row, Halifax, on Monday night, burned out the following business men: Jos. Fader & Co., provision merchant, insurance said to be \$800; B. J. Hubley & Son, hay and feed insurance said to be \$500; G. P. Henry, victualler, insurance \$900; George G. Thomson, broom manufacturer, a large lot of brooms destroyed, his machinery having been previously moved to his new factory.

La Justice states that there is discrimination against French, as compared with English immigrants, into the North West, asserting that French settlers are dropped at Winnipeg, while the English are carried as far as Regina or Calgary. The statement is very likely incorrect, but it ought to be at once looked into. If there is any attempt to discriminate against our fellow citizens of French origin, it should be promptly put a stop to.

There was an interesting Naval Review on the Common yesterday week, of the seamen, marines, and marine artillery of the squadron in harbor, which consisted of the *Bellerophon*, *Comus*, *Canada*, and *Pylades*. About 850 men were on the ground, and were put through a variety of drill in the presence of the Admiral and the General. The evolutions of the eight companies formed, the dismounting and remounting of guns, etc., were performed with great rapidity and precision, and afforded a gratifying sight to a large number of spectators.

The Provincial Exhibition, held last week at Truro, can scarcely be called a pronounced success. Fruit gave evidence of substantial advance in its culture, and good qualities of roots, vegetables, and grain were shown, but the quantity was limited. Some sections of the Province exhibited good stock, but there is as yet far too much scrub stock in the country. In arts and manufactures the Exhibition was far from creditable to the country. There is little doubt that the Provincial Exhibition would be better held in Halifax, where we hope to see it next year.

The farewell performances of the "Pirates" were given at the Academy by the *Bellerophon's* Operatic Company, with assistance, on the evenings of the 27th and 28th ultimo. We commented somewhat fully on the August performances, and will, therefore, now only say that these last were, if possible, better. The reappearance of Mrs. Clarkson, who sang very nicely, gave pleasure to many, as it is known how much the first series owed to that lady's unobtrusive, but untiring assistance. The assumption, by Mrs. Tobin, of the part of Ruth is, in one respect, unfortunate. We ought to feel unbounded respect for the high-minded Frederic, but Mrs. Tobin compels us to "write him down an ass."

A very disagreeable exposure was made recently of the tomato canning of Windsor & Co., Montreal. The Inspector visited the place, where they have a lobster canning establishment, and do a large business in canning tomatoes. He describes the place, where about 200 persons are employed, as being indescribably filthy, and smelling as sour as a dirty pigsty. Many of the tomatoes were rotten, and utterly unfit for human food. It was ascertained that the tomato debris was carted away by a boy, who received so much a load, and some of it was sold to ketchup manufacturers, but Mr. Radford discovered a large quantity dumped on a field in Fullam Street opposite the female jail, and emitting the most noxious odors. Dr. Loberge caused notices to be served upon the proprietors and took proceedings in the recorder's court.

The new City Hall is now rapidly approaching completion under the original plans of the architect who drew them up; but we venture to assert that the building will not be satisfactory, if so finished. It will look squat and out of proportion, and will barely give room for the immediate requirements of the city. Another story is necessary if the new hall is to be one that, as citizens, we can take satisfaction in showing to visitors or resort to ourselves when business may take us there. The town of Moncton is contemplating the erection of a City Hall, to cost about half-a-million—ours will be worth about one fifth of that sum. This is not creditable to what we are wont to style "the metropolis of the Maritime Provinces." The real front of the new hall is on the Grand Parade, and as at present planned, it will be only two stories high. Of course, no blame can attach to the architect who drew the plans, because he was confined within certain figures. The contractors are strictly following the plans and specifications, and are doing their work well. Certainly, it will cost a little more to add another story to the building, but as it is evidently needed, and as it will cost far less to erect it now than it will at a future date, the City Council should assume the responsibility of ordering the amendment to the contract. There can be no doubt that the local legislature will sanction the extra expenditure at its next session, and the sense of the citizens generally will also. The City fathers have, however, no time to lose, as the building ought to be roofed in before the snow flies, so as to allow the interior work to be proceeded with during the winter. Prompt action is necessary, and it is to be hoped that all the Aldermen will, for the moment, lay aside their personal bickerings and feelings, and unitedly take the necessary steps to have an extra story added to the new City Hall. Of course, a big mistake was made by some one in the original plans for the building, but it is rather difficult to place the blame on the right shoulders. The architect who drew the plan should have frankly informed the City Council that it was impossible to plan a building that would be creditable to himself or to Halifax with the money at his disposal. On the other hand, there are some practical builders among the City fathers who ought to have seen this difficulty at its inception, and to have moved to procure the now needed legislation in advance. However, it is no use, we suppose, in crying over spilt milk, or mourning over past mistakes. The duty of the Aldermen is now to see that the City Hall, when finished, will be such as Halifax is likely to require for a generation at least.