

THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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One may cease to marvel at the value of the annual exports from England when he reflects that the easily over-looked item of umbrellas exported amounts to £581,000.

It pays to be a New York alderman with an elastic conscience. Not long since twenty-two of the civic fathers secured a charter for a Broadway street railway company, quietly pocketing \$20,000 apiece as a reward for the prompt and faithful performance of their duty. They now express surprise that the public should look upon the transaction as shady.

It costs something for a European country to keep up its national status. The French Minister of Marine has just condemned twenty-three ships of war which cost the naval department \$20,000,000, and has asked the Chamber of Deputies for a vote of \$7,500,000 to complete the new ships now under construction. Big nations need big purses well filled.

We are indebted to Sir Charles Tupper for a copy of the "Official Catalogue of the Canadian Section of the Indian and Colonial Exhibition." It is a neatly printed volume of 300 pages, containing in addition to a well arranged catalogue of exhibitors and exhibits, a well written introduction, dealing with the resources of the Dominion.

The recent destruction of property at Mandalay has been much more extensive than was at first supposed. The Burmese are by no means content to accept the situation without a struggle. They hated Theebaw, but now that he is safely out of the country they are organizing a widespread rebellion. It cost \$2,000,000 to restore order in Lower Burmah after that country had been seized by Britain, and it is probable that the experiences at the mouth of the Irrawaddy will have to be repeated in Upper Burmah.

Madame de Valsayre proposes to form in Paris a gymnastic and fencing society for women. The zealous *mulamc* goes so far as to suggest the formation of a corps of woman-warriors at some future day. At last the objection to woman's rights is to be removed; women are no longer to be taunted with a desire to declare wars which men will be obliged to wage; but this proposal out-Herods Herod. France and Germany bear the palm for masculine women. The United States may have its "strong minded" champions of women's rights, but they have yet to produce their Louise Michel or their Madame de Valsayre. May the day be far distant.

The strike of the street railway employees in Toronto has taken an unusual course. The strikers have adopted a novel and legitimate method of meeting their former employers by establishing a bus line to run in opposition to the street cars. As the action of the employers in dismissing their men simply because the latter belonged to a labor union was arbitrary and unpopular, the bus line promises to be well patronized. Strikers are not always in a position to enter into competition with the capitalists; but, when the experiment can be tried, even its failure will result in one great boon—the establishment of a better understanding between labor and capital.

In the discussion over the "Logan Bill" in the United States Congress, a distinguished senator asserted that in the event of a complication with England over the fishery question, the militia of Maine could defend that State against any force that could be sent from Canada, upon which the *New York Army and Navy Journal* remarks "With our recent war experiences so freshly in the memories of many of the leaders in our National Congress, it is singular that they should be so blind to the incontrovertible fact that a well-disciplined light division of such troops as England sends into the field, could walk through Maine from end to end and lay all her cities under contribution before a sufficient force could be organized to avert this progress."

The question of abolishing the Canadian Senate has been discussed in the Dominion Parliament, and has, for the time, received its quietus. Some day it will be not very distant future, it will come up again, and the Senate will be abolished. The growth of popular government is incompatible with the existence of this irresponsible, ornamental, and expensive body. It is a very costly luxury, at \$150,000 a year, even if it is harmless in its action, or rather inaction. The provinces of Ontario, Manitoba, and British Columbia manage their provincial affairs without any so-called "check upon hasty legislation." The other provinces could dispense with their legislative councils just as advantageously; and what is true of individual provinces is equally true of the Dominion. The House of Lords, in England, is only tolerated because it is a natural growth upon the constitution, and even this body is not sure of perpetuity. The American Senate does not represent the opinions of the American people—at least in the present fisheries muddle, it does not seem to voice the general wish. In a young country like Canada, the expenses of government should be reduced to the lowest figure, consistent with efficiency.

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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 his journal. Our readers are capable of seeing or disapproving of any part of an article or contents of the paper; and after reading due care as to what is to appear in our columns, we shall leave the rest to their intelligent judgement.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Free trade, as a theory at least, is almost two hundred years old. Its mention in print was a notice of its operation in Hungary, in 1703.

Bartley Campbell, the noted play-wright, is at present an inmate of an insane asylum in New York. His case is considered incurable.

Ottawa has stolen our thunder. We intended to have a Summer festival in Halifax but postponed it. Ottawa now announces a Summer festival commencing on Dominion Day.

The advocates of repeal in Nova Scotia are making a leap in the dark. They know what has been, they know what is, but how can they tell what is to be?

New words are constantly creeping into the English language. The latest is from Tennessee, in which State an office-hunter is styled a "scram-lator."

The Bermudians evidently believe in the Cobden theory of buying in the cheapest and selling in the dearest markets. They buy blue nose potatoes at 60 to 80 cents per bushel, and sell their own to New Yorkers from 8 to 10 dollars per bushel. This is free trade.

We all realize the advantages of pictorial illustration, especially its influence upon the youthful mind, but it appears like an innovation to have ministers of the gospel illustrating his text by chalk-pencillings upon the black board. The custom is growing in the United States.

The sphere of woman is enlarging. Not long since we heard of a lady applying for a certificate as a captain of a Mississippi steamboat, and now we learn that Brigham Young's fifth wife has taken up the occupation of an American lobbyist, and is buttonholing the representatives at the Washington capitol on behalf of Mormonism. Surely these saints of latter days have fallen from grace, when women are found to advocate the cause.