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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.

A long session, and that through the hot weather with arduous and disagreeable "scandal" investigations to be prosecuted, must prove trying to the most ardent politician, but we think the sessional indemnity of one thousand dollars, not to mention perquisites, ought to be considered sufficient when the honor of sitting in parliament is counted in. The Government has wisely, we understand, decided that the mooted increase shall not be allowed; the already burdened tax-payers might rise and rebel. Members of parliament should not be too grasping, some of them, to judge by recent events, want the earth, and we do not desire such representatives.

The juxtaposition of newspaper articles or telegrams, or whatever, is sometimes amusing—sometimes pitiable from the utter incongruity. Side by side in several papers a few days ago could be read accounts of the "revelations" at Ottawa, with Mr. Mercier's name very much in evidence, and the presentation of the Pope's medals to the Canadian Zouaves at St. Anne de La Perade on the 19th inst. The report under notice says the most striking feature of the ceremony was the presence within the sanctuary railings of Premier Mercier, attired in his uniform of commander of the order of St. Gregory the Great. It goes on to describe his elaborate costume, or what we might call his "get up," and finally ends with the following regret: "The presence of Mr. Ernest Pacaud, Mr. Mercier's friend, was greatly missed at the ceremony." This is certainly lamentable, the man who cleared out because he was wanted so badly to answer to charges against him would certainly be a loss at a religious ceremony.

The announcement made in the Senate by Premier Abbott on the 20th inst., that a Royal Commission would be appointed to investigate the whole system of our civil service in order that it may be reformed and reorganized, is a step in the right direction. The condition revealed at Ottawa shows plainly enough to the whole country the need of a reformation, and it is gratifying to see the initial step taken by the chief servant of the people. Only a brief outline of the scope of this commission is given, but we think the Premier is in earnest and means to make a clean sweep of all holes and corners where the light does not penetrate, and where the works of darkness may be carried on. Mr. Abbott takes the view we expressed last week, that the business of the country should be conducted on business

principles, and points out that one of the greatest defects has hitherto been that the public business has not been regulated as the business of any private individual would be. The fact is that it is not prudent to fully trust any man, where there is responsibility to anyone else. Many a man, from small affairs up to the greatest, has had so much temptation and opportunity to be otherwise than honest thrust in his way, that he has fallen; it will be well if our civil service is so reorganized as to place a commission of inspection in a position to see that all things are conducted as they ought to be.

"Whaleback" steamers are things we have most of us heard of but have not seen—at least we fancy people must have heard of them pretty generally, for they are such a new departure in freight craft that they have been attracting the attention of the press for some time. The *Wetmore*, one of this class, which took a cargo of wheat from Duluth, Minn., to Liverpool, G. B., a few weeks ago, is creating, according to the *Winnipeg Commercial*, quite a stir in the shipping world. The form of these boats may be imagined from their name, and they are built specially with a view to carrying grain. The *Wetmore* was built by the American Steel Barge Company, of West Superior, Wisconsin, and is 265 feet in length, just enough to permit her passage of the Welland Canal locks, but not short enough to allow the passage of the locks of the St. Lawrence Canal. The vessel carried from West Superior 70,000 bushels of wheat, and at Montreal took 25,000 bushels additional. The voyage from Montreal to Liverpool was made in 384 hours, with rather bad weather part of the time, and as an evidence of the ship's ability or stability, it is stated that she carried 26 tons of coal on deck for some days in a rough sea and lost none of it. Visitors to the barge in Liverpool were numerous at 1s. per head, which was for the benefit of an orphan asylum. These novel craft appear to combine a number of advantages, among which are cheaper construction (for steel vessels), cheaper cost of operating and greater proportionate carrying capacity than any other vessel in the world. It has been demonstrated by the *Wetmore* that they are the best all-round water carriers that can be devised, and it is prophesied that the future war vessels of the United States will follow this model. The fact that they pay well will be to business men the great recommendation for this new departure in naval designing. They require special docks to accommodate them, and these, we believe, will speedily be provided.

The various shooting competitions taking place at the rifle ranges all over the country at this time are provocative of thoughts relative to the importance of our young men becoming good shots. The practical efficiency of our militia force, should it ever be put to the test, will depend largely upon the ability of the men to shoot well, and although the ranges attract a large number of competitors, we think that not half the interest is taken in shooting that there should be, in consequence of which many young men are losers. It is a pity that so much space in the daily press is given to reports of base-ball games and other events of like trivial and passing importance, and so little, comparatively, to the subject of shooting, which is of lasting and permanent interest to all who watch with solicitude the progress of this growing nationhood of ours. To write up rifle shooting in an attractive style, so as to awaken the young men of the country to a sense of their privileges and responsibilities, would be doing a good work. In a paper such as THE CRITIC there is no space for reports in detail of the records made at the butts, but we can at least urge our young men to look into the matter and see what an advantage it would be to them to perfect themselves as marksmen. There is no small amount of enjoyment to be extracted from the necessary practice, and what sort of a man is he who does not take a genuine pleasure in a gun. The young men who repair to Bedford to shoot at the range usually regard the outing as much to be desired, and return at the end of the day well pleased at any rate with the fun, and not unlikely with some prize money to line their pockets. One of the great desiderata in these days of close application to business is that means should be devised whereby the young men of the country may become strong, athletic and skilful in all those things which go towards making them objects of a nation's pride. The militia offers a great many opportunities for physical improvement. The gymnasium of the 63rd R. Regt., with Sergeant Major Kelly as instructor, did good work last winter, as the assault-arms in the Academy of Music last spring amply testified. The shooting educates in another way, but all these things work together for good. One of the great advantages to be derived from the practice of athletic and skilful exercises is the necessity for temperance in all things. A man cannot be a crack shot unless his head and hand are steady, and to have them perfectly so he must not drink. To fire young men with an ambition to excel as marksmen is better than preaching temperance sermons. Physical perfection is worth striving for, and skill in the use of our faculties is what makes them of value.