

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 12. For \$2.50 in cash we undertake to send *The Critic* to any subscriber for one year, supplying him in addition with twenty-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.

The North-West Mounted Police force is now at its full strength and numbers 1,070.

Delegates from Australia respecting a cable between Canada and that colony are expected at Ottawa shortly.

The Swedish ship *Senator Weher* has just made the passage from Rio Janeiro to Quebec in 33 days, the fastest on record.

The American amusement Bureau will open the Lyceum on Monday evening for a short season with one of their very select companies.

For the whole year 1887, some 10,600 immigrants landed at Halifax. During the first six months of 1888, the number landed at Halifax was nearly 12,000.

Mr. A. G. Morrison of this city has been nominated by the Liberal party as their representative to contest Colchester County with Sir Adams Archibald. August 8th is fixed as nomination day.

Twenty tons of cotton were shipped from Kingston to Shanghai on the 16th inst. About a hundred tons have already been shipped, and it will take as much more to complete existing orders from China.

Officials at Ottawa say they know nothing of the Indian troubles in British Columbia as the local authorities there must attend to it. The Skeena river is over three hundred miles north of the boundary.

It is understood that the Government have, on the urgent representations of the lobster packers, extended the open season fourteen days on the Atlantic coast of Cape Breton from St. Peter's Island to Meat Cove.

D. Bourinot has been engaged by a leading English magazine to write a series of articles on the Northwest territories and Pacific coast of Canada, and will leave shortly to make personal observations of these districts.

A curiosity of the late camp at Niagara, says the *Militia Gazette*, was No. 3 Co. of the 37th Batt., the ranks of which as well as one officer, were of Six Nation Indians. The brass band of the regiment is also Indian.

The Committal of Pitcher, at Montreal, for trial on the charge of bringing stolen money into Canada, holds out hopes that by this mode of procedure some check may be put on the operations of the bank scoundrels.

McAlpine's Halifax Directory for 1888-9 is now issued. This is a work of great value, in fact indispensable to business men of every kind, and we are sorry to observe that the proprietors find it necessary in their preface to appeal to advertisers, on account of the falling off of this necessary support.

A new journal, the *Springhill Independent and Cumberland County Reporter* has made its appearance, and it is a very good appearance, the new-comer being well printed on good paper, as well as well-written and edited. It contains much interesting matter, and we wish it every success.

The Steamer City of St. John broke the cross-head of her cylinder on the night of the 17th inst., and anchored off Lockeport. A number of passengers were landed in open boats, and a schooner took off the rest. Willing testimony is given of the courtesy and attention of Capt. Forbes and officers.

M. Mercier is a lively Premier. He lets in his Province for \$400,000 in the matter of the Jesuits' Estate Bill, makes a pro rata grant of \$100,000 to the Protestant churches, apparently as a *douceur* to smooth matters; then he tries his hand at economy by a measure which is substantially one of repudiation.

Miss McPherson, of New Glasgow, N. S., has been appointed to a position in the provincial secretary's office, at Halifax, as a stenographer and typewriter. Miss McPherson is a graduate from a Boston school of these two arts. She is the first lady to hold a situation under the Local Government service.

John McLeod, 82 years of age, was accidentally killed at Lawrencetown, on Wednesday morning. While going over a railway crossing near the station at that place he was struck on the head by a car, which was being shunted and which he did not see in time to avoid, on account of partial blindness. How long is this sort of thing to continue.

The suspected burglars who have been keeping the St. John people on the *qui vive* are reported to be still there, and that those who left were confederates who arrived by the western train. They had through tickets for Halifax. Our city authorities are doubtless keeping a sharp look out for these gentry, should they prove to be the *avant couriers* of the main body.

Major Tilton, deputy minister of marine, has announced that the policy of the department was to encourage the growth of the fisheries. If the present close season were continued and the regulations strictly enforced the fisheries in time would be restocked. If the close season were withdrawn it would mean the annihilation of the fisheries and loss of a million a year.

A lamentable accident occurred on North St., in this city, on the 17th inst., whereby an old and respected citizen met his death. Mr. John Malone and three others were at work on the foundations of a house on that street, when the shoring which supported the building gave way, pinning Mr. Malone to the foundation wall and killing him almost instantly. The three others had a narrow escape.

Mr. Dickey's (Conservative) majority in Cumberland was 791.

Lord Lansdowne in a recent address made a reference to the climate of Canada, which is worth noting. Every member of his family who accompanied him to Canada, he said, had returned to England not only none the worse but very much better for the trip. He added that any of his friends disposed to explore the empire could not do better than try a change of air in Canada, the climate of which, he declared, was "the best suited to bring out the qualities of the British race."

The drought in central Ontario is unprecedented. It is represented as terrible in Lennox and Prince Edward Counties. The ground has not been wet down three inches since the snow went off last spring. Some fields of barley will not even make good pasturage. Fully two thirds of the farmers will not have enough hay to feed their stock, and will have to buy it for \$15 to \$20 per ton. A leading dairyman in Nepan, in the Ottawa district, on Saturday weighed his milk for the day, it turned the scale at 480 pounds. The product of the same herd on the Monday following weighed just 350 pounds, or a loss of 120 pounds in two days. The falling off in the production of butter and cheese is estimated at \$70,000.

Trouble with the Indians in British Columbia is looming up, despatches from Victoria are far from reassuring, and the news of the massacre of the Hudson Bay officials at Hazelton, Mr. Clifford and a special constable, appears to be confirmed. "C" battery of Artillery left for Skeena on the 16th inst., with Col Holmes in command, and a British man-of-war will move on the spot immediately. It is to be hoped that the disturbance will be quelled speedily, as an Indian war is something that Canada may well pray to be delivered from. One of the worst tribes on the coast is said to be at the bottom of the revolt and the Government have always had trouble with it. The red men number altogether about three thousand.

A shooting accident, which might have proved fatal, occurred on Oxford street last Saturday. A young girl, employed as a domestic in a house on Oxford street, was tantalizing a young man while driving cows to pasture in a field in that locality, about his sweetheart. The young man got angry, and threatened, as he phrased it, to "put a head on the girl," and took down an old gun from the barn, and pointed it at her. She told him "not to do that as it might be loaded," and so the event proved. While endeavoring to take the gun from him, it exploded, wounding the girl in the ankle. What at first was a very trivial matter, came near culminating in a tragedy. How long will it be before people understand that the law strictly forbids the pointing of firearms, loaded or unloaded, at other persons, and this under severe penalties.

A clever confidence scheme was worked in this city on Monday last, and at least one prominent business house victimized by a Yankee "crook" calling himself K. M. Miller and representing himself as the owner of the Steam yacht "Electra." He put up at the Halifax hotel, engaged rooms for a party of twenty ladies and gentlemen whom he represented as his guests on board, talked glowingly of his estates in the South, and of his father "Judge Miller" in New York. He called at Johnson's Piano Warehouse and purchased a \$500 piano, giving a check on the Greenville First National Bank of Mississippi, and getting a receipt in exchange. Armed with this he proceeded next to Messrs James Scott & Co., where he ordered groceries and liquors to the amount of \$1200, giving a cheque for \$2000 and receiving the difference between \$700 and \$800 in cash. With this he disappeared, and was next heard of in St. John, where he despoiled a couple of female dupes who accompanied him to that city, leaving them to find their way back to Halifax, penniless. Miller *alias* Stillman is now in Boston, where he arrived safely with his ill gotten gains. It is thought he has swindled other merchants in this city.

The Board of City Works and the City Council are at "loggerheads." The latter body have twice censured the former for proceeding with sewerage work that appears to be necessary. Aldermen—not of the "Board," explain in private conversation that these censures were passed "in fun," and were aimed mainly at the Alderman who has made himself obnoxious to the majority of the members of the Council by the course of his management that he has seen fit to pursue towards all who disagree with him. The style of tactics may, perhaps, be well enough in its way, but it lends no dignity to the proceedings of the City Council, and the wrangles that occur whenever that body meets degrade and disgrace the City Council in the eyes of citizens as well as of outsiders. At a meeting of the City Council held on Tuesday, Ald Lyons resigned his position as a member of the Board of Works. No action was taken in the matter. Mr Lyons is honest and honorable, but he lacks tact and judgment in dealing with other men. If he could divest himself occasionally of the idea that he has all the brains possessed by the City Council, he would have a much pleasanter time, and possibly, would attain his objects easier than by continuing to pursue the line of tactics that he has ever since he entered the Council.

A new enterprise is now bidding for public favor. It is the Halifax Iron and Steel Works Company (Limited.) A public meeting was held in the room of the Chamber of Commerce last Monday, and mutual congratulations were cordially exchanged. While we heartily believe that the establishment of iron and steel rolling mills is a desideratum, and that such would be a paying venture, we object seriously to the practice of "booming," that is, in our opinion, too often resorted to. A proper and legitimate enterprise will commend itself to capitalists without any meetings of merchants, etc. If we cannot do without these extraneous supports, the *raison d'être* is not there. In this individual case, we think that the proposed company has reason to expect to secure a large amount of business, and to do a profitable trade. But this will be only on its intrinsic merits. The Dry Dock, when completed, will, doubtless, attract many more disabled vessels to this port than have ever come here before, and they alone