

THE CRITIC:

A Maritime Provincial Journal.

DEVOTED TO

Commerce, Manufacturing, Mining and Agriculture.

1.50 PER ANNUM.
SINGLE COPY 5 CTS.

HALIFAX, N. S., SEPTEMBER 6, 1889.

{ VOL. 6
No. 36

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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.

After carefully examining, says a late authority, all the data we have, I am convinced that in estimating the population of ancient Rome at 4,000,000 I am rather understating than overstating it. The Circus Maximus was constructed to hold at least 250,000, which would on this basis be one in sixteen of the inhabitants. But striking out the slaves, who formed half the population of the women, old, sick, and impotent persons, and children, there would have been nearly room for the whole available population.

We learn with much regret that a serious outrage—not, it would appear, the first—has been committed at Guelph, Ont. The ominous name of White Caps appears in connection with it. The victim was dragged from his bed by four men, his face kicked to a jelly and his body black and blue all over. We had hoped that White-Caps, Regulators, and all such lawless organizations were confined to the United States, but, as evil communications corrupt good manners, it is to be feared that the evil examples set by that country have at last contaminated our own. The injured man is said to be in a position to identify three of his assailants, and it is earnestly to be hoped that no pains will be spared to bring these criminals to justice, and that the law will be enforced with the utmost rigor. If existing laws are not sufficient for the adequate punishment of this most atrocious kind of outrage, it will be the duty of the Government to initiate special legislation calculated to stamp it out.

The following notice in a recent issue of the Quebec *Morning Chronicle* is evidence of the growing interest taken in the Maritime Provinces by the upper ones. This is by no means a singular instance, a number of Ontario papers having, since the recent visit of the Ontario Pressmen, devoted considerable space to the Provinces by the sea. This fortunate event, indeed, seems to have produced as good results as even the Carnival. 'A boom seems to have struck our Maritime Province friends, and unusual activity in commercial and shipping circles appears to prevail. From St. John, N. B., and from Halifax, we have most encouraging reports, and times were never better. Both cities have had their summer carnivals, and though small deficits occurred in each, the general benefit will be very great. Many thousands of people were attracted to St. John and Halifax who had never seen those enterprising cities before, and the foundation of future business relations between those towns and Quebec, Ontario and several places in the United States was laid down.'

Notwithstanding the far from creditable action—or inaction—of the United States Government in the matter of the Behring Sea outrages, we have little doubt but that it will be ultimately settled in a sufficiently satisfactory manner. Mr. Frye has apparently initiated a new departure in the contention which, though there is about it a fine flavor of the cool assurance which "distinguishes American diplomacy," is yet to a certain degree preferable to the claim of a closed sea, which Mr. Frye seems to have quietly dropped. The Senator has now, however, discovered that the part of the sea in which the seals are caught "is and always has been so regarded." As Mr. Frye is in some sort a lieutenant of Mr. Blaine, it is additionally satisfactory to learn that he further predicts the settlement of the whole affair by practical common sense diplomacy.

There can be no doubt that an uneasy feeling is gaining ground in Canada at the supineness of the British Government in taking steps to put a stop to the Behring Sea outrages. The *Toronto Week* is somewhat outspoken in the matter, and its outspokenness has the more weight in that its utterances are always calm and judicial. "A special cablegram from England to New York," says the *Week*, "which bears internal marks of inspiration from pretty high sources, declares with emphasis that the British Government will not follow Canadian counsels in the Behring Sea matter. 'They do not mean to provoke a collision in the waters of the North Pacific.' 'They do not, as matters stand, propose to send a British fleet or any single British vessel to protect British sealers.' 'It is known that in Downing Street there is the strongest possible wish to escape the necessity of resenting any American act.' And so on almost *ad nauseam*. The burden throughout is that the 'angry tone of the Canadian press' finds no echo in England." Is it significant that the *Week* has lately hinted at the comparative advantages of Independence as against Imperial Federation or Annexation?

The *New York Telegram* has the following item.—'Neri, whose book on glass was published at Florence in 1612, says: 'In the time of Tiberius was invented a way of making glass malleable, nothing afterwards lost and to this day wholly unknown.' But though unknown to the old Italian, the art was practiced in Persia, if we may believe Bailey, who says that in 1610 Sophi, Emperor of Persia, sent to King Philip III of Spain, six glasses that were malleable, and would not break by being hammered; and Blacourt tells that an inventor having presented a bust of malleable glass to Richelieu in 1625, was rewarded for his ingenuity by perpetual imprisonment, lest the vested interests of French glass workers should be injured by the new invention.' "There is nothing new under the sun," and many apparently quite new experiences are but repetitions of those of bygone ages. The last sentence of the above quotation has a direct bearing on a quite recent incident in the glass trade. Every one will remember the invention of almost unbreakable glass by La Bastie. We have ourselves seen a lamp glass of it thrown vigorously across a store, and fall to the floor without fracture. It was some time ago generally understood, and we believe it is a fact, that this invention was deliberately burked by the glass trade, by means of a large sum paid to La Bastie, in order that the sale of common breakable glass should not be interfered with.

We learn a great deal from time to time of the sins of the British House of Lords, and the effectlessness of the Canadian Senate. Yet the former frequently does good work, and the latter not long ago made, no matter under what influence, an effective stand against the C. P. R. monopoly. The Senate of the United States being the outcome of a republican system is regarded by many with different feelings, yet we shall find some difficulty in discovering among its records any great number of broadly beneficial votes or lines of action. Its deliberations have of late, indeed, been characterized by crudeness, violence, prejudice and unreason to a remarkable extent. But the most curious feature about it is the fact that it not only possesses a far more substantial—and oftentimes a far more mischievous power than the House of Lords, but that it is rapidly becoming "the most aristocratic social club in America." This is owing to the monopoly of its seats by men of enormous wealth, it having become practically very difficult for a man of moderate means to obtain the somewhat questionable honor of membership. Should such an one effect an entry, he and his colleague, controlling the patronage of their State, it is pretty well understood that if they made their entry into the sacred body comparatively poor, it is not long before riches accrue to them. In effect the American Senate is a house of millionaires, and it is easy to see the tendency of such a body on questions of capital and labor, trusts, combines, monopolies, protection, etc. On the whole it is somewhat of an anomaly as a republican institution, while its entire control of foreign affairs is often seriously mischievous as well as embarrassing to the Head of the State and his executive.