

The *Graphic* and the *Illustrated London News* have apparently been successful in supplying the demand for good illustrated papers, but they are soon to have a rival in *Black and White*, which intends to be superior to the first mentioned papers. It is rumored that the birth of the new illustrated paper will be retarded if possible by the *Graphic* and the *Illustrated*, and that they endeavored to establish a boycott by their combined efforts amongst the engravers as well as amongst the advertisers. The subject with which an illustrated weekly can deal are not thought to be exhausted by the present papers, and the machinery for *Black and White* is said to be unmatched in England. If something very superior is produced then all tastes will be suited, and no doubt the reward of ambition will be reaped.

In our issue of January 30th we published an editorial note on the phenomenal cold weather in Europe. A typographical error occurred in this note that made us say Zuyder Zic instead of Zuyder Zee. We did not consider it necessary to correct this last week, as we thought any well informed reader would understand that it was merely a printer's error. That we were mistaken in this idea we see by the fact that the *Cumberland Leader* and the *Miramichi Advance* republish the article with the error, and at the same time entirely forget to give THE CRITIC credit for it. We are always glad to see our exchanges making use of our articles, but in all fairness they ought to give us credit. By publishing an article like the one in question and withholding credit, they make the error their own. Give credit where credit is due, friends.

The decision of the Government to raise the amount that may be deposited in the savings bank by any person in one year from \$300 to \$1,000, and the maximum amount that a depositor may have at his or her credit from \$1,000 to \$3,000, will doubtless prove a great convenience to many people. An additional facility is also offered by the Government to depositors who reach the above limit. Safe investments bearing a low rate of interest are a great deal in demand, and in consequence of this the Government has authorized an issue of 3½ per cent. stock in sums of \$100 and multiples thereof. This stock will not be redeemable for five years, but that it will be largely taken advantage of by savings bank depositors who have reached the maximum limit of one year's deposits of the total amount of \$3,000 goes without saying. Even in Nova Scotia, and despite cries of the country going to the dogs, savings accumulate, and the people must have some place to put them.

In her African policy Germany is showing an alertness which promises great things. As we have already pointed out, her future is much wrapped up in her colonial policy. Just now she has discovered that Damaraland is not of much use to her. It is a high, bare tableland, with no great resources to boast of, and it forms no essential part of German Africa, as it leads nowhere that Germany wants to go. This being the case, she is anxious to cede the territory to Great Britain in return for some property more desirable. She points out, with some justice, that it lies immediately contiguous to Cape Colony and Bechuanaland, and this, which remains in her possession, interferes with the scientific fitness of Great Britain's frontier. This is doubtless the only consideration that would induce England to accept the territory. It is sometimes worth some sacrifice to keep possibly troublesome neighbors at a distance. It remains to be seen, however, what Germany wants in return for the unprofitable territory.

A late number of the *Moniteur du Commerce*, of Montreal, has an article which is full of cheer for all who have at heart Canadian unity. It says that not only "Canada for the Canadians" but "Canadians for Canada" must be the rallying cry for all the provinces and people that make up this Confederation. The tone of the article will go far to strengthen the bond of union (sometimes strained by thoughtless and foolish vaporing) between Quebec and her sister provinces. The article says:—"What we want for our compatriots of French origin, for the Canadian youth, is that in the Education given them, in training their intelligence, in guiding their aspirations, their natural instructors, the family and the teachers in educational establishments may inculcate them with the feeling, the thought and the love of Canada generally above all, and not the idea and love of English or French Canada, as the case may be. * * * They must be taught that all the Canadians of the present day must be the pioneers of the future, and that, to attain this end, there must be in Canada neither English, Scotch, Irish, German nor French, but Canadians purely and simply." This is the note of brotherhood, and puts to shame many pernicious tongues.

People who have seen ghosts are having their innings now-a-days. The subject of hallucinations has always been a rather attractive one, and just at present it is receiving a great deal of attention. Psychologists are investigating the matter with a view to obtaining some definite knowledge of the subject, and are trying to make as large a collection as possible of cases of hallucination for the purposes of classification. Several interesting articles on this subject have appeared in magazines, and most of the writers incline to the idea that there is still much to learn about it. And there surely is a belief in ghosts, appearances and other hair-raising and terrifying phenomena as ancient as the hills, and even now it is as deep-rooted in the minds of hundreds of our fellowmen. Ghosts play an important part in fiction, in some cases so important that we wonder what Shakespeare would have done without them. It is a deep study, and we would like to see what conclusion will be arrived at. As a disordered stomach produces night mare a disordered brain sometimes is the cause of hallucinations, and unless we charge all such phenomena to this cause we must either leave some extraordinary occurrences unexplained or believe in "objective appearances." Science has some hard tasks before it in the next century.

The *Montreal Witness* says that the North-West Mounted Police recruits, some of whom hail from Halifax, behaved themselves very badly in Montreal. A number of the men with their sergeant got drunk, and had to be sheltered at the police station all night. They were a disreputable looking set, according to the *Witness*.

There is a tide in the affairs of revolutionists, which, taken at the flood, leads on to a republic. The Portuguese revolutionists, it would seem, were too dilatory. The insurgents at Oporto failed to catch the tide of popular irritation against the monarchy when it was at the flood. And the flood was one, moreover, of startling height. When all Portugal was in a stupid fury at the Government and at England, because the Government had failed to make good the preposterous claims of Portugal in East Africa, there was the tide at flood, and a Portuguese Republic looked like a near possibility. But the anger of the nation ebbed, and the other day when the red flag was raised by three or four revolted regiments at Oporto, the people and the bulk of the army remained loyal to the throne, and the insurrection was quelled after three or four hours' fighting in the streets.

The English manufacturers are making a poor mouth over the circumstance that the American demand for their products has almost ceased since the McKinlay Bill came into force. It is strange that they should be astonished at this result. The American market is, for the time, amply supplied with the products of English manufacture. Before the new tariff went into effect American dealers brought in English goods in great quantities, to hold them for the inevitable rise. In a little while the English manufacturer will probably find the stream beginning to flow again, and overleaping, though with somewhat diminished volume, the barrier which Mr. McKinlay has erected with such disastrous consequences to himself and to his party. The present stoppage is not a direct result of the tariff, but a side result, dependent upon the action of speculators.

Spanish rule in the Caroline Islands does not appear to be attended with happy results. These islands are so remote and communication so uncertain that the events we now hear of took place some months ago. Difficulties amounting to hostilities occurred between the natives and the Spaniards last summer, and finally the natives arose and massacred the Spanish troops. There is little doubt that the Spaniards treated the natives in a manner to provoke this onslaught, and, if all reports are to be believed, the American missionaries there came in for unwarranted cruelty from them. Last September two mission stations were destroyed by shelling, all the missionaries' property sharing the common fate, while their work, so long and peaceably prosecuted, was broken up. They attempted to transport the scholars of their school to another island, but were forcibly prevented by the Spaniards, and they themselves finally escaped with the greatest difficulty. The Spaniards claim that the American missionaries fomented the difficulties between the natives and themselves, but this statement is refuted by the fact that the alleged mischief makers were two ladies, who at the time were alone, Rev. Dr. Rand being absent on another island. These ladies testify that they did all in their power to prevent an outbreak, and actually held it in check for a time, but that the brutal treatment of the Spaniards at last exasperated the natives past bearing. The treatment of these missionaries has been for some time past the subject of correspondence between Secretary Blaine, of the State Department, and the Spanish Minister at Washington. Despatches of a few days ago state that another massacre of Spaniards by natives has taken place, and that ninety soldiers and civilians were killed. The natives are armed with Remington Rifles.

Now that the United States Committee on Foreign Relations has reported in favor of a Bill providing that the American Government shall guarantee the bonds of the Nicaragua Canal Company to the amount of \$100,000,000, it may be presumed that the project will certainly and speedily be carried out, and that the United States is about to accomplish what France has failed to do, viz: open up a waterway across the isthmus which connects the continents of North and South America. The bonds are redeemable one hundred years from date, and, with interest, will amount at maturity to the vast sum of \$400,000,000. This sum is perhaps not disproportionate to the benefit which will be conferred upon the world's commerce; but it is hard to see how the neutrality of the new route is to be preserved when one power is allowed to hold such gigantic and exclusive interest in the enterprise. Indeed, the president of the company has declared himself as follows:—"Our company is an American one, and we intend to keep the control of the great enterprise in America where it belongs." It is probably the trade of the United States which will derive the greatest benefit from the enterprise, but the rest of the world is interested in a degree only less than that of America; and when we consider that the distance between New York and San Francisco will be diminished by 10,080 miles, and the distance from Liverpool to Yokohama by 3,926 miles, we cannot but feel that the ocean carrying trade will experience a revolution. The Nicaragua route is probably the only one practicable, now that the difficulties of a sea-level canal at Panama have been made so painfully apparent. The Nicaragua land will have the disadvantage of locks, but everything else seems overwhelmingly in its favor. An important consideration is the fact that the work runs through a country which is salutary to Europeans; while the Panama region has proved a veritable valley of death. The Nicaragua Canal utilizes the waters of the San Juan River and of the great lake Nicaragua, which has a length of 150 miles with a breadth of 50. This inland sea is a main feature of the route, for it will serve, as no artificial basin could, the purposes of a central reservoir, furnishing a constant and equable feed stream to the canal on both sides.