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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.

OUR AUGUST GALE.—The gale on Monday night proved the severest that has visited this Province for years, and was very destructive to property, the apple crop being damaged nearly fifty per cent. There was a considerable damage done to shipping, a number of vessels being wrecked and many sustaining more or less serious injury. Buildings were unroofed, trees upturned, fences blown down; but saddest of all in Halifax, a young girl was instantly killed by coming in contact with a live electric light wire that the gale had blown from its fastenings. Our climate is so equable, so free from heavy storms, that the gale was a surprise and caught most people unprepared.

TARIFF WAR BETWEEN RUSSIA AND GERMANY.—On this side of the Atlantic we can watch with perfect equanimity the fierce tariff war now being waged between Germany and Russia, and which tends to keep Russian agricultural and live stock products out of Germany. Our crops were never better, we have unlimited quantities of pork and beef to export, and while the fight lasts the German market remains open to us. So we can afford to pat the contestants on the back and urge them to keep up the struggle. Revenue tariffs are necessary, but protective tariffs are fast becoming obsolete, and none too soon. If all the countries of the world should surround themselves with protective tariff walls, the absurdity of the theory would become apparent. But the good sense of nations have discovered this without such a universal application, and to day the movement is all towards the unshackling of trade and commerce.

INCREASED DEPOSITS IN POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS.—The latest returns of the Post Office Savings Banks show that the number of depositors has increased from 145,423 last year to 148,868 this year; they have deposited \$7,707,888 this year, as against \$7,056,002 last year, and have withdrawn less this year in proportion than last year. From one point of view this would look like an increase of prosperity. But it may on the other hand only emphasize the prevailing feeling of distrust, as the rate of interest has been decreased one half per cent, so that if there was any desire to invest in business the Savings Banks deposits should show a decrease. There is, however, such widespread distrust that the people prefer to deposit their savings where they are actually secure, rather than invest in enterprises that might yield them large returns. What is wanted is a restoration of confidence.

HORRIBLE IF TRUE.—A horrible story comes from Austria where a gang of men have been arrested in Biskupitz, Croatia, for mutilating young children. The men have for years made a trade of crippling children and sending them out to beg or selling them to others for the same purpose. When the police forced themselves into the house they found two girls of 12 and 14 years of age with their legs broken. Another girl of about the same age lay bound in a bed with her right arm broken and both eyes gouged out. Two other children, hardly less horribly mutilated, were found on cots in the cellar. Many instruments which had been used in producing physical deformities were uncovered in the cellar and were seized for evidence. That such inhuman brutes exist in this 19th century seems incredible; but the report comes from authentic sources and proves that fiends in human form are still extant.

THE HOME RULE BILL.—The debate on the Home Rule Bill is drawing to a close, Mr. Gladstone having moved the adoption of a resolution to apply the closure to the report stage of the bill taking effect to-day. If the resolution has been carried, and we have no doubt that it has, the bill will soon pass its final reading and be sent to the House of Lords. It is generally thought that it will be defeated there, or so shorn of its vital principles as to be entirely unsatisfactory to Home Rulers. This will lead to new complications, and the fight will be a prolonged one, but in the end Home Rule will become an established fact. The tendency of the age is forward, not backward, and despite the intense prejudice that exists against granting Home Rule to Ireland broader views will prevail and justice will be done. The present measure is not sweeping enough to satisfy the Parallel branch of the Irish party, but it certainly goes a long way towards emancipating the Irish people and will be generally acceptable.

THE UNITED STATES HAS NO MONOPOLY IN THE SEAL FISHERIES.—As more light is thrown on the regulations promulgated for the protection of seal life by the Bering Sea arbitrators, it becomes evident, as we have suggested elsewhere, that the press have been jumping at conclusions that are quite unwarranted, and that the regulations are perfectly fair to all parties. An official statement to this effect has been drawn from Sir Edward Grey, Parliamentary Secretary of the Foreign Office, in answer to a number of questions put by Mr. Thomas G. Bowles (Conservative) member of Parliament for Lynn Regis. Sir Edward said:—"It was not considered that the effect of the award would be to give the Americans a monopoly of the industry. True, the use of fire arms in the capture of seals has been forbidden, a close season had been established, and only sealing vessels will be allowed to engage in sealing. The award, however, imposed certain obligations upon the United States as well as upon Great Britain, and he could not admit that these obligations would act to the prejudice of British interests, as Mr. Bowles had suggested by his question." Where the press have been fairly discussing the award with a view of arriving at the truth, there is everything to commend in its course, but where attempts have been made for purely partizan purposes to belittle the brilliant work done by Premier Thompson and Minister Tupper, we but voice the best sentiment of the country in pronouncing such tactics contemptible.

THE PEACE CONGRESS.—The Peace Congress have been in session in Chicago, and have no doubt settled matters to their own satisfaction and relegated war to a seat in the back ground. The decision in the Bering Sea Arbitration came just in time to cause them much spiritual exaltation, and it was decided to send a message of congratulation to Queen Victoria and to President Cleveland. The joint message read as follows:—"To Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, and to Grover Cleveland, President of the United States:—The World's Peace Congress of Chicago sends equal congratulations to Great Britain and America on the triumph of arbitration as a substitute for war exemplified in the recent Bering Sea decision, cementing the friendship of both nations, and full of the happiest augury for mankind." If we remember aright the last Peace Congress was followed by the Franco-Prussian War, and at the present moment the signs of war are not wanting. It may be that history is to repeat itself and that the present session of the Peace Congress is to be followed by sanguinary wars. In South America the conflict is even now raging, in Bombay there is a prospect of a fanatical war between the Mohammedans and Hindoos that may involve all India. A tariff war is now raging between Germany and Russia and may end in blows. France has internal troubles as is evidenced by the late riots. Trouble may arise at any moment in Egypt, and in Siam there is still cause for apprehension. Then the world is in a state of financial chaos, poverty and suffering are producing discontent and riots in great centres of population, and a spirit of unrest is abroad that many think presages a period of violence that may end in prolonged war. We hope that peace may prevail, but the signs of the times all point the other way.