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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.

TWO NEW PROCESSES—All old-fashioned methods of ordinary business seem to be passing out of date. A clever Hungarian inventor now claims that he has devised a method of spinning ordinary wood pulp into yarn, from which all varieties of so called "cotton goods" may be manufactured. Waste, rags, soap, paper, &c., can all be used in the manufacture of the yarn, and the whole mass can be dyed an even color before the spinning takes place. It is thought that if the new methods are practicable, the whole textile industry will of necessity be revolutionized.

FUN FOR THE SCOTCHMAN—The proprietors of the Dundee *Weekly News* are evidently men of the approved modern progressive stamp. Their latest scheme for popularizing their paper and for benefitting the public is a most interesting one, and one that bids fair to boom the paper in its Scottish constituency. A party of workmen of various callings is to be selected by the readers of the paper to visit the World's Fair and examine for themselves the methods and work of their American brothers. The trip will include a short stay in some of the larger cities in Canada as well as in the Western States, and the magnificent falls of Niagara are also to be visited. As the entire expense of the party is to be borne by the proprietors of the *News*, it is probable that there will be many applicants for the free trip. The project is both philanthropic and practical, and will probably prove beneficial to many beside the men who are to be chosen as the paper's representatives.

AN EXPENSIVE PROCESS—A glance at the rapidly-increasing pension fund of the United States must be far from encouraging to the tax-payers. There are still 20 widows and two daughters of soldiers of the original Revolution to be supported. The existence of widows, or indeed even of daughters of the generation far away, is puzzling at this day, and it is with surprise that we note that it was not until 1869 that the two last veterans of the war expired at the ripe ages of 105 and 109 years. Many of these soldiers must have married young wives when well advanced in years, else the present score of widows could never have existed. From the war of 1812 there are 165 soldiers left to draw on the fund, and over 6,000 widows to be supported. The survivors and widows of the Mexican war number respectively 15,215 and 7,282. The Rebellion has a quota of well over 400,000 claimants for pensions, and a second lot of over 300,000 who demand an increased pension. In some Western States the number of

pensions granted outnumbered the soldiers enlisted, but the discrepancy can be accounted for by the westward movement of the population. The estimate of pensions to be paid out annually for the next few years is a cool \$200,000,000.

COMMERCIAL UNION—The establishment of the long-desired Australian Steamship service between the Island Continent and British Columbia is at last an assured fact, the first steamer of the new route being advertised to leave Sydney for Canada on or before May 10th. The establishment of the new line is due in great part to the energetic work of Sir George Dibbs, who for many years has been urging this trade connection. The subsidy of \$125,000 offered by the Canadian Government has been received by a prominent Australian firm who are backing the enterprise. There is little doubt if matters are properly managed a paying trade may be diverted from the United States to Canada. As yet the Canadian trade with Australia has been a mere bagatelle, while the neighboring Republic has in one year imported some six millions and odd dollars worth, and exported double that amount to the far away colony. The exports from the United States have included agricultural implements, beer and ale, fish, furniture of all descriptions, machinery, oil, timber, and many other staple lines, in which our Canadian dealers can defy competition. The imports, which include raw wool, tin, coal and kangaroo skins, can be conveyed swiftly to their destinations by means of the new steamship company and the C. P. R. service. There seems no ground to doubt that the new line, if intelligently used, will be of lasting benefit to the connected countries, and it will be a lasting disgrace if we allow the trade which is now almost within our reach to remain so entirely with American merchants.

WE HAVE THEM IN HALIFAX—The number of waif children, of neglected children and of depraved children in Canada is rapidly increasing, notwithstanding the efforts of many orphanages, homes and industrial schools to diminish this unpromising class of citizens. The roots of the trouble seem to be in bad surroundings and in parental indifference. Children, even those of evil parentage, in the majority of cases, if properly cared for and trained in their young days, will become reputable respectable citizens, while the same children if allowed to grow up in the bad atmosphere of the slums and back-streets, will of necessity be lower in moral status than the generation which begot them. The one remedy for this evil seems to be that children should be removed from depraved homes and placed under the care of a Board of Guardians or other organization, which would be held responsible for their bringing up. In other words the responsibility of the welfare of the child should be transferred from the parent to the state. Many objections will of course be raised against this stringent measure. The transferring of the parental burden to the already well taxed ratepayer will be resented, and yet there is little doubt that the measure would in the long run be economic in its workings. The returns of poor houses, prisons and reformatories in a few years would show the improvement in the moral status of the people—habits of industry formed in youth would cling to the young workman, whose whole training had been planned so as to fit him for the duties of citizenship.

A TALK FOR GIRLS—From time to time we have noted in our editorial columns some of the methods by which the daughters of our Provincial farmers may add to their often-slender store of pocket money. The bright lady who from her practical experience, has already outlined some of the ways and means is responsible for a few more suggestions, both of which are well adapted to our young people. Probably few of them have thought of the fact that the seeds of trees which blow freely about our streets have a ready market value in the North-Western portions of Canada. The seeds of the elm, ash and maple can be garnered and sold at a fair price. Another girl might raise a small crop of buckwheat, and after grinding, do it up in neat bags of from two to five pounds in weight. If she should happen to be an artistic girl, and could sketch the natural leaf and flower above the label, so much the better for the sale of her packages to the summer travellers. Pigeon-raising is a simple and profitable work, and will be a pleasant amusement to those who engage in it. Another work, which as yet has been little taken up, is the preparation of home-made pickles and jams for the city market. A handy girl with a knack for work of this description can often lay by a nice sum in profits. Her work will be in raising small cucumbers, onions, etc., in making her own vinegar from waste apples, and preparing the pickles in tempting form, or in preserving the garden and orchard fruits for the winter use of the summer boarder. It is true that these schemes are but barely outlined, but any capable girl who needs the money which such work would bring, will be quick to take advantage of the hint, and will obtain the practical experience of older heads to guide her in her efforts.