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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 intelligent judgment.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Many of our contemporaries publish matter of vast interest to farmers, and a certain proportion of this matter is headed "Horse Notes." It is not an euphonious name by any means, although it doubtless serves the purpose fairly well. What we would point out, however, is that an agricultural paper published across the border has made an improvement on this phrase, and instead of "Horse Notes" it has "Equine Suggestions."

There are few among our readers who will not join with us in welcoming once more in the columns of *The Critic* an article from the pen of our old contributor Franc Tireur. Our friend when he left Halifax last spring to take up his residence in the Northwest fully intended sending a regular contribution, but ill health and other troubles unfortunately prevented his doing so until the present time. Now, however, (as he writes us,) once he gets into the swing again he hopes to keep the ball rolling. No one can help being interested in the graphic description of Calgary, the Queen city of the prairie, which he has sent us this week, and we trust that we shall have the opportunity of publishing many more such interesting letters, telling of the splendid country which is the heritage of all Canadians.

Canadians cannot prize too highly the privileges enjoyed in the live stock trade with Great Britain. A great commotion was caused among cattle traders last week when the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa received a cable despatch stating that the cargo of Canadian live cattle ex steamer *Norse King*, landed at Dundee, was suspected of being afflicted with pleuro-pneumonia. Assurance were promptly cabled to Sir Charles Tupper that not a single case of the disease was known to exist in the Dominion. The result is that after thorough examination, even to the slaughtering of some of the animals, they were declared healthy and the cargo was released. Some loss has been sustained on account of this display of zeal on the part of the Dundee official, but it is probable that the effect of the affair will not be detrimental to the trade. It has tended rather to increase the confidence in the healthy condition of Canadian cattle, and it behooves Canadians to make every effort to keep the herds free from disease, and so retain the privileges now granted us in Great Britain—privileges which would speedily be withdrawn should any taint of disease be allowed to creep in. There is a strong demand in English agriculturists for protection from Canadian imports, but so long as our cattle are healthy little heed will be paid to it.

The duty of five cents a dozen which the United States Tariff Bill puts upon eggs appears to be thought one of the most serious of the changes effected. Canada has a very large interest in this egg question, but it is probable that things will not be quite as bad as is feared. The effect of the duty will most likely be to raise the price of eggs in the United States and to lower it in Canada. The native supply of eggs in the United States is far from sufficient for that cake and pie-eating people, so eggs they must import even if they have to pay more for them. At any rate poultry-raisers must not be too ready to become panic-stricken, and meanwhile the experiment of shipping eggs to England is worth trying. Improved methods of preserving and packing and rapid transit across the Atlantic may soon so alter the aspect of affairs in the English market so as to remove all anxiety.

The late conflagration at the Alhambra, located in a suburb of Granada, has caused an irreparable loss, not only to Spain, but to the whole civilized world. The Alhambra, the Red Palace, so called from the color of the sun-dried bricks of which the outer walls are built, was the pride of the Moorish kings of Spain. "If there be a paradise upon earth it is here! it is here!" is an inscription upon the Alhambra, as upon Dewan-i-Khas at Delhi. Begun in 1248 by Ibn-L-Ahmar, it took more than a century to complete even the outline of what every subsequent king did his best to fill in. The finest of the decoration and the most exquisite of the paintings have been ascribed to Mohammed III and to Yusuf I. The fire broke out at 10 o'clock on the night of the 15th of September. The flames were first noticed in the upper part of the gallery of the Arrayanes Court. From this quarter they reached the Court of L. Berkah, or the Myrtles, which was quickly consumed. On the news of the outbreak reaching Granada thousands of people at once flocked to the scene. To prevent the conflagration spreading a successful attempt was made to isolate the burning portion. Hundreds of the on-lookers, including some ladies, assisted the firemen in coping with the flames. After several hours of incessant work the fire was finally extinguished in the early hours of the morning of the 16th. The portion burned comprises the right wing of the Arrayanes Court, and the magnificent Sala de la Berkah, with its beautiful ceilings, in imitation of the firmament, and a considerable portion of the adjoining corridors. Fortunately the graceful pillars in the corridors were saved, although some were damaged. Since the conquest of Granada the Alhambra has suffered much from the ignorance and vandalism of the conquerors. But the most wanton act of destruction was perpetrated by the French General Sebastiani. For in 1812 he, out of mere malice, blew up eight of the towers. Still more recently an earthquake shattered part of the noble pile. It is estimated that the material loss caused by the late fire amounts to £10,000 stg. It is believed in Granada that the fire was the work of an incendiary.

We observe that a highly respected Montreal contemporary is constantly expressing its belief in the injury done to health by sleeping on woven wire mattresses. According to our contemporary:—"A scientifically good bed should possess the following qualities: 1. That it shall be even and horizontal; 2. That it shall accommodate itself to the inequalities of the body lying upon it; 3. That the accommodation shall be of such a character as not to increase the pressure on the adjacent parts, the point being pressed upon yielding only at the site of the pressure; 4. That each part of the bed will yield in proportion to the weight it bears. Now, none of these conditions obtain in the woven wire mattress, because: 1. The body is not maintained in a horizontal position; 2. The head and feet remain at fixed points, unyielding as a rock, while the body is subject to the motion of the occupant, with injurious effect; 3. It does not yield at the point of pressure without affecting the adjacent points; therefore the shoulders lie upon a tense surface, into which they cannot sink, and are damaged by interference with the action of the nerves and the circulation of the blood and fluids; 4. The pressure in the centre of the mattress causes the occupant to slide down towards the centre of the bed, so that he sleeps with his head and feet elevated above the level of the body, a most unnatural position for refreshing rest. Now these scientific failings of the mattress are confirmed by their practical use. Neuralgia of the arms, numbness and even temporary paralysis (from pressure at the shoulders) being frequently met with, while in not a few cases intense pain from irritation of the spinal nerve, at the base of the brain, threatens most serious results. In short, it is a mattress that should be entirely discarded as unsuitable for rest and health." Now we had an idea that a woven wire mattress was the very best bed extant, and vastly prefer it to any other sort. It would be interesting to learn the opinions of those who have given it a thorough trial. If it should be decided by a majority that the bed is not healthy we might be induced, much against our will, to go back to the feather bed of our grandmothers, which is the only kind that seems to answer the requirements set forth in the article we quote.