

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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The watchword of the Committee man is not now "excelsior;" but "Oh, he's all right!" (?)

Messrs. Slater & Sims, of Ottawa, have been awarded the contract for the forty-five mile section of the Cape Breton railway between Grand Narrows and Sydney.

The assessable property in Windsor is valued at nearly \$1,000,000, and appears to be steadily increasing. Seventeen persons are assessed upon real and personal property to the value of \$10,000 and upwards.

James Grant, dealer in hides, leather and shoe findings, 144 Upper Water Street, keeps constantly on hand a large and complete stock of goods. Purchasers desiring to secure the lowest prices and the most gentlemanly treatment should not fail to call on Mr. Grant.

The Liberal-Conservatives of the City and County of Halifax have nominated as their candidates for the House of Commons, Messrs. J. F. Stairs and T. E. Kenny. Mr. Stairs has already served a short term in the Dominion Parliament, and has won throughout this constituency an enviable reputation for the prompt attention given to all communications addressed to him by the electors. Mr. T. E. Kenny is a man of wide business experience and high character, and is well qualified to represent the metropolitan constituency of the Province.

Mr. Mercier, leader of the Liberal and National party in Quebec, succeeded in ousting the government and has formed a new Liberal administration, with a fair working majority at his back. This reverse in Quebec was unexpected by the Conservatives, although it is probable that the ex-Premier, Dr. Ross, realizing the utter hopelessness of his position, preferred to leave to his successor, the Hon. L. O. Taillon, the task of battling with overwhelming odds. The Nationalists have without exception allied themselves with the Liberal party.

It is unfortunate that at this season of the year the miners employed in the Albion Colliery have deemed it advisable to strike against a reduction in wages. We say unfortunate because the being thrown out of work in February, must result in much suffering among the families of the workmen. The men offered to leave the question of reduction to arbitration, while so far as can be ascertained the managers refused to settle the matter in this way, hence work in the mines will be almost entirely suspended until such time as a amicable arrangement can be made.

It is stated that the Canadian Government has handed over to the Imperial Institute authorities the nine excellent paintings of Canadian cities which were exhibited in the entrance hall of the Colonial Exhibition. It will be remembered that the official and commercial capitals of the Dominion and the chief town in each Province were represented:—Ottawa, Halifax, St. John, Charlottetown, Quebec, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Victoria. The pictures attracted much attention at the Exhibition, and should be given a prominent place in the Institute buildings.

The announcement that British men-of-war were to assist our cruisers in the protection of the fisheries, has created another breeze in Congress. It is noteworthy that these retaliatory resolutions and unfriendly speeches are made exclusively by Republican members, and that the Democrats are discreetly silent on the question. It looks very much as though politicians on the other side of the line knew what string to play upon for party purposes. One thing is certain, the fisheries are ours and if Brother Johnathan is anxious to share them with us he must consent to share his mark, as likewise.

The Y. M. C. A. in Halifax is a handmaiden to the churches. Through the influence of the Association many young men who might otherwise be led astray are kept in the path of rectitude and honor. The Association now has a membership of 445, and is carried on at an annual cost of less than \$3,000. The "Christian Worker," the organ of the Association, starts with a circulation of 1,000 copies. At its last annual meeting the Association again elected as its president, Mr. John S. Maclean, a man whose qualities both of head and heart render him admirably fitted for positions of responsibility.

"Mr. Bothwell," says the Yarmouth "Times," "has made a proposal to the Yarmouth town council for lighting the streets of Yarmouth with electric light. The offer is to furnish and keep lighted not less than 15 lamps, 300 days in the year from dusk to midnight, for the sum of \$100 per lamp, which sum is the same as is paid in Halifax where over 100 lamps are lighted. It is pointed out that as our gas lamps are lighted only 200 days in the year, from dusk till eleven o'clock, the price of the greater light is no more than that of the gas. Mr. Bothwell promises to have his lamps lighted within 3 months if his offer be accepted and expects to have them so within two months. The system of lighting proposed to be introduced here is known as the Thompson-Houston and is the one so successfully in use in Montreal, Toronto and St. John."

The United States Supreme Court has entered judgment against the United States in favor of the Choctaw Nation for nearly \$3,000,000, for lands and unpaid annuities. The Denver lawyer who won the suit received \$250,000, it is said.

Farmers on the Pacific coast are busily engaged in plowing.

Mme. Patti is to be paid \$150,000 for her six months singing.

Venezuela will hereafter coin her own money, having established a mint. The tomato pack of 1886 in the United States reaches a total of 55,547,040 cans.

It is alleged that parties in Oregon are canning dog salmon, which are worthless.

The immigration to the United States during 1886 has been about 400,000 souls.

San Francisco boys stole the roof of the new city hall, which is of lead, taking it away piece by piece.

A dozen private palaces will be built in New York next year by rich cattle kings and other millionaires from the west and southwest.

The total foreign commerce of the United States last year was \$1,426,018,032, or \$20,827,100 more than in the previous year.

Notwithstanding the increased supply, the price of seal skins tends steadily upward, and was lately within five per cent. of the highest point ever reached. This fur is being worn by all nations, more and more.

The United States Treasury Department has decided that pictures painted before the year 1700 are ancient, and may enter an American port, duty free. Since that date, says the decision, all pictures are modern, and must pay duty.

A Providence (R. I.) furniture-dealer offered a bedroom set to the couple that would consent to get married in his show window. There were scores of applications, a selection was made, and the wedding took place on a Wednesday night, with three or four thousand people inside and outside the building.

A despatch from Galveston, Texas, says a satisfactory test has been made here of a new long distance telephone. The instrument is known as the Barriett-Nelms Telephone, being the invention of S. L. Barriett and W. W. Nelms, both young men and residents of Houston. The test consisted in talking over a wire 830 miles long, that being the distance to New Orleans and return. The articulation was far more distinct and perfect than over the ordinary short circuits by the Bell Telephone. About a dozen leading citizens talked over the circuit, and all agreed that they had never held a more satisfactory conversation by telephone. The inventors claim that they can talk from New York to San Francisco with the same distinctness as shown in yesterday's test. A caveat has been issued on the new instrument, and the Patent Office is now considering an application for a patent.

A letter from Panama says great excitement prevails throughout Chili at the appearance of cholera on its boundaries. A strict quarantine was enforced against vessels coming from suspected parts, and the passes on the Argentine frontier were closely guarded, but the disease surmounted all barriers and reached the Pacific slope. A correspondent in Chili says: "Time and space would fail were I to attempt to discourse upon the clouds of decrees relating to the preservation of the public health." From the Argentine Republic the telegraphic news for days has been exceedingly alarming, and in Mendocina at the foot of the Cordilleras on the other side and its neighborhood, no fewer than forty deaths are reported in one day. They speak of bodies unburied, of houses abandoned and children attacked by the disease and left to perish on the roadsides by their relatives, who are fleeing southward for safety.

Tennyson is reported to be in failing health and will soon leave for the south of France.

London spends \$600,000 per year for compulsory vaccination. Large as the bill is, it is cheaper than a smallpox epidemic.

Serious floods have occurred in southern Queensland. Fifty-eight persons have been drowned and much damage has been done to property.

It has been resolved that the remains of the late M. Gambetta shall be transferred to the Pantheon. The French Government will lay a bill on the subject before the Chamber.

Germany has made arrangements to at once erect barracks at various points along the French frontier, "thus answering France," as the despatch from Berlin giving the intelligence says, "with barracks for barracks."

The Danube is covered with floating ice from Pesth to Vienna, and it is entirely frozen over near Presburg, as is also the great Hungarian Lake Aldenburg. In Vienna the water supply has been reduced by one-half on account of the cold weather.

The Emperor of China's new throne at Shanghai is to have its foundation and pedestal made of gold bricks, and the sub-prefect of Soochow has sent to Pekin 3,000 pieces of solid gold bricks of the ordinary shape of claw bricks for this purpose.

The Government of Berlin has introduced in Parliament a bill to suppress drunkenness. It provides that drunkards in public places, and publicans serving drunkard's children shall be fined and imprisoned, and that debts incurred in purchasing intoxicants shall not be recoverable.

Matters in Ireland are very far from reassuring. Where the landlords have reduced the rents, the tenants have paid up; but evictions are constantly being made by the landlords of other estates. These are resisted by the people, and in several instances the police, after forcing an eviction, have been obliged to level the house to the ground, in order to prevent the return of the former occupants. In Belfast a very serious riot took place on Saturday evening last, and though no one was reported killed, many persons were seriously injured, gun-shots having been freely exchanged.