

# THE CRITIC:

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We understand that the grant for the Legislative Library has been increased to \$800, but that the benefit of the increase has been entirely neutralized by the adoption of a suggestion to defray out of it the cost of cataloguing. The hon. member who moved the amendment was, no doubt, actuated by a conscientious regard to economy, but he is evidently unaware of the requirements of modern cataloguing. The unfortunate result at all events is that the library will be worse off than ever.

Much comment has been evoked by the appearance of the Attorney-General's name as a corporator of the Annapolis and Liverpool Railway Company. There is no doubt that its continuance in that connection would constitute a grave impropriety, and it is satisfactory to note that public opinion has led Mr. Fielding to declare, as reported, that if the company should apply for subsidy while Mr. Longley remained a shareholder, either he or Mr. Longley would have to leave the government. Mr. Fielding could not, we think, have well acted otherwise.

One is sometimes tempted to think there is a curious vein of inconsiderateness, not to say rashness, in the temperament of the Conservative Chieftain, which leads him to play with edged tools in a somewhat reckless and inexpedient manner. The recent concession to the requirements of Manitoba was scarcely arrived at in the most dignified manner possible, and it is quite difficult to understand why the opprobrium was courted of hesitating to reciprocate the placing on the American free list of certain articles, and incurring by the delay the imputation of ungraciousness.

We notice the following report in a morning contemporary of Monday: "In the morning they," the jury in the Preeper case, "attended the Grafton St. Church, and in the evening St. Paul's. \* \* \* In both services reference was made to the trial for their benefit, (italics ours.) Rev. Mr. Brown at the former church in pressing on them that should one doubt exist in their minds as to the guilt of the prisoners, their decision should be on the side of mercy." We think a clergyman who allows himself to influence a jury in a case before the courts, is deserving of the severest censure.

More complications have developed in the Balkan States question, which may again upset the possibilities of peace. Russian intrigue continues to brew fresh troubles, and the proposal to marry the Kaiser's daughter to Prince Alexander is specially distasteful to the Czar. Prince Bismarck has threatened to resign if the marriage is carried out, and the recently developed German dislike of the Empress is intensified by the Queen's visit to Berlin, and her supposed resolution to aggrandize the Battenbergs at all risks.

We received recently a highly intelligent communication from a Nova Scotia Militian on the subject of the Glengarry Forage Cap. We know all about it, and what our correspondent says is absolutely correct. The Glengarry is neat, but it is a torture to men in a hot sun, or even on a dull day with a glare. The Germans disregard the rakish appearance (of hanging a peakless cap on three hairs,) which the English cavalry soldier would sooner die than relinquish. But, cavalry or infantry, the eyes of the soldier should be protected by a peak. Major Cotton, of the Mounted Police, in his annual report, says:—"For years I have been in favor of discarding helmets and forage caps. \* \* \* I think the forage caps might be replaced by large soft felt hats. Such a hat is in general use by U.S. Troops in the west." It might be added that the Italian "Bersagliari," (rifles,) have worn this head-gear since the Crimean war, ornamented with a plume of hackles, (cock's feathers.)

The action of the house on the monopoly clause in the Pictou and Cape Breton Iron and Railway Company's bill, commonly known as the "Van Shooten Bill," will meet with general approval. The matter was discussed on Saturday last in committee of the whole, and the clause granting the company a monopoly of the manufacture of iron in Nova Scotia outside of Colchester County for ten years, was defeated by the very decided vote of 22 to 13. Mr. McGill introduced an amendment offering the monopoly to any company that would deposit \$50,000 in the provincial treasury within six months, commence to erect furnaces within eighteen months, have its works in active operation within two years, and thereafter produce 25,000 tons of pig iron annually. Even this sugar coating of the monopoly bill did not render it palatable to the house, which rightly refused to swallow it under any conditions. With the severe lessons taught by the monopoly granted to the Canada Pacific, it would have been almost suicidal for the house to have adopted any other course. King monopoly must not get a foothold in the prosperous province by the sea.

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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.

The Reports of the Commissioners of the N. W. Mounted Police should contain a list of the officers of the force, the number of N. C. O's. and men, and their distribution, as well as statistics of the number of horses, and the stock of waggons, buckboards, &c. The Reports are, on the whole, satisfactory enough, but there is room for improvement. Why do not the Superintendent's Reports embody "states?" Verb: sap.

The Emperor Frederic, despite his physical weakness, is manifesting his courage and breadth of mind in regard to the violent anti Jewish prejudices of his subjects. "The bases of religious toleration," he declares, "which, for centuries past, were held sacred by my house, shall continue to be extended to all my subjects, of whatever religious community or creed. Every one of them stands equally near my heart, for all have shewn equally complete devotion in times of danger."

The movement to invest with a national importance Gen. Boulanger's pretensions to pose as a popular idol, has been decided and wide-spread. A well conceived strategy has been to nominate him for the Chamber in several Departments. Of course the inevitable Rochefort is one of his chief promoters. Hitherto the government has shown commendable firmness in punishing the general's military disobedience. With rural France opposed to war, which his success would render imminent, it is doubtful if the general is a man of the calibre to command the wave of popularity he is courting.

It is very sensibly remarked in the Sydney, C. B., Advocate of 29th March, commenting on the report of Superintendent Perry, of the N. W. Mounted Police, that the exaggerated claim of the Half-Breeds to a proprietary right in the whole land, though absurd, is the excusable error of an ignorant people, and should suggest care in dealing with them, but that it is disgraceful that politicians should, in order to make political capital, stir up discontent among them at the risk of another rising. Superintendent Perry distinctly states that they are excited and made self-important by the exaggerated references to them and their pretended wrongs; which come back to them from the political papers. Their excitement affords fresh food for the sensationalists, and "so the two act and re-act on each other," and, however serious the consequences, what do the politicians care?