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CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL NOTES	1, 2
CONTRIBUTED.	
Jottings from Ottawa	"Dixie," 6, 7
Letter to Cousin Caryl	"Dinah Sturgis," 7
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Chit-Chat and Chuckles	3
News of the Week	4, 5
Draughts—Checkers	5
Poetry—March	6
Industrial Notes	7, 8
City Chimes	8
Parliamentary Review	8
Commercial	8, 9
Market Quotations	9
Serial—Hugh Travers' Probation	10, 12
Mining	12, 13
Cheese	13
A Chance Acquaintance	14, 15

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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.

When the Senate at the close of the last Session of the Dominion Parliament most unexpectedly threw out the Short Line Bill, we condemned their action as an injustice to Halifax, but stated that there was one gleam of hope, and that was in the possibility that Sir John had caused the measure to be buried in the Senate, in order to give the Grand Trunk an opportunity to compete with the Canadian Pacific. The Bill, as passed by the House, gave exclusive running powers to the C. P. R. over the Intercolonial, and if it had passed the Senate the Grand Trunk would have had to abandon a scheme just then maturing to extend the Termiscouata R.R. to Moncton, and in this way to obtain a short line, all on Canadian territory, to Halifax. The advantages of having competing lines to Halifax, as we then pointed out, would be very beneficial, and we expressed the hope that the Senate's action had been caused by a desire to aid the Grand Trunk in its efforts to reach Halifax by a short line of its own. This explanation of the cause of the Senate's action has since been proved to be the correct one, and we must now congratulate the much abused Upper House on its being the means of killing legislation that in the long run would have been detrimental to Halifax.

The example of Switzerland has been aptly cited as one which conclusively proves that the highest spirit of nationality and patriotism may co-exist with the use of even more than two languages. To a certain extent the Empire of Austria might be adduced as another instance. But we need go no further than Great Britain and Ireland for further confirmation. Besides the Gaelic spoken in parts of Ireland and the Highlands of Scotland, Wales still stands conspicuous as an instance. It is only of late years, since the Principality has been permeated with railways, that English has gained much currency. Welsh is still almost universally spoken, and in every city and town one, and in many instances two or more, of the local newspapers are published in that language, in which it is now further considered that the clergy of the established church in Wales should be able to preach. The circumstances of the United Kingdom have not called for the recognition of these tongues as official, but if Wales should obtain Home Rule, there could be no legitimate objection to the sanction of Welsh in that function should the people desire it, which, however, in view of the growth of the use of English is scarcely probable. And there is certainly no lack of patriotism, either in the Principality or in Scotland.

It is always satisfactory to be able to record an act of magnanimity; especially so when it emanates from a person with whose general course and opinions we do not coincide. When the Toronto University was burned words of sympathy flowed freely from all parts. It would have excited no comment if the Quebec Government had done no more, but Mr. Mercier not only sympathises, but gives solid evidence of his concern in moving in the Quebec House of Assembly a vote of \$10,000 for the benefit of the injured institution. This is a noble act, and ought to go far to mitigate the abominable race prejudices which lesser politicians have so shamefully sought to inflame.

India and The Colonies has the following paragraph:—"It is only a few days since a speech of Professor Goldwin Smith, in New York, upon the relations between Canada, the United States and Great Britain, attracted much attention in the English newspapers. To show with what importance the Canadian press regards the utterances of the Professor, it may be mentioned that the Toronto *Empire* only had a paragraph of some dozen lines dealing with the matter! "If Canada may unfortunately be assumed to be Dr. Goldwin Smith's country, he is a sufficiently conspicuous example of the axiom that a prophet has no honor where he is best known. The *Empire's* twelve lines or so will doubtless be thought to be an "illigant sufficiency" of notice of the worthy Professor's unpatriotic lucubrations.

The ill-judged alien law of the United States has been brought to bear upon a Canadian clergyman recently called by a church at Lewisburg, Penn. It would, we think, be far better even for the United States to allow such matters to regulate themselves, by the far more efficient means of the laws of supply and demand, and we are inclined to deprecate the introduction of any such legislation in Canada. The Dominion Parliament has already this session given evidence of a good deal of sound sense, and we trust that it will operate in this matter in accordance with the suggestion of Sir John Macdonald to prevent the introduction of an alien bill into the Canadian Parliament. Such a measure would, in our opinion, be not only entirely uncalled for, but of a decidedly mischievous tendency. We are not yet in a position to tamper with immigration.

No clearer and more favorable testimony to the value of our national institutions could be desired than is embodied in the following opinion of Sir Charles Dilke, than whom, it may be added, no living publicist has a broader and firmer grasp of the conditions and potentialities of the embryonic nations which at present go to the making of Greater Britain. The lucid utterance of such an authority is in the highest degree satisfactory:—"Canada, like Switzerland, seems to have reached the ideal of a federal power as traced by de Tocqueville when he said that what was needed was that the central power should be given immense prerogatives, and should be energetic in its action towards the Provinces, whilst the Provinces themselves were to have perfect local freedom, the sphere of the central power being strictly defined by the constitution. Canada possesses the combination of central dignity and strength of government, with local liberty and variety in the Provinces, and when the completion of the federation of Australia by the entrance into it of the mother colony, if not of New Zealand, presents us with a similar picture at the other extremity of the Pacific, three English-speaking Federal powers will dominate that greatest ocean of the world. Canadian federation is declared by Sir Henry Parkes to be the model on which the future institutions of the British states of Australia are to be built up."

The British position on the Behring Sea question has been set forth in a decision rendered by Mr. Justice Drake of the Supreme Court of British Columbia—that the United States has no jurisdiction beyond the one marine league limit. The case was one for damages for breach of a sealing contract, the defendant contending that it was invalid for the reason that sealing in Behring Sea was in violation of United States statutes. All the parties were, it appears, American citizens, and there is some suspicion that the action was a trap designed to lead to a British legal acknowledgment of the United States jurisdiction, but it may be deemed a fortunate accident as leading to a decision having the weight of legal authority of a Provincial Supreme Court. *Braistret* observes in reference to this subject that "it is understood that an endeavor is being made by Mr. Blaine and Sir Julian Pauncefote to reach an agreement which will remove this question from the field of contention, possibly without requiring either Government to relinquish its theory as to jurisdiction in the sea." Whatever settlement may be arrived at it is to be hoped that there will be no concession whatever to a claim which the United States has not even ventured to formulate officially, and of which the best American papers are fain to acknowledge the futility. Such concession would be nothing less than disgraceful, and moreover would affect the rights of other nations as well as our own.