

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 his 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 Utah man who has more than one wife is debarred from the privilege of voting, and is otherwise regarded by the U. S. authorities as a fugitive. The strict carrying out of the provisions of the Edmunds' Act in Salt Lake City is fast stamping out polygamy, but in the rural districts of Utah it still flourishes as unabatingly as of yore.

The unprecedented depression in the iron trade is most keenly felt in Germany where, owing to English competition, prices have been forced down to an unexampled level. British iron manufacturers and rail makers have refused to limit production or fix a scale of prices, hence they are competing with each other in their own and foreign markets at bottom figures. They will soon be like the unfortunate Kilkenny cats.

The censorship of the press in Russia is not confined to Russian newspapers alone. Foreign journals sent to private individuals through the post are subjected to inspection, and all matter which at all reflects upon the Czar's Government is skillfully obliterated, care being taken not to deface any other portion of the paper. How few people realize the blessings they enjoy under a liberal, free and enlightened constitution.

The senses of women are generally more acute than those of men, but most people will be surprised at the recent announcement of Dr. Tait, that a woman's ear is capable of distinguishing a much higher sound or note than that of man. We never yet knew a man who could distinguish the note of a bat with out artificial aid, but from Dr. Tait's discovery we should gather that woman's keener hearing makes her more quickly aware of that animal's presence. At any rate, women are the first to make a stampede when one of these hated animals puts in an appearance.

The Apache Chief Geronimo has surrendered conditionally, but the Apache tribe are far from a conquered people. Unlike the Comanches and the tribes with whom General Custer had to deal in Montana, who face their enemy in the open field, the Apaches crevice themselves in the defiles of the mountains, lying in ambush for their enemy. When a surprise has been effected they at once retreat, separating into innumerable small bands, thus throwing the enemy off the trail. The bands reunite at a given point generally fifty or a hundred miles from where the encounter took place. General Miles attributes his partial success to the employment of Indian scouts, without whom he would have been powerless to strike even a single blow at the mountaineers.

The intuitive love of change so observable in mankind, when gratified to excess, becomes in time more monotonous than steady occupation. The unceasing dull, daily routine of the factory hand and the constant flitting hither and thither of those who never feel settled or at home in any place, are the extremes of the average existence. Change, in order to be appreciated, must follow sameness.

Master workman Powderly, in his opening address at the recent Convention of the Labor Organizations held at Richmond, Va., called upon the members to observe the effects which the excessive use of alcoholic drinks had created among working men, strongly advising them to abstain from drink. If the temperance principles of these unions are strictly adhered to, they will in themselves revolutionize the condition of that great army of our fellow beings.

The great difference between the British and Continental workingmen must be apparent to those who are studying the movements of labor organizations. The great aim of the British workingman is to ameliorate the condition of himself and his fellows, while on the continent the subversion of existing institutions, appears to be the principal object in view. British workmen are constitutionists, their brethren on the continent are revolutionists.

The independent attitude taken by the Bulgarian government must have been a surprise to Russia, as that power had fondly imagined that the overthrow of Alexander meant the unconditional surrender of the Bulgarian state. It yet remains to be seen whether Russian gold used in underlining the loyalty of Bulgarian officers is more potent than Russian intrigue. Stambuloff, the President of the Council, says that while Bulgaria is anxious to retain Russia's friendship, it has no desire for Russian mastery.

Cape Breton is to have a railway, but if the prayers of the numerous petitions which have recently been sent in to the government are to be answered favorably, the Island will literally be covered by a net work of steel tracks. We have always strongly advocated the claims of Cape Breton to railway facilities, but we have no predilections in favor of any particular route; our only wish is that the route when adopted, will be the best and most available for the largest number of the people of Cape Breton.

The independence which has marked the actions of that sturdy old Scotchman, the Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, during the past few sessions of Parliament, should have won for him the respect of both parties, and have rendered it unnecessary for him to engage in an active political campaign in order to secure his return to the House. Unfortunately the friends of Mr. Alfred Bonthe, Conservative, have nominated him to contest the seat in East York, and the ex-Premier, although broken down in health, is forced to make an active canvass.

France has not yet forgotten that Alsace and Lorraine once belonged to her, and although her colonial policy has for a time diverted the thoughts of her people from the question of reconquest, the signs of to-day indicate that her policy in this respect has undergone no change. France will not provoke a quarrel with Germany, but should the latter country become involved in a continental war, France will be prepared to take advantage of the opportunity. Bismarck knows this and hence his desire to please Russia and prevent a friendly understanding between the governments of Paris and St. Petersburg.

OUR BIRTHDAY LEADER.

With this issue THE CRITIC enters upon its third year of publication, and we naturally pause to consider whether, as a journal, it is fulfilling the mission carved out for it by its promoters two years since. It had frequently been stated that while Halifax had several well equipped daily papers and religious weeklies, it had not a single first-class weekly paper, devoted to the agricultural, commercial and mining interests of the Province of Nova Scotia, and that if a paper of such a character were established, it would fill a long felt want in journalism and prove a remunerative enterprise to those engaged in its preparation and publication. It was to supply this need that the promoters of THE CRITIC devoted their time and energies; with what success we leave our readers to judge. The several departments of the paper have been, from time to time, improved as far as the capital at our demand would allow, but they fall far short of what we yet expect to make them. Papers, like individuals, must cut their cloth to suit their means.

THE CRITIC is now on a good, solid, living basis, but unless it continues to increase the number of its subscribers and receives the liberal advertising patronage to which its circulation entitles it, we shall not be able to carry