

# THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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The editor of THE CRITIC is responsible for the news 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.

It is reported a syndicate of Belgian and English financiers have offered the Chinese Government a loan of £32,000,000, repayable in ten years, for the construction of 1,500 miles of railroad, partly from Nanking to Peking and partly from Canton.

This distinction between Dominion and Provincial officials is hair-splitting. If officials drawing their pay directly from the Government are to be deprived of their rights as citizens, why should Provincial officials, who draw their salaries indirectly from the same source, not be dealt with in a similar manner? We protest against the petty tyranny exercised by our Provincial Legislature, which by class legislation deprives men of their inherent birthright.

Every telescope in the world is at present turned upon our satellite—the moon—in order to verify or disprove Captain John Ericsson's statement, that the mountains seen in the moon are nothing but large masses of ice, and that the ring plains are great annular glaciers. It has always been difficult to explain the extreme brilliancy of some portions of the moon, and even those who have attributed it to volcanic activity have had reason to question their own proof. We may now anticipate a lively discussion as to the actual condition of the moon's surface.

The women of Kansas are now carrying everything before them,—they have secured woman suffrage, and have obtained most of the public offices. In Stockton, a lady mayor and a town council of women are to control the destinies of the city for the ensuing year. The construction of water-works, a railway contract, bonuses to new manufactures, taxation, and other like matters, with which ladies are generally conversant, will occupy the attention of the newly-elected alder-womanic body. The men have accepted the situation, and are talking of establishing a school for cookery.

In order to utilize, in the event of war, the British steamships in the merchant marine, the British government has agreed to subsidize all builders of vessels who comply with the Admiralty regulations, paying them at the rate of fifteen shillings annually per gross ton for a period of five years. These regulations require that every subsidized vessel must not only be of great speed, and great coal-carrying power, but she must have twin screws, longitudinal bulkheads, traversing the entire length of the ship, side coal bunkers, so arranged as to protect the boilers and engines from shot, and a water-tight deck at the water-line. The hull of these subsidized vessels is, in fact, to be that of an unarmored man-of-war, the only difference between them and the larger unarmored cruisers being that they will carry saloons instead of big guns.

Those who are not connected with the press do not fully realize the amount of charitable work which journalists willingly perform without the slightest prospect of any pecuniary remuneration. How few there are in Halifax who have ever duly appreciated the usefulness of the proprietors of the *Chronicle* and *Herald*, in giving publicity to church matters, and in having reported at length the meetings of our many benevolent associations. In this respect our Halifax dailies are far ahead of their Canadian contemporaries, and their managers and reporters are deserving of public recognition.

By a new regulation of the customs department, travellers entering Canada will no longer have to submit to having the contents of their luggage turned topsy-turvy by the official examiners. This will be a relief to those whose trunks do not contain dutiable articles; but to those who have relied upon the looseness of inspection to enable them to smuggle in dutiable goods the new regulation will be considered intolerable, each traveller having to fill up a blank form, showing the contents of his luggage, sign his name thereto, and make oath to the correctness of his statement. The new regulation may, in a measure, prevent innocent smuggling, but for our own part, we prefer reciprocity.

A circumstantial account of a most curious discovery was recently published by the *Alexandria Gazette*. After mentioning the accidental opening of an unknown vault, and describing the same, it says:—"Nothing was there to indicate the probable date at which this underground apartment was last used, except an old dirk upon which several unintelligible hieroglyphics were deeply carved. Part only of these are in English capitals, the remainder being of some other nation. The English letters read, 'Lo of Lirpa,' but the other characters have a much more significant appearance. This was the only article in the strange vault which was disturbed. It was forwarded to Edinburgh, Scotland, where several of the professors of the University will be asked their opinion regarding it." The *Ottawa Free Press*, and many other Upper Province journals, published the foregoing as an interesting piece of news. Read the English letters backward and you will see how they were sold.

## A SIXTY THOUSAND DOLLAR BRIBE.

Our Legislature has received, during the present Session, both from individuals, Associations and Corporations, rough drafts of bills, which, had they become law, the electors would have protested against as one man; but these, radical and monopolistic as they may have been, sink into insignificance, as compared with the propositions contained in a printed draft of a new bill now in the hands of the members of the Legislature. A company of American speculators are now seeking to obtain from the Provincial Legislature an Act of Incorporation, whereby they shall have the privilege, under the name of the Nova Scotia Benefit Society, to make this Province the centre for a gigantic lottery business. Under the charter, the company is to be protected, and is to have a legal status in the Province for the ensuing twenty-three years. For these privileges, the company agree to pay to the several universities, denominational colleges, academies, and special schools, a sum, which in the aggregate will amount to \$60,000 per annum, payable in half-yearly instalments, the charter of the company being forfeitable upon its failing to fulfill its obligations. These are the main provisions of the new bill which is being actively canvassed by its promoters. Were it to become law, the Church of England Institutions at Windsor would receive an annual donation from the company of \$5,000.00. Dalhousie, Acadia, Mount Allison, and St. Francis Xavier College, would receive a like sum. The County Academies, with the Schools for the Blind and the Deaf and Dumb, would have their incomes materially increased, while the Benevolent Institutions would receive handsome annuities. We say that this would be the case were the bill to become law; but we do not for one moment believe that it will ever receive the sanction of intelligent men. These lottery associations in the United States have been steadily driven from pillar to post, and now finding it difficult to obtain charters in the States, where they have hitherto existed, or still exist, they are endeavoring to have their business legalized in the Provinces of British America. With such a lottery established in the country, the name of Nova Scotia would be held in the same estimate as those of Louisiana and Wyoming; and among our people there would be developed a spirit of gambling that would unquestionably tend to demoralize and interfere with legitimate callings.

Our colleges, academies, and benevolent institutions, may all be in need of money, but we mistake their directors and supporters if a sub-division of \$60,000 annually would so salve their consciences as to prevent their protesting against Nova Scotia's becoming the centre for continental gambling speculations. That the sentiment of the country will be opposed to this bill, goes without saying. If its promoters will take a piece of friendly advice, they will allow the matter to stand where it is, and not insult the intelligence of our representatives by asking them to sanction an indefensible bill, and accept as their share in the lottery profits a bribe of \$60,000 per annum.