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The editor of THE CRITIC is responsible for the views expressed in Editorial Notes and Articles, and for such only; but the editor is not to be understood as endorsing the sentiments expressed in the articles contributed to this journal. Our readers are capable of approving or disapproving of any part of an article or contents of the paper; and after exercising due care as to what is to appear in our columns, we shall leave the rest to their independent judgment.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Only very mean and very foolish people will attempt to renew the youth of cancelled postage stamps and make them do service again. A postmaster in Flodden, Quebec, recently practiced this little economy with the greatest precautions against discovery, but he was detected and made to pay fifty dollars for his little game. It cannot be too generally known that for each offence of this kind there is a penalty of from \$10 to \$40, highly deserved by all who transgress. Let the Flodden postmaster's punishment be a warning to all whom it may concern, whether inside or outside of post offices. He paid a high price for his stamps.

We would like very much to know what the outcome of Newfoundland's disagreement with us is likely to be. Recent telegraphic dispatches state that a bill is before the Newfoundland Legislature piling on the agony in the form of increased duties on Canadian products. This course, if continued, will be suicidal to the trade between that colony and Canada, which would be very regrettable. The course of Newfoundland since the refusal of Britain to sanction the Bond-Blaine treaty has been utterly antagonistic to Canada, and unless a change come o'er the spirit of the dream there will be a rude awakening for one, if not both parties to the dispute.

There are signs of revolt among the litterateurs of Canada against the present conditions which practically deny them a living in their own country. Every now and then we hear a lamentation or two on the subject, and many sighs are heaved in secret over this sad fact—for a fact it is, that the high thinkers of our country are generally forced to very mean living. Canadians do not buy books to any great extent; if one of our men brings out a volume, people are content to borrow it, and the author does not make much by that plan. It is cheering to see some suggestions made for remedying this state of affairs. "Alchemist," in *The Week*, puts forth several ways of solving the monetary question for writers, and advocates their being given positions in the Civil Service. "Alchemist" makes other good points in his article, and it is to be hoped he will succeed in stirring up a deep interest in the matter. If a few men of letters were in high positions the prospects of authors, artists and others of that ilk would be brighter. It is sad to see the best efforts of our best men being lost to Canada, a change must come, and it should come soon.

We note with pleasure that the franking privileges of members of Parliament are to be cut off, and the members will be paid a specified sum for defraying their postal expenses.

Halifax, not to be behind the times, has a "society" case coming on in the Supreme Court. The plaintiff, Mrs. Little, is a widow living in Pictou, and has moved in the best society there. She asks for \$15,000 damages from Allan Ferguson and his wife, who, it is alleged, have vilified her and her family and classed them with the "low." The case is very sensational, and the rumors that are flying are rather shady. It is a never-ending pity that such scandals should occur, and it is most unfortunate that they should be dragged through the courts. It is to be hoped the details will not be given publicity in the press so as to enter all the homes in our country and be read by mere children.

The most noteworthy feature of the annual report of the Legislative Library, just published, is the appeal made for more room. The space at present at the disposal of the Commissioners is almost totally exhausted, and in view of the continual increase of books an addition to the present accommodation is suggested. This matter has been referred to before, but the necessity has become pressing, and the appeal for room is consequently more urgent. The Commissioners in their report very sensibly refer to the effect which proper building accommodation would have on those who possess valuable libraries, and who might be induced to make bequests to the Province if they thought there would be a place for the books to be kept. The generous bequest of the late Dr. Aikins to the Historical Society is cited as an illustration. This gentleman attached as a condition to his gift that a suitable place should be provided for the collection, but owing to the lack of shelving room the trustees were obliged to place the books temporarily in Dalhousie College, a distinction not contemplated by Dr. Aikins. No time should be lost in removing this disability, and we hope ere long to see the library accommodation all that is required both for present use and to induce benevolent citizens to remember it in their wills.

Only a short time ago Canada was irritated by a dispatch from London stating that the *Times* had contained an exceedingly unfriendly comment on Canada in an article on the Bering Sea difficulty. It now transpires that the *Times* never expressed itself as reported, but that a contributed article, entitled, "The Colonies," contained remarks which gave rise to the report. The writer of the article in question spoke of the unsatisfactory character of the present relations between England and her colonies, and referred to the fact that Britain is liable to be embroiled with foreign countries in the interest of a colony which, in fiscal matters, treats her in a similar manner to the rest of the world. The *Times* in publishing this article was not harsh to Canada, and it is only fair that all views should be voiced in a great newspaper. What is decidedly unfair is that an unscrupulous cable correspondent should make use of such a pretext to raise a sensation in Canada by a false report. There is little need to fear that Great Britain will cease to treat us as her own, for apart from the ties of blood that connect us, she is yearly finding this country more useful to her. What means the sending of sailors to the Pacific through Canada, if Canada is not valuable to Britain? No, it is not likely that the views of one or many newspaper correspondents will affect our position with the Mother Country.

It is getting too common to defend criminals otherwise undefendable by the plea of insanity. Mrs. Ethel Osborne has had it tried for her, but so far without success, and now they intend to plead insanity on Deeming's behalf. The relation between crime and insanity is sometimes very close, and it is by no means an easy task to draw the line, but it will not do to condone crimes that result from a long course of debasement leading to mental derangement and loss of proper control of the actions and use of the will. It is all very well to feel sorry for sin in ourselves or in others, of whatever degree of heinousness, but indulgence of sin in either case will lead to its increase. By sympathizing with criminals those hysterical people who indulge in it make themselves partakers of the crime, and should for the benefit of the community be repressed. Flowers and murderers have nothing in common, and yet it is a common thing for condemned murderers of the most brutal type to be kept supplied by their lady friends with these "stars that in earth's firmament do shine." This is not the kind of action implied by the divine commendation of those who did it "unto one of the least of these," but is prompted by far different feelings. Those who commit crimes should be punished as the law directs, and if the tide of public sentiment should ever set so strongly in behalf of the criminal as to wish him immunity, then let the law be changed. Meanwhile we say "away with him" of every man who is dangerous by way of crime to the community.