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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.

They are making jokes on Canadian politics in the United States now, forgetful of the adage that those who live in glass houses should not throw stones. The following found its way into an English paper: "He sees millions in it. American burglar.—'Got a good lay for the winter, Bill?' Second ditto.—'Best on the Continent, me boy.' First to.—'Wot er you gonto to do?' Second ditto.—'Go to Canada and go into politics.'" These two worthies should know that the Rogues March is being played for the benefit of dishonest Canadian politicians.

The United States and Chili may now make up their difference over the attack on October 17th on American sailors of the cruiser *Baltimore* in Valparaiso. Senor Montt, Chilian Minister to the United States, has laid before Secretary Blaine information received from Senor Penra, the Chilian Minister of Foreign affairs, with regard to the trouble, which explains how it was that it occurred, and states that four men, three Chilians and one American, have been indicted, and proposes that they be punished according to law. The mills of the Gods grind slowly, and diplomatic proceedings are long and tedious. It has taken three months to arrive at an explanation of the brawl that so discomfited the *Baltimore* men.

It is good news to hear that it is thought the epidemic of La Grippe is past its worst in Germany and other parts of Europe, but when we think of the number of those who are rendered *hors de combat* by its onslaughts in our city by the sea, we find it difficult to realize that others are not falling victims to so great an extent as recently. It is indeed a scourge we are afflicted with; hundreds of our citizens have been housed and laid up by it, and the worst of the disease is that people do not fully recover for a long time. Everyone who has been afflicted with it knows what torture it is, and those who have escaped feel thankful for their mercies. We trust that all suffering from La Grippe will recover soon, and that more seasonable weather may speedily prevail, when doubtless the atmosphere will be more healthful.

Mr. Mercier and his colleagues will have a hard time to pass the scrutiny of the new commission which is to make inquiry into the disposal of certain moneys. The new commission is composed of Judge Mathieu, Donald McMaster, Q. C., and D. Maason, who will be assisted by the following officers: Messrs. J. Belleau and George Stuart, Q. C.'s, with Edward Lolie, advocate, and Austin Mosher, of the *Toronto Empire*, secre-

tarics. The *Toronto Empire* makes the statement that Mercier's long series of corrupt acts will soon be clinched by the most compromising transaction ever proved against a Canadian politician. It says: "A letter will be produced in the hand-writing of a leading member of the Cabinet entreating a colleague to commit nothing short of a crime against the state, and the writer also requests his confrere to take care and destroy certain tell-tale documents in connection with the matter the Hon. gentleman was seeking to arrange. When a photograph of this letter is given to the people whom Count Mercier has so deceived, the *Empire* promises a howl of indignation from one end of Canada to the other, and universal consternation in the ranks of the Mercier party."

Mr. Geo. Johnson has issued bulletin No. 3 of the census of Canada, and as it deals with the population of the eastern Maritime Provinces we have given it special attention. Mr. Johnson delivers himself as follows: "The causes for this decrease in the average number in families are: 1st, the decay of early marriages, and 2nd, the increasing tendency to celibacy. The first cause is the effect of the increasing complex conditions of life; the second is due to the spread of education which enables females to become better wage-earners and, therefore, less interested in marriage." If Mr. Johnson had said the increased tendency to celibacy and the better education of women caused fewer families, it would be reasonable, but the average number in families can scarcely be affected by this cause, although it certainly is by the decay of early marriages. We think our astute statistician may be right in the latter, and if so the country is all the better for it. Our grandmothers frequently married at seventeen, and raised families of from ten to fifteen; now we rejoice to say our nation's womanhood is not so severely taxed, and even if our population does not increase as fast as it once did, every man in the country will be glad to know that there is compensation somewhere, and our women are able to enjoy their youth before they take up family duties. It is really a pity to see a man mistaking his vacation as Mr. Johnson is doing, and the country paying for it too. We have seldom seen a more ludicrous official publication than this bulletin number 3.

The message of President Harrison to Congress a few weeks since contained an announcement that raised our hopes as to the early reference of the Behring Sea dispute to arbitration almost to certainty, but it now appears that a serious hitch in the negotiations has occurred, and it looks as if the United States was trying to avoid a fair and equitable settlement of this issue in which Canada is so deeply interested. As is the way with our neighbors they lay the blame of the present difficulty on Lord Salisbury. The *Tribune*, chief organ of the administration, which made the statement as to the hitch, did not state what it was, but speaks in a spread-eagle, anti-British style of Lord Salisbury's request for some trifling alterations in the arrangements for a settlement. The news from England on the other hand is more cheering. Sir George Baden-Powell has started for Washington, and at a speech made before his departure stated that the two governments had agreed to a basis of arbitration on the seal question. It is sincerely to be hoped that all will come out right, for this question has been unsettled for so long, and there is a probability that if not settled before the next sealing season serious trouble may result. It would be a reflection on the civilization of the latter end of the nineteenth century should inglorious war be waged over the control of an open sea by two of the earth's greatest nations.

The epidemic of bomb throwing and similar dangerous actions which began some little time ago, has in a manner prepared us for the news that the police have discovered an organized gang of dynamiters, or a socialist or anarchist club, at Walsall near Birmingham, England, whose systematic industry is the manufacture of infernal machines. Four leaders of the conspirators have been arrested, and a number of documents showing the extent and objects of the association have been seized. The bombs were intended, not only for the purpose of extorting money from rich men, but several crowned heads of Europe were in danger had the conspirators gone undiscovered. Walsall has been the centre of the anarchist propaganda for years, and many lecturers have held forth socialist doctrines to the club. The actions of a solitary crank can be understood when he undertakes these methods of warfare, because we know his mind must be unhinged, but it is difficult to realize that an organized band of murderers, or intending murderers, can exist and calmly pursue their wicked ways. The police will have a difficult piece of work in dealing with these fiends whose names are as follows: Daeken, leader of the club; Victor Kailes, clerk; Frederick Charles, a moulder, and the wife of Kailes. It is reported the latter has turned Queen's evidence. It is to be hoped that some means will be employed to prevent their doing any mischief in future.