

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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

Attention is directed to the coal advertisement of S. Cunard & Co., in another column.

All the hotel-keepers of St. Thomas, Ont., 22 in number, have been summoned for violations of the Scott Act.

Principal Anderson, of Prince of Wales' College, P. E. I., has received from McGill College, Montreal, the well-merited degree of L. L. D.

James Hartlan, a brakeman, was crushed to death at Richmond on Monday between two cars loaded with deals, the ends of which unduly projected.

Twenty-two divorces only have been granted by the Canadian Parliament in twenty years. A slight contrast to the matrimonial paradise over the border.

The Belgian Consul in Canada urges on the Dominion Government a subsidy for a steamship line from Antwerp to Quebec in summer, and to Halifax in winter.

All the Infantry armories throughout the Province are in thoroughly good condition, being all arranged on one uniform plan and pattern, and the rifles in perfect order.

There recently arrived at Halifax, per steamer *Sarnia*, from Liverpool, 125 cases filled with silver and bronze coins, consigned to the Assistant Receiver General at Toronto.

There is rumor that Mr. Baker, of Victoria, will be put into the Senate to fill the hole left vacant by the appointment of Mr. Nelson to the Lieut.-Governorship of British Columbia.

The West India and North American squadron, comprising *H. M. S. Bellerophon*, *Forward*, *Comus*, *Canada*, *Pythias*, *Emerald*, *Tourmaline* and *Lily*, were at Barbados on the 7th of February.

The six months' limit has disposed of several cases of the bribery in elections, which has become a chronic disgrace to the country. It is, perhaps, just as well that we are spared further scandalous revelations.

A laborer named Shandran, at Napanee, Ont., shot his wife, to whom he had been married only six months. Cause, jealousy. The man afterwards committed suicide. The woman's recovery is doubtful.

A company, with a capital of \$1,000,000, is being formed for seal-fishing on the coasts of Newfoundland and in the Gulf. It expects a bonus from the Dominion Government for wreckage and attending to buoys.

The Dominion Executive has purchased from the Home Government 40 rifled 64 pr. guns, in store at Halifax, to be used by Garrison Batteries at Lunenburg, Yarmouth, and other points of defence in the Province.

The new Manitoba Premier, Mr. Greenway, promises vigorous reforms and retrenchments in the civil service of that Province, dispensing with Deputy Ministers and numerous departmental luxuries. This is quite right.

The Crown lawyers are said to be consulting as to the institution of legal proceedings for conspiracy against the sugar combine, and an indictment is to be laid before the grand jury at the ensuing term of the Court of Queen's Bench.

A lad at Stellarton was killed on Saturday by running under a train while coasting. A young woman in New Glasgow had her leg broken on the same day by a coasting sled striking her, and two other young women were badly hurt in a like manner.

There was a large gazette of General Officers and Colonels, who desired to obtain the step of rank on retirement, which privilege ceased at the end of last year. Among others, Major-General Laurie retired from the active list with the honorary rank of Lieut. General.

Prof. Roberts read before the Historical Society on Wednesday evening his paper entitled the "Aristook War," dealing with the border difficulty between Maine and New Brunswick in 1839. A new point made by the professor is a justification of the much-abused Ashburton Treaty.

The Guard of Honor of the 63rd Rifles at the opening of the Provincial Legislature yesterday week, looked exceedingly well, but their step in marching was too short, and rather lacked the rapid swing which should distinguish a Rifle corps. Their appearance would also have been more effective had they been too rank and file strong.

Prof. C. G. D. Roberts, of King's College, delivered on Tuesday evening, to an appreciative audience at Argyle Hall, his lecture, with highly interesting additions, "Echoes from Old Acadia," which appeared in *Canadian Leaves*, elsewhere noted. No one is more competent than Professor Roberts to deal in the most charmingly picturesque manner with the often pathetic story of the early settlement of Acadia.

The Halifax Brigade of Garrison Artillery is rapidly progressing to a higher state of efficiency under the energetic command of Lt. Col. Curran. Ten of its officers have obtained new outfits from England. Seven are shortly about to attend the Artillery School, while three have already returned from their course there. There is constant evening attendance at the Drill Shed on the part of those going to the School, to expediate qualification, and Col. Curran is understood to decline evening socialities, in order to be in constant attendance himself.

The death is reported of Mr. Alex. Robertson, M. P. (Conservative) for West Hastings.

Mr. Chas. Watts, editor of *Secular Thought*, is to lecture at Orpheus Hall next Sunday afternoon and evening. The day does not seem to be well chosen.

A lecture on "Egypt and the Israelites," in the light of modern research, is to be delivered by the Archbishop on Thursday, the 8th inst. His Grace's object is a charitable one, the lecture being for the benefit of the poor visited by the Ladies of the Society of the Children of Mary. We believe the kindly ministrations of these ladies do not stop at their own persuasion; at all events, what His Grace has to say is sure to be worth hearing.

An Ottawa despatch of Monday last conveys the intelligence that "under the authority of parliament granted last session, the government some time ago entered into an agreement with the Western Counties Railway Co. of Nova Scotia, by which the government guaranteed the payment of half a million in the form of an annuity for twenty years. By this the company proposed to raise a loan in the English money market for the purpose of enabling them to complete the missing link between Digby and Annapolis—a distance of twenty miles. A member of the government has received a cablegram announcing that Mr. Plunkett, the representative of the Western Counties road, at present in London, has been successful in securing the loan necessary to complete the whole system of railways from Halifax to the extreme west." This is most welcome news, which, if confirmed, will give a much needed impetus to the development and completion of our provincial railway system, and, consequently, of the business prosperity of Nova Scotia.

It is only due to Col. Macdonald, the officers and men of the 66th P. I. F. Battalion, in order to completely remove any false impression which may have been made by a paragraph which unfortunately slipped into our columns, to give some further particulars of the state of the Regiment. The following is its list of officers. The letters N.W. against names indicate service in the North-West in 1885; m.s., Military Schools; v.b., Volunteer Boards of Examination; s.i., the new Infantry Schools; the figures 1 and 2, the Class of Certificate:—Lt. Col. C. J. Macdonald, N.W., m.s. 1; Major W. M. Humphrey, v.b. 1, Major B. A. Weston, N.W., v.b. 1, m.s. 2; Captain E. G. Kenny, N.W., v.b. 2; Alex. Doull, N.W., m.s. 2; H. L. Chipman, m.s. 2; A. Brown, m.s. 2; A. Whitman, N.W., m.s. 2; A. King, N.W., s.i. 1; H. F. Fishwick, s.i. 1; W. M. Black, s.i. 1; Lieutenants—H. A. Hensley, N.W., m.s. 2; W. H. Stevens, m.s. 2; E. A. Sexton, s.i. 1; T. E. Davison, s.i. 1; W. D. Bentley, s.i. 1; C. C. Hole, s.i. 1. and Lieutenants—C. M. Jack, s.i. 1; T. J. Cochran, prov.; A. B. Wilmot, prov.; J. D. Ritchie, prov. Paymaster, Capt. A. W. Spike, m.s. 2; Adjutant, Capt. J. Menger, s.i. 1, m.s. 2; Quarter-Master, Major G. W. Hart; Surgeon, W. S. Tobin, N.W.; A. Surgeon, M. A. Curry. It will thus be seen that few Regiments really possess so large a proportion of highly qualified officers—ten holding first-class certificates. In addition to these, Lieuts. Smith and Ritchie are now attending the Fredericton Schools of Infantry. The Regiment has always been noted for its high proficiency in drill; and at the inspection last summer, at the end of the drill season, General Middleton congratulated the colonel and officers on the steadiness of the drill and the precision of their movements. The Regiment was then, and is now up to its full strength—371 officers and men—with the exception of about twelve, which cannot be filled for want of uniforms. The men have every confidence in their officers, and the best feeling prevails between officers and men. The band, which is composed of 40 musicians, is maintained exclusively by the officers, and is admitted to be inferior to none in the service. No drill has been performed since last inspection, but it is intended to commence drilling at an early day, so as to have the inspection on or about the first day of July next. For the past two years, since Col. Macdonald has been in command, no Drill Instructor has been employed, and the whole training has been done by the officers. The efficiency of the men at their last annual inspection is therefore the best criterion that the officers were thoroughly competent to impart all necessary instruction. It may be observed that even the Paymaster is a duly qualified combatant officer.

The British and Canadian Fishery Commissioners are to be entertained to-night at a banquet inaugurated under the auspices of the Canadian Club of New York.

It is stated that the construction of the Lick observatory is faulty, and that it will cost many thousands of dollars to correct the errors. The great telescope, however, is perfect.

Mr. Holcomb, lately secretary of the American legation at Peking says that out of the 400,000,000 inhabitants of the Chinese empire, fully 300,000,000 spend less than \$1.50 a month for food.

General Sheridan is reported as emphatically denying that he is an intending candidate for the Presidency, that he would not accept a nomination under any circumstances, and that he does not want any civil office.

The Union Square Theatre of New York was burned on Tuesday, and the Morton House, adjoining, badly damaged. Several firemen were badly burnt and injured by falling timbers. Several chambermaids were also injured, but not seriously. Loss, \$250,000.

Canadian Leaves, a series of new papers read before the Canadian Club of New York, contains essays on subjects of import to Canada by Edmund Collins, Goldwin Smith, Geo. Stewart, J. W. Bengough, Prof. R. Berts, J. M. Lemone, Dr. E. Cleston, Principal Grant, Erastus Wiman, Hon. B. Butterworth, &c. They will well repay perusal. Napoleon Thompson & Co., 51 Maiden Lane, N. Y.