

THE CRITIC:

A Maritime Provincial Journal.

DEVOTED TO

Commerce, Manufacturing, Mining and Agriculture.

1.50 PER ANNUM.
SINGLE COPY 5 CTS. }

HALIFAX, N. S., DECEMBER 19, 1890.

{ VOL 7
No. 51

CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL NOTES	1, 2
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Chit-Chat and Chuckles	3
Chess	4
News of the Week	4, 5
Poetry—Darkness Fell on the Weary Earth	6
Book Gossip	6, 7
Industrial Notes	7
City Chimes	8
Commercial	8, 9
Market Quotations	9
Serial—Olivo	10, 11
Mini-g	12, 13
Girls Away From Home	14
Women With Red Noses	14
Draughts—Checkers	15

THE CRITIC,

Published every Friday, at 161 Hollis Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia

BY
CRITIC PUBLISHING COMPANY.

Edited by C. F. FRASER.

Subscription \$1.50 per annum in advance. Single copies 5 cents.

SAMPLE COPIES SENT FREE.

Remittances should be made to A. M. FRASER, BUSINESS MANAGER.

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.

There is some doubt expressed as to the correctness of the report that the Dominion Government has made a contract with the Naval Construction and Armaments Company for an Atlantic mail service of twenty knots an hour. The *Week* remarks that the news is too good to be true, and that twenty knots an hour is certainly so high an average to be maintained throughout a voyage across the Atlantic that it is unable to believe it attainable on any financial terms which the Government and people of Canada could afford to make. This is a matter on which we feel considerable curiosity. The *Week* says: "On the whole it seems safer to believe that no definite contract has yet been concluded, however hopefully negotiations may be going forward, and it is very unlikely that the Government will fail to let the public know as soon as its efforts have been crowned with success."

Once more there has been a pleura-pneumonia scare in England, and Canadian cattle came in for some unmerited abuse. The recent false alarms in regard to our cattle may be to some extent accounted for by the fact that there was a very serious outbreak of the disease at Eaglesham in Renfrewshire. It first manifested itself about the middle of November and spread from farm to farm. The matter was reported to the Board of Agriculture in London, which immediately despatched an official to Scotland to prevent the spread of the disease and to stamp it out where it had developed. To effect the latter object the cattle had to be slaughtered, and this was at once done. The number of cattle slain was two hundred and eighty, which at the estimate of sixty dollars a head represents a money value of \$16,800. As all the animals were not diseased, and the carcasses of the healthy ones brought a certain price, the owners of the slaughtered cattle did not lose as heavily as they might have done. There was also a partial recompense for the diseased animals slain paid from the fund specially set apart by the Board of Agriculture to meet such cases. Canadian cattle breeders and shippers may congratulate themselves that pleura-pneumonia has no foot hold in the Dominion, but they should at the same time take ever watchful care to keep it away. The English market is open now to our cattle, but if ever "eternal vigilance is the price of safety," it is in this case, for the feeling in England is somewhat strong against the importation of live cattle, and a very slight reason might suffice to deprive us of our present privileges.

We are anxious to know whether our chess and checker departments are of sufficient interest to readers of THE CRITIC for us to carry them on through the coming year. If every person who takes an interest in one or the other, or both, would be kind enough to drop us a postal card immediately, telling us what he or she thinks about it we shall be grateful. If the departments are enjoyed by a sufficient number we shall take pleasure in continuing them, but if the contrary, we will try and fill the space with more interesting matter.

Again the great Christian festival of the year has come around, and before another issue of THE CRITIC appears it will have joined the Christmases of the past. Once more the churches will put on their festal trimmings of green to honor the anniversary of the Saviour's birth, Christmas carols will be sung, and the organs will peal forth their anthems of praise. Those on whom fortune has smiled and whom no adverse fate has rendered indifferent to the joys of Christmastide will find this a season of happiness and contentment, while to those whose family circles have been broken and whose pocket books are in an attenuated condition, it is rather a time of trial. Let those who are fortunate enough to live in the sunshine of plenty remember their less fortunate neighbors, and try and cheer some lonely hearts with kindly words backed up in many cases with suitable gifts, and they will not have lived in vain. If ever "little acts of kindness, little deeds of love" are needed it is at these especial seasons, when the poor and lonely are liable to feel their condition more than at ordinary times. Then let us all make an effort to do some kindness to those less fortunate than ourselves and we may be sure we shall be blessed many fold. THE CRITIC wishes its readers and friends a very happy Christmas.

In a late issue of the *Week* there is a letter from Rev. Frederick George Scott, Rector of Drummondville, Quebec, which seems to us worthy the attention of patriotic Canadians. Mr. Scott (who has published a volume of strong and thoughtful verse entitled the "The Soul's Quest,") suggests that the time is ripe for the formation of a Canadian National League with branches all over Canada. He proposes, for all desiring to become members, a pledge to the following effect:—"I, —, hereby promise that I will do all in my power to promote the interests of the Canadian nation, and prevent as far as I can political union with the United States." It is suggested that members wear some inconspicuous badge, such as a small beaver or maple leaf in gold or silver; or that a flower be selected as a national emblem and worn by all members on Dominion Day, as the Primrose League in England wears the primrose. If a vigorous initial impulse could be secured to the movement, we doubt not that the League would become a power for good from one corner of Canada to the other. Such an organization would find plenty of work to do, work that ought to be done. It would find itself in full accord with the great majority of the Canadian people. Branches in England and in the United States might become rallying points for Canadians abroad, and an immense deal might be done by the organization to attract desirable immigration. In the inception of such a scheme it would be essential that earnest, responsible, patriotic men of both parties should join hands honestly, in order that the League should not be suffered to take on a party complexion.

Apropos of the second visit to Washington of Hon. Robert Bond, Newfoundland's Provincial Secretary, the *New York Tribune* has some significant comments on the negotiations now pending between the American and Newfoundland Governments. The *Tribune* may be regarded as the mouth-piece of the American Cabinet. We find it declaring that the various privileges which Newfoundland offers in return for the free admission of the products of her mines and fisheries to American markets must be made exclusive. Were these terms agreed to we should have the astonishing spectacle of a British colony discriminating, at the dictation of an alien government, against a sister dependency and also against a power holding a recognized status as a "most favored nation." Canada might well enter a serious protest if there were any real prospect of an arrangement on such terms. But, for the present, the acknowledged treaty right of France would make it necessary for the Imperial Government to veto an agreement drawn up on any such basis. In this case it would seem that Canadian interests were safe in American hands, which is a paradox sufficiently startling. We may rest tranquil as long as America puts her market at a price so prohibitive. We doubt not that the merchants of St. John's would act unblushingly on the maxim that "there's no sentiment in business," a maxim whose falsity is daily attested. It is the merchants of St. John's who, fearing for their monopolies, have hitherto kept the ancient colony out of the Confederation. In the present case, however, their hands are to some extent tied by Imperial considerations.