

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Subscribers remitting Money, either direct to the Office, or through Agents, will find receipt in next paper.

The amateur theatricals given on the evenings of Monday and Tuesday last at St. Luke's Hall, were well attended, and the manner in which the play was received proved that the audience fully appreciated the efforts of the performers to act their respective parts as perfectly as possible. We have been favored with many theatrical performances in Halifax, but in too many instances indifferent performers have been allowed to mar the plays by their shocking misrepresentations of the characters assumed. On more than one occasion this has been the result of that social etiquette which first takes into consideration the social standing of the performer, regarding his or her ability to perform the part allotted as of secondary importance.

The failure of F. W. Nickerson and Co., of Boston, in which more or less interest is felt by business men in Halifax, is said to be attributable to the varied character of the operations in which they were engaged. The carrying on of sugar plantations in the South, mining in the West, and lines of business in which steamship agents are not supposed to possess any practical knowledge. It is the old story of too many irons in the fire.

Through the agency of the Halifax Infants Home, 117 of the waifs of society have been placed in comfortable permanent homes. Through the good offices of those interested in this most humane institution there have been, during the past eleven years, 546 infants cared for. How much cruelty, not to say crime, have been prevented by the establishment of the Infants Home can alone be estimated by those familiar with the evils and iniquities resultant upon baby farming.

The Truro *Guardian* will in future be published as a bi-weekly. This is a step towards the publication of a daily paper in Truro. The *Liverpool Advance* comes out in its last issue in a new and attractive dress. Our Provincial press shows a steady and continued improvement, indeed many of the county papers are remarkable for their typographical excellence as well as their general get up. Improved dress, so far as the press is concerned, always signifies an increase of prosperity.

The production of wheat in India has quadrupled in the past seven years, and yet the yield per acre is far below that in Canada and the United States. With improved processes of sowing, reaping, etc., and improved facilities for forwarding grain to the coast, India with her cheap labor bids air to become the great grain producing state of the world.

London now maintains sixty-seven hospitals, in addition to its numerous dispensaries and societies, for aiding the sick poor.

The work of the Salvation Army is carried on with such zeal that it succeeds despite the opposition experienced from many quarters. The work of the past twelve months in the Maritime Provinces proves that the Army may be made a valuable auxiliary to the Christian Church in reaching the masses. The officers of the Army report that during the past year no less than sixteen stations have been established, fifty officers have been detailed to carry on the service, and the roll call now shows in the aggregate a membership of over three thousand active soldiers. The meetings held on Sunday and Monday evenings last in the Academy of Music were attended by an immense crowd of people. Some went to jeer, some to hear what the officers had to say, but all came away impressed with the opinion that the methods employed by the Army, though peculiar and seemingly irreverent, were after all well calculated to attract the attention of the non-church going classes.

In our last issue, *Sartor Resartus, Jr.* was made to say by a misprint that the population of old Mexico City before the advent of Cortez was 40,000. What our contributor did write was, "the city sustained a population of at least 400,000."

N. L. MacKay, Esq., Q. C., of Sydney, C. B., is in the city. Mr. MacKay has long carried the banner of the Liberal party in Eastern Cape Breton.

A. Allan Cameron, of Antigonish, N. S., received the degree of M. D. a few days ago from the University of New York. Dr. Cameron's many friends will be pleased to hear that he passed the rigorous examination of the University with marked success.

In sections of Inverness County, farmers were ploughing upland during the third and fourth weeks in February. In Beaulieu, Antigonish Co., ploughing was being done on February 16th. Ploughing has no doubt been possible in other parts of the Province, and probably has been going on, but has not been reported. Our American cousins who are so fond of describing us as blockaded by mountains of snow and ice, ought for a change to tell some truth about our winters.

Correct answers to Cross-Word Enigma published last week were received from Miss Lucy H. Shorman, Port Mulgrave; Miss Minnie Croucher, French Village; P. W. Harding, Bridgewater; G. W. Mitchell, Lunenburg; Miss Ethel Dimock, 9 Carleton St.; S. A. M., 74 Gottingen Street; B. H. C., 2 Creighton St.; and John Mulroney, 408 Upper Water Street, City.

Henry W. C. Boak, L. L. B., Barrister-at-Law, Solicitor, Notary, etc., 103 Holts Street, Halifax. Mercantile Collections and Commercial Litigation specialty.

Messrs. J. A. Gillies, of Sydney, and D. C. Fraser, of New Glasgow, are in the city attending the Supreme Court *in banco*.

All street-cars are stopped in Toronto, the drivers and conductors being on a strike because the Street Car Co. won't employ union men. The citizens have appealed to the Mayor to compel the Street Car Co. to run their cars or forfeit their charter.

The \$7000.00 proposed to be given by the Local Government as a subsidy to steam service along the western and southern shore ports of the Province could hardly be better spent. Dr. McLennan very properly wants a similar boon conferred on the west coast of Cape Breton. We believe that steam service between Halifax and Western Cape Breton would prove a great stimulator of trade, and a great convenience for the people of western Cape Breton.

The principles advocated by the organization known as The Grango, are such as should commend themselves to the readers of THE CRITIC. The column which now appears in this journal under the heading of the Maritime Patron, is undoubtedly an improvement to THE CRITIC, and will be read with interest, not only by the members of the Grango, but also by our general subscribers. We hope in the course of a few days to send our agent to visit each Grango in the Maritime Provinces, and we trust that the Grangers will, one and all, become subscribers to THE CRITIC.

The new Halifax and Dartmouth Steam Ferry Company have been fortunate in securing as their terminus on the Halifax side, the old ferry dock. It is understood that the stock of the new company is being readily taken up, so that by the first of May next first-class ferry boats will be plying between Halifax and Dartmouth.

The gross public debt of Canada at the close of the last fiscal year amounted to \$264,000,000; the available assets to \$68,000,000, leaving a net debt of \$196,000,000, which in round numbers is about \$40 per head to the population. As compared with the average debt per head in the principal foreign countries, the amount is comparatively small, but the interest is quite large enough to be a serious tax upon our revenue. The Canadian debt was not incurred like those of foreign countries in waging war upon neighbors, it simply represents the capital expenditure upon railways, canals, harbor improvements, public buildings, etc.

The wordy warfare respecting the Provincial and City Hospital still goes on. The late medical staff has issued a pamphlet setting forth its view of the question, and this has provoked adverse criticism from those who supported the action of the Charities Board. In one thing only can all agree, and that is—an irresponsible board is a mistake, and the sooner the government does away with it, the better.

The smoking concert given by the Orpheus Club, at Mason Hall, on Monday evening last, was an unqualified success. To judge from the manner in which the invited guests, some three hundred in number, encored the soloists, the former were in a most appreciative mood. The songs by Mr. C. J. Ross and Dr. Slayter, and the piano solos of Howard Slayter, G. B. Penny, and T. Paine, were well rendered and enthusiastically received. The volunteer song, "O Fair Dove, O Fond Dove," had it been sung by a professional, might have deserved the rapturous encore which it received, and even under the circumstances, it is not difficult to understand the expressions of delight indulged in by the audience. We congratulate Mr. C. J. Ross and the Club upon the success of their concert, much of which was due to the pleasing and effective manner in which the Club numbers were rendered.

The demand for rented houses in Halifax is said to be above the average, and the first of May—moving day in the city—promises to be more than usually lively. A. Stephen & Son are preparing to supply the needs of young housekeepers, and have now on the way, a large and varied stock of drawing-room, parlor, dining and bed-room furniture, all of which they are prepared to dispose of at reasonable prices.

The old firm of A. Keith & Son is keeping fully abreast of the times, and is pushing its business, despite the opposition of Upper Province brewers. Mr. Donald Keith has evidently determined to make a vigorous effort to hold the home market.

Canada is sadly in need of a bankruptcy law, but while the adoption of such a measure as will ensure the equitable distribution of the assets of insolvents is warmly supported by the representatives of commercial centres, it is as strongly opposed by those representing country constituencies.

An intelligence bureau is to be established in connection with the British Colonial office; this will be of advantage to intending emigrants, and our Provincial Government will do well if it sees that information respecting Nova Scotia is at once supplied to the bureau.

The Mayor of Halifax has signified his willingness to convene a public meeting, to consider the proposed summer carnival, provided that a requisition to that effect be drawn up by the citizens. There can be no doubt, that such a requisition would be signed by a large proportion of the people; but as several of the athletic and other clubs have requested Mayor Mackintosh to call a meeting, it seems scarcely worth while to go through the form of presenting his Worship with the customary requisition.

Mayor Mackintosh is again a candidate for the Mayoralty of the city. Mayor Mackintosh has been a decided success as Chief Magistrate during his past two years of office, and it is therefore generally supposed that he will go in unopposed for the third and last term.