

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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

Sir John Macdonald's law library was to be sold in Toronto on the 9th and 10th insts.

Digby's new Conservative paper, the *Canadian*, is to appear to-morrow for the first time.

The estimate for school expenditure in Halifax for next year amounts to almost \$100,000.

Point du Chene, N. B., had a \$15,000 fire on Sunday. It was most disastrous to the village.

The Halifax Retail Grocers' Association has decided that no more Christmas presents will be given to customers.

All denominations in Manitoba will soon be asking for free schools. The Episcopalians are asking for them now.

Judgment was delivered in the Guysboro election case on Tuesday, when D. C. Fraser was sustained in his seat.

On Tuesday evening next a public meeting will be held in the Academy of Music to consider the Atlantic mail question.

St. John *Progress* came to us last week as a twenty page paper, which we presume may be taken as a sign of prosperity.

The election of J. A. Gillies, Conservative, a member for Richmond, has been set aside on account of bribery by an agent.

Much interest is being taken in the state of the fire department in this city. It appears to need a competent paid head very badly.

A formal order in Council has been passed confirming the dismissal of Arnoldi, Senecal, Bronskill, Talbot, Dionne and Bradley.

The annual meeting of the Commercial Travellers' Association was held on Wednesday evening. T. C. Allen was elected president for the coming year.

Moir, Son & Co's new building is to be completed by May 1st. The structure will be considerably larger than the old bakery destroyed by fire last spring.

Parrsboro experienced a severe fire on Nov. 30th. Two or three stores were destroyed. It is strange that a place like Parrsboro should have no fire apparatus.

A man named Daggat was arrested at Digby a few days ago for indecent assault on a little girl. He is married and has a wife living in another part of the province.

Wolfville is talking strongly of having a system of electric light put in. Annapolis has everything ready for starting its electric light shortly. The towns are keeping up with the spirit of the age.

The Provincial Rifle Association held its annual meeting in the Halifax Hotel on Monday, when the usual business was transacted. A vote of thanks was passed to Premier Fielding for continuation of Government grant towards the funds.

The bluejackets on the transport train from Vancouver to Halifax are expected to arrive to-day. The troopship *Tyne* arrived ahead of time on Monday with the relief crews for the war ships *Champion* and *Pheasant* of the Pacific squadron.

The Nova Scotia Improvement Company has sent a letter, through its solicitor, to the Board of City Works proposing to make a residential district in the southern suburbs, and asking for a complete understanding on the subject of taxation, etc.

The adjourned meeting of the Merchants' Tax Reform Association was held in the City Hall committee room on Tuesday afternoon. It was fully representative, and after discussion the report of the committee was unanimously adopted, and will be sent to the City Council.

Jewish Rabbi Maurice Schmullovitz, of Philadelphia, is going to take up his residence in Halifax, and conduct religious services for the members of the Jewish faith in this city. He will also superintend the killing of meat for them, which is an important office among the Jews.

The Valley Telephone Company has completed a successful month's business, and intends to extend its line through the valley, from Granville and Annapolis to Hantsport, thence to connect with the N. S. Telephone Co's line. Upon the completion of this link there will be telephone communication between Yarmouth and Halifax.

The Christmas number of the Halifax *Mercury* made its appearance last Saturday. It has some pretty, but not new, illustrations, and is well printed. The number is an improvement on the midsummer special number, and the picture of Mr. Fielding, Premier of Nova Scotia, will certainly be prized by that gentleman's many admirers.

Those interested in the customs and history of the people of Asia will gladly hear of the course of lectures shortly to be delivered by Rev. G. J. Bond, of Brunswick St. Methodist Church, on his recent travels in Palestine. The series will consist of five illustrated lectures, and while interesting and instructive to all, will prove especially so to Bible students.

We have the pleasure of acknowledging two calendars, large and small, both of useful proportions, from E. F. Doyle, agent of the Phoenix Fire Insurance Company, of Hartford. Messrs A. & W. Mackinlay also deserve our thanks for one of Carter's Ink perpetual calendars, and two useful office cards showing the Sundays in 1892. Messrs. Mackinlay are agents for Carter's Inks.

Grip's Comic Almanac fully comes up to the expectations concerning it. One of the most amusing features is the monthly private memorandum of the editor, doctor, politician, student, lover, Chicago widow, school boy, society man, cattle drover, lodge crank, agitator and householder. There is lots of fun in it, and as the small sum of ten cents only is asked, everyone will be able to afford a copy. Grip Printing and Publishing Co., Toronto.

The contract between the Commercial Cable Company and Siemens Bros. for the management of the steamer Mackay Bennett has expired, and the Cable Company now assumes direct control of the steamer. This necessitates some changes in the staff, some of the officers going home to England, while others remain on the ship. Former Chief Engineer Schenk becomes captain, and Captain Hicks, with a majority of his officers goes home.

The drill shed on Spring Garden Road was very badly damaged by fire on the night of Thursday of last week. Owing to the blundering of the policeman who struck the alarm the firemen were unable to discover where the fire was, and all out was sounded. This caused a delay of about half an hour, and meanwhile the fire was gaining great headway. When the firemen finally got to work it had done a deal of damage, and it was with difficulty they could fight it because of the dense smoke which filled the building. Cartridges exploding frightened many of the spectators away, but there was fortunately no powder stored in the building. There was no insurance on the building or the arms stored in it. The banners of the North British Society were damaged by water, and those of St. George's Society were burned. The latter were uninsured. Some of the officers lost heavily.

On Monday morning the Halifax Creamery Co. made us a present of four glass jars of milk, each holding one imperial quart of a splendid quality of the lacteal fluid. The staff of THE CRITIC took kindly to the contents of the jars, and only one was left to set for cream. This method of delivering milk is as far ahead of the old tin can as the electric light is ahead of tallow dips, and we hope it will be generally adopted by all milk dealers. The wagon in which the jars are carried to customers is quite sumptuous, being heated by an oil stove in cold weather so the milk will not freeze. The inside is lined with shelves and is capable of containing between four and five hundred bottles. A fine pair of iron greys are attached to the wagon, which is a creditable turn-out in all respects. To judge by the samples of milk submitted to us, we should say the customers of the company are fortunate in obtaining a superior article, such as would scorn the imputation of adulteration or depreciation of any kind. The wagons of the company were built by DeWolfe, Son & Co., who are also building two sleighs for use when the snow arrives.

We are in receipt of a copy of the Christmas *Dominion Illustrated* which is a magnificent issue, entirely the product of Canadian skill and enterprise. It is ahead of any Christmas issue ever brought out in Canada, and will be highly appreciated both at home and abroad. The supplements are four in number; chief of these are two large reproductions of oil paintings—one "A type of Canadian Beauty," by Mr. J. W. L. Foster, of Toronto, the other "The Young Recruits," by Mr. C. Patterson, of Montreal. Both of these will greatly please the general public. Another supplement also in colors, is an eight page series of comic sketches of the trials and mishaps of a corpulent English sportsman while hunting in the woods, away back in the French Canadian country. A fourth is a photogravure showing all the universities of the Dominion, printed on a large sheet of heavy paper suitable for framing. The number itself is a beauty. It contains 40 pages of stories, poems and articles from the pens of some of our most brilliant writers. Almost every page contains an exquisite illustration, printed in colors; no less than five different tints are used in the press work of the volume. Altogether the issue is a superb one and Canadians should feel proud of such a national contribution to the Christmas literature of the year.

The Congress of the United States met on Tuesday. The Democrats have 236 representatives, the Republicans 87 and the Farmers' Alliance 8, with one vacancy.

President Harrison's address to Congress dealt with the Bering Sea seal fishery question, and stated that terms satisfactory to Great Britain and the United States had been agreed upon for its settlement. The address also stated that provision should be made for a joint demarcation of the frontier line between the United States and Canada. The need of a powerful modern navy was also spoken of, as well as other reforms.

Dr. Welti, President of Switzerland, has resigned.

It is stated that the Archbishop of Canterbury will make a tour of the United States and Canada next year.

Dom Pedro, ex-emperor of Brazil, died in Paris on December 4th. The last words of the ex-emperor were expressive of love for Brazil and wishes for the welfare of the country. The funeral was held on the 9th inst.

Prince Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence, eldest son of the Prince of Wales, on Friday last proposed to Princess Victoria Mary of Teck, and was accepted. The marriage will probably take place at an early date.

London is now excited over another divorce suit. Florence St. John, the actress, is asking for release from her husband, Marius, on the grounds of adultery and cruelty. Sir Charles Russell is counsel for Miss St. John.

British politics are lively just now with speeches from leaders. Lord Salisbury spoke at Birmingham on November 24th, and Mr. Gladstone made a reply at Port Sunlight, near Birkenhead, on the 28th. Of course they are attracting a great deal of attention.