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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.

In honor of the Queen's birthday Prince George of Wales has been given a peerage, with the titles of Duke of York, Earl of Inverness and Baron of Killarney. The grand cross of the order of the bath has been bestowed upon Sir Julian Pauncefort, British Minister to Washington, and Chief Justice Lacoste is knighted. Hons. J. J. Abbott and Oliver Mowatt have been made K. C. M. G., and Sir William Dawson a C. M. G.

Lord Salisbury has dared to question the advantages of free trade to Great Britain, and now every free trade apostle is prepared to denounce him as an out and out madman. As we have before said free trade and protection are policies which under certain circumstances may or may not prove advantageous to a country, and Lord Salisbury has at last awakened to the idea that free trade in Great Britain with national tariff walls in every other country is not an unqualified advantage.

That mysterious term "hypnotism" is being stretched to cover some very black doings. In Canada we have, to our shame, "Prince Michael," the spiritual husband, now on trial for the seduction of a young girl. In the United States Cyrus R. Geed is becoming a so-called "spiritual leader." His worshippers are of course only women of wealth or beauty, and his teachings are directly immoral. Under the guise of scientific terms he seeks to perpetrate unmentionable crimes. As yet he has escaped the hands of justice, but the trial of the Canadian offender is being followed with great interest.

If Nova Scotia could rid itself of its pessimists, and the control of affairs should fall exclusively into the hands of men who had faith in themselves and faith in the country, this Province would go ahead by leaps and bounds. As it is many a deserving enterprise is crippled in the very start by the dismal prophecies of loud-mouthed pessimists; and when success is achieved it is attributed to chance or fortune rather than to pluck and intelligence. The Province is superb in its wealth of natural resources, but instead of these being developed by Nova Scotians, American capital and American enterprise are called in, and our people stand aside and applaud American push. When energetic Nova Scotians undertake to turn the wheel of fortune they are regarded as speculative, and instead of meeting with patriotic encouragement they are stabbed in the back by little-souled men who have never risked a dollar in making two blades of grass grow where one grew before, or assisted in turning out great natural wealth into marketable commodities.

We note with pleasure the marked success which one of the daughters of Canada is obtaining in the critical Old World. We refer to Miss Jennie McGarry, whose elocutionary powers are charming the people of Edinburgh, where she is pronounced a finished artist in her profession. And, though we can hardly claim Mrs. Geo. Campbell (nee Kennedy) as a Canadian except by adoption, yet we take a lively interest in the praises which are being heaped by the Scottish critics on this "sweet singer of Halifax."

As will be seen by a reference to our parliamentary review the differences between the Governments of Canada and Newfoundland are in course of settlement, and once more there is a prospect of friendly relations between the big Island Province and this country. The interests of Newfoundland and Eastern Canada are pretty much the same, and any disturbance of their trade is mutually disadvantageous. It is to be hoped that the Government will do all in its power to place this trade on a footing of permanence. Its fluctuations are disastrous to the peoples of both countries.

Mr. Rudyard Kipling, the Anglo-Indian writer, is getting into trouble with the American press. The brilliant and hot-headed writer has criticised his American cousins very closely, and they have squirmed uneasily under his investigation. His nomination for the famous "Players' Club" of New York was opposed on the ground that "He was not a gentleman," and the "Author's Club" have utterly repudiated him. All of which goes to prove that our American friends are both touchy and sensitive, and are fearful of the unpleasant notoriety they may obtain through the pen of this facile writer—but they buy his books just the same.

The religious census of Canada for 1891 when compared with the census for 1881 shows some interesting facts. For instance in the past ten years not one denomination has gained or lost one per cent. of the whole population. That seeming exception, the Salvation Army, though it has grown from nothing to a membership of fourteen thousand, is as yet only three-tenths of one per cent. of the whole population. The Jews have trebled in number, yet they only equal one-eighth of one per cent. of the population. The Roman Catholics have slightly added to their numbers, as they can now claim over forty-one per cent. of the inhabitants of the Dominion.

Since the famous Johnstown disaster our American neighbors have been spared any serious flood until the recent overflow of Sioux City, Iowa. The Floyd river, which flows through the centre of the city, suddenly swelled, the water running over the banks and covering the lowlands. In a short time one-third of the city was under water—the frightened inhabitants taking refuge in upper stories and on roofs, watching anxiously for the rescue boats, which were promptly sent out. Several deaths by drowning are reported, an immense number of cattle have perished in the stock-yard, and the damage done to railroad and other property cannot yet be estimated.

After a few more disgraceful assault cases the railroad system of Great Britain may be reformed, and the open American cars introduced. No less than five cases of attempted assault have been investigated during the last fortnight, and two supposedly reputable men have had punishment meted out to them. The British and Continental travelling car is a mistake. It is neither safe nor comfortable, and, in view of the late crimes for which the small locked cars have given abundant opportunity, the travelling public has become justly incensed. The sooner the American cars are introduced, with their ample accommodation for numbers of travellers who mutually protect each other, the better. We do not hear complaints of even uncourteous treatment under our own excellent system.

We do not pretend to be infallible, and hence we are not surprised that THE CRITIC is sometimes criticised. This week we received an anonymous criticism written upon a post card, of which the following is a copy: "Nobody belonging to Halifax ever says Halifaxians; only strangers and people from the country. The old toney word is 'Haligonian,' also tidbits should be tidbits." Some people in Halifax do say Halifaxians, and strangers and people from the country are right when they style the citizens of Halifax by this name. The old toney word may be Haligonian, but it is as indefinite as it is meaningless. Our correspondent says tidbits should be tidbits. It is true that tidbits are tidbits, but it is equally true that tidbits are tidbits; and as the terms are used indiscriminately the criticism is pointless. It has been our endeavor to make THE CRITIC a broad, sound, reliable newspaper, and our readers may depend upon it that in the use of terms as well as in the expression of opinions we give all matters full consideration, and when we use Halifaxians in speaking of the people of Halifax we use a name which common sense and cultured usage suggest as the one most appropriate to designate them by.