

# THE CRITIC:

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### CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL NOTES	3, 4
CONTRIBUTED.	
Mrs. Slick's Home-Coming	8, 9
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Chit. Chat and Chukles	5
News of the Week	6, 7
Chews	8
Poetry—Song	7
The Pathway of Gold	8
The Bishop of Iowa	9
What our Contemporaries say	9
Industrial Notes	9
Parliamentary Review	10
Commercial	10, 11
Market Quotations	11
Serial—Judge Not	12, 13
Mining	14, 15
	16
	17
	18
Draughts—Checkers	
City Chimes	

## THE CRITIC,

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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.

The revelations that have been made in the committee rooms at Ottawa are causing the name of Canada to be associated with corruption, but it is of little use for the people and the press to morn over the national disgrace. The way in which to wipe it out will be to eject from office every man, no matter what his political party may be, who is proved guilty of boodling. The action of party organs in maintaining silence, or endeavoring to extenuate any delinquency on the part of men on their side of politics, is not only grievously wrong to the country, but it is extremely foolish from a standpoint of self interest. The fullest publicity should be given to all damaging evidence no matter whose ox is gored. Surely neither of the great parties of Canada would desire to retain in its ranks men who are capable of bringing disgrace upon their party and upon their country. Nothing should be kept back; the most complete investigation should be courted wherever suspicion lies, and if nothing is proved wrong no harm will have been done.

The name of the Windsor & Annapolis Railway's new fast train is the "Flying Bluenose," the engine is the "Kentville," the two first-class coaches are called respectively "Pomona" and "Fleur-de-Luce," most appropriate names all, but we regret to see that the drawing-room car is to be called, in honor of our own city, the "Haligonian." THE CRITIC has always considered this appellation incorrect, much preferring the better sounding and more appropriate term "Halifaxian," which is invariably used in these columns. If the name of our city were "Haligon," we could understand calling the people "Haligonians," but as it is "Halifax," we must be "Halifaxians," and there is no reason whatever for miscalling us, except the fact that some one made a mistake at first and others are following the example. So long as the misnomer was not permanently attached to anything we would say little about it, but we wish it were possible that the new Pullman drawing-room car for the Land of Evangeline route could be named anything else than what it is. We would be only too glad to see the active, progressive and popular management of the road in question honor our city by calling the best car it owns after it, but unless the name can be "Halifaxian" we shall only feel regret. The new train will equal any of the fast trains on the Canadian Pacific, and will cost about \$40,000.

The recent New England press pilgrimage through Nova Scotia is beginning to bear fruit. Most gratifying reports of the trip are appearing in the papers whose representatives accompanied the excursion, all praising our Province and people, and giving Nova Scotia as a summer resort their hearty endorsement. The Boston Journal says: "The trip was most instructive as well as entertaining. Nova Scotia had done herself proud. All her citizens had thrown open their hearts as well as their doors to the friendly invaders, and the kindest expressions of good will for the people of the United States were heard on every hand. The newspaper men passed a formal vote of thanks for the hospitalities extended, but the words could not fitly express the thoughts that actuated them." This sentiment is repeated in all the reports we have read so far, but the remark of Mr. Thomas F. Anderson in the *Globe*, anent the need of better summer hotels, which was apparent everywhere, should be chiefly borne in mind. Mr. Anderson says, "As entertainers the people of Nova Scotia are 'out of sight.'" If, as Hood says, half of the pleasure of having a rout is the pleasure of having it over, certainly we Nova Scotians should feel gratified that our efforts to make the press excursion pleasant have resulted so well. Such kindly words as our American friends are giving us well repay us for any trouble we went to on their behalf.

The boodling revelations at Ottawa should be a warning to the people of Canada not to permit corruption at the lowest round of the ladder if they wish to have purity at the top. The selling of votes is a pretty sure indication that things are not as they should be, and we know that this is done. The people should refuse to be bought, determining to elect their representatives upon their merits, and being honest themselves would expect, and see to it, that boodling should not be the prime object of those whose duty it is to manage the affairs of the country honestly and economically. The *Toronto Week* hits it off well when it says, in speaking of the distribution of public funds, "It is painfully apparent that this baneful idea of 'patronage' is at the bottom of much of the wrong doing which is wasting the national resources and bringing disgrace upon the Canadian name." There is no reason, apart from the general crookedness of political ways, why the business of the country should not be transacted with the same degree of economy and uprightness as any private concern, but it appears that nearly all the men who enter the political arena do so more for the purpose of feathering their own nests than for anything else. The exposures now being made may, and we hope will, have the effect of purifying the political atmosphere which has grown foul, and that the future representatives of the Canadian people may know that they are expected in their high offices to be above suspicion.

An address recently delivered by Mr. A. Frank Richardson before the Convention of the National Editorial Association at St. Paul, Minn., has awakened wide spread interest in the methods by which advertisers are cheated out of their reward by the substitution of imitations of genuine articles by unscrupulous dealers. He referred particularly to celebrated patent medicines, soaps, dyes, etc., things principally sold at drug stores, and his paper was a distinct arraignment of the drug trade for the particular form of fraud under consideration. Mr. Richardson did not undertake this task without due preparation. He first bought in various stores a lot of preparations got up to imitate other well-known articles with a view to trade on their celebrity. All will agree that if a person goes into a drug store and asks for Dr. Hood's, Carter's, Ayer's, Pierce's or Dr. Anybody Else's remedies, he ought to get them and not some worthless substitute recommended as "just as good." Mr. Richardson takes the ground that as to the advertisements in the papers is due in a large measure the demand for remedies whose merits thus become widely known, the press is in duty bound to look after the interests of its patrons and use its influence to crush out the fraud. The druggists everywhere, of course, deny the impeachment, and declare that they sell no substitutes, but at the same time they say that the root of the evil lies in the competition of dry goods houses which cut into the trade and sell medicines, and also the cutting of prices, which makes it necessary for druggists—other druggists of course—to sell cheap imitations in order to make a greater profit. There is much truth in all this, but it appears to us that the consumers of medicines run a tremendous risk in buying and taking medicines that are not thoroughly reliable, and that they ought to insist on having what they ask for. No doubt the selling of medicines by dry goods houses is deeply aggravating to druggists, who would scarcely care to retaliate by keeping a selection of needles and threads for use. The manufacturers of "standard" articles owe it to themselves and their patrons, to combine and prevent frauds by which the public health is endangered, and there is no doubt the press will assist its patrons to obtain the just reward of liberal advertising.