

THE CRITIC:

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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 comments 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.

Experimenters have for a long time been endeavoring to find a substitute for the expensive gum of which India-rubber and gutta-percha are prepared, and it is now thought the long sought prize has been attained. The new mixture is made of manilla gum moistened with benzine, and auvergne bitumen also mixed with benzine. Resin oil is then added and the whole is thoroughly stirred and beaten. It is thought that the invention will result in the cheapening of all rubber goods.

In 1877 an enterprising fruit grower in California made an experiment in raisin-culture. As the season was an unusually hot one he dried his raisins on the vines instead of by artificial heat—then not daring to label the fruit as grown in California he sold it in San Francisco as a Peruvian import. Since then thousands of acres of land have been transformed into raisin-grape vine yards. Last year alone 1,500,000 lbs. of raisins were sent to market. The growers as a rule sell directly to the packers, and both reap a goodly profit out of the toothsome industry.

The railway between Joppa and Jerusalem was formally opened on Monday of this week. The new line is thirty-five miles long, and will doubtless be of much use in developing the deserted country, and in drawing even more travel to the Holy Land. There is we admit "a mysterious something" about this simple announcement which is calculated to shock many students of Scripture, but in this age the old ways must be set aside for the newer and better, and any legitimate method of giving to Palestine some portion of her pristine greatness should receive encouragement, and not the doubtful support of those who do not take a business view of the new enterprise.

It has just occurred to our friends across the border that they have no national name, and some of their wide-awake journals are not only calling attention to the fact, but they are as well suggesting that the well-known title—The United States of America shall be changed to Columbia. The obvious advantage of the alteration would be to give to the people who are so undignifiedly spoken of as Yankees, Southerners, Westerners, or by the misleading appellation of Americans, a name which would convey a sense of national unity. Unfortunately for the would be Columbians another Federated Republic of South America chose long ago to keep alive the name of the great navigator, so that the name which would be most suited to the citizens of the Republic is already private property.

There is a strong feeling among mine-owners in Algoma that the time has arrived at which the district should be cut off from Ontario and made a separate province of. As the disputed territory was the property of Ontario before Confederation the Dominion Government has no right to interfere in the matter, and Ontario is by no means willing to give up a mining district which her capital has been instrumental in developing. The chief grievance of the present mine-owners is that the mining regulations and revenue laws of their mother province bear too heavily upon them, and that in their peculiar position they are unable to obtain any redress.

Although Mr. Gladstone seemed to have come off victorious in the matter of Mr. Labouchere's admission into the Cabinet, yet it is doubtful if for the sake of hushing the "noisy rascal" he would not now be willing to confer even higher honors upon him. The would-be Cabinet member is now posing as the disappointed but candid friend, and his clever pen is delighting in sketching the seamy side of all Gladstone measures. Labouchere, through his organ *Truth*, is not to be easily defied, and it would almost seem that even with his avowed convictions regarding the support of Royalty and of Royal sinecures, that it would be better policy to admit him into the cabinet and so in a measure silence him, than to allow him with his power of delicate yet telling buffoonery a free lance in the fight.

The candidates of the People's Party in the coming presidential elections are a living exemplification of the proverb that politics bring together strange bed-fellows. General Weaver, the candidate for the presidency, was an ardent fighter for the Union in the civil war, while the would-be Vice-President Field took as active a part on the part of the South. These veteran soldiers denounce the "sham battle over the tariff" between the greater parties in the struggle, and claim that on both sides it is but a ruse to hold the attention of the public while "the work of robbery and spoliation proceeds unabated." Since Governor Hill has declared his political creed the Democrats aver that they fear no ill results from the third party, while the Republicans, though wroth over Hill's conduct, believe that their majority is secure.

The demoralizing effect of great strikes has been keenly felt on this Continent during the present year, and many impractical methods of meeting the wage and hour problem have been proposed. One of the most sensible is that suggested by the labor commission of New South Wales, which consists of eight employers of labor and eight trade unionists, so that both sides have been fairly represented. They favor compulsory settlement by a State Court, before whom all disputes would be investigated when either of the combatants called for its aid. The impartial decision of the court would then be enforced by the government. If private corporations refused to submit to its judgment their charters shall be forfeited, if workmen rebel against its decision they should at once be discharged from their employment. Of a certainty an upright labor-commission court would do more to abolish vexatious and hurtful strikes than any spasmodic effort on the part of the Government to maintain discipline by flaunting the sword.

Not a little of both amusement and interest has been excited in the city of St. John by the founding of a branch Society of the Aryan Order of St. George. The avowed objects of the society are the restoration to rank of all who can claim to be possessed of blue blood, and to instill chivalrous ideas of courtesy and loyalty into the minds of the rising generation. The last object is an admirable one, and we see much to admire in the pledge of the youthful members "to be honest in all things and honorable in every trust—to be gentle, kind and courteous, and to avoid sander—to be temperate and sincere, never to do wrong for the sake of obtaining either money or place." The more thoroughly such doctrines as these can be inculcated the better for the coming generation—but we take decided exception to the main platform of the society viz: the establishment of class distinction among our people. An artificial society cannot possibly effect a true division between the aristocracy and the common people. Old dame Nature is a wise judge, and sets her mark on the true gentleman and true lady. Many of humble origin show in their daily lives the chivalrous spirit of noble ancestors, thus proving the right to that strain of noble blood of which our poets delight to sing, while many of those whose glory is in the ancestral tree are in all ways unworthy of their predecessors. The Aryan Order of St. George will doubtless find a certain number of advocates among those who feel that their existence needs an apologetic prop, but among the rank and file and with most sensible folk, the couplet of Robbie Burns will still define the true gentleman. "The rank is but the guinea's stamp, A man's a man for a' that."