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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.

FAST TRAVEL BY RAIL.—While the ocean greyhounds are continually shortening the passage across the Atlantic and attaining great speed, a still greater advance is being made in rapid travel by rail. On the New York Central a locomotive with train attached has recently travelled at the rate of one mile in half a minute, and no jolting or inconvenience was experienced by the passengers.

RAILROAD EXTENSION IN HALIFAX.—After many days of weary waiting a move has at last been made to extend the Intercolonial as far south as Cunard's wharf. The plan as outlined is to purchase all the wharf and other property on the east side of Upper Water street, between the deep water terminus and Cunard's, and to erect an enormous freight shed on the properties. This is certainly a move in the right direction, and will place property owners still further south in the position to extend the road to their wharves should they so desire.

CUBAN INSURRECTION.—The sordid tendencies of the times are nowhere better exemplified than in the case of the recent insurrection in Cuba, now said to be subdued. The Spanish forces, instead of proceeding against the patriots with fire and sword, opened negotiations with the leaders of the revolt, and purchased their surrender by a large sum paid in solid cash. They saved money and many lives by the transaction, and this new mode of warfare has many points in its favor. There is danger in the innovation however, as the impecunious, and there are legions of them, will find in this method of warfare a new way to "raise the wind," and the number of revolts to be put down by cash payments will bankrupt the treasuries of the world. After all, the old way is the best.

BERING SEA ARBITRATION.—Since Sir Charles Russell has opened the English side of the case he has pretty well demolished the flimsy arguments which the United States counsel have advanced in favor of their contention. The truth is that the grasping monopolists who have secured control of Alaska have by their selfish greed led Uncle Sam into an untenable position, and, squirm as he may, he must face the music as England did in the Alabama case, and pay the damages caused by unlawful seizures. The first contention that the Bering was a closed sea, and within the jurisdiction of the United States, has been abandoned, and was really proclaiming a principle that the country has always fought against. The protection of seal life is an afterthought, and one which England will certainly join the United States in enforcing, but is no answer to the arbitrary seizure of English vessels before the governments had come to an agreement on the subject.

BEAUTIFUL SPRING.—In our bracing climate spring is the most dreaded season, and the term beautiful has no possible application, unless it be that the days of the season grow beautiful near its end by the indications they hold out that summer is close at hand. Cold winds and fog, mud and rain are the predominating characteristics, and the few sunshiny days that are vouchsafed us, and cause us to discard our winter greatcoats and wraps, only lure us on to the catching of beautiful colds. Spring poets, it is needless to add, are not a product of this region, and the editorial wastepaper basket is not filled with discarded odes to beautiful spring, although much may be owed in other directions. This fact we make public with some misgivings, fearing an influx of frantic editors from less favored localities and a consequent glut in the scribbling market.

HOME RULE BILL.—The Home Rule Bill has passed its second reading, and has since had to stand the attacks of more insidious foes in the shape of movers of various amendments that cut at the root of the whole measure. These have, so far, failed entirely in their purpose of weakening the Liberal majority, and several have already been voted down. In spite of the great demonstrations in Ulster and elsewhere in both England and Ireland that have been made against the measure, it is now almost certain to pass its third reading and be sent to the House of Lords. There it is liable to be defeated or shorn of all its vital principles, and a contest is likely to ensue that will end in most important changes in the upper house. It is everywhere now the masses against the classes, and if the classes have not the good sense to avoid open conflict by wise concessions they will be pushed to the wall.

THE IRISH VILLAGE AT THE WORLD'S FAIR.—One of the greatest attractions at the World's Fair is the reproduction of an Irish village and Blarney Castle, which has just been opened to the public by the Earl of Aberdeen, the new Governor-General of Canada. In it the industrial life of Ireland is represented by weavers at their looms making the noted linen of Ireland, and lace-makers laboriously and artistically fabricating the beautiful lace that is even more prized. The home life of the villager is there represented, and Irish music, both rollicking and sentimental, is heard in all its purity. There is a pathetic sweetness about Irish national ballads that touches the heart and causes unbidden tears to dim the sight. A skilled harpist sings these songs to her own accompaniment with telling effect, while elsewhere jigs and reels stir the blood of the most sluggish. It is a most unique exhibit, and a one worth a journey to Chicago to view.

THE NEW CHIEF OF POLICE.—We have nothing to say either for or against the appointment of Mr. John O'Sullivan as Chief of Police, as time and his acts will alone be the proofs of his fitness for the responsible position assigned him. It may be said that ninety-nine men out of a hundred who make capital subordinates fail entirely when placed in command. Chief O'Sullivan has therefore his record to make, and the task assigned is no light one, as very much will be expected from him. His being a total abstainer is certainly a point in his favor, as police officers and men have more than the usual temptation placed in their way if at all fond of the flowing bowl. We trust the Chief will fearlessly do his whole duty and thoroughly reform the present rather demoralized force. If he institutes this reform, and refuses to be made a tool of by cranks of whatever persuasion, he will fill the bill to the satisfaction of the public, and his tenure of office will be secure for life. If he adopts an opposite course, let him be removed as soon as possible.

REVOLUTIONS IN SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA.—That such rich agricultural and mineral regions as South and Central America should be continually in the throes of revolutionary movements is a disgrace to the civilization of the age, and the great powers should unite in putting an end to the sanguinary battles that are continually being waged. The natives are generally an honest, peacefully-inclined people, and, if let alone, would make their beautiful country the most prosperous part of the world. But they are cursed with rulers whose main aim in life is to enrich themselves at the expense of the country. They secure power only to oppress and plunder, and the large foreign loans obtained in England and on the continent are mainly appropriated to their personal aggrandizement. When the time comes to repay the money, the only way to tide their stealings and prevent a settlement is by fomenting a revolution, under cover of which they escape to Europe, or some of the West Indian Islands, where they have banked their stealings, and where for the balance of their lives they live like nabobs. Their example is contagious, and some new ruler arises only to follow in their footsteps. England holds Egypt mainly to secure the English money loaned that country, and the great powers should unite and give peace to South and Central America, thereby securing the return of millions of borrowed money owing to their subjects.