

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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It is now over two years since THE CRITIC was established. Its readers have had a good opportunity to judge of the tone, character, enterprise, and worth of the journal, and if they deem its merits are worthy of their continuance and support, we ask their co-operation in still further increasing its circulation. Any subscriber renewing his subscription will, upon forwarding to this office \$2.50, be entitled to two copies of THE CRITIC for the ensuing year, one to be mailed to his own address, the other to any person he may desire. Ask your neighbor to club with you for THE CRITIC when you next renew your subscription; or, if you have a brother, son, or relative, resident in any other part of Canada or the United States, send in your order for two copies, and we will send the absent one THE CRITIC for the next year, post paid.

The Mic-macs of Nova Scotia have increased in number nearly 500 in ten years.

A white girl at Kingston, Ont., has sued a negro for breach of promise of marriage.

A substitute for quinine has been discovered that costs only six cents an ounce. Aguz ceases to be a luxury at that price.

The Dissolution of the Ontario Legislature is announced. Dec. 22nd is appointed nomination day, and the elections come off on Dec. 29th.

The Y. M. L. A. Dramatic Club gave a very interesting and amusing musical and dramatic entertainment at the Lyceum last evening.

The Ontario Government has contributed \$1,000 to relieve the sufferers by the Southampton fire.

Most of the American fishermen have now gone home. The fares during the present season have been less than those of any year since 1841.

A joint stock company has been formed in France with a capital of one million francs, for the purpose of engaging in the canning of lobsters upon the coast of Newfoundland.

Moncton is building two skating rinks, both of which will be finished and ready for use before the winter sets in. A company is being formed and stock issued for a new toboggan slide, which is to be lighted by electricity.

The Carnival Committee of Montreal will require \$25,000 to carry out the programme laid down for the next annual celebration. The ice palace will, it is estimated, cost \$8,000. The carnival will open on the 7th of February.

The report that the snow now lies 20 inches deep in the northern parts of the State of New York and Vermont, shows that our American cousins have not a monopoly of fine and open weather. Our winters in this Province may be changeable, but the climate after all is not too bad.

The friends of General Laurie will sympathize with that gentleman on the injury sustained by him while in Boston. General Laurie turned his ankle while crossing Washington St., and came down upon the pavement with such force that his knee cap was fractured.

An idea of the value of British Columbia's forest wealth may be gathered, says the *Journal of Commerce*, from the fact that four logs recently cut near Vancouver contained 20,580 feet. The logs were as follows:—One log, 62 feet long, 40 inches in diameter, 5,299 feet; one log, 53 feet long, 44 inches in diameter, 5,600 feet; one log, 36 feet long, 54 inches in diameter, 5,625 feet; one log, 24 feet long, 56 inches in diameter, 4,056 feet. The Douglas pine has long been celebrated for its great size, but it has hitherto been, except where found near the water's edge, comparative valueless. Now that the railway can carry it to the sea it will become an important export.

On Monday evening last Mrs. Charles Murdock presented to the School for the Blind a large and finely executed portrait of the late William Murdock, who by his beneficent bequest of \$20,000 founded the Institution. Mr. Wm. Doull on behalf of Mrs. Murdock made the presentation, and Mr. J. S. Maclean on behalf of the Board of Managers accepted the gift. Addresses, eulogistic of one of Halifax's merchant princes, were made by his Honor the Lieutenant Governor, Chairman of the meeting, Mayor Mackintosh, Hon. W. S. Fielding M. B. Daly, M.P., the Rev. Drs. Hole, Burns and Rand, and the Superintendent. The proposal that the new square south of the Public Gardens should be named the Murdock Square was favorably received by the large number of guests present.

"Arichat" says: The Richmond mackerel fishermen have made first-rate catches, most of them far exceeding the catch of last year. As the selling price is from \$13 to \$17 per barrel, our hardy toilers will reap the reward of their industry. The routine of our daily life has been somewhat disturbed of late by the municipal elections, which created a passing ripple. Business in Arichat is now locking up, and our dealers feel encouraged at the increasing prospects of improved trade. The route of the Cape Breton Railway has not yet been fixed upon, but as a matter of course, the southern line will be selected, as this will accommodate the fishing interests of the Island, and the manufacturing and other interests of Arichat and St. Peters. E. P. Flynn has been doing the chief places recently in the Liberal interest as a possible candidate at the next election. The vacancy in the shrievalty, occasioned by the death of Sheriff Fuller, is not yet filled.

The elections for members of the Legislative Council of P. E. Island have resulted in the return of seven Liberals. The elections were run upon the question of the abolition of the council, which policy is favored by the Conservatives. The result shows that the people consider the Council is doing good service to the Province.

The Railway Commission which has been sitting in Halifax during the present week, has obtained from our merchants and skippers some interesting facts, which show that many of our business men possess a great deal more enterprise than they are commonly credited with. Mr. Pickford, of Pickford and Black, unhesitatingly expressed it as his opinion that an immense business with the mother country could be carried on through Halifax, were the railways content to take in all cases only their fair share of through rates. Even under existing circumstances heavy shipments of grain and other produce were made by the firm of which he was a member.

There are 81,300 Scandinavians in Nebraska.

Brooklyn will soon have 800,000 inhabitants.

The colored people of the South claim to pay taxes on \$90,000,000.

The funds of Yale College have been increased \$162,000 in five years.

It is estimated that 150,000,000 tons of matter in solution is annually poured by the Mississippi into the Gulf of Mexico.

Within the limits of the city of Philadelphia are nearly 100 silk mills, employing about 8,000 persons. This industry is rapidly growing.

Sabine Pass is to be rebuilt. More than two hundred men who were driven out by the flood have returned and are building new homes.

Philadelphia has eight women physicians who have each an annual practice of over \$20,000, and a dozen or more women dentists who make large sums.

Rutland's marble quarries give employment to more than 3,000 men, who were paid \$1,200,000 last year, when over 1,500,000 cubic feet of marble was produced. More than \$6,000,000 is invested.

Two Vermont cousins of the late A. T. Stewart intend contesting the will of Mrs. Stewart. One of them claims that the terms of the compromise agreed upon after the death of A. T. Stewart were not carried out.

William Cramp & Sons have made arrangements to construct for the U. S. Government a dynamite gun cruiser, which will be capable of making twenty knots an hour, and of firing a 200 pound dynamite shell every two minutes. The vessel is to cost not more than \$350,000. Cramp & Sons have agreed to finish the contract in six months.

Editor Cutting evidently resents his treatment by Mexican officials. He has gathered a following of 213 Texas rangers, with which force he proposes to wipe out the Mexican Republic. The United States authorities will, no doubt, prevent this filibuster from crossing the boundary, but should he be allowed to do so, there is trouble ahead for the two Republics.

Miss Kate Field impresses the Minneapolis reporters very favorably. One of them says she is "brainless" and has a mouthful of beautiful teeth, and that, "when she laughs she clasps her hands back of her head and laughs from the feet up in an explosive way that makes one feel at home in her company."

The South annually raises about 6,500,000 bales, or 2,600,000,000 pounds of cotton, and more than 5,400,000,000 pounds of cotton seed. The seed and cotton together annually picked from the Southern fields weigh in the neighborhood of 8,000,000,000 pounds. Putting the cost of picking this at the low figure of half a cent per pound, it will be seen that to pick the Southern cotton crop by hand costs at least \$40,000,000 annually.

Ten passenger locomotives of the fifteen recently built by the Reading Railroad at the company's shops in Reading are now in use. It is believed that the new engines can run a mile with a loaded train under forty seconds if necessary, and they are designed to drag eighteen cars instead of the old maximum of six or eight. Two of them are now working on the Philadelphia & Atlantic City road, and others are assigned to the main line of the Lebanon Valley and other divisions.

The new law in the United States taxing oleomargarine went into effect November 1. It is estimated that the annual revenue from this 2 cent tax will amount to \$1,000,000. This is on the basis of a home consumption of 50,000,000 pounds. The exports of oleomargarine last year amounted to nearly 38,000,000 pounds. The Collector of the Leavenworth (Kan.) district reports that the Armour Packing Company at Kansas City, Mo., will manufacture nearly 5,000,000 pounds of oleomargarine the coming year, and pay a tax of from \$80,000 to \$100,000.

A New York despatch says that on Saturday evening last a meeting was held in that city for the purpose of inaugurating a movement to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Queen Victoria's accession to the throne of Great Britain, which occurs in June next. A committee was appointed, consisting of R. J. Cortes, President of the St. George's Society, John Patton, of the St. Andrew's Society, Mr. Land, of the British Benevolent Society, R. G. Holloman of the Sons of St. George, and Erastus Wiman, President of the Canadian Club. The committee was instructed to invite the co-operation of similar organizations in the various parts of the United States, and where none exist to request the formation of committees to send delegates to New York on the occasion, in order that the movement may be representative in character. It was also resolved that a movement should be inaugurated toward the erecting a permanent memorial to Her Majesty in the United States, presenting the people of this country with a work of art equal to that recently presented by France.