

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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The health of Sir Hector Langevin is reported as restored.

Dr. Montague (Lib-Con) has been returned for Haldimand

Vessels arriving report very heavy weather at sea, and the loss of life from fishing ports, especially Gloucester, has been terrible this year.

The Dominion and Allan Line steamers will make Baltimore their winter-port, leaving Portland, it is said, because they cannot make terms with the G. T. R.

The Fredericton boom company this season rafted 100,000,000 feet of lumber. The total amount of lumber brought down the St. John river this season was 112,000,000 feet.

A heavy S. E. gale prevailed from six o'clock on Tuesday evening till about 4 o'clock on Wednesday morning, accompanied by torrents of rain. The sea was very phosphorescent.

The first royal mail steamer, under the winter arrangement, will sail from Halifax on Saturday, 26th inst., and the outgoing steamer of Nov. 17 will be the last this season from the St. Lawrence.

The Supreme Court of Manitoba has decided in favor of the Dominion Government in the injunction obtained to prevent the Manitoba Government from building a railway across Dominion lands.

The report that Commander Gordon will start shortly from Halifax in the *Alert* for the Pacific coast on the cable survey, is premature. No action will be taken by the Government until the Imperial and Australian Governments agree to co-operate.

No light has been thrown on the cause of death of Tower and Elliott, found in a rowboat on Grand Lake. The presumption is that they were under the influence of liquor and died from exposure, but a son of Tower demurs to this conclusion.

Manitoba is on the brink of a political crisis. Dissensions in the Provincial Cabinet will no longer be denied, and Mr. Norquay is said to be considering the question of resigning, and making a direct appeal to the Province on the disallowance policy.

The interesting and omnipresent book agent will shortly have his truthfulness and honesty vindicated (or otherwise) in Gloucester and the Ottawa Valley in about a hundred cases, in which he will figure as complainant against farmers. *Nous verrons.*

Rear-Admiral Heneage, who assumes command of the Pacific Squadron, arrived at Victoria, B.C. on the 10th inst., on board *H. M. S. Caroline*, which went to Vancouver to meet him. Rear Admiral Sir Michael Cuime-Seymour, left for England the next night.

Fifty-eight freight cars left St. John on Monday over the New Brunswick railway, 22 of which were loaded with potatoes. About 176,000 bushels were shipped west from points on the I. C. and N. B. railways during October, being about 20,000 bushels more than was exported during October last year.

Mrs. Langtry has been playing in Toronto, and, according to her custom, made a little farewell speech, which so moved the sympathies of an elderly person in the parquette, that he stood on tip-toe and shouted out "Bravo, you beauty!" The gentleman was perhaps too excited to remember that the feminine of "bravo" is "brava."

Proceedings arising out of the recent Bethune-Unknown race at Ottawa, in which one Bingham, of Toronto, was accused of conspiring to defraud certain Montreal sports, has revealed a terrible degradation of sport. It is proved that the race was "fixed," in order to cheat the Toronto people. The tables were turned when Elliott, who laid the complaint, was arrested for perjury.

Three tramps assaulted a blacksmith named Hatherly, near St. Thomas, Ont., on the 12th inst., and so beat him that he died next morning. The ruffians asked Hatherly, who was driving to his home at Fingal, for a lift, capsized the buggy, and took \$9, overlooking \$60 which he had in an inside pocket. A farmer coming on the scene, they fled. Three men, supposed to be the murderers, have been arrested.

The exceedingly able and interesting paper by Mr. F. Blake Crofton, on "Sam Slick," read before the Nova Scotia Historical Society, on the evening of Thursday, the 10th, was too late for last week's issue, and has since been so fully noticed by the daily press that it is unnecessary for us to dissect it at any length. The subject is one of the greatest interest to Nova Scotians, and Mr. Crofton made a point in bringing to notice Haliburton's latest (and anonymous) work, "The Season Ticket," the existence of which was almost unknown to most persons who are well enough acquainted with his other books. Its value and peculiarity consist, to our mind, in its amounting to almost a prophesy of what has come to pass in the consolidation of the Dominion. Mr. Crofton's paper justly received the highest praise from the numerous competent judges present, and it may be noted that a great strengthening of this valuable society has taken place of late. Men of the highest calibre continue to join it, and the quality of the papers contributed is every year improved. Nor is this advance confined to the members; the audiences, among whom were many ladies, correspondingly increased, both in number and appreciative capacity.

Sir Geo. Stephen has left New York for England, to arrange for the construction of three steamers of 6,000 or 7,000 tons burthen, with 18 knot speed, and all the latest appliances, for the Pacific Mail Service.

Some of our colored population seem to be developing an enterprising spirit. One gentleman of that persuasion called for the baggage of a lady who was changing her residence, and got it, having no right whatever in the matter. Another snatched a satchel from the hand of a young lady on the Dutch Village road on Tuesday morning. A third did the same thing to a lady going along Spring Garden Road. And a white man executed a similar manoeuvre also to a lady some evenings ago, on Cunard St. It is a pity these cowardly ruffians don't chance to fall in with some one armed with a revolver, and disposed to use it.

The City Council has had a special committee out for some time enquiring into the duties and salaries of Civic officials. This committee, having taken a large quantity of evidence, met on Monday evening, and agreed upon a report to be presented to the Council at its next meeting, which will probably be held early next week. A daily contemporary furnishes the following summary of the recommendations that the committee will report:—That all civic offices be open from 9 a.m. till 5 p.m. That the foreman of streets, the foreman of the water department, and the health officers be permanent officials, to be appointed by the council and paid monthly. That the offices of the city stipendiary and recorder be amalgamated at the first opportunity, at a salary not to exceed \$2,500. That the city treasurer be superannuated at \$1,000 a year, and his office amalgamated with that of city auditor. That the clerk of license be superannuated, and his office abolished, the collection of rents to be handed over to the city collector, and the rest of the duties transferred to the city clerk's office. That the city officials give all their time to the city, and perform any duties required of them by the city council or committees, and that their yearly salaries be in full for services performed during the year. That every city official receiving and paying out moneys shall keep a general cash book, in which they shall keep account of all moneys received and paid out. That all fees paid into any civic office be accounted for to the city treasurer. That no salaries be raised without a resolution of the council. Legislation is, of course, to be obtained for some of the recommendations if adopted, and the separate recommendations provide for this. No increases or decreases in salaries are proposed. Many of these suggestions are good, and where they tend to economize the public service, will meet the approval of the citizens generally. We, however, in common with many others, believe that some salaries—especially among the larger ones—could be reduced without affecting the efficiency of the service, while in others, notably, the sergeants and men of the police force, the pay should be increased. The report will doubtless be rigidly questioned when it comes up for discussion. One idea does not strike us favorably, and that is to amalgamate the offices of treasurer and auditor. If an auditor is needed anywhere, it is examining the treasurer's books and accounts. It would be incongruous, if not absolutely unseemly, for the treasurer as auditor to examine his own accounts and certify to their correctness. This is a bad feature of the scheme, and should not pass. That one officer could and should perform the duties of stipendiary and recorder, will be acknowledged by any one familiar with the business of the city courts. Since the erection of the county court, the stipendiary has been relieved of much of the labor formerly devolving upon him, and the comparatively light duties of recorder would not be a serious addition to his labors. It may be remarked *en passant* that some steps should be taken to make it impossible in future for a civic official, or one paid by the city, to go to the legislature and get a bill passed increasing his salary, without first obtaining the concurrence of the city council. This was done last year.

Mrs. Anna Whitney, the proprietor of the Chequasset kennels, is one of the most successful breeders of the St. Bernard dogs in America. She spent years in Switzerland studying the dog, and is an authority on the subject.

The *Canadian American* says that a *Pall Mall Gazette* is wanted to expose some haunts of evil repute in North Wisconsin, in which it is said the brutalities practised exceed anything that has been told about the dens of London.

Dr. Gatling is said to have invented a new weapon which he calls the Police gun. It fires 2000 shots a minute, and is highly recommended for the decimation of mobs. The empty shells fall in a stream like cobs from a cornsheller.

The art treasures of the late Henry Ward Beecher are bringing large prices at auction. A French tea service, \$102; twelve tumblers with H. W. B. engraved on them, \$45; an Amsterdam hall clock, \$125; three oriental rugs, over \$100 each, etc.

The Farmer's Alliance, in session at Chicago, adopted a resolution favoring the early completion of the project connecting the great lakes with the Gulf of Mexico by means of a water route from Chicago to the Desplaines river, thence via the Illinois and Mississippi rivers to the Gulf of Mexico.

We are glad to notice that the Governor of Alaska, in his annual report, makes a strong denunciation of the Alaska Fur Company, whose aggressions have led to the Behring Sea outrages. The Governor stigmatizes it as octopus-like in its unauthorized extension of its powers to islands beyond its charter, and as shamefully oppressive to the natives. He charges it with marking and mutilating U. S. coin, boycotting government officers, and opposing, by its paid agents at Washington, every form of progress, except that of its own interests. He says that if the lease and contract with the company cannot be rescinded, it ought not to be renewed.