

# 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.

**A POINTER.**—We have this week devoted a large space to the question which has arisen with respect to the Provincial ownership of our mines. It has been claimed that according to the act of 1849 the Provincial rights in these mines will cease within eighteen months after the death of Her Majesty Queen Victoria. The opinions we have gathered upon this question will be of great interest to readers of THE CRITIC, and we think will show pretty conclusively that the tenure of the Whitney coal leases is beyond question, and that lease holders have nothing to fear with respect to their titles.

**WAKE UP, YOUNG PEOPLE.**—We trust that the public school children of Nova Scotia will not be behind the pupils of the N. B. and the P. E. I. schools in the essay contest which has recently been opened. Mr. Haslam, the C. P. R. agent at Moncton, has offered prizes amounting in all to \$150, to be awarded to the pupils forwarding before June 10th the best written papers on the resources, the history, geography etc. of our Canadian North West. The age of the competitors is not to exceed fifteen, but we feel sure that there are numbers of bright-brained boys and girls in our schools who can prepare a creditable paper on so interesting a subject.

**THE WHITNEY BILL.**—The Whitney Coal Bill has been ratified by the House of Assembly, and it has now become law. The vote upon the question stood 24 to 9, being upon strict party lines. The question of the Whitney lease has evoked one of the liveliest debates that has been heard in the House of Assembly for years. The government had from the first a strong case, and the arguments offered by the opposition were for the most part based on unsound premises. We believe that the government has made a remarkably good bargain for the Province of Nova Scotia, and while the syndicate will undoubtedly make money out of the franchises it has obtained, the province and the people will have no reason to bemoan this fact.

**BOARD IN CHICAGO.**—The managers of the World's Fair seem to be making every effort to render the stay of visitors in Chicago both enjoyable and inexpensive. Accommodations for 160,000 people have a ready being secured by the management in a comfortable part of the city. The scale of prices in these private boarding houses is by no means exorbitant, for accommodation may be had for lodging one person in a single room with single bed from \$1.00 a day upwards. An excellent system of restaurant stands where lodgers may obtain meals, will be found on the Fair grounds, and parlors, resting rooms, bath rooms, etc., will be erected at short intervals. Many incoming visitors, with an eye to future ease, have already engaged their rooms by paying twenty-five per cent. of the amount of rental.

**THE U. S. BANK BILL.**—Much inconvenience has been experienced during the past year by the circulation of American paper money throughout our provinces. In many country places there are more American than Canadian bank bills in circulation, and the buyers and sellers are forced to accept the foreign paper in lump sums, or as change for Canadian bills of larger denominations. The bills have been forced into circulation at their face value, although they are subject to a discount when presented at the banks. It is but very recently that legislation legalizing the acceptance at par of the notes of chartered banks of Canada in all localities throughout Canada has been demanded. A similar solution of the present trouble will, however, only benefit the American banks, and will by no means lessen the annoyance and inconvenience of our merchants. The exclusion of the American bank-note from Canada, although an extreme measure, seems to be the only possibly remedy for the trouble.

**A SCHOOL FOR MATRIMONY.**—A very sweet lady well-known in Halifax is devoting much of her time and thought to a novel kind of mission work at her home in Trinidad. She watched for some years the gradual undoing of the young native students at the college and schools which her husband superintends, by their intermarriage with uneducated and uncivilized native girls. At last, seeing her way to solve the difficulty, she took into her home a dozen promising girls, all under the marriageable age of twelve years. These she trained in the ways of cleanliness, which is so near akin to godliness, in housekeeping, in the proper care of children, at the same time giving them a rudimentary education in reading and writing. Naturally these well-trained girls, whom we trust absorb some of the gentle spirit of their benefactor, are greatly in demand in matrimonial circles and many young ministers, teachers and tradesmen apply to this lady for suitable wives. The girls who are fitted to be actual help-meets to their husbands, are in constant demand, and the bright-brained lady is ever busy with her self-imposed task. A more practical and helpful work could scarcely have been undertaken.

**REPOPULATE FRANCE.**—Many schemes have been suggested for preventing the diminution of the population of France. Learned statesmen have advocated a tax on bachelorhood as a remedial measure, while others held that special privileges, bounties, and exemption from taxes should be awarded to the fathers of large families. A shrewd politician, however, has recently struck a novel idea and he proposes to build up the decreasing population by means of a wholesale borrowing from nations whose people have an emigrative tendency. The rigid Naturalization Laws of the Republic have discouraged many would-be emigrants who when thwarted in their first endeavor, embark for America where they have in the past been received willingly enough. The German peasants are of course bound for America, and because of race prejudice are not to be desired in France even in her present necessity, but the inhabitants of Turkey in Asia flock each year to the French sea port towns for passage to America. They are a promising lot for settlement in French territory at least. The majority of them speak the French language and belong to the Roman Catholic Communion. The young men of Greece who are determined to move might also settle in France. It is probable that if the naturalization laws of the Republic were remedied, and if a stable and just government were assured, the scheme for re-populating would work admirably.

**SENSATIONAL, BUT NOT JUDICIOUS.**—During the recent debate in the House the leader of the Opposition has certainly not shown that good judgment with which we have been wont to credit him. In criticizing and in endeavoring to amend the bill for encouraging coal mining, he was discharging his duty to his party and to the country, but in calling in question the right of the Government to lease the coal mines for an extended term of years, and in advancing the claim that all the mining properties of the Province would revert to her successor within eighteen months of the demise of Her Majesty the Queen, he was dealing a blow at the mining interest of Nova Scotia, the far-reaching consequences of which are simply beyond estimate. Everyone knows that property of any kind to which a clear title cannot be shown is of very little value, and if this is true of real estate, it is doubly true of mining properties, be they coal, gold, iron, or what not. Surely the leader of the Opposition, if he thought his claim to be true, might, for the sake of his country, have dropped party out of sight, and have quietly urged the Government to take such measures as would prevent there being any question as to the permanency of the Province's ownership in the mines. Instead of this a question as to the duration of this ownership has been raised, and, unless it is speedily and emphatically settled once and for all, the mining interests of Nova Scotia will suffer from the impolitic, injudicious and altogether untenable stand taken by Mr. Cahan.