

## NEWS OF THE WEEK.

**PRIZE—TWENTY DOLLARS.**—In order to secure for the Christmas Number of THE CRITIC first class reading matter, we have decided to offer a prize of twenty dollars for the best story, with the understanding that we are at liberty to select and publish the contributions of those who may compete for the prize. The story must not exceed three thousand words, nor be less than fifteen hundred. The regular staff contributors for THE CRITIC will not compete for the prize. The stories will be submitted to a committee of three gentlemen, and the prize will be awarded by them to the person sending the best. The *nom-de-plume* of the writer should be forwarded with the manuscript, the writer's real name being withheld until the *nom-de-plume* of the prize winner is announced in THE CRITIC. Stories to be forwarded to the Editor of THE CRITIC, 161 Hollis Street, Halifax, not later than Oct. 15th.

The Studley Quoit Club gave a farewell luncheon to the Admiral last Saturday. The festivities were held in the open air, and were sandwiched in between games of quoits. Graceful speeches were made by Sir J. E. Commerell, Lord A. Russell, and others, and the best of good fellowship was the order of the day. The sword, the gown, the lancet and the ledger were largely represented on the grounds.

Strikes appear to be the order of the day. Ten thousand persons employed in the jute mills of Dundee went out this week on account of a proposition to reduce their wages by 10 per cent. There should be some means by which employers and employees could adjust matters without resorting to such extreme measures.

Canada is the land of magnificent distances, but the Board of Health of New Bedford, Mass., have failed to realize this fact, since they have ordered all vessels from the British Provinces to be quarantined on account of small-pox. France might, with as good reason, quarantine British ships, were small-pox to break out in Madrid.

Dr. J. R. McLean, who is said to be the strongest man in Halifax, has just returned from a trip into the country. He reports the people in and about Amherst in a prosperous condition, and confident that the pretty shore-town of Cumberland will yet be the capital of United Acadia. The doctor's many friends in the city will be glad to see him again among us.

It is pleasing to note that the proposal to confer medals upon the Canadian Militia engaged in quelling the North-West rebellion, has been cordially approved of by Queen Victoria. Certainly the men who so nobly responded to their country's call are entitled to this small but pleasing recognition of their loyalty and patriotism.

Professor Westendorf is doing his best to improve the musical taste of our people. He trains his choirs with care, and has proved himself a good conductor. The popular cantata of "Esther," which has been rendered under his direction in several of our provincial towns with success, will be performed in Lunenburg next week. The German element in Lunenburg should have the effect of making the concert in that place a marked success.

As labor feels the first blow of adversity, it should also feel the first fruits of the business revival. Surely capital and labor can be honest with each other and honest with themselves, and if they act with honesty and ordinary intelligence, disputes will be arbitrated and satisfactorily adjusted, and labor will join heartily with capital to welcome and profit now by the irresistible and, we believe, permanent revival of prosperity.—*Philadelphia Times*

The Rodmund-Barry Co., completed their engagement at the Academy on Saturday last. Their performances throughout were marked with the same good taste and excellence which characterized their earlier performances. The season will long be remembered by Halifax theatre goers as a most enjoyable one, and should the company again return to the city, they may anticipate a cordial reception.

It is now stated that the disarmament of the Indians by the force at Fort Pitt was most incomplete. The wily red men knew the value of fire arms, and they took good care to secrete the best of them before they could be secured by the white men. The savages displayed much cunning by taking their weapons to pieces, and bringing in their rifles in such a condition, that being considered useless, they were allowed to keep them.

The citizens of Havana, who have always evinced a loyal determination to preserve the connection between Cuba and Spain, are much incensed at the recent seizure by Germany of several groups of the Caroline Islands. On Monday last a public meeting of citizens was convened, 5,000 persons were in attendance, and vigorous speeches were made condemnatory of the action of Germany. It was unanimously agreed to aid the Spanish government in upholding her dignity in the event of a war with Germany. One enthusiastic merchant offered in the name of the merchants of Havana, \$500,000 towards purchasing a ship of war.

Next week we shall have in the city upwards of 200 prominent mining Engineers, and our citizens have resolved to give them a most cordial welcome. At the close of the meetings of the Institute, the members will visit in detachments the principal mining centres of the Province. No doubt, the attractions of Cape Breton and the knowledge of her great mineral wealth, will induce many of the distinguished visitors to extend their tour to that charming island. The travelling facilities between Halifax and Sydney, C. B., are now so perfect, as to make the trip one of the most enjoyable in Nova Scotia.

It is gradually coming to be recognized, as the *Week* long ago prophesied would be the case, that the electric light is a failure as a general illuminant. A motion, practically endorsing this view, and tantamount to the proposal to revert to the use of gas, was submitted to the Toronto City Council the other day, and it might be politic for Quebec—in which city there is a feeling in favor of the electric light—to await developments before committing herself to a change. There is a growing impression that gas, where there is enough of it, gives a much more satisfactory light, does not throw such uncomfortable shadows as the rival illuminator, and is withal cheaper. Moreover, it is apparent that the hideous poles from which electric lamps are suspended are a chief contributing cause to the increasing ugliness of our public thoroughfares.—*Toronto Week*.

The Windsor *Courier* expresses disappointment at the emptiness of 5,000 beer bottles, lately purchased from the inhabitants of that town by a bottle-dealer. The disappointment of the *Courier* is no doubt shared by many in the community, but it is probable that Messrs. A. Keith & Son, and the other brewers in Halifax, will have the bottles refilled without unnecessary delay.

The British Veterans celebrated their Anniversary on Wednesday evening last by a dinner in the spacious dining hall in connection with the London Fruit Store. The menu was extensive, and did credit to the culinary department of the establishment. Among the members were several Crimea veterans, as well as those who had taken part in the more recent campaigns, in Afghanistan, Zululand and Egypt. The chair was occupied by Isaac Sallis, Esq., Vice-President of the Society, the President, Major-General Laurie, being unavoidably absent. Among the guests were His Worship the Mayor, the Presidents of the St. George's, the North British and Charitable Irish Societies, etc. The customary toasts were proposed and responded to in a most enthusiastic manner, and were interspersed with stirring songs relative to the Crimean war.

Year by year Halifax is offering increased advantages to those desirous of obtaining a knowledge of the fine Arts. As will be seen by advertisement, Messrs. Grove & Wells have established themselves in this city, having opened up a fine studio in Sichel's Building, in which they display specimens of their work in oil, crayon and india ink, which the public are invited to inspect. Messrs. Grove & Wells are prepared to give instruction in the various styles of painting and we bespeak for them a liberal patronage.

**THE LATE EMIL VOSSNACK.**—We regret to have to chronicle this week the death of Emil Vossnack, Civil and Mechanical Engineer. Mr. Vossnack returned on Thursday last from a trip to New Brunswick and complained of not feeling well. The next day he grew worse and towards evening became unconscious, and medical aid was summoned. The doctors pronounced that he was suffering from congestion of the brain, and did their utmost to relieve him but without success. He passed away at 4 o'clock Sunday morning without having regained consciousness. The deceased was a German, born at Remscheid near Cologne. His father was a prominent school teacher in that town. He received his technical education at the Dusseldorf School of Art and the Karlsruhe Polytechnic Institute. At the age of eighteen he emigrated to the United States and was employed there by the Illinois Central Railroad, Danforth and Book Locomotive Works, and during the civil war worked for the late E. B. Hotchkiss and the Federal government in the manufacture of ordnance. In 1871 he came to Halifax and took charge of the works of William Montgomery, who was then building locomotives for the Dominion Government. In 1877 he was engaged by the Starr Manufacturing Co., and a little later built Moir's flour mill and grain elevator at Bedford. About four years ago he began to devote himself to the introduction of the manufacture of wood pulp into this country. He recently formed a partnership with Augustus Von Jarber, the special representative of Eugen Baron Ritter and Mr. Charles Kellner, the proprietors of the Ritter-Kellner Sulphite Wood Fibre Process. At the time of the establishment of the Technological Institute in this city, Mr. Vossnack took a lively interest in it, and worked for it during its short lifetime. He was an engineer of acknowledged ability, and a most persevering man, genial and open hearted. He leaves a wife and six children, the youngest aged two years.—*Com.*

**EMMA THURNEY.**—This great singer so well and favorably known all over the musical world will pay Halifax a visit next Thursday, assisted by the famous composer and pianist, Chevalier Antoine de Kontski, Miss Pardee, Mr. Tyler and Mr. Pratt, under the direction of the renowned impresario, Mr. Max Strakosh. Two concerts will be given at the Academy of Music by these artists, and if our city has really music within itself the hall will be crowded as a fine programme will be presented. Our visitors, the mining engineers, could not be better entertained than to invite them to one of these concerts.

**WINNIEG, Sept. 9.**—Chief Justice Wallbridge, presiding in the full court to-day, gave judgment in the Riel case, dismissing the appeal and confirming the conviction obtained in the lower court. Justices Taylor and Killam followed, concurring with the chief justice. All three upheld the constitutionality of the court which tried Riel.—*Chronicle*.

The Dominion Annual Register for 1884, adds another valuable volume to the record of Canadian political history. Within it covers the literature, the educationist and the politician will find much that cannot fail to be of interest. The work is a credit to its promoter, Mr. Henry Morgan, of Ottawa.