

THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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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 sentiment 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 judgement.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Tight lacing has become such an evil in Switzerland, that Government interference is threatened. It is yet uncertain whether the wearing of the corsets is to be prohibited or whether inspectors are to be appointed.

Frenchmen are proverbially polite, but the saucy of the Frenchman's manner is nothing compared with the sweetness and pleasantry of the educated Chinaman. The fact that there are 563 books upon etiquette printed in the Chinese language may account for John's superiority.

There are 750,000 Socialists in Germany, and it may safely be said they are the most unsociable people in the German Empire. Socialists are, as a rule, penurious persons who, having nothing themselves, covet the goods and chattels which their neighbors by honest industry have accumulated.

Notwithstanding the denial of some Conservatives, it is generally believed in Ottawa that a Dominion election will be held in July or August. If this belief is correct, both parties will go to the people with less preparation than usual, for which, no doubt, the people will be duly thankful.

In several American and English cities public telephone boxes have been established at convenient points. These work automatically, the person desiring to use the telephone drops three pennies in the mouth of what might be taken for a missionary box. Their weight at once makes the connection with the central office perfect.

The Council of the London Chamber of Commerce offers a prize of £50 sterling for the best essay containing practical suggestions as to the carrying out of Imperial Federation. The judges are, Sir A. T. Galt, Professor J. R. Seeley, and Mr. J. A. Froude. The essays are to be sent in before the 30th of August next.

The French Government is now considering a plan for insuring the lives of all French citizens. Monsieur Disderi, who is the originator of the scheme, proposes that a monthly tax of one franc be levied upon all males between the ages of 20 and 65. This, he says, will be sufficient to guarantee to those reaching a greater age than 65, or to the families of those dying at an earlier age, an annuity which will enable them to live in comfort.

The people of Burmah have not as yet become reconciled to the idea of British rule. They were unsuccessful in their attempt to keep back the British invaders, but they have no idea of allowing their cities and towns to be occupied by the red coats, and so they are endeavoring to repeat the Russian experiment at Moscow. They mean to burn out the enemy.

The French Academy of Sciences has awarded to Pere Zotoli, O. S. F., the gold medal and the prize of fifteen thousand francs, for the best work on "The Chinese and Oriental Languages and Literature." Pere Zotoli, who is one of the most learned men living as regards Asiatic languages, has been for some years a missionary to China.

However doubtful the statement of Strabo as to the height of the Tower of Babel may be, there can be no doubt that the height as given by him, 606 feet, will be exceeded by the iron tower to be constructed on the Exhibition grounds at Paris, before the great International show. The tower, which is to be 984 feet in height, is to be surmounted by an electric light, which, it is estimated, will be visible at a distance of 200 miles.

With the return of the warm spring days, comes the re-organization of our cricket, tennis, baseball and other clubs. Although skill should not be overlooked, it should be borne in mind by the members of these clubs, that recreation is the chief desideratum. Poor players cannot become skilled without practice, and, as a rule, they enjoy the pastime quite as much as their more skilled associates.

Our United States friends need no longer endeavor to make the world believe that their "West" is in climate and soil superior to ours. Several Dakota farmers have already settled in Manitoba and further west along the C. P. R., and our latest advices indicate that many of their friends will follow. No part of the opinion that is known, is pestered with such blizzards, cyclones, h. snows, and violent weather-paroxysms generally, as afflict Dakota and the regions immediately adjoining.

The custom of sending expensive bouquets of flowers to be laid on the casket or grave of a deceased relative or friend, is fast growing beyond all bounds. The Swedes set an example in this respect which we might do well to follow. If a citizen of Stockholm desires to show his appreciation of a deceased friend, he sends a card, to be laid upon the casket, upon which he writes out an order upon himself in favor of some local charity. In such a mark of respect there can be no hypocrisy.

We are pleased to notice that several of our provincial exchanges endorse THE CRITIC's approval of the appointment of Rev. Mr. Currie to the position of Provincial Examiner. They say with us that while a man of high educational standing and of ample ability ought to be chosen, it might be unwise to make the selection from the teaching staff of an institution whose business it is to prepare candidates for the provincial examinations, for the emoluments of a Provincial Examiner do not warrant an appointee in giving up his ordinary occupation.

The interest which the colonies of Great Britain have attracted of late, has led to all sorts of calculations, some edifying, some only striking. It has been found, by some manipulator of figures, that Britain's colonies are eighty five times as large as the mother country, and nearly three times as extensive as the colonies of all the other European nations together. The colonizing propensities, which were developed in the English people by their insular position, must be ranked among the most important causes of Britain's present greatness.

The Montreal Herald (Independent), the Montreal Gazette (Lib.-Con.), the Toronto News (Independent, Grit leanings), the Ottawa Journal (Independent, Tory leanings), have all pronounced the speech of Hon. Jno. S. D. Thompson in the debate upon the Riel question, the ablest delivered in the House of Commons for several years. Some think it fit to rank with Sir John A.'s celebrated speech upon the Washington Treaty in 1870. All agree that in finished oratory of the forensic style Messrs. Blake and Thompson lead the House. The Minister of Justice is in every respect an ornament to his party, and a credit to the County he represents.

The following lines are from the London Literary World: "Fresh light is to be thrown on the character and life of Carlyle by Mr. Henry Larkin, who for ten years assisted Mr. Carlyle in his literary work. He is going to publish a volume entitled, Carlyle and the Open Secret of his Life." And the Literary Bulletin tells us that an "interesting two-volume work on Thomas Carlyle, which contains a history of his life and copious notes on his chief works, will shortly appear." A contribution on another page argues that there are not sufficiently strong reasons for making Carlyle a literary deity. It is, we think, high time to endeavor honestly to appraise him at his true value.