

# THE CRITIC:

A Maritime Provincial Journal.

DEVOTED TO

## Commercial, Manufacturing, Mining and General News.

1.50 PER ANNUM.  
SINGLE COPY 5 CTS. }

HALIFAX, N. S., JULY 21, 1893.

{ VOL. 10  
No. 29

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## THE CRITIC,

Published every Friday at 161 Hollis Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia,

BY  
CRITIC PUBLISHING COMPANY.

Edited by C. F. FRASER.

Subscription \$1.50 per annum in advance. Single copies 5 cents  
SAMPLE COPIES SENT FREE.

Remittances should be made to A. M. FRASER, BUSINESS MANAGER.

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.

**A CHANCE LEFT.**—Canadian cheeses have already scored well at the World's Fair, and there is still another chance to boom this form of Canadian produce. The competition for the best cheese and butter made in 1893 is not yet begun, and so far there has been but little interest shown in it by our people. The competition is to take place in October, when the weather will be cool enough to send dairy produce without fear of spoiling. We trust that some of our provincial dairymen will be among the prize-winners.

**THE C. P. R. AHEAD.**—San Francisco is no longer the sole arbitrator of the Pacific trade. Since the establishment of the Canadian-Australian steamship line, Vancouver has proved a dangerous rival. The steamers *Alouera* and *Warrimoo* have so far done a good freight business, and now a third vessel is to be added to the service. The prospects are that much of the freight trade coming to and going from the American port will be directed to the new line of steamships and to the C. P. R. Already several firms have transferred their business to the Canadian side because of the prompt service and low rates on the Dominion side. The steamship companies of San Francisco state that they will not announce their rates for the coming season until the official tariff of the C. P. R. is received.

**GOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE PHILANTHROPY.**—The term "labor colonies" has already been made familiar to the public by the writings and labors of General Booth of the Salvation Army. Three of the Australian colonies have, however, decided to adopt the plan themselves for the benefit of the laborers and workmen who have been thrown out of employment on account of the many failures of financial and manufacturing concerns. The scheme is not wholly a governmental one, for in each colony the government's contribution is to be only the tract of land necessary for the settlement. Public interest is then to be aroused, and contributions will be widely canvassed for. With the subscribed money land will be improved, and workshops, houses, cottages and tents will be erected. Any man who is in need of work can find employment at a "labor colony," where he will receive lodging, food and clothing in return for his work. It is hoped that these colonies will do much to alleviate distress, and that through their ability to tide a man over the severest straits of poverty a radical change in the condition of the helpless poor will be made.

**SHE WAS NOT A SMUGGLER.**—There is rather a vague line drawn on the other side of the border, between purchasing for one's own use and evading the laws of the country by smuggling goods through. It is very rarely that articles of wearing apparel which are in actual use are seized, but a member of the Christian Endeavor Association who has recently been in Montreal has had an experience which she is not likely to forget. As she neared the American side the collector of customs inquired if the fur cloak which she was wearing had been bought in Canada. Upon her honest answer, he demanded \$12.00 duty, which after some demur he received. A complaint was however at once made to the authorities in Washington, and the sum may possibly be refunded. The exigencies of border law hardly require the personal interference which so annoyed the traveller.

**THE RESULTS OF DROUGHT.**—The effect of the long season of drought is being felt severely all through Europe, and though rain has fallen within the last week, the mischief had been already done, and the rain comes too late to remedy it. Hay has been selling for some time at famine prices, and the same money that would suffice to buy a ton of flour was just sufficient to pay for the same weight of hay. Another and consequent effect of the drought throughout France has been the wholesale slaughtering of cattle by French cattle-breeders. It no longer paid to rear your cattle when fodder was so exorbitant. The price of meat sank low, and the market was glutted with carcasses awaiting consumption. It is, however, an ill wind that blows no one good, for the poor of France luxuriated on their meat diet, and finally, rather to their displeasure, the government interfered and offered sufficient substantial inducement for the Paris tinned meat companies to buy up all the surplus carcasses. The only class who have not and are not being benefitted by the cheap meat seem to be the poor cattle-raisers.

**MONEY LOST IN THE HEN HOUSE.**—Notwithstanding all that has been said and written of late about the money which can be made by poultry-keeping, there are yet many men who have had a practical experience in the work who declare that while the theory may be all right its practice is not satisfactory. These men are mostly of the old-fashioned stamp, who contend that it is folly to feed hens through the summer when it is possible for them to get their own living by scratching for worms and by eating bugs. They do not for a moment regard the hens as part of the farm stock, and as such entitled to both care and consideration. Occasionally when the hens, despite neglect, are doing fairly well, the farmer decides to increase the flock and so secure a larger profit. Again he forgets that his hens are stock, and does not treat them accordingly. He does not double the accommodation in the hen house, but crowds both old and new hens into the original quarters. The result is that the hens become unhealthy, they are attacked by lice, and the hen yard work ceases to be anything but the most repulsive drudgery. If the same farmer had been doubling his stock of cows, pigs, or sheep he would have provided accommodations to suit the increased number, and would have doubled the food supply. The same intelligent care would, if applied to the poultry, have made them a profitable instead of an unprofitable investment.

**IS A MAN'S HOUSE HIS CASTLE.**—The Rev. John Langtry of Toronto has got into trouble—or rather some officious people who are in favor of running the street-cars on Sunday have done their best to place him in a most trying position. The reverend gentleman is opposed to our running on the Sabbath, and in support of his views preached a most vigorous sermon. *The Toronto World* took the matter to heart, and with the object of proving the insincerity of the clergyman obtained through rather dishonorable tactics an interview with his cook. In response to questioning it was elicited that the reverend gentleman was not a strict Sabbatarian in his household, and that on the preceding Sunday he had dined off of hot lamb, three vegetables and a pudding, all of which had been prepared on the day of rest for which he was such an ardent advocate. The persecution which followed was based on this, and on the supposition that the servant had afterwards been called upon to prepare a "high tea," although subsequent investigations have proved that the aforesaid "high tea" was a very simple five o'clock tea. The clergyman retorted vigorously defending his actions, although he did not make out so good a case for himself as the facts would have warranted. To our mind his repast was not a too luxurious one, considering that the day was the most hard working one of the week, and when we consider that his three daughters assisted in preparing it, and it getting through the necessary work, we do not consider that the servant had necessary grounds of complaint. It is a great pity that the prying into the private life of the household should have been tolerated, much less inaugurated, by a respectable newspaper. The doctrine that "a man's house is his castle" is a good one, and so long as the occupants of the "castle," be it rectory or hut, are not law breakers, it behoves the inquisitive public to keep their distance.