

# THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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## THE CRITIC,

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## EDITORIAL NOTES.

From 1871 to 1881, there was an increase of 300 per cent. in the population of Manitoba. The *Winnipeg Times* believes that the increase for the current decade will be over 600 per cent.

Some papers in Ontario—none, however, of the leading ones—openly advocate annexation. The *Ayr Recorder* (Liberal) begins an editorial with "What a beautiful State of the American Union Ontario would form!" And the rest of the article is in the same strain.

"An Ottawa College Graduate" writing to the *Montreal Post*, says that his *Alma Mater* is destined to be the University of the Dominion. We would like to hear from any person that knows of a College in the Dominion of which the same has not been said.

Newspapers are not slow in heralding the doings of politicians, but they seldom devote space to chronicling the successes of mercantile men. This appears to us somewhat strange, seeing that the press is mainly supported by the mercantile community. Knowing journalists should look well to windward, for even the "ass knoweth his master's crib."

The Montreal Mock Parliament has been convened, and the work of the session promises to be carried on in a lively and interesting manner. Such an organization would be useful in Halifax were it not that we have in this city, during the winter months, a real genuine parliament with a speaker and members seated with covered heads. Halifax wants a commercial parliament; her people have had a surfeit of politics.

The *Canadian American* and the *Montreal Star* think that the spirit of independence is gradually becoming stronger throughout Canada. It would probably assert itself more strongly if it once were shown that separation from Great Britain would, necessarily make us richer or happier than we now are.

A Chinaman is a luxury in Canada. The Americans looked forward to making the Dominion a dumping ground for their superfluous Celestials, but found to their surprise that a Customs Tax of \$50 per head was exacted by the Dominion Government upon every Chinaman entering Canadian territory. Uncle Sam never thought of this dodge to keep out the Asiatic hordes, but in Canada we believe in taxing luxuries, and we all know cheap labor to be a decided luxury.

The *Boston Traveller* is writing up the summer resorts of Nova Scotia. This may prospectively be advantageous to the Province, but the articles in question would have been more timely had they been written before the brown orange and scarlet tints of autumn had changed the foliage of our oak, beech, and maple trees.

In hard times there always appears to be plenty of money in the banks. In prosperous times money is scarce and the rate of discount rises. These are facts to which the financier and economist have given many hours of thoughtful consideration; but the world wags on as before, and people still ask for an explanation.

The Congo State, which has been carved out of the side of Africa, in order that a grand experiment might be tried by the International Association, is again disturbed with internal dissensions, and the King of the Belgians calls piteously for assistance to aid in restoring order. A man cannot serve two masters, and the people of the Congo State may find it difficult to carry out the wishes of three or more sovereigns, to say nothing of those holding less dignified but more lucrative positions under the Association.

The Young Liberals, in their meeting at Toronto, resolved, that provincial subsidies should be discontinued, and direct taxation be resorted to for local needs. These young men evidently labor under the impression that Ontario is the milch cow of the Dominion. If they would but visit Nova Scotia, we might succeed in convincing them that Acadia is the best milker in the herd—at least so many of us think.

The *Battleford Herald* says that some adventurers are going about the Indians inciting them to revolt, and assuring them of assistance from over the border. It is also said that the daring half-breed leader, Dumont, is at the head of a small army of men. There is little probability in the latter rumor, and no serious uprising of the Indians need be expected for some time to come. An effort should be made, however, to catch and punish the miscreants who are so devoid of human feeling as to turn the tomahawk of the Indian against the peaceful homes of the white settlers.

The small pox epidemic in Montreal will probably injure the trade of that city for some time, if not permanently. The dread of infection from Montreal goods has really little foundation. From April 1st to September 5th, only six deaths occurred in the business wards of the city. Add to this that all goods shipped from Montreal are so thoroughly fumigated that there is no possibility of infection. Nevertheless the wholesale trade of Montreal will undoubtedly suffer, especially in the west, where her young and vigorous rival Toronto will not fail to profit by the "ill wind."

The present unpopularity of Lord Wolseley is said to be mainly attributable to the manner in which he has dealt with the Suakim contingent of the Soudanese army. General Graham recommended 170 officers and non-commissioned officers for preferment. Lord Wolseley has reduced the number to 60, and military critics naturally want to know whether General Graham, who was present at Suakim, or Lord Wolseley, who was absent during the entire Suakim campaign, can best judge as to the merits of the officers.

In Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba, and Prince Edward Island, one long school-term in the year is preferred to two short ones. In almost all the States of the American Union, the school-term is about ten and a half months in duration—beginning the latter part of August or the first of September, ending in July—and is, of course, identical with the school-year. Here we still adhere to an arbitrary, unnatural and unnecessary division of the year into two short, broken-up terms. All our school inspectors, almost all our clergymen, probably all of our college professors, and the vast majority of our common school teachers that hold higher grades, are anxious to have one long term supplant the two short ones. The short terms "must go."

A curious piece of prophetic journalism has just come to light. A French paper, having learned that Riel's appeal to the Court of Queen's Bench had not been allowed, published a somewhat detailed account of his execution. Journalists are often tempted to imagine the details of an event which they consider sure to take place. A few years ago, when Hanlan was beating his opponents one by one in almost exactly the same style, daily papers which made a point of supplying the latest sporting news used to have an account of each race set up beforehand. Then, when the first brief telegram arrived, saying that Hanlan had won by so many lengths, they made a change or two, struck off their papers and in a few minutes had them selling in the streets to the cry of "All about the boat-race!" This is a mild form of imposition, compared with that of the French paper above mentioned. Riel is entitled to damages; for what confidence will people ever place in a man whom they believe to have been hanged?