

# THE CRITIC:

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## 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 TRADE OF HALIFAX**—The trade of Halifax for the year 1892 shows a slight increase over that of 1891. The imports have fallen off \$372,062 while the exports have increased \$862,169, making a net increase of \$497,107 in the trade of the city. The volume of trade for 1891 was \$13,403,513, while that for 1892 reached \$13,900,620. The above was the trade of Halifax as gathered from the Customs returns, but of course it by no means represents the volume of business transacted throughout the year by our citizens, a large proportion of which has nothing to do with the imports and exports as registered in the custom house.

**THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.**—It must be rather pleasing to the Premier of our Dominion to note that the neighboring Republic has taken a leaf, and a very freshy turned one, from the books of Canadian administration. Canada has a Department of Commerce—the United States has none, but the trade associations and the business men are carrying the paternal Congress with a bazaar-like pertinacity to get them one too. The American idea is to include many of the separate Government bureaus, such as the hospital service, the lighthouse and steam-boat inspection, and the departments of navigation and statistical work in the Department of Commerce.

**A PRACTICAL CHARITY.**—A most useful mission has been established in Toronto, which might be widely copied in other cities. The aim of the Helping Hand Mission is to prevent pauperism by finding work for those out of employment, and by inducing men and boys out of work in that great city to take employment in country places. During the past year about 100 men who were out of work found permanent employment by means of the free registry office which the Mission afforded, and a much larger number were given temporary employment until they were in a position where they might help themselves. Lodging and meals are also furnished at very nominal figures, and every effort is made to reduce the expenses of those who are earning small wages, or who are working only part time. The work is eminently a practical one, and has been a benefit to the community in which it has been practised. Scores of men, who else would have been dependent upon public charity, have been saved from that ignominy by the kindly interest which has been taken in their individual cases, and which has enabled them to help themselves. Some of the good people of our city might look into the matter, and once they were convinced of the useful nature of this work, we feel assured that a similar Mission would speedily be established in our midst.

**NO MICE NEED APPLY.**—Our Canadian cheese and butter makers are to be well represented at the World's Fair, and it is probable that the Australian dairy farmers will make a fine showing in the same lines. Australian butter is becoming well-known in the British markets, where an output of 100 tons per week is readily sold. Our Canadian cheese exhibit will, however, probably over-top the similar exhibit from Australia, for one monster now made weighs no less than 22 000 lb., while the cheeses will gradually lessen in size until the cheese of the size of the hickory nut is reached. We trust that the result of the exhibition in this department of the World's Fair will be to bring our dairy produce fully before the public.

**A WORTHY CAUSE.**—The Methodists of both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are certainly to be congratulated on the live interest which they take in their special educational institution at Sackville. The semi-centennial celebration, which has recently been inaugurated, bids fair to become an important factor in the future history of Mount Allison College, for willing hands and willing purses are combining to raise the fund called for of \$50,000. The handsome sum of \$10,000 was at once subscribed in Sackville at a meeting of graduates, and the results of the recent public meeting in our own Academy of Music have been most gratifying. We noted with great pleasure the generous contributions of many of our own townsmen, who have well learned the lesson of giving cheerfully, and who will in the future derive much pleasure from knowing that their bounty has been well-bestowed.

**VOLAPUK MIGHT DO.**—A nice question has come up for settlement in the public schools of Chicago where the German language is taught among other subjects. Many nationalities are represented in the city, and the foreign-born parents resent the fact that the German children should be allowed a privilege which is not accorded to the children of Bohemian, Scandinavian, Italian or Polish parents. They cannot be induced to regard the German language as a necessary accomplishment, but they denounce the study of the tongue of the father-land as an attempt on the part of the School Commissioners to conciliate the many German residents of that pork-producing city. If the wish of the foreign population is consulted the schools will soon rival the ancient tower of Babel, and a grand confusion of tongues would make Chicago even more interesting than at present. It is quite possible, however, that the "American" language may be allowed to assert itself.

**A PIG-TAIL NEEDED.**—There seems to have been no objections heretofore on the part of the residents of China in forsaking their native land for the pastures new of the United States. In fact the Mongolians have been but too willing to become the unwelcome guests of the neighboring Republic. It is therefore with both surprise and amusement that we learn that it is almost impossible for the Chinese Government to appoint a suitable person to the onerous but excellent post of Chinese Minister to Washington. Those who are capable of assuming the responsibilities of the position refuse to leave the Empire—the present Minister, Tsui Kuo Kavin, has been recalled because of his private interference with some official transactions, and has been severely reprimanded by Li Hung Chang, the Lord High Executioner, and a few other "potent *seigneurs*." The doubtful position of all Chinese in the United States, and the troublesome questions which are endlessly raised as to their right of being in the country at all, probably weigh heavily with the men who have been asked to occupy a curious and dubious position as their representative.

**A COVETED POSITION.**—Our sister Province of New Brunswick has been agitating herself for the past two years over the appointment of a Lieutenant Governor. A host of tried and worthy men have been talked of as suitable candidates, Sir John Allan, Senator Boyd and Dr. Bayard sharing nearly equally public approval. Some vigorous political workers have felt that the position might be honored by a proper appointment, and Mr. Temple, M. P., Mr. C. N. Skinner (now Judge Skinner) and Mr. E. McLeod, M. P., were at one time, like Pegotty's Barkus, most "willin'." The Hon. Mr. Foster did not wish to retire to provincial life, else his appointment to the coveted position might easily have been secured, providing always however, that the Hon. Mr. Costigan was not an applicant. The Roman Catholic party suggested Mr. Burns as an alternative to Mr. Costigan but were speedily knocked out of the contest by an unexpected protest from the French of the Province, who could not be induced to regard Mr. Burns as their friend. Meanwhile Sir Leonard Tilley continues in office and discharges his duties in the most satisfactory manner. The probability just now is that he will complete the extra term of office, of which over half has already elapsed.