

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Subscribers remitting Money, either direct to the office, or through Agents, will find a receipt for the amount inclosed in their next paper. All remittances should be made payable to A. M. Fraser.

Those who wish to secure pleasant and profitable reading matter for the winter evenings should note our exceptional offer which appears on page 15. For \$2.50 in cash we undertake to send THE CRITIC to any subscriber for one year, supplying him in addition with seventy-nine of the most readable of readable books. Those who are renewing their subscriptions, as well as new subscribers, should take advantage of this offer.

There are over 7000 pupils in the Halifax schools.

Boring for natural gas will be commenced in Ottawa immediately.

Vancouver, B. C., has just opened a public park having an area of 1100 acres.

Sir Donald Smith has imported a piano which when landed in Montreal, cost him \$27,000.

Jean Joseph Benjamin Constant, the French painter, is now on his first visit to this country.

An "Oriental and Canadian exhibition," to be held in Montreal in 1889, is seriously talked of.

A seizure has been made at Chatham, N. B., of a lot of smelts caught during the close season.

Quebec lumbermen are forwarding deals over the I. C. R. to Halifax for shipment to Europe.

The writ for Cumberland has been issued,—nomination the 19th and polling the 26th instant.

It is said that Hanlan will not return to Canada, but that he will go into business in Australia.

Rev. G. Maynard, at present residing at Herring Cove, has been elected Rector of Hampton, N. B.

A lubricating-oil factory is to be started at Stellarton. Only about \$1000 of stock remain to be taken up.

The recent high tides caused great damage to the dykes in various parts of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Messrs. Price, Rodier and Drummond have been gazetted to the Senate to fill vacancies for the Province of Quebec.

The Welland Canal is closed for the season. 3,610,621 bushels of grain have passed through it since its opening in the spring.

There is a rumor that a number of counterfeit \$5 bills of the Bank of British North America issue of 1877 are again in circulation.

Hon. Mr. Bowell will be acting Secretary of State during the absence of the Hon. Mr. Chapleau, who expects to return in about ten weeks.

The Montreal *Witness* has been enlarged from eight to twelve pages. The change became necessary on account of the press of advertisements.

The annexationists of Windsor, Ont., held a caucus recently and resolved to organize a society favoring the union of the United States and Canada.

Moncton is a go ahead town. The *Transcript* publishes a list of new buildings erected during the year. The list covers over 75 buildings at a cost of \$87,000.

The Dominion Government has been urged to co operate with the provincial authorities in relieving the distress among fishermen on some parts of the Nova Scotian coast.

The judicial committee of the Privy Council has decided against the Dominion Government as to the ownership of land, timber and minerals in the formerly disputed territory now belonging to Ontario.

Wheat is falling throughout Manitoba, and grain which was selling for \$1.10 per bushel in Toronto last week is now worth only 40 cents in Winnipeg.

Voting upon a petition for the repeal of the Scott act in the County of Richmond, Quebec, took place on Nov. 29th. The act was sustained by about 500 majority.

The C. P. R. has concluded arrangements for taking over the Qu'Appelle, Long Lake and Saskatchewan Railway. Parliament will be asked to authorize the step.

The Yarmouth steamship company has decided to purchase a fast side-wheel steamer to run to St. John, Yarmouth and Halifax in connection with the company's line to Boston.

The sale of Dominion lands in the North-West for the year ending October 31st last, has been greatly in excess of last year; the last three months showing an increase of \$12,000.

The railway committee of the Privy Council will meet on the 18th inst., when the case of crossing the Canada Southern Railway by the Lake Erie, Essex and Detroit railroad will be taken up.

Counor and Donald, of Moncton, have been awarded the contract for the post office and customs house building at Sydney, Cape Breton. This firm was engaged during the last season on a contract for the renewal of the Richmond wharf.

Notice of motion is given in the North-west Assembly that the Dominion Government will be asked to provide for a vote of the people on the liquor question, and that the Territories be placed on the same footing as the provinces of Canada in the matter.

A meeting of the Moncton Town Council has taken action in urging the Government to compel the C. P. R. to fulfil their contract in regard to the extension of the Short Line through the Province, from Harvey, through Fredericton, to Moncton or Salisbury.

Winnipeg and Brandon will shortly have the Edison incandescent light.

Another fatality has been added to the list caused by the way in which the railway traverses the streets of Windsor. The railway authorities are exonerated from blame, but it is high time some efficient measures were taken to put a stop to the slaughter.

The annual meeting of the Halifax Ratepayers' Association was held on Wednesday. This body, whose proceedings are marked with moderation and good sense, is of great importance to the City, and recommendations will have greater force the more it is attended and supported by the public.

The absorbing topic of conversation from Cornwallis to Grand Pre is dykes. As many as a hundred men, each with a lantern, worked the greater part of the night of the 14th on the Habitant dyke at Canning, with such success that the tide was kept out the following day and the land escaped much damage.

Some of the City Police were reported for drunkenness and sloakness on duty by Sergeant Nickerson. Aldorman Hechler elicited the fact that this sergeant was the only one of six who found his men drunk. This may arise from vigilance on his part, and condonation on that of the others, or it may be quite otherwise.

Cullen's Pond, a favorite skating resort a little west of Wolfville, was nearly the scene of a drowning accident last Saturday, the ice not being safe all over. It resulted however in nothing worse than a ducking for one young man and a few small boys. This ought to be a warning, but warnings are generally wasted on the enthusiastic skater.

The Dominion Government has received an offer from a telegraph and maintenance company of London, England, to lay a cable from Sable Island to Halifax for \$100,000, payable in ten yearly instalments of \$10,000. This is the lowest offer received, and it is understood a sum will be placed in the estimates this season to meet the cost of laying the Island cable.

Grip's Comic Almanac for 1889 is unusually good. The "Tug of war," the centre cartoon, with "Time" introducing the young New Year as Umpire, is especially clever. The pictorial sketch of Sir John is much more funny than the "specifications and explanations" of it. There are one or two somewhat venerable jokes, but the Almanac is, on the whole, very good.

Our subscribers will receive with this issue of THE CRITIC a beautifully illustrated Supplement, filled with bright and chatty reading matter, well adapted to the festive season which is now approaching. This Christmas Supplement is sent free of extra charge to all our subscribers, bearing with it hearty good wishes to the many friends of THE CRITIC, whether at home or abroad.

Many contagious diseases are spread through the public schools, and people having cases at home send their children to school without a thought of the dangers to others. Measles have become an epidemic in Dartmouth from this cause, and hereafter any person sending a child to school from a house where there is a case of any contagious disease, will incur a fine of twenty-five dollars.

A letter from A. M. Stenhouse, who resigned his seat in the British Columbia Legislature to join the Mormon colony in the North-West, intimates that Mormons do not propose to give up practising polygamy. Mr. Stenhouse argues that Mormons settled in the North West are no more obliged to be satisfied with one wife than are the Mohammedans of India who are under British rule.

The scene in the station house at the Dartmouth ferry on Tuesday evening last during the storm is almost indescribable. One dripping individual after another came in, some hatless, and all looking distracted from their battle with the wind and rain. Umbrellas were turned inside out and generally demolished, the unfortunate owners regretting the fact that they had put them up. It was very rough on the harbor, but the *Mic Mac* carried her passengers safely across to Dartmouth.

The *Christmas Number* of the *Toronto Globe* reflects credit on the enterprise and taste of the managers. It contains 40 pages replete with seasonable matter. The two pages of colored illustrations are irresistibly funny and very well executed. The plate from a drawing by L. R. O'Brien, P. R. C. A., of a scene in Sydney Park, Vancouver, B. C., is really fine, and one of Lake Rousseau, Muskoka, would be, if it were not entirely in blue tints, which are unnatural and not satisfactory to the eye. The number however is a fine one.

Messrs Lovell & Co., of Montreal have published a map of the Dominion which is in some respects the best we have seen. That is to say, its size, 24 x 36 in, while avoiding the cumbersome of a very large map, gives the country on a sufficiently large scale (100 miles to the inch) to be useful. Very minute details of small places would of course crowd a map on this scale, but all places of any note are given, and rivers and railways well marked. It is well and distinctly colored, without the heavy lines which disfigure American maps, and finely glazed and mounted. A small Mercator's chart of the world is in the upper right corner. The map is published in connection with Lovell's Gazetteer and History of the Dominion.

The Christmas number of the *Montreal Star* is a triumph of art and taste. We have no hesitation in saying that we have seen nothing like it in its line. The cover alone is a gem of purity in coloring and design—two birds on a spray of larch, whose plumage, and the tints of the tamarac, relieve the pale blue of the border and back ground in thoroughly artistic taste. There is a study of peonies, the depth and richness of whose coloring is perfect, and an exquisite group of dog roses and forget-me-nots contrasting with dark green and bronzed leaves. There is also a photographic engraving of a little girl with a kitten, in which it is impossible to find a flaw. These are on