

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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

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 Spring Hill *Times*, after a short, but brilliant career, has suspended publication.

The City Council of Halifax have passed estimates for the ensuing year, commencing May 1st, amounting to \$252,000.

Next week will be observed as a week of prayer in the Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist churches throughout the Province.

Mr. Meikle, who did such good work as an evangelist in this province, will be engaged in mission work in Illinois during the winter months.

Rev. Canon Brock, President of King's College, will preach in St. George's church on Sunday evening next in behalf of the Restoration Fund of King's College.

The Rev. K. C. Hind has been licensed by the bishop to the parish of Newport. He will carry on the work until Easter, when the election of a rector will probably take place.

The handsome parliamentary buildings at Ottawa will now appear to better advantage during the evening, eight brilliant electric lights having recently been erected in front of them.

In our Church of England notes which were unavoidably delayed in preparation, mention is made of the fact that the Christmas services were well attended in the city in spite of bad weather.

Nearly one thousand invitations have been issued to leading French Acadians in the Maritime Provinces for the banquet given last evening to the Hon. P. A. Landry, M.P. for the county of Kent, N.B.

The young ladies in Montreal are looking forward to an unusually gay season, as Lord and Lady Lansdowne, with their suite, have taken up their residence in the city and will remain there throughout the month of January.

As usual every year after the ice bridge takes, little huts for the unlicensed sale of whiskey are being erected on Ottawa river midway between the Ontario and Quebec shores, where the license authorities of neither province may interfere.

The late W. D. Lawrence, of Maitland, Hants, was one of those who accumulated wealth during the palmy days of wooden ships. Through Mr. Lawrence's industry and foresight, he has been able to leave to the members of his family the sum of \$225,000, no mean amount even in these days of millionaires.

The report comes from Montreal that Engineer Pearson, of No. 14 Fire Station, has invented a contrivance for keeping water warm in fire engine boilers constantly and at a very slight cost, which enables an engineer to raise steam within five minutes, while heretofore it has taken an average of at least twelve minutes.

The chief of police of Montreal is now vigorously carrying out the law which prohibits the hiring of cabs on Sunday. Montreal cabmen are generally in accord with the movement, and only the penurious grinders who are willing to work the horses and themselves seven days out of each week, are grumbling at the law.

Miss Anning, an aged spinster of St. John, recently died and left four-fifths of her estate, which is valued at \$30,000, to the charitable and benevolent institutions in our sister city. During her life Miss Anning denied herself the ordinary comforts enjoyed by the poorest classes, but by her death she has enriched several deserving institutions and organizations.

Our city fathers have acted wisely in awarding the contract for the supply of groceries for civic institutions to E. J. Lordly. Had they done otherwise they would have jeopardized the only principle which makes tenders and contracts advisable. It is somewhat surprising that any discussion respecting the awarding of this contract should have taken place at all.

It is gratifying to see our leading daily papers taking such an interest in the consolidation of our western railways. Halifax and Yarmouth are now connected or disconnected by two distinct lines of railway and a water stretch in lieu of the link yet to be built. All parties agree that the roads should be completed and placed under one management, but they disagree as to which party should control this patronage. By all means, if possible, let the Dominion government complete and incorporate the line as part of the Intercolonial. This, we believe, would be in the true interests of the public.

The English-speaking citizens of Montreal are desirous of nominating an Englishman for the position of mayor, and many leading Frenchmen are anxious to second the movement being made by them. The present chief magistrate, Mayor Beaudrer, is of French descent, and as he is an excellent official, no one can well see why his origin should disqualify him for re-election.

Dr. Charles Cogswell has never forgotten his native city of Halifax. To him Halifax is indebted for the fine balustrade which now surmounts the walls surrounding the parade. The doctor now proposes if subscriptions to the amount of \$3,000 can be obtained, to place in the parade a finely executed statue of Sebastian Cabot, who, with his father, John Cabot, discovered America June 24th, 1497.

The central route for the Cape Breton railway selected by the government is strongly opposed in St. Peter's and Arichat, but so far Baddeck and Port Hood have expressed no opposition to the location of the line. If this trunk road is practicable St. Peter's will probably have to be content with a branch line, but until the engineer's report is published it will be well for all parties to reserve judgment, meantime keeping their powder dry.

It is understood that in the distribution of North-West medals to the members of the Mounted Police, they will be granted to those only who actually were under fire at Duck Lake, Cut Knife, Batoche, Frenchman's Butte, or on board the "Marquis." Considerable difficulty has been met with in coming to a decision in the matter, but it is conceded that it would not be a fair way of settling it to recommend every member of the force for a medal.

Every train bound east from Boston contains many passengers whose destination is the Maritime Provinces. These are the young men who have been employed on New England farms or in New England factories during the busy season and who find it better during the dull times to come to their old homes in Acadia. Were they to apply the same brain and muscle in the native land as they do under the stars and stripes there would be no need for them being classed as birds of passage.

The ice castle designed for the next Montreal carnival will be larger than any of its predecessors, covering an irregular open square of some 14,000 feet. It also differs from past ice castles in that no two of any of its sides will be alike, affording a great variety of outline from different points of view. The site, as usual, will be on Dominion Square. The castle will be lighted by electricity for a fortnight after the carnival, for the benefit of such visitors as may desire to avoid the crowd and bustle of the fête.

Mr. Mowatt's Government has been sustained in Ontario by an increased majority. In the last Parliament the Premier had a majority of nineteen, which is likely to increase in the present house to twenty-nine or thirty. Of the ninety seats in the Ontario Parliament, three are secured to the Government by legislation. Three constituencies which will probably return Liberals have not yet been heard from. Of the remaining eighty-four seats, the Liberals have secured fifty-four, and the Conservatives thirty. The "no-poppers" cry, through which the *Toronto Mail* sought to overthrow the Premier and assist Mr. Meredith, has signally failed in its purpose. Mr. Meredith may well exclaim, "Save me from my friends."

The Canadian Pacific Railway, working in connection with the Commercial Cable, has had a test of speed between New Westminster, B. C., and London. Messages were exchanged in one minute. The first message was as follows:—"New Westminster sends greetings to old Westminster. Weather cloudy; light rain; thermometer 44. What is the weather with you and time of day?" The cable, working direct by Canso over a circuit of 4,600 miles, brought an answer from London which was received at 9:21 p.m., the reply sent being:—"Old Westminster sends kindly greetings to younger namesake. Weather here heavy; fog; temperature 32; city enveloped, but three miles outside clear; time 8:22." In reply to this came the question. "Have you any visitors?" Answer—"We hoped to have Sir G. Stephens, but he was prevented from coming here at present."

A vessel secured \$4,500 worth of sponge in one week's trip along the Florida coast recently.

The Russian Minister at Washington is allowed \$25,000 a year by the government for the purpose of giving entertainments.

The bathing superintendent at Asbury Park, (N. J.), reports that 300,000 people bathed there this year, and not a single accident occurred within his limits.

The population of Florida is said to have increased twenty-eight per cent. in the last five years. The value of property has doubled during the same time.

55,547,040 cans of tomatoes were packed in the United States during the past season. This is below the annual consumption requirements of the country.

An Indiana contractor who repairs mail bags made a mistake of two cents in footing a bill and Uncle Sam kept him out of \$350 for six months and put him to \$3.60 costs as the result.

An eagle, nine feet from tip to tip, tried to capture a farmer at Toronto, Dakota, a couple of weeks ago, but he captured it alive, and was at last accounts trying to sell it to help bring his family from Norway.

A London despatch to the *New York World* says that very good progress is being made there in the organization of a syndicate for the purchase of the bonds of the Cape Cod Canal Company, and it is expected that a large force of men will be engaged very soon on the undertaking. It is hoped in London the canal will be opened for traffic by next fall.