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The editor of THE CRITIC is responsible for the news 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 the storm, a calm! There seems to be, as we were inclined to predict there would be after a time, a considerable cooling down of the bluster of Manitoba. The ambitious Province does not seem to find it quite so easy, as in its "light-hearted" and jaunty way it imagined, to build railways by wholesale.

By a return issued from the Registrar General's office at Sydney, the estimated population of New South Wales on the 30th June, 1887, was 1,055,050. The Statistical Bureaus both of New South Wales and of Victoria are, and have been for many years, in the highest state of efficiency and accuracy, and their returns are thoroughly reliable. After careful balancing of births, deaths, arrivals and departures, it appears that the net increase of population for the six months was 24,288, or at the rate of nearly 50,000 a year.

Russian journals refer with jubilation to the power of the Empire to bring into the field, within a short time if necessary, 4,000,000 of soldiers. Her active army is, according to official report, in round numbers, 825,000, reserve, 1,601,000, and she has behind that a militia of more than 2,000,000 to draw upon. Russia is a tough antagonist to tackle, even for Germany and Austria combined. There are, however, rumors of a design on the part of those powers to embarrass their great rival by threatening a reconstruction of Poland in the event of war, and no doubt Poland might, even at this date, be made a thorn in the side of her oppressor.

The remarkable success which has attended the co-operative workshops in Great Britain is just now creating much interest in the Mother Country. Thirty of these establishments, giving in all employment to 5,000 men, and having an aggregate capital of \$800,000, show a profit of fourteen per cent for the year ending July 1st, 1887. This, considering the hard times, is a remarkable showing, and speaks volumes for the future of co-operative associations. It is claimed that this result is mainly due to the conscientious labor performed by the men, who, knowing that they are to participate in the profits due, are careful in preventing waste of time and material.

A successor to the late Henry Ward Beecher has been chosen in the person of the Rev. Chas. A. Berry, of Wolverhampton, G. B. It remains to be seen whether this reverend gentleman will on his arrival, if he ventures to come out, be brought under the somewhat peculiar interpretation current in New York of the Act affecting the importation of alien labor.

Some months ago, we suggested to the Street Car Company, that they should take steps to obtain permission for the erection of a waiting room, or some sort of shelter for their passengers, on the N. E. corner of North and Lockman streets. If they could also persuade the I. C. R. authorities to construct, or allow to be constructed, a stairway from the railway area below, up to the corner, it would be a very great convenience to the public. If the need of the shelter was felt under a hot sun, it is yet more urgent in wet and cold. We again endeavor to call attention to the matter. The waiting room in Barrington St., near Buckingham, is not of much practical use.

We desire to draw the attention of the Press and of individuals to the present Post Office Regulations as to letters insufficiently stamped. A letter by any chance underpaid, is now sent to Ottawa; a red tape communication is then sent to the person addressed, and the letter ultimately despatched to him on receipt from him by the Department of the balance in stamps. This fuss is, we believe, generally made over the matter of two cents, which, it seems to us, might be more cheaply collected on delivery. It is evident that cases might occur in which these delays might be most serious. We are not imputing blame to the Post Office; it is possible that their departmental reasons may be quite valid, but we should like to evoke public opinion in the matter.

The opinion has been expressed in our columns that no one of the geographical disadvantages under which the Dominion labors is so damaging to its national coherence as the projection into it of the point of the State of Maine. The subject has been mentioned in connection with the labors of the Royal Commission, and it has been hinted that the cession of a small portion to Canada might be sought. The idea is not without precedent. Some cession was indeed, we believe, consented to by the United States in return for the free navigation of the St. John River. We do not suppose the American Government is likely to look very favorably on any curtailment of boundary, still it is perhaps not quite impossible that, if the subject is really brought up, some equivalent of value might be discovered.

Lynch law is not a desirable mode of bringing malefactors to justice but there are circumstances under which much is to be said for it. Such a case occurred recently in the county of Waterloo, Ont. A gang of desperadoes had perpetuated a number of crimes, and terrorized certain neighborhoods. The local police or constabulary was either unable, or disinclined to cope with the offenders. A number of farmers formed themselves into a band of "Requitors," and wounded and captured four of the desperadoes. Unfortunately, they managed to allow two of the ruffians to escape in conveying them to gaol, but the example will, no doubt, act as a deterrent to crime in country districts. We remember that some two or three years ago, a young woman in Brighton, Ont., shot and killed a burglarious tramp, and got credit for her pluck. Summary justice at the hands of individuals is, no doubt, a dangerous precedent, but the alternate is sometimes the life or injury of an evil ruffian or those of a law-abiding citizen.

Nothing is more discredit to the country than the large numbers of cases in which members of Legislatures have lately been unseated for bribery. It is humiliating to admit the fact that our boasted system of education has not yet "elevated the standard" of the political immorality of the Canadian elector above \$5.00, as the value of his share in the government of his country, which seems to be a marketable commodity to the average. Considering the extreme inconvenience, scandal, and expense entailed on candidates by the corrupt practices of their friends and agents, it seems astonishingly short sighted that these latter should give way to the unworthy temptation. Another serious point obtrudes itself. If the voter is so facile of cash manipulation, there would seem to be some danger that the more rascally adherents of one party might be clever enough concoct a plausible scheme of passing themselves off as friends of the other, and so attaining the object of unseating the opponent returned. Such a plan, of course, presents difficulties, but it is perhaps not impossible of accomplishment, and might have peculiar attractions in the way of smartness to the low cunning of the worst sort of partizan.