

THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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The editor of THE CRITIC is responsible for the news 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 his 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 to appear in our columns, we shall leave the rest to their intelligent judgment.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

No wonder the farmers of Mexico complain that agricultural pursuits in that country do not pay, since there are thirty-two separate taxes on wheat from the time it leaves the field until it reaches the miller.

The United States is paying off the war debt at a prodigious rate, but expenditures on account of the war, paid from current revenue, are as rapidly increasing. Over thirty per cent. of the total appropriations voted at the last session of Congress was on account of pensions.

Halifax has its fair share of red haired people, but if the original meaning of the name of our city now held good, all Halifaxians should be red-headed. The meaning of Colfax is black hair, Fairfax, blonde hair, and Halifax, red hair.

Twenty years ago there were comparatively few Americans who could afford a European tour, but now tourists from the United States are to be met in all the principal continental resorts, Italy attracting a large proportion of the visitors from over the sea.

It is not surprising that L. Wallace's popular religious novel, 'Ben Hur,' has been stamped with public approval. The book is interesting and instructive, and we are pleased to state the author has realized a handsome profit out of its sale, over 100,000 copies having been already disposed of.

The sextons of two Presbyterian Churches in Detroit report that the locks placed in the church edifices were stolen last week. The thief or thieves have not been discovered. This is the season for ripe chestnuts. The police had better look up Procrastination.

Russia's resources are great, but her financial standing among European nations is far from satisfactory. The governmental expenses are increasing at the rate of \$30,000,000 per year, while the revenue is diminishing with even greater rapidity. For the first four months of the present year, the receipts from all sources show a falling off of nearly \$20,000,000, and yet the Czar goes on building big ships of war and improving the equipment of the army. Somebody must pay the piper. Evidently the Russian Czar will have to eat his black bread dry, or the Empire will become insolvent.

The movement against the use of the plumage of song birds for decorative purposes is growing apace, and finds strong support from the thousands of humane ladies who now fully realize the unlimited destruction of beautiful birds which fashion has demanded. The statutes of New Jersey now forbid the killing, wounding or catching of any song birds at any time.

Parnell was at one time looked upon as a dangerous obstructionist, but to-day he is regarded as a true patriot by men who formerly stigmatized his conduct. Parnell has inherited his belief in the right of the Irish people to have the control of their local affairs, it being well known that eighty-six years ago his great grandfather was dismissed from the Chancellorship of the Exchequer for opposing the Irish union with England.

The following census of the crowned Kings and Emperors of the world bears testimony to the truth of the old saying, "Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown." Of the 2550 Kings and Emperors 300 were overthrown, 64 forced to abdicate, 28 killed themselves, 23 went mad, 100 were killed in battle, 123 taken by the enemy, 25 tortured to death, 154 assassinated, and 108 executed.

The Chicago Banker's Monthly is evidently better informed as to Dominion affairs than are the average of American journals. It says: "The Canadian chartered banks report business active and in a sound state. On July 1, their combined assets figured up \$228,000,000, and their deposits \$101,000,000, against \$180,000,000 for assets and \$61,000,000 for deposits in 1876, just ten years ago.

The increase in the export of wheat from India has already had a marked effect upon the price obtained for Russian and American cereals; and now it is said that India is capable of producing a larger cotton crop in one year than the world's present demand requires. What is to be the outcome of such over-production, our grain and cotton kings now ask themselves, and as yet no satisfactory answer can be made.

The falls of Niagara, which are very properly regarded as the greatest natural attraction on this continent, are, according to Professor Woodward, receding at the rate of a mile in 2,200 years. During the winter season ice comes from in front of the falls, throwing the water back upon the face of the cliff, this being the chief cause of its wearing away. Those who have been under the falls from either the Canadian or American side, never fail to recognise the change which has taken place, if they again visit Niagara after the lapse of a decade.

The bump of curiosity is largely developed in the human race, even the mysterious beggar in his rags and tatters excites our interest, and we are curious to learn the history of the man who, through misfortune or otherwise, is obliged to resort to begging for his daily bread. Perhaps our curiosity is stimulated by the knowledge that many professional beggars turn out at death to be niggardly misers. One of these tramps who recently died in Rio Janiero is said to have been worth \$200,000. It appears almost incredible that a man of such large wealth could, from choice, follow a beggar's calling.

The wealth of France is said to be the result of the economy of the French people. Economy is seldom practiced by the inhabitants of a new country, but it is saving as much as gaining that increases national wealth. Our farmers should bear this in mind. Take one item alone, the bones of animals. How few realize their value. Many cattle's shin bones are shipped to England for the making of knife handles, where they bring \$40 per ton. The thigh bones are the most valuable, being worth \$80 per ton for cutting into tooth brush handles. The foreleg bones are worth \$30 per ton, and are made into collar buttons, parasol handles and jewelry, though sheep's legs are the staple parasol handles. The water in which the bones are boiled is reduced to glue, and the dust which comes from sawing the bones is fed to cattle and poultry.

It has long been known that the poorer classes in Austria suffered incalculable injury from the lottery system instituted by the government, but it is only within the past three months that the full effects of the system upon the industries of the country is beginning to be understood. Mr. Edmund Juszen, U. S. Consul-General at Vienna, in reporting to his government, says: "The lotteries are instituted by the Government as a means of revenue, and are under the superintendence of Government officials. As an inducement to the poorer classes to risk their earnings on chances, the price of tickets or lottery numbers is placed very low. For five kreutzers, or two cents, a person may have a chance of winning a small fortune. The drawings take place almost every day, and thousands of poor laborers and working-women become victims of the gambling passion, and spend all their little earnings at the wheel of chance. Many, when their means are exhausted, resort to the pawn-shops to obtain funds for other ventures. Mr. Juszen says if statistics were published as to the direct consequences of this legalized iniquity upon the morals and industrial condition of the people, the showing would startle Christendom,