

THE CRITIC.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

Now that the United States markets are closed to the trade of Canadian fish-dealers, the fish-merchants of Halifax should make a vigorous effort to secure the fish-trade in Ontario and Quebec. It may be that the foothold thus secured would be retained even if the Fishery clauses of the Washington treaty be again renewed.

If the business men of Halifax hope to secure the shortest and most direct railway communication between this city and the commercial centres of the Upper Provinces they should do something more than forward to the government copies of resolutions endorsed by the Chamber of Commerce. Every man in Halifax whether engaged in business or not has a direct interest in this Short Line question. Another blunder such as was committed in the building of the Intercolonial Railway would cripple the trade of Halifax for a quarter of a century to come. A joint delegation from the City Council and Chamber of Commerce should proceed to Ottawa at once to press their view of the matter upon the government.

The government have agreed to reduce the canal tolls upon the St. Lawrence route, and should their action be met in a like spirit by the lake and river forwarders, Montreal will be able to retain her pre-eminence as a grain-shipping port. The grain-shippers of Montreal claim that the government should have entirely abolished the canal tolls, but this would mean the writing off of millions of capital as dead expenditure. The forwarders and Montreal shippers must be content now to reduce their own profits if they would have the grain-trade seek an outlet at Montreal.

At present writing, the whereabouts of Big Bear and his warriors are still unknown to General Middleton; there can be no doubt, however, that the crafty chief has retreated to the dense forests of the North in which he can readily escape his pursuers. The supply of animal food in this forest is very limited, and even though their ammunition should hold out, Big Bear and his band must soon surrender or starve.

If the friends of Louis Riel hope to secure reprieve for that arch-rebel, even though the courts of the country should judge him to have been guilty of wilful murder, they are committing a great mistake. The government has done its best to secure his capture, and will not interfere with the sentence which the court may impose upon him.

The one hundred and ninth anniversary of the declaration of Independence which will to-day be celebrated by nearly sixty-million people throughout the United States, marks another milestone in the history of the great American Republic. The Anniversary will no doubt be celebrated in the usual noisy manner of our American cousins, but we rather admire the

enthusiasm which they display upon their natal day, believing as we do that it has done more than anything else to create a common national sentiment. When the first of July, Dominion Day, is celebrated with enthusiasm throughout Canada, we may hope for a similar growth of a national sentiment in this country.

The associated alumni of King's College having elected four governors opposed to the principle of College Confederation, and favorable to the maintenance of King's in Windsor, the people of the Church of England throughout the diocese should be prepared to give them a fair, manly, and liberal support. The governors in themselves cannot be expected to resuscitate Kings, and unless the members of the Church of England are prepared to open their purses, the University must take a secondary place among the educational institutions of this country.

The miserable attempt to injure the reputation of Revd. Allan Simpson by charging him with being guilty of plagiarism, will do more to increase the popularity of that gentleman than would columns of fulsome praise. The charge was false and he who made it must have known it so to be, otherwise his pitiable ignorance may serve as a cloak to conceal him from well merited scorn. Thought is the property of him who can entertain it, and of him who can adequately place it.

When our volunteers come home we should be prepared to give them a hearty and enthusiastic reception, such a reception as would indicate our pride in the Halifax corps. It is true our men have not been called upon to face the enemy in the open field, but they have nevertheless been exposed to the inclemency of the weather and have suffered all of the privations and hardships of the soldier's life, and this they have done without a murmur. Let us then recognize their patriotism and patience displayed by them in a manner becoming the citizens of an important garrison town.

In a late issue of the *Toronto Week*, we notice an able article upon Imperial Federation, written by Hon. J. W. Longley of this city. The writer, it appears, while quite willing to discuss the feasibility of Imperial Union, did not in any way hold himself bound to the principle. In our opinion Mr. Longley acted wisely in thus refusing to bind himself hand and foot to the deck of a rudderless phantom ship, which is liable to be carried hither and thither by the currents of popular opinion. If the advocates of Imperial Federation hope for ultimate success, they should at least formulate a scheme which would be acceptable alike to Englishman, Scotchman, Australian and Canadian. Free trade between all parts of the British Empire, and the imposition of customs duties upon all foreign imports are the keel and keelson of the Imperial ship of State, and until these are laid, it is but folly to hope to see the ship completed and glide smoothly from her launch ways.

A marvellous amount of jobbery seems to have been carried on in the Navy Department of the United States under Robeson and Chandler. The Court of Inquiry at Washington, in the case of the Chief of the Bureau of Provisions and Clothing, has found that Paymaster Smith has been grossly negligent and culpably inefficient—"has favored contractors to the detriment and loss of the Government, has violated the laws regulating his official duties and has been otherwise unfaithful to his trusts." A court-martial has been ordered, and we shall probably soon hear groans over "official abuses," "desperate grabbing," &c. Secretary Whitney says that he will probe the rotten spot to the bottom.

James G. Blaine says he will still be one of the leaders of the Republican party. Whereupon the *New York World* observes:—"Considering where he led the party last fall the intelligence is not so cheering as it might be. But it is pleasant to learn further that when he finishes his book he proposes to take a long rest."

A correspondent of the *Boston Traveller*, says that if the fish-dealers of the Maritime Provinces want a monopoly of the Quebec and Ontario markets they can easily secure it for the remainder of this year. One reason for this is that a duty has been imposed on fish imported into Canada from the United States.

The credit of Canada in the money markets has been steadily increasing for some years, and the announcement of Sir Leonard Tilley's success in London will not create any great surprise. At the same time it must be gratifying to every patriotic Canadian to feel that the public credit of the Dominion stands upon such a satisfactory foundation. A few weeks ago Sir Leonard Tilley succeeded in converting \$25,000,000 of debt, bearing five per cent. into bonds for the same amount bearing four per cent. thus effecting an annual saving of \$250,000. He has since floated a new loan of nearly \$20,000,000 at the same rate of interest, and at a premium of about two per cent. We congratulate the Minister of Finance upon the result of these two negotiations.