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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.

A SENSIBLE MILLIONAIRE.—Mr Peter Redpath is doing much to make his name honored among the young men of Canada. He did not content himself with his princely gift to the new library building at McGill University, but he has decided the sum of \$5,000 each year to the maintaining fund of the library. Mr. Redpath is to be congratulated on this practical evidence of his good sense and generosity, and to be envied when it is considered how much enjoyment he still has in store for him in noting the mind awakenings and the general beneficial results of the well selected store-house of books.

TO GO TO JAPAN.—The seal killers are still hopeful of a good winter's work notwithstanding the result of the arbitration. They have had to change their field of action, and in a few weeks they will be found in great numbers off the shores of Japan. As yet there are no regulations regarding sealing enacted in Japan which will prevent the sealers of all nations from establishing headquarters in the islands from which the sealing industry can be effectually carried on. In order to popularize foreign sealing with the Japanese the schooners which are now being prepared at Victoria, B. C., and elsewhere are to carry but few seal hunters, and Japanese boatmen, sailors and sealers are being chosen in preference to Canadians or Americans. If Japan means to refuse the privilege of sealing to outsiders she will have to speak her mind quickly.

NOT AT THE CANNON'S MOUTH.—The recent epidemic of suicides has been felt keenly in army circles where the craze has been shown among the private soldiers of all nations. The men who wear the Austrian uniform seem to have been most thoroughly possessed of this spirit of self-destruction, for among each 100,000 men of the army 131 have put an end to their lives. Among the German soldiers 67 cases of suicide are noted with the same number of men. Italy comes next with a record of 40 suicides, France, Belgium and England have upwards of 20 each, Russia shows an even score, and oddly enough the most content army of Spain closes the curious list with a showing of only 14 self-destructions to each 100,000 men. The record is a curious one and it supplies much food for thought. Never before in military annals has such a craze for suicide prevailed. Never before were the conditions for the health and comfort of the men so carefully considered, and it is strange that the spirit of unrest should have so asserted itself.

HOPE FOR THE NATIVE.—It is comforting to note that amid all the uncertainty of life in India there is yet an intelligent interest being shown by the more progressive of the natives in the cause of education. Several of the young native princes who have been educated in Great Britain have set about to effect a reformation in the lives of the next generation. In one state an Act enforcing compulsory education on both girls and boys has been passed, and although the age for education for boys—from seven to twelve years of age and for girls from seven to ten years of age—is not in accord with our Western ideas, still the very existence of such an act is a step in the right direction. The early maturity of the native children and the consequent youthful marriages prevents it, it is said, the future continuance of the educational period. Another prince is endeavoring to train his people into the civilized modes of procedure with respect to city and state government, and the parliament which he has summoned, although not as yet a legal body, may have great weight in Anglo-Indian affairs.

NEGLECT OR IGNORANCE.—A curious and also a serious state of affairs has been revealed in Ottawa during the investigation into the case of the *Rustler*. The *Rustler*, it will be remembered, was a passenger steamer plying on the Miramichi River. Early in the month of September she deviated from her usual course, from what cause is not yet known, and collided with a wharf. One lady passenger was instantly killed, while another losing her head in the fright threw herself from a cabin window and was drowned. In the investigation which ensued it was shown that the steamer was not provided with a certified master and certified mate as the law directs. It now appears that for the last ten years the law pertaining to the proper officering of passenger boats, ferry boats and tugs has been a dead letter in the Maritime Provinces, although it has been observed in other portions of Canada. The Deputy Minister of Marine is now travelling in our Provinces investigating the cause of the non-enforcement of the Act. It is thought that several suits will be at once begun against officials who have not regarded the provisions of the Act.

THE EFFECT OF OVER-EDUCATION.—Dr. Cyrus Edson, a Commissioner of Health for New York, has been making inquiries into the condition of health among American women of the Eastern States. He reports that the general health of the young as well as the old women is not so good as the average health of twenty years ago, and he accounts for this change for the worse by deploring the whole modern system of female education. He asserts boldly that the young girls between fifteen and sixteen years of age have little opportunity to develop physically, and that the energy and stamina which should promote their bodily growth is turned into an unnatural channel, so that the so-called cultivated woman—that is the woman whose mind is cultivated at the expense of her body—may be produced. Dr. Edson sums up his argument in these pithy words—"Just as for centuries the minds of women were sacrificed to their bodies by the will of others, so now by their own will they are sacrificing their bodies to their minds." He thinks that within another score of years a better system of education will prevail, and that as a result women will be trained intellectually and yet in such a manner that the education of the mind will not interfere with the physical training that every woman who may become a wife and mother should receive.

FARMERS BADLY SOLD.—A number of farmers in the vicinity of Montreal have had a sharp experience in their dealings with an unreliable produce agency which was opened not long ago in that city. The experience has perhaps taught the farmers that they should deal only with reputable firms, and we trust that it may also serve as a warning to our own agriculturists who may at any time be similarly tempted. The firm began their operations on a large scale by advertising themselves as produce merchants and by flooding the surrounding country with circulars and letters in which they guaranteed the sale of all produce sent them for the small commission of 2½ per cent. They succeeded speedily in obtaining a large patronage. Twenty-seven agents were then appointed in various market centres to buy up produce on the same terms and to forward it to Montreal. Carloads of stuff came into the head office. As the purchase money was not to be forwarded for a few weeks the shippers and their suppliers made no complaint. Presently the neighboring produce merchants began to feel the effect of cut prices. Apples worth \$3 per barrel were sold by the new firm for \$2, and poultry, cheese, butter, etc., went at the same rates. This business has been kept up for the past month, but now the bottom has fallen out of it, the "firm" are not to be found, the stock has been sold for what it would bring and the farmers are out of pocket to the sum of \$7,000. The incident is a disgraceful one, but as its recital may prevent its recurrence in our own Province it is well that it should be widely known.