

**THE CRITIC AND THE NEW YEAR.**—The year is drawing near its end and business men are making close calculations for the new year. A period of retrenchments is with us, and all possible economies are the order of the day. Probably some few will come to the conclusion that their home table or office desk can afford to dispense with one or more of the publications which regularly find their way there. In cutting off this luxury, or rather reducing it, careful discrimination must be exercised. It is a question whether it is true economy to deny one's self and family any journal of information which tends to keep its readers posted as to the general happenings of the days and weeks as they come and go. THE CRITIC thanks its patrons for their support in the past, and in the language of the wily advertiser, "hopes for a further expression of their goodwill." It aims to give in condensed form the news of the times, paying particular attention to the interests of the Maritime Provinces and provincialists. Kindly acknowledgments of the value of THE CRITIC come to us from appreciative readers, and are very encouraging. The beginning of the year is a fitting time to open a subscription or to renew those begun with some new year gone by, and we trust that, despite the spirit of retrenchment which is evident in many departments, our friends will continue to be with us. To cater to the tastes and interests of the people of the Maritime Provinces and to supply home news to those abroad shall be our aim in the year to come.

**DULL TIMES IN THE UNITED STATES.**—Armies of unemployed, dire suffering as the result of labor strikes, business men giving up to the inevitable bankruptcy after hard struggles to pull through—such are the depressing tidings that come to us from the great republic across the line. All hope is centered in the outcome of the new tariff bill.

**ITALY AND FRANCE AT SWORDS' POINTS.**—From a private letter received from a Halifaxian at present sojourning in France, we glean information in reference to the political disturbances in that country which will interest those who are watching the war cloud now overhanging Europe. The bad feeling between France and Italy is becoming a danger to Europe. It is impossible to tell what will be the result of the reconstruction of the two new cabinets—French and Italian. In both countries there seems the greatest difficulty in getting any good man, sufficiently patriotic and strong, to take hold of the helm of state. The nominees of the moderate Conservative party in France are opposed by the radicals and Socialists as "puppets of the Pope." France and Italy were almost coming to blows some few months since, and it would seem that their fighting ardor has not yet altogether cooled. Italy is overburdened financially and can hardly afford to be mixed up in the general European war, which is threatening. Such political complications make the wordy wars which are carried on between the two great parties in peace favored Canada to appear but the insignificant wrangling of children, and should arouse a feeling of genuine gratitude in the heart of every Canadian for freedom from such distracting influences.

**THE LEHIGH STRIKE.**—The strike among the employees of the Lehigh Railroad Company has ended, for the present at least. The railroad company stands in about the same position as it stood three or four weeks ago, and the men have in some respects won a victory. In the matter of rules, out of which the trouble sprung, the demands of the men have been conceded to, and had the company chosen in the first place to be a little more conciliatory the struggle might have been avoided. Through the offices of the Boards of Mediation and Arbitration of New York and New Jersey, the strikers have been induced to accept, without practical change, the terms offered by President Wilbur at the outset. The company is to take back as many of its old employees as it has places for, without predilection or reference to their connection with labor organizations, and making no distinction between new employees and re-employed strikers for the future. The company has shown good sense in allowing the Boards of Mediation to prepare a way by which its former employees can again enter its service, and the men have acted wisely in ending the strike upon these terms. The New York Post says:—"The Lehigh strike has been fruitful of distress and hardship, with considerable sacrifice of life and property, but it will have one good result at least if it serves to enforce the lessons of moderation and patience, and exhibit the futility of threats and violence." It has been a costly strike to both employers and employed, and it is to be hoped there is no truth in the rumors that there is a chance of the men again rising in rebellion.

**SYMMES' HOLES.**—Some three-score years ago there lived and talked a Kentucky philosopher, Symmes by name, who held the theory that the earth was a hollow sphere supplied with light and air from apertures surrounding the North and South poles, and that all the inhabitants of this world were not living on the face of the globe, but were actually clinging to the internal walls of the moving shell. Curious as the theory was there were to be found many who accepted it as gospel truth and who were ready to uphold it under all conditions. Gradually, perhaps from want of opposition, the theory died out, and it was probably little known until a few weeks ago, when a society formed at Beaver Falls, Pa., announced as the cause for existence the astonishing fact that they too believed in the theory of Symmes' holes. The President of the Society was at once sent to the Lick Observatory in order that all the appliances by means of which nature is compelled to yield up her secrets, might be taken advantage of. The results of this investigation of the starry spaces

are, to say the least, startling. We are informed that the earth is a hollow concave shell with the sun as its centre. The earth is stationary, but the sun by turning once every day and rotating once every year causes day and night and the changing seasons. China is not beneath our feet as we commonly suppose, but is over our heads with the sun between us to prevent accidents. We can only suggest to this and kindred organizations that they devote themselves to the cause of science, and embark on a voyage to verify the existence of Symmes' holes. There is still room in the field of Arctic and anti-Arctic expeditions, and should casualties transpire the world will not be greatly the loser.

**CANADA'S PUBLIC DEBT.**—The Montreal Shareholder of 15th inst. gives the following information in re the public debt of the Dominion:—

The statement of the public debt of the Dominion of Canada on the 30th November last shows that during the month the total gross debt was increased by \$317,501, the total being \$300,543,751, and that the assets were reduced by \$177,199, the total being \$60,834,662. This makes the total net debt at the close of the month \$239,709,088, which is an increase of \$494,789. The following are the official figures:—

LIABILITIES.		
Payable in England.....	\$202,153,026.01	
"    "    temporary loans	973,333.34	
"    Canada .....	7,430,826.61	
Bank Circulation Redemption Fund	1,821,843.28	
Dominion Notes.....	19,846,458.05	
Savings Banks.....	42,171,264.57	
Trust Funds.....	8,208,427.99	
Province Accounts .....	16,407,359.53	
Mis. and Banking Accounts.....	1,531,212.24	
<b>Total Gross Debt .....</b>		<b>\$300,543,751.62</b>
ASSETS.		
Investments—Sinking Funds .....	\$31,025,208.84	
Other Investments.....	5,263,137.95	
Province Accounts.....	11,172,325.92	
Mis. and Banking Accounts.....	13,373,989.94	
		<b>\$60,834,662.65</b>
<b>Total Net Debt.....</b>		<b>\$239,709,088.97</b>
do 31st October, 1893.....		239,214,299.03

Increase of Debt..... \$494,789.94  
In the gross debt loans payable in England other than temporary are enlarged by \$367,212, and Dominion Notes by \$143,024, while there is a contraction of \$209 in loans payable in Canada, one of \$141,913 in Savings Banks, one of \$29,929 in Trust Funds, one of \$177,785 in Miscellaneous and Banking Accounts, and a trifling change in Bank Circulation Redemption Fund and Provincial Accounts. In regard to the item of Dominion Notes, it is worthy of note that a statement of circulation bearing date a day earlier shows the total amount at \$19,483,157. If the latter be correct, the liability of the Dominion under that head would have to be reduced by \$363,301, which would, at the same time, reduce the total gross debt, the net debt, and the increase in the latter by that amount, making the total gross debt \$300,180,450, the total net debt \$239,345,752 and the increase for the month \$131,483.

During the current fiscal year the total gross debt has been increased by \$534,312, but at the same time the assets are expanded by \$2,505,196 which makes a reduction of \$1,970,884 in the total net debt. The expenditure on capital account for November was \$443,333, which brings up the total for the five months to \$2,306,483. For the corresponding period of last year the expenditure on this account was \$1,651,191, making this year's increase over that for last year \$655,652. The amount expended this year on Public Works, Railways and Canals was \$1,792,633, an increase of \$440,87, that expended on Dominion Lands is \$52,890, an increase over last year of \$22,255, and that expended on Railway Subsidies is \$461,319, an increase of \$193,110. Nearly two-thirds of this year's expenditure on capital account is on Public Works, Railways and Canals, but chiefly the latter item, being due to the construction of the Sault Ste. Marie and Soulanges canals. The official statement of expenditure on capital account is as follows:—

#### STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE ON CAPITAL ACCOUNT, &c.

Expenditure to 31st October on:—		
Public Works, Railways and Canals.....	\$1,464,443.94	
Dominion Lands.....	31,992.17	
Railway Subsidies.....	367,074.54	
		<b>\$1,863,510.65</b>
Add Expenditure in November on:—		
Public Works, Railways and Canals.....	\$443,333.29	
Dominion Lands .....	20,898.57	
Railway Subsidies .....	94,244.76	
		<b>443,333.29</b>
<b>Total.....</b>		<b>\$2,306,843.94</b>

The expenditure on capital account for this year so far amounts to \$2,306,843, but at the same time there is a decrease of \$1,970,884 in the total net debt of the Dominion.

The Worst Disease—Dyspepsia  
The Best Cure K. D. C.

K. D. C. Relieves  
Distress after eating.

K. D. C. Cures  
Midnight Dyspepsia.

K. D. C. Restores  
the Stomach to Healthy Action.