

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 appears on page twelve. For \$2.00 in cash we undertake to send Titu Cuthbert's "The Story of the World" comprising him in a volume with forty five of the most readable of readable books. Those who are renewing their subscriptions, as well as new subscribers, should take advantage of this offer.

Reports from all parts of Manitoba say the weather is beautiful. The snow is all gone, and seeding operations are in full blast.

The preliminary examination of Stanley Steele, for shooting with intent to murder, R. S. Currie, took place at Antigonish yesterday. Steele was committed for trial.

A dishonest clerk employed in the department of agriculture, Ottawa, has gone to the States for a prolonged visit, having pocketed a large sum paid in as fees in his office.

The Dominion Parliament met on Wednesday last and elected Col. Quimet, Speaker. The House then adjourned until yesterday, when the Gov.-Genl. delivered the speech from the throne.

Elizabeth Joe, an unfortunate Micmac girl aged sixteen years, has been committed for trial at the next sitting of the Supreme Court, Pictou, for concealment of the birth and murder of her infant.

Montreal appears destined to suffer from another spring flood. The water in the St. Lawrence is steadily rising, the lower part of the city being already partially flooded, and the water higher than at this date last year.

The steamer *New Brunswick* will, on Tuesday next, re-commence her regular weekly trips between Annapolis and Boston, and will, no doubt as formerly, be largely patronized by the travelling public.

Some time ago a hotel at Bout de l'Isle was burglarized, the safe being blown open, and \$230 stolen. The proprietor of the hotel was much surprised yesterday at receiving a registered letter containing the exact amount stolen. The bills had not been changed.

The *Calgary Tribune* says that a few days ago as high as forty dollars was paid for a gallon of whiskey, and sixty dollars was offered for two gallons. One party who had two gallons of dark Hudson Bay brandy was offered \$120 for the lot, but refused to take it, holding out for \$150.

The following sent in the correct answer to puzzle published on page 14 last week:—Miss Emma Lessel, 237 Brunswick street, city; Miss Aggie Pitts, 37 Garrick street, city; Jas. V. Purcell, jr., Port Mulgrave; and "D. D. C."—P. O. Box 56, St. Andrews, Antigonish.

A lively meeting of the supporters and opponents of the Sabbath Observance Act was held before the committee on law amendments on Tuesday morning. With few exceptions, the clergy of the city support the act, but public opinion condemns it as being arbitrary and uncalled for.

The churches which have recently been built in Halifax are a credit to the city. The First Baptist Church, which was opened on Sunday last, is a fine edifice, having cost about \$25,000, the larger part of which has already been paid in by the zealous members of the congregation.

An American fishing schooner was recently chased in the Bay of Fundy by the Dominion cruiser *Vigilant*. The crew of the yankee craft had been fishing for bait within the three mile limit, but on the approach of the *Vigilant* the skipper ordered all sails set, and thus escaped being captured.

At a meeting held at Sackville, N. S., the project of building a loop line of railway connecting Bedford with the Windsor branch was animatedly discussed. The proposed line will run through a fertile country, and being shorter than the I. C. Railway, its building is of importance to our western roads.

Owing to the breaking of an axle, two railway carriages were thrown from the track at Hopewell on Tuesday last. They were thrown down an embankment 14 feet high and fell over on their sides. Of the fifteen passengers, several are reported as seriously injured. The wonder is that no lives were lost and no passenger fatally injured. The cars were completely wrecked.

The Minister of Justice has decided that it is a contravention of the postal laws for proprietors of newspapers to convey their papers from the place of publication to other places and distribute them in those other places. Newspapers are only free when despatched from the office of publication to some individual whose name appears on the wrapper. The occasion for the decision is that western Ontario journals have protested against the *Globe* proprietors sending their papers by train to Hamilton and other cities and selling them on the streets.

To the Editor of the Critic,—Sir,—Allow me to say to your correspondent that the fourth section of the Provincial Act, respecting the sale of intoxicating liquors, is entirely in harmony both with divine teachings and common sense. See Lev. x, 8 11; Prov. xxxi, 4 5; Isa. xxviii, 7-8; Judges xiii, 2-7, 13, 14, 24, 25; Luke i, 15. It will be seen by these divine teachings that our law-makers have been making laws entirely in union with those enacted by the great Law-giver, and for the same reasons, i. e., that their servants or employees when discharging important and responsible duties may be sober and in their right minds, that the laws may be fully administered and justice be done. SILEX.

It has been expected, or rather hoped, that the legislature would so far complete its labors as to be able to terminate the present session on Thursday next, the 21st instant, but several matters are still pending that may render it impossible to do so, especially if long, useless and purposeless speeches are indulged in, as was the case with regard to the educational bill.

Among the matters that will probably evoke lengthened and tedious discussion may be named the "Sawbuth" bill, the assessment bill, the new charter for the City of Halifax, the government policy amendment repeal, the bill to amend the act to incorporate the Cape Breton and Pictou Iron Company, limited, and the policy of the government regarding aid to railways throughout the province generally.

Of these, the probabilities or possibilities are that the Sabbath bill may get its quietus either in the House or the Legislative Council—if not by direct defeat, at last by the three month's hoist. The question has received so full a discussion in the public press and by eminent writers of every shade of religious and political thought, that legislators can have not even a hesitating doubt that the overwhelming consensus of public opinion is decidedly and fixedly opposed to the passage of this tyrannical and inquisitorial act. We have burdens enough to carry that are unavoidable, without our being saddled with new ones that cannot be enforced, and would be unbearable if they could. The people of Nova Scotia, and of Halifax in particular, are a peaceable, law-abiding race, but even their patience has its limits, as our "members" may discover if they push it too far.

The assessment bill is a lengthy document, and its provisions are not thoroughly understood by either the legislators or by the people whom it is to affect. We are assured that the only new principle involved is the proposal to introduce an income tax. In our judgment the proper course would be to refrain from attempting to pass it at this session, but allow members to take it home to study during the recess, so that when the legislature meets again they may be prepared to deal with it fully and intelligently.

The new charter for the City of Halifax is necessarily very bulky, and it is not at all likely to be dealt with at the present session. Indeed, the Hon. Prov. Sec'y., who introduced it by request, intimated as much. The matter is so important and its provisions so various—comprising over 700 clauses—that it should receive as many weeks of most careful attention as it can days if it is hurried through at this late stage of the session. It evidently belongs to the class of topics for legislative consideration and action, concerning which too much caution cannot be exercised in dealing with them.

Of the government policy in regard to the repeal of union, it is impossible to say anything till it is announced. The government cannot avoid defining its policy after having made that the paramount issue at the polls in the election of June last, when it was so strongly sustained. But the subsequent, apparent or practical, reversal of the verdict at the Dominion elections of February last, so complicates the problem that it naturally becomes a matter of great and curious interest to observe what course the government will pursue.

Of the government policy in respect to giving aid to railways, it is difficult to treat. Railways are a necessary adjunct of our present civilization. The Dominion will not or cannot aid in the construction of any except leading trunk lines through the country. Still, feeders or branches to these lines should be built, and these must often pass from productive through unproductive regions. Capital to build them unaided is unobtainable, as in most cases an indefinite period must elapse before these branches can become profitable or even self-sustaining. The problem, therefore, is how far the province is justified in starving its educational and its ordinary road and bridge services to foster the construction of even important railways within its borders.

The military concert given on Wednesday evening, in the Orpheus Hall, under the patronage of Lord Russell and the Lt. Governor, was attended in full force by the officers of the garrison. The number of civilians present was not large, and the attendance of ladies was unusually small. Part 1 was a splendid programme of music by the Band of the York and Lancaster Regiment, in which a Solo on the Euphonium was particularly good. We do not think though that the Hall is well adapted for this kind of instrumental music. The musical Triumvirate Cox and Box formed the Second Part, and was splendidly performed by the officers in their respective parts. Capt. Rawson as Mr. Cox, Capt. Russell, as Box, and Capt. Addison as Sergt. Bouncer, secured the uttiring attention of the audience throughout the whole of this amusing performance. The singing was only fair, but the impersonations of character were almost perfect.

Of the 48,000 votes cast in the recent election in Washington Territory, 15,000 were cast by women.

It is reported from San Francisco that the grain yield of California will be greater than in any previous season.

Electrician Edison is regarded with such awe by the negroes in Florida, that it is difficult to get hands to take his apparatus from the boats.

The Secretary of the U. S. Navy has invited sealed proposals from the ship builders of the United States for the building of five new war vessels.

The Biddle house, the largest hotel in Detroit, covers an acre of ground, has six acres of floor, and is worth \$500,000. Luther Beecher, who owns it, has had trouble for twenty years in renting the property, and now proposes to give it to the public. If he can sell it, he will give \$500,000 to a fund for the charitable institutions in the city. If he can rent it at \$50,000 a year, he will apply the rental to the same purpose. If he can neither sell nor rent, he will cut up the big building and devote it to charitable purposes.

The exhibition of pictures, of Canadian Rocky Mountain scenery on the lines of the Canadian Pacific Railroad, at the Canadian Club, New York, has been remarkably successful. Fully one thousand persons, representing the best people in New York, have responded to the invitation to view these specimens of the work of Mr. Jno. Fraser, formerly of Toronto, now of Boston. Much surprise is expressed at the beauty and sublimity of the scenery. It is believed that many tourists will take in this portion of the continent next year.