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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.

Housekeepers who are continually on the lookout for something new in the way of edibles, will bear with delight of the newly established Banana Food Co. on the Isthmus of Panama. The fruit is to be prepared in a variety of ways for the market. It will be canned, dried or evaporated, or prepared in the form of flour. The new banana of commerce will probably be an inexpensive luxury, as very little of the fruit need be wasted in the factory.

A gasoline steam carriage appears among the newest inventions. It is an elegant little affair, adapted for two passengers and an operator, but enough motor power is provided to "tackle on" an extra carriage or so. Mr. Olds of Lansing, Michigan, has invented and constructed the working model. It consists of a rather low carriage on wheels. In front are the seats; behind, concealed by a canopied top and curtains, are the water tank and boiler. The new vehicle supplies cheap rides, as the whole expense of power is but one cent per mile—and no extra charge for hills.

In its platform the Democratic convention has spoken with no uncertain sound upon the policy to be pursued should Cleveland and the Democrats secure the control of affairs in the United States. The abolition of the McKinley Bill is one of the principal planks of the Democratic platform, and this is to be followed by a tariff reform which will secure to the manufacturers of the United States raw products free from duty and to the people cheaper manufactured goods. It is impossible at this early date to correctly forecast the results of the election, but it is gratifying to note that the contest is to be waged on distinctive party issues, which are represented by McKinleyism and tariff reform.

The Keely Gold Cure for drunkenness has been pronounced a failure, to the grief of all who are awaiting some means by which this distress-causing and distressing habit may be eradicated. The *Medical Press* has thoroughly investigated the so-called cure, and pronounces it worse than a humbug, as the drugs which are administered have finally a worse effect on the system than the desired liquors would have. The ingredients of Dr. Keely's injections are found, on analysis, to be atropine, strychnia, caffeine, cocaine, and codeine. The doctor of course claims that the analysis is not correct, but the medical men of the United States protest against his treatment, and his thousands of dupes have succeeded in rousing against him the indignation of the press.

The egg trade between Canada and the United States has fallen off 30 per cent. under the McKinley Bill, but it is claimed that if present prices continue it will soon come up to the figures of 1889. To our mind a duty upon eggs is carrying protection beyond all bounds of reason. If the protectionists in the United States could show that the imposition of a duty of five cents per dozen upon imported eggs would encourage American hens to be more productive there might be some sense in legislators taxing the people's breakfast, but seeing that it does not do this, and that it only results in lessening the consumption of eggs and increasing the price to the consumer, it is difficult to conjecture what good purpose the egg tax can serve. The Canadian egg producers may find their market more limited and their profits curtailed, but the Canadian consumer who now luxuriates in fresh eggs at a cent apiece blesses the stupidity of McKinley and naively thinks that the American loss is his gain.

On the 5th of August next the planet Mars will reach a point in the heavens about 35,000,000 miles distant from the earth. This point he reaches but once in fifteen years, and as the improvement in astronomical instruments during the past few years has been very marked, astronomers naturally look for important results from their coming observations. Modern telescopes give to the observer eyesight two thousand times more powerful than that he possesses with unaided vision, so under the telescopic glance Mars is brought within a range of 9,000 miles as viewed by the naked eye or about one-fourteenth of the distance separating the moon from our earth. Considering the already interesting known facts with respect to Mars, the results of the coming observation will anxiously be waited for by the scientific world, as well as by a great many persons who do not lay claim to the possession of scientific knowledge, but who nevertheless take a deep interest in the discoveries of their fellow-men.

It is curious to find a man like the Hon. Edward Blake withdrawing from the turmoil of Canadian politics and yet willing to take part in the babel of Irish political life. Mr. Blake is a man of high character, broad mind and elevated tastes. He shrank from the active life which the leadership of a great Canadian party involved, and apparently preferred the independence of his profession to the trammels of political warfare. But Mr. Blake has always been a surprise to his friends, and they will be more than ever puzzled to understand why he should relinquish a leading position among Canadian statesmen to take part in a political campaign where all the surrounding are strange to him. South Longford, in which Mr. Blake is to run for his election to the British House of Commons, may elect or reject Mr. Blake, but if elected it is not probable that he will ever attain the same prominence enjoyed by him in Canada, and yet, as we know Mr. Blake, he will never be satisfied with a seat among the members who sit on the back benches. Canadians will watch with interest the results of the man whose high character and eloquence as a speaker have reflected credit upon this his native land.

In his message to Congress President Harrison clearly states his views as to the non-fulfilment of a treaty of 1871 with respect to the use of Canadian canals. In the 27th article of that treaty Great Britain agreed, with the consent of Canada, that the citizens of the United States should be allowed the use of canals upon the same terms as Canadians. The United States agreed to obtain from the State of New York the same privileges for Canadians as were enjoyed by citizens of the United States in the use of the Erie Canal and Hudson River. Neither of the contracting parties kept the spirit of this article in the treaty, and this is the more to be regretted as it may lead to measures being taken by one or both of the governments interested which will further handicap trade. The United States has never secured for Canadians the same privileges as enjoyed by American citizens in the Erie Canal, and so far Canada has a right to complain and ask the authorities at Washington to see to it that the treaty is carried out to the letter. Canada on the other hand has evaded the spirit of the treaty by offering a refund of tolls to all shippers using the canal, provided transshipment is made at Montreal. American shippers are allowed the same refund of tolls, but as American shippers do not wish to come to Montreal they are obliged to pay the full canal tolls without rebate, and they do not receive the advantages of the canals upon the terms set forth in Article 27. Harrison sets forth this grievance in very forcible language, and broadly intimates that if the treaty is not to be observed in spirit as well as in letter it is time that the United States put on the thumb-screws and twisted them to some effect. There is justice in the claim of the United States, which the Government will not be slow to acknowledge, but Uncle Sam should see to it that the mote is removed from his own eye before pointing out that in the eye of Canada,