

THE CRITIC:

A Maritime Provincial Journal.

DEVOTED TO

Commercial, Manufacturing, Mining and General News.

\$1.50 PER ANNUM. }
SINGLE COPY 5 CTS. }

HALIFAX, N. S., APRIL 7, 1893.

{ VOL. 10
{ No. 14

CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL NOTES	3, 4
CONTRIBUTED.	
Poetry—The "Revougo"	"Nemo" 8
In the Lobby	"By-stander" 8
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Chit-Chat and Cluckles.....	5
Draughts—Checkers	6
Here and There	6, 7
She Could Not Help It	8
Industrial Notes	9
All in the I	10, 11
Commercial	10, 11
Market Quotations.....	11
An Easter Bridal	12, 13
Chess	14
Mining	14, 15, 16
City Chimes	18

THE CRITIC,

Published every Friday at 161 Hollis Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia,

BY

CRITIC PUBLISHING COMPANY.

Edited by C. F. FRASER.

Subscription \$1.50 per annum in advance. Single copies 5 cents

SAMPLE COPIES SENT FREE.

Remittances should be made to A. M. FRASER, BUSINESS MANAGER.

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.

It is stated that within the last few months electric power has been readily transmitted without material loss of efficiency between two German cities over 100 miles apart. This fact foreshadows an astonishing revolution in methods of transportation.

THE LOVERS' GO BETWEEN.—It is rather remarkable considering the great interest which has been taken of late in carrier pigeons that so few of our Provincialists have attempted the necessary training of their pets, it only in the scientific spirit. Belgium is beyond doubt the possessor of the cleverest birds, birds who have undergone a thorough training, and are now showing the fruits of their instruction. Many of our pigeon-fanciers labor under the delusion that the carrier pigeon is a distinct variety of bird, while in reality the best pigeon for training purposes is the common tumbler. The common pigeon also may be trained for short flights, but should not be required to make the extended tours which the trained tumbler may attempt with impunity. A more interesting summer diversion than the training of a promising bird could not be devised.

ARBITRATION AT WORK.—Speculation is rife as to the probable outcome of the Bering Sea Arbitration now going on in Paris. To the lay mind the position taken by the United States appears preposterous, but the American representatives feel confident that they have a good case, and no doubt they will make the best of it. So far as we can understand the United States recognizes the three mile limit along its own coast line, but claims that Russia, previous to the sale of Alaska, held exclusive rights over the Bering Sea, and that since Alaska has become United States territory these rights now belong to the Government at Washington. Canadian representatives deny that Russia ever held an exclusive right over the Bering Sea, and while the Dominion is prepared to enter into an agreement whereby the seal fisheries may be better protected it denies the right of the United States to the sole control and regulation of these fisheries. The French, Italian and Swedish arbitrators will have to give the matter most earnest consideration, but it is pretty safe to predict that they will arrive at such a conclusion as will be just and fair to all the parties interested. Meanwhile the seal fishery on the North American side of the Bering Sea is *in statu quo*, and Russia is protesting against the invasion of her waters by the seal hunters. The complications, although embarrassing, will no doubt be amicably settled, and one of the causes of friction between the United States and Canada will be removed.

JAPAN VERSUS CHINA.—We wonder a little, considering the pow-wow that has been raised to make the Chinese go, and the indifference of the easy-going Celestial mind to the whole affair, that it has been thought best by our American friends to inveigh against the Japanese laborers. There are many Japanese laborers resident in the United States. As a general thing they are a quiet, inoffensive set, working only for fair wages, and quickly assimilating wealth without corrupting their American friends. They do not look forward as do the Chinese to returning home with fortunes, but are content to live and die in reasonable comfort on the Continent. Naturally there are proportionately few Japanese to Chinese workers in America, but it looks very much as if a feeling very akin to spite against the Chinese, who, notwithstanding the restrictions of the Geary Bill, are thriving well, were being shown against the harmless but more helpless Japanese.

EIGHT OR TEN.—The labor day of 8 hours versus the labor day of 10 hours has, since 1868, been agitating the employees of the U. S. Government. All laborers, workmen and mechanics since that day have been required by law to work only during the shorter term, but contractors have repeatedly evaded the law by engaging only those who would consent to work 10 hours for 8 hours pay. In many departments a 10 hour day was demanded from March to September, when the shorter term was resumed. The committee on labor, however, agreed in 1890 that the Government was a responsible debtor to all employees who had been obliged to work over the specified time, and a recent decision of the Supreme Court will necessitate the eight hour system being strictly adhered to by the Post Office Officials. The departments are at once thrown out of kilter. Larger appropriations will be needed for the Public Service, or the law will have to be repealed. There is of course a possibility that the civil forces are not a hard-worked body, and that a little hustle would do no great harm. In any event the question is of deep interest to all who are interested in labor legislation.

NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS.—A curious case recently came before the police court in Ottawa, in which the local manager of the Bank of Montreal and a city cab-driver appeared respectively as plaintiff and defendant. The cause of the case was simple and far too common—the brutal treatment of the cab horse by its owner. The bank manager interfered by remonstrating with the driver, whereupon the driver retaliated by knocking him down and giving him such facial injuries as nearly cost the victim his eye-sight. Any right-minded citizen would naturally have expected that the brutal assailant of both man and beast would have met his deserts when charged in the police court with assault and battery, but such was not the case. The counsel for defendant contended that the fact that the bank manager had made a public remonstrance justified the defendant in his barbarous action, and the court practically upheld his opinion by imposing a fine of only 20c. That so disgraceful an affair should have taken place in our Canadian Capital is deplorable, but that justice should be so tampered with is even more shocking. If there exists no law by which a well-meaning, properly acting man is protected from city toughs it is full time that it should be made and added to the Statute books.

NOT THE BUTTERFLY.—Many busy housekeepers have been watching during the last fortnight the occasional fluttering of that household pest, the moth, and a mental debate has been carried on by many as to the propriety of peppering and tarpapering the winter furs or risking them out a few days longer until spring weather will cease to be wholly confined to the imagination. Mr. James Fletcher, the erudite entomologist of the Ottawa Experimental Farm, has been giving scientific attention to the subject, and he solemnly enjoins all house-keepers to be on their guard from now on. The *lineola biselliella* is the formidable name of the insidious enemy who is now seeking prey which her offspring may devour. The margins of dusty carpets, the felt of the piano hammers, or, choicest of all, soiled woollen clothing are being sought for. There is, according to Mr. Fletcher, no certain preventive against the enemy, but he is of opinion that well-aired and well-beaten fur or clothing in stout paper bags will escape the evil. Benzine or gasoline applied with care to the carpets, on account of inflammable tendencies, will insure comparative safety, and tar-paper or cedar chips may be placed in the piano to insure, in a measure, the safety of the felt heads. We are sincerely glad that so high an authority has consented to give his opinion on a small but most troublesome matter, and we trust that the ladies of the Province will receive help from his suggestions, while the gentlemen who have had the whole difficulty set before them will not lose patience if a cherished dress-suit is found on the next formal occasion to be ruined by a wormy cut.