

THE CRITIC,

A MARITIME PROVINCIAL JOURNAL,

DEVOTED TO COMMERCE, MANUFACTURING, MINING AND AGRICULTURE.

To the Public.—While the style and tone of THE CRITIC are familiar to our supporters, who are steadily on the increase, its simple title scarcely appeals to advertisers, who receive from it no idea of the superior advertising facilities that we offer. Although our success has been phenomenal, and our circulation has attained to FOUR THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED COPIES weekly, we still feel that we are only in our infancy, and that a further vigorous growth would be greatly promoted by removing the slightest chance for misconception. With this end in view, we have determined to "nail our colors to the mast," and to state clearly and distinctly on the title page the aims and objects of this publication.

True to our motto, that "the welfare of the people is the highest law," we have always aimed to advance the Commercial and other interests of the Maritime Provinces, and with this end in view, we have placed our Commercial columns in charge of a thoroughly posted editor. Our Market Quotations are always reliable, and more complete than can be found in any other Maritime Province paper. Of the Commercial articles themselves, we need say nothing, as they have already gained for THE CRITIC the well-deserved praise of our leading merchants. We intend to keep this department of the paper fully up to the times, and shall add new features as they present themselves.

The business of manufacturing is rapidly on the increase in the Maritime Provinces, and our efforts to help the good cause along have been duly appreciated. Still, we desire to do much more; and if the manufacturers will only aid, they will find that we can be of the greatest service to them. Under the head of Industrial Notes, we desire to give a weekly summary of what is being done in the Manufacturers' line throughout the Provinces. In the future, we shall spare no pains in making this department a success, and we are now perfecting a plan which, if the Manufacturers will only co-operate, will result in all that we desire.

Our Mining columns are replete with interesting Mining news, and we have spared no expense in gathering facts that would prove to capitalists the mineral wealth of our country. Our Staff Correspondent has visited and written up nearly all the gold districts in the Province, our New Brunswick Correspondent has kept our readers thoroughly posted on Mining events in New Brunswick; and we have editorially and otherwise advocated measures beneficial to mines and miners. Our Mining news has been extensively copied both at home and abroad, and we number the miners amongst our most liberal supporters.

In devoting special space to Agriculture, we have met a felt want which the farmers have not been slow to appreciate. No other paper in the Province has an Agricultural department, and advertisers who desire to reach the farming classes would do well to take a note of this fact.

In addition to these four special departments, THE CRITIC will be found a journal containing all the important news of the day, with Editorial Notes and comments of general public interest.

The Serial is always carefully selected with regard to its literary excellence, interest, and pure moral tone; and musicians are provided for under the heading of Musical Notes.

'Hit Chat and Chuckles is a careful selection of comicalities; and under the heading of Cosy Corner, the ladies will always find something to interest them.

Some of the best writers in verse and prose in the Maritime Provinces are contributors to our general columns, and great care is exercised in culling interesting matter.

In politics we are, and shall remain Independent, giving a vigorous support to all measures calculated to advance the Commercial, Manufacturing, Mining, and Agricultural Interests of the Maritime Provinces, and condemning all others.

In short, we desire to make THE CRITIC a power for good in the land, well knowing that if we succeed, we are certain of the continued liberal support of the public.

GERMANY AND THE PEACE OF EUROPE.

An European writer in the Press, who is supposed to possess means of forming an opinion, and whose information at all events bears a plausible aspect, ascribes to the personages who influence German policy now, or who may influence them more directly hereafter, some idiosyncracies and ideas, which, if correctly estimated, have, or may have, important bearings on the future of Europe.

The world is pretty well convinced of the sincere desire of Prince Bismarck to conserve the peace at the present moment, and some very strong motives for his anxiety in that respect are put forth. In the first place, the life of the venerable Emperor probably depends on the maintenance of quiet. If the excitement and responsibility consequent on an outbreak of war did not kill him, fatigue in all probability would, as it is believed that no power on earth would keep the old soldier out of the field. The contingencies, in the event of his death, are manifold, and serious in the highest degree. There are those who have a low opinion of the Crown Prince's statesmanship, and even of his military talents, though his war record was, to say the least, respectable, while the circumstances of Germany imperatively demand that "for another generation, at least the Imperial sceptre shall be firmly grasped by a statesman who is not without military genius." Again, the Crown Prince has a reputation for extreme simplicity and good nature, and is said to be easily moulded to the will of his wife, who is credited with an almost fanatical belief in English Parliamentary institutions, which she would move heaven and earth to promote in Germany. These would, however, at present have a most pernicious effect on her foreign

policy, which will require all the vigor of an autocratic power for many years to come. Thus the theories of the Princess are naturally peculiarly distasteful to the Chancellor, and she is also understood to be personally antagonistic to him.

On the other hand, the Crown Prince is suffering from a disease which it is by no means certain is curable, and his death would entirely change the pattern in the political kaleidoscope. Whether the young Prince William is over-rated or not, we cannot judge, but he is said to be a statesman and a soldier of no ordinary culture, and there are not wanting those who believe he may become a second Frederic the Great. He shares to a considerable extent the sentiments of both the Emperor and the Chancellor, with the former of whom he is a great favorite, and of the latter a great admirer. He is further credited with complete independence of the control or influence of his mother.

The possibilities indicated in these ideas are alone sufficient to account for Prince Bismarck's determined purpose to stave off the inevitable war to the last moment, and those who believe that it is good for the world that the great Teutonic Power should continue to hold her place in the foremost rank of Europe, may well devoutly hope that no untoward accident may occur to force his hand.

ANNEXATION OR IMPERIAL FEDERATION.

It is the fashion of the day to reduce great National questions to a 'Trade basis, and there is a growing disposition to sneer at national pride as "sentiment." It is impossible to deny, and it would be unpractical to underestimate, the importance of commercial considerations, yet it may well be questioned whether high national feeling be not a factor of equal concern to men of spirit. Few will dispute that, after all drawbacks, Canada is one of the happiest countries in the world, and that her nationality has been pushed and promoted with a vigor and energy which should be the strongest appeal to patriotism. But Canada has to contend with two enemies to her growing greatness—the unfriendliness of her great neighbor, which is comparatively open and outspoken, and the half-heartedness of a section of her own sons, which is insidious. Her worst foe is of her own household. It is difficult to those who take a broad view of the commercial and political conditions of both countries to understand the hankering after closer relations with the States, with which so many Canadians are affected. Much of it may be safely laid to the account of political profligacy, which is utterly regardless of the nature of a "cry," so long as it can raise one which will afford a chance of resumption or retention of power; but, whatever causes combine to produce the existing states of opinion, it begins to seem probable that the opposite agitations for, on the one hand, Commercial Union, and on the other, Imperial Federation, will shortly raise practical issues of the highest import to the future of our country. Believing strongly in the power of resolution, patience, courage, and confidence, we are not disposed to accord to the geographical idea the importance with which Mr. Goldwin Smith has been so strongly impressed, and we take it there can be no sort of question that Commercial Union is the thin end of the wedge of Annexation. The merits or demerits of the former are now in course of fair and full discussion, both by the press and by pamphlets; and we have no intention of entering into them at present. It is evident that it is an issue which will eventually be submitted to the popular vote; and it is equally evident that restless agitation and ambitions have combined to prematurely force upon Canada one of two alternatives—Annexation or Imperial Federation. We regard it as unfortunate that these issues should be precipitated; it would, we think, have been better for our ultimate prospects that they should have been allowed to rest for another ten or fifteen years, when the country would be riper and in better condition for a wise decision, but the stones have been set rolling, and it will soon be beyond the power, if it were the wish, of those who have put them in motion, to arrest their course.

We have, we confess, no liking for Annexation, and we have not hitherto been impressed with the practicability of Imperial Federation. The continuance of discussion has, however, had the effect of bringing into view possibilities in the Federation idea, which is undoubtedly gaining in strength. As was naturally to be expected, anything like a practical step has been first accomplished in the field most favorable for it; and, as we have ere this pointed out, that step has been an agreement to maintain a definite Colonial Auxiliary Naval Force. The field of this practical advance is, of course, Australia, so fortunately free from the complications incident to the neighborhood of a strong and unfriendly power.

The text of an agreement recently entered into between the Australian Colonies and the Home Government is published in the journal of the Imperial Federation League. By it a force of five fast cruisers and two torpedo gunboats is to be "provided, manned, and maintained, at the joint cost of Imperial and Colonial Funds." The Imperial Government is to defray the first cost, on which the Colonies are to pay 5 per cent. interest, but such payment is not to exceed £35,000 per annum. The Colonies are to bear the actual charge of maintaining, from year to year, three cruisers and one gunboat in commission in time of peace, and of three other vessels, which are to remain in reserve. Retired pay to officers, pensions to men, and relief of crews is included in the responsibilities of the Colonies, provided that the claim made by the Imperial Government, under all heads, does not exceed the annual sum of £91,000. In emergency or war, the cost of commissioning and maintaining the three reserve vessels is to be borne by the Imperial Government, which is also to replace any vessels lost. The agreement is to subsist for ten years, and only terminate at two years' notice after eight years. The Imperial Squadron in Australian waters is not to be decreased on account of the force thus added. We have not space for further details, which are not, indeed, at present material, but Imperial Federation has at least scored one practical step.