

THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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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 successor to Katkoff, the leader of the Pauslavist party, is Mr. Pobedounczew. Now we are sorry that plain Katkoff is dead.

Connani is the name of the latest South American Republic. The sympathies of its seven hundred inhabitants are decidedly French, and it is probably only a matter of time before it becomes a portion of French Guiana. Its area is about one fourth greater than that of Nova Scotia.

St. John says that next year the Prohibition vote will be a million. Henry George says the Labor vote will be a million. The American party says it will have a million votes. If a few more parties put on these million airs we wish to know where the Democratic and Republican vote is coming from.

Mr. Smeaton, director of agriculture of the northwest provinces of India, has issued a note on competition between India and American wheat. He says that India possesses means to compel America to withdraw her hostile tariff and open her markets to British industry, but is burdened by higher railway freight charges, excessive handling and apparent (though not really) inferior quality. He advises London merchants to use their influence with the railways.

Miss Kate Field is the first person who ever delivered a public lecture in Alaska. The subject of her discourse was entitled "An Evening with Dickens," a most inappropriate title, as the lecture began at 11.30 a.m. It took place in a dance house in Juneau, a mining camp and the largest town of the province. Miss Field had a large and attentive audience. Her only remuneration was a vote of thanks, a dinner at the hotel and a subscription to the *Free Press*, the only paper in Alaska.

The United States has, for a little more than a decade past, been celebrating centennials, first there was the centennial of the declaration of independence, then the centennial of the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, then the hundredth anniversary of the signing of the treaty of peace between Great Britain and the United States, and now patriotic Americans are called upon to celebrate the centennial of the adoption by the state delegates of the federal constitution. The Conference met in May, and, after electing Washington as President and drawing up a constitution, adjourned on September 17th, seventeen eighty-seven (1787). That constitution has now stood the strain of one hundred years, and, with the exception of a few minor amendments, is pretty much the same as that adopted a century ago. It is the Magna Charta of the American people.

Commercial Union is an euphonious term, but its euphony is no test of its practicability. We have talked this question over with party men on both sides, and we find but few who do not recognize the existence of insuperable obstacles to a fiscal union, such as a union commercially involves. Commercial union boiled down to reciprocity is what our people really want, and this is well known to our party leaders.

The Manitoba Government has evinced much determination to have the construction of the Red River valley railway pushed on energetically, but it is difficult to see how it is to overcome some of the drawbacks to success. One of these is the lack of money, which we all know pretty well bars railway construction; and a second is an injunction issued by the Minister of Justice, forbidding the laying of rails on twelve lots owned by the Dominion Government. If Premier Norquay overcomes these obstacles we had better get him to undertake the contract of building the missing link between Annapolis and Digby.

Sir Charles Tupper is to spend a few days with Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, at Birmingham, for the purpose of giving the latter gentleman a few pointers as to fishery matters. Sir Charles will probably not be slow in impressing upon Mr. Chamberlain's mind that fair play is all that we desire, but that a sacrifice of our fishery interests to the United States would lead to serious results. There is no use mincing matters, if Great Britain cannot maintain our interest, we had better annex, or be annexed to the United States, and thus forever terminate the dispute. We are loyal to the mother country, but she must likewise be loyal to her colonies.

Varied are the theories advanced as to the failure of the revised version of the New Testament. Scholars and theologians have admitted its translative to be more correct, while literateurs have admired the style in which it was presented, but its failure is nevertheless beyond doubt. To our mind, its lack of success lies in not adhering to the old method of versification, which makes the Bible so familiar to our readers, so easy for reference and so admirable for quotation. The old version had won its way to the people's hearts, and could not be supplanted by a version, which, while it offered manifest improvements, upset all our pre-conceived subdivisions of chapters into verses.

The veteran George Muller, founder of the well-known Bristol orphanages, has made a preaching tour round the world. The actual distance covered was 37,000 miles, but of far more interest is the character of the message he has delivered in so many various countries. He went first to the United States, where he had intended spending the winter in preaching. Yielding to a pressing invitation from Australia, he went by way of San Francisco to Australia and New Zealand, thence to the Straits of Malacca, Japan, and China, and returned through Europe. Although eighty-two years of age, he is still strong and hale. He was heartily welcomed home by the 2,000 children whom he has gathered about him.

The plan of making Paris a seaport is believed to have much to do with the action of the French Parliament in appropriating \$25,000,000 to be expended in improving the Seine at its mouth. For many years it has been the desire of France to deepen the Seine from its mouth to Paris, so as to admit ships of the deepest draught of water to the very walls of the great capital, and thereby practically make it a seaport. It was brought up for discussion several times before the Deputies, but the idea was dropped because of the immense expenditure such a plan entailed. It had not been revived until this appropriation was made, when the French papers looked upon it as being one of a series of installments which would be made from time to time, and thereby render the plan feasible, while not overburdening the people. The engineers calculated that it would cost at least \$100,000,000.

The press of the Province is ably seconding our efforts to arouse an interest in the erection of a memorial to the late Hon. Joseph Howe, and we sincerely thank our brother journalists for their cordial support. The arrangements are not yet sufficiently far advanced to commence an active canvass for subscriptions, but they are progressing favorably, and when the names of those who are inaugurating the movement towards a memorial are announced, the public will take them to be a guarantee of success. In referring to the memorial, the *Digby Courier* says:—"The Halifax CRITIC has taken in hand to procure subscriptions to the amount of ten thousand dollars, for the erection of a bronze statue of the late Hon. Joseph Howe. We believe that amount will be raised without much difficulty, and that every Nova Scotian, whatever his politics may be, will heartily wish the movement success. About \$600 have already been subscribed. Some step of this kind should have been taken long ago. The name of Joseph Howe has been a household word throughout Nova Scotia. He was a man of whom we are all proud, and his eloquence, his labors, and the benefits he conferred upon his native Province are certainly worthy of some lasting memorial. Subscriptions towards the 'Howe Memorial Fund' may be forwarded to the editor of THE CRITIC, and will be promptly acknowledged."