

out the contemplated improvements at as early a day as we had hoped. Meantime we shall endeavor to keep *THE CRITIC* well up to its present standard.

Looking back over the work we have accomplished, we can point with especial satisfaction to the impetus given to gold mining by the attention directed to it through our columns. Upper Canadian and American mining journals have republished many of the articles and letters which have appeared in our mining department, and through these, capitalists have been attracted to the Province, who otherwise might have remained in ignorance of the great mineral resources of Nova Scotia. Realizing that agriculture is the foundation of a country's prosperity, we have devoted a large space to the discussion of agricultural topics; but this department in *THE CRITIC* has, we admit, never yet come up to the standard aimed at, being now one that we are most solicitous of improving, so as to meet the requirements of our many subscribers engaged in farming pursuits. Much that is written upon agriculture in American and Upper Province papers has no direct application to farming in Nova Scotia, and we are therefore endeavoring to make arrangements to have agricultural topics treated from a Nova Scotian standpoint, by Nova Scotian writers.

To business men and those who have produce to sell, our commercial reports and market quotations have been acceptable, while the fishermen, one and all, acknowledge that our brief review of the state of the fish market has been of immense advantage to them, having sometimes saved them many times the cost of the paper.

In its other departments *THE CRITIC* has endeavored to keep fully abreast of the times, and so far as we can learn, the only complaint we hear made is, that the space devoted to the news of the week is somewhat limited. This defect we have remedied in our present issue, and trust that the change will meet with general approval among our subscribers.

THE CRITIC is not run upon cast iron rules; we are always glad to receive suggestions that will make it still more popular, and when practicable we shall always have pleasure in carrying them out. Our canvassers at present in the field are doing well and scarce a week goes by without our making a decided increase to our subscribers' list, but as readers of a journal are always its best agents, we would direct the attention of those renewing their subscriptions to the paragraph upon the fourth page, in which we make them a special offer.

Business men and manufacturers will find *THE CRITIC* an excellent medium for advertising. It is essentially a family paper, read by every member of the household, and for that reason remains in an accessible place during the whole week.

Closing this birthday leader we take the opportunity of thanking the many literary and practical men who have, during the past two years, contributed to our columns. These have been among the best of Nova Scotia's writers, and we attribute not a little of the success which *THE CRITIC* has achieved to the interesting, attractive and finished communications of these ladies and gentlemen.

THE BRITISH IN EGYPT.

The peculiar position in which Great Britain stands as respects Egypt, lays her open to constant menace and intrigue upon the part of jealous and interested European powers. The British occupation of Egypt is nominally sanctioned by Germany, France, Italy, Austria, Russia and Turkey, but scarce one of these powers, Italy excepted, has any desire to strengthen British control in the Nile Valley; on the contrary, they each and all, while tacitly consenting to Britain's remaining in the country, heartily wish her gone, and secretly do what they can to weaken the effectiveness of her measures for financial and governmental reform. Bismarck, as the representative of the German nation, while not anxious to revive the dual control formerly exercised by Great Britain and France in Egypt, is not slow to take advantage of anything that would create a coolness between these two countries, thus more completely isolating France in European affairs. France on the other hand expresses her fear that the British occupation of Egypt will be made permanent, and that her interests in the Suez Canal will be jeopardized, inasmuch as her old enemy will hold the key to the far East.

Russia with France is endeavoring to make the Sultan uneasy as to his sovereignty over Egypt, hoping by this policy to turn the attention of the Porte to Egyptian affairs, and thus prevent a more searching investigation as to the Russian intrigues in Bulgaria.

Britain's policy of preserving the Ottoman Empire intact, has long held in check Russian and Austrian aggression, hence Austria encourages Egyptian complications in the hope that it may prevent Britain from taking an active part in the Balkan affairs. Truly the European chess-board is just now an interesting spectacle, but for the present Britain must continue to occupy Egypt whether the Powers like it or not.

To abandon the country under existing circumstances would entail a heavy material loss, and would at once relegate the Mistress of the Seas to a secondary place among the world's empires. The London "Standard" in speaking of the Egyptian question and the attitude lately taken by France with respect to it, says that it is strange that Frenchmen cannot understand that "our being in Egypt is the very reason why we should remain there," it further particularly adds, "if M. de Freycinet and his colleagues fancy that they can either worry us into leaving Egypt, or can drive us out by force, let them try by all means."

A LOYAL, UTILITARIAN IDEA.

The success attending the great British Colonial Exhibition now being held in London, and the interest which has been manifested from its opening by all classes in the British Isles, has probably given birth to the idea

of establishing a permanent exhibition such as is suggested by the Prince of Wales in his letter to the Lord Mayor of London, a copy of which, with the Lord Mayor's reply, we here insert.

Marlborough House, Pall Mall, S. W.,
Sept. 13, 1886.

DEAR LORD MAYOR,—My attention has been frequently called to the general anxiety that is felt to commemorate in some special manner the approaching jubilee of Her Majesty's reign.

It appears to me that no more suitable memorial could be suggested than an Institute which should represent the Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce of the QUEEN'S Colonial and Indian Empire.

Such an Institution would, it seems to me, be singularly appropriate to the occasion, for it would illustrate the progress already made during Her Majesty's reign in the Colonial and Indian Dominions, while it would record year by year the development of the Empire in the arts of civilization.

It would thus be deeply interesting to Her Majesty's subjects both within and beyond these islands, and would tend to stimulate emigration to those British territories where it is required, to expand the trade between the different British communities, and to draw closer the bonds which unite the Empire.

It would be at once a Museum, an Exhibition, and the proper locality for the discussion of Colonial and Indian subjects.

That public attention has already been forcibly directed to these questions is sufficiently proved by the remarkable success which is attending the Colonial and Indian Exhibition at South Kensington, and I confidently anticipate that arrangements may be made whereby the more important collections, which have so largely contributed to this success, will be placed at the disposal of the Institution.

I have much satisfaction in addressing this letter to your Lordship as Chief Magistrate of the capital of the Empire and to invite your co-operation in the formation of this Imperial Institute of the Colonies and India, as the memorial of Her Majesty's jubilee by her subjects.

Should your Lordship concur in this proposal, and be willing to open a fund at the Mansion House, I would suggest that the contributions received be vested in a body of Trustees, whom the Sovereign would be asked to nominate, and I would further suggest that the Institution should be under the permanent presidency of the Heir Apparent to the Throne.

I remain, dear Lord Mayor,

Yours truly,

ALBERT EDWARD P.

The Right Hon: the Lord Mayor.

The Mansion House, London, E. C.,
Sept. 17, 1886.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Royal Highness's letter of the 13th inst., and, in reply, to express the great pleasure it will afford me to give the heartiest co-operation and aid in the formation of the proposed Imperial Institute of the Colonies and India as the memorial of Her Majesty's jubilee by her subjects.

Your Royal Highness truly states that general anxiety is felt to commemorate in some special manner the approaching jubilee of Her Majesty's reign. There will, I am sure, be a universal desire to give expression, in a suitable and, if possible, adequate way, to the deep attachment, veneration, and loyalty which the Queen's subjects in all parts of her vast dominions entertain for a Sovereign whose long and illustrious reign has been productive, under Providence, of many blessings to her people, and been rendered memorable by the striking progress in civilization and prosperity developed throughout the Empire.

Difficult as it may be to signalize in a commensurate way the feelings which are thus naturally emphasised at the approach of the jubilee of Her Majesty's reign, I am convinced that the proposal which your Royal Highness indicates, and which has the support of your influence, will be considered singularly appropriate.

It will, therefore, give me much satisfaction to open a fund at the Mansion House for the receipt of contributions, as suggested by your Royal Highness.

I have the honor to remain, Sir, with the greatest respect, your Royal Highness's most dutiful and most obedient servant,

JOHN STAPLES, Lord Mayor.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, K. G.

The London press commenting upon these letters strongly favors the establishing of the Imperial Institute, but as it is to be made the memorial which is to mark the Queen's jubilee year, it urges that steps be at once taken towards carrying out the idea so that the element of risk of failure may be removed before it is too late to make other arrangements for commemorating our Sovereign's jubilee.

Evidently the success of the Institute must depend upon the hearty and cordial co-operation of the colonies, and as the Queen is revered and beloved throughout the nearest as well as the most distant portions of the Empire, colonial assistance in furthering the memorial is assured. But the establishment of such an Institute as that proposed by the Prince of Wales, will be of great advantage to the several British colonies, inasmuch as it will furnish to intending emigrants the very best means of ascertaining the capabilities of the respective countries represented, enabling them to form a much more correct estimate of their resources than they ever could gather from the perusal of emigration pamphlets. It is seldom that utility and loyalty find a common expression, but in the Imperial Institute which is to mark the loyalty of the Queen's subjects in both hemispheres, we have embodied an idea which is purely utilitarian in its character.