

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 exceptional offer which appeared lately. 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.

Fahey, the convicted Montreal detective, was sentenced yesterday week to fourteen years penal servitude.

A very successful sacred concert was held in connection with the North Baptist church on Tuesday evening.

An elaborate scheme is said to be in contemplation by the Manitoba Government to inaugurate a vigorous immigration policy.

Mr. Gauthier, (Liberal,) has been returned to the House of Commons for L'Assomption County, by an increased majority of 96.

The city of Hamilton will, it is reported, lose about 2,000 of her population by the contemplated transfer of the Grand Trunk shops to Stratford.

Petroleum is said to have been struck at Lake Dolphin, near Winnipeg. A company is organizing, and it is thought the oil may be led by pipes into the city.

The death occurred, at the Waverley House on Wednesday week, of the Hon. Alex. MacKay, M.L.C., of Cape Breton. The Hon. gentleman's health had been failing for about two years.

The snow-storm of Monday brought Halifax back to its normal winter condition, at least in appearance, for, though Tuesday was quite mild, all the town was on runners again, the sleighing being very good.

There does not seem to be much hope of improved steam communication for Canada. It is said that the Allan and Dominion Lines are to get the contract, and divide the subsidy (\$300,000,) between them.

A new element has been introduced into the Mounted Police in the employment of some full-blooded Indians as scouts. They have rendered good service, being invaluable as trailers, and from their ability to travel long distances in short time.

The following ladies and gentlemen have, we learn, formed themselves into a quartette, and will henceforth adopt the role of Professionals:—Mrs. J. McD. Taylor, Miss Josie Schaeffer, Mr. Geo. E. Boak, Mr. D. C. Gillis. Every success is wished for them.

The telegraph operator at Kalmar Station stole a ticket to the coast and was arrested at Vancouver. On returning to Rat Portage he pleaded guilty and gave away seven conductors who had assisted him in keeping out of the way of the detective who followed him.

It is very probable that the Rev. D. M. Gordon, of this city, will be the next Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church in Canada, as he has already been nominated for the position by the Presbyteries of Toronto, Winnipeg, and Columbia.

We are extremely glad to notice the confirmation of his rank, from 10th March, to Lt. Col. A. E. CURRIE, of the Halifax Brigade Artillery, that excellent officer having obtained the necessary qualification from the Artillery School, with a very high percentage of marks, in fact the highest in a list of nine candidates published.

The C. P. R. have, it seems, refused to allow one of their cars, loaded with shorts for Messrs. J. A. Chipman & Co. to go through to Halifax, alleging, as stated, that they do not allow their cars to go so far east of Montreal. If they allow them to go east of Montreal at all, why not to Halifax? This seems all wrong.

Lt.-General Sir Fred. Middleton is to have his term of the command of the Canadian Militia extended to two years from July, 1889, when it would otherwise expire, his retirement from the Active List of the Army being no bar to the measure, which is desirable to utilize the large experience he has gained of the needs of the country and the Service.

Great preparations are being made for the consecration of Bishop Courtney on April 25. It is understood that the Metropolitan will consecrate, and that the Bishops of Ontario, Quebec, Maine, and possibly the presiding Bishop of the American Church, Bishop Williams, of Connecticut, with the Coadjutor Bishop of Fredericton, will assist. Bishop Kingdon will be master of the ceremonies.

The Gilbert Opera Co., which during the present week has been performing in the Academy of Music, has attracted large audiences, and will probably continue to do so throughout its two weeks' engagement here. Mr. Gilbert's company may be said to present Gilbert and Sullivan's popular operas in fairly good style, and were it not for the weak manner in which the chorusses are usually rendered, the troupe would rank as one of the best that has visited Halifax for some time past. Among the soloists Miss Helen Adelaide Russell is worthy of special mention, as it is seldom that we have an opportunity of listening to a lady possessed of such a rich mezzo-soprano voice. Mr. Gilbert, who in "Iolanthe" took the part of the Lord Chancellor, is evidently at home upon the stage, being an excellent actor as well as a good singer. It appeared to us that Mr. Frank Moulton, as the Mikado, somewhat overdid his part. Mr. Fielding has a fair quality of voice, but Mr. Faye's is decidedly poor. The "three little maids" were attractive enough, and sang well, especially Miss Gilbert and Miss DeRue. The effect of colds was apparent on Monday and Tuesday, and the orchestra was somewhat flat, but improved on Wednesday. The acting and stage setting are good all round, and we hope the company will receive to the end of their engagement a support they undoubtedly deserve.

An immense immigration is setting in to the N. W. Large numbers of Ontario farmers are on the move, and it is said that their places are being largely occupied by a superior class of settlers from the old country—in fact, that Ontario is changing its population to a considerable extent—while, despite American agencies, the C. P. R. claim that not five per cent. of the immigrants settle south of the Boundary. This is no doubt due to last years crops in the north, and bizzards and cyclones in the south.

The derailing of a passenger train in Chicago is laid to the account of strikers, and a special policeman is reported to have been assaulted and severely beaten by three men who, he asserts, were strikers.

The New York *Herald* says that three-fourths of the farmers of N. Y. State have been compelled to heavily mortgage their farms, and a St. Paul paper alludes to Dakota as a place "where the mortgage blooms in great profusion."

The evils of strikes are partially exemplified in the firing of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railway's paint shop, supposed by incendiarism. Over a hundred new engineers and firemen were in their beds when the fire broke out, and several of them were assaulted by unknown parties while seeking shelter.

Decrease of the United States debt last month, \$15,387,320. Decrease since 30th June last, \$69,217,655. Net U. S. debt due 1st Feb., 1888, \$1,210,211,081. Canadian net debt due 1st Feb., 1888, \$230,028,616. Less than one twelfth the United States people, with more than one-sixth of the United States debt. Nothing but the greatness of the Canadian resources could enable us to stand this.

The Storm Fiend, whose chosen play-ground is the paradise of the Western and North-Western states of the Union, has indulged his customary playfulness in those regions by destroying, last Saturday week, the town of Ninnescah, Kansas, leaving only three houses standing. Two churches, five stores, and fifteen dwellings, were torn to pieces; four or five persons killed or fatally injured, and fifteen others injured more or less.

It is reported that Count Von Moltke and Count Herbert Bismarck are to receive the title of Prince.

The Queen has presented Mr. Chamberlain with her photograph and autograph in recognition of his services on the Fishery Commission.

There can be no doubt that Mr. Goschen is proving himself one of the ablest Chancellors of the Exchequer England has had for a long time.

Late accounts of the Emperor's health seem favorable enough to inspire the hope that, after all, Sir Morell Mackenzie may pull him through.

Lord Dunraven will introduce this year a bill to improve the House of Commons by admitting peers who may like to sit there in preference to the lords.

A reaction in the popular feeling in Germany regarding Sir Morell Mackenzie seems to have set in. Neither savants nor populace have shown much sense, to say nothing of dignity, in the matter.

The heavy storms which have distinguished this winter recently reached far off New Zealand, where telegraph lines have been prostrated and railway traffic seriously interfered with by destruction of roads.

Easter Sunday, the 1st instant, was Prince Bismarck's birthday. If a man is not a horse because he was born in a stable, it is equally certain that a man is not necessarily a fool because he was born on April Fool day.

St. Paul's Cathedral is to be washed. Firemen are to set to work on it with hose and brushes to see how they can brighten the blackened old walls. An expert says that it is not dirt, but a kind of lichen that makes it black.

The prominent feature of interest at the Easter Volunteer Review in England was the enlarged employment of bicycles and tricycles for other purposes besides scouting, though not, it appears, in all cases with perfect success.

The Government of Bermuda has been offered to Lt.-General Sir Gerald Graham, V.C., G.C.M.G., R.E., in succession to Lt.-Genl. Gallwey, R.E. Genl. Graham was one of the most distinguished Corps-Commanders in Egypt in 1882.

Major Popoff, one of the most distinguished of Bulgarian officers, a devoted adherent of Prince Alexander, and supposed to be thoroughly honorable, has been arrested on a charge of embezzlement. It is hoped it may prove unfounded.

Nothing in Paris is so killing as ridicule. The dire misfortune is reported to have happened to General Boulanger, that a meeting got up in his favor was not attended by its supposed conveners, and that the doorkeepers bolted with the entrance money.

On the occasion of the hundredth anniversary of Lord Byron's birth most German daily and weekly papers produced highly appreciative articles on the poet's genius—rather a contrast to the tone of the English daily press, as the *Athenaeum* justly remarks.

Mercurial France has undergone another change of Ministry. M. Floquet is President of the Council and Minister of the Interior; M. De Freycinet, War; M. Goblet, Foreign; Admiral Krantz, Marine; M. Richard, Justice; M. Peutral, Finance; M. Lockray, Education; M. Loubet, Public Works; M. Viette, Agriculture, and M. Legrand, Commerce.

However hopeless M. de Lesseps' Panama Canal scheme may appear, it does not seem at all improbable, not only that he may be sustained by the French people, but that the fate of the French Government might be involved in the refusal to acquiesce in his demand for additional funds,