

THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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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 his 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 judgement.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Japan Government has come to the conclusion that work turned out in the national factories costs more to produce than the same classes of work manufactured in private establishments. It is, therefore, decided to sell out to private corporations the numerous Government factories now in operation.

There are 60,000 sailors in the British navy, of whom, according to Sir Charles Beresford, 65 per cent are non-combatants. 21,000 fighting men, out of a total force of 60,000, appears to be a small proportion. The matter is now engaging the serious attention of the Admiralty Board.

Corsica is a favored isle. She claims as one of her sons the great Napoleon Bonaparte, and now it is affirmed that Christopher Columbus, the Genoese navigator, was a Corsican by birth. The records of the little villages of Calvi prove this fact beyond all question.

It is really gratifying to an independent mind to see a supporter of the party in power so independent and untrammelled as Mr. Pipes, of Cumberland, and has repeatedly shown himself to be. It is easier to be independent on the opposition side of the House, yet there are but few oppositionists in the House that are so uniformly independent, so well posted, and so outspoken, as Mr. Pipes.

The old Snyder rifle gave place to the Martini-Henri, and this is now to be superseded by the new Enfield Martini rifle, the bore of which is to be .305 less than the Martini-Henri. Arrangements have been made to manufacture ten thousand of the new rifles for the British army, but in view of the probable success of the new Magazine rifle, its general adoption is doubtful.

Maryland temperance men have organized a one dollar temperance association, the members of which are pledged to do their best to promote temperance among all classes of the community and agree to pay annually \$1.00 in furtherance of this object. Thousands of the best men and women in the State have joined the Association and its moral influence has already done more to stamp out intemperance in Maryland, than prohibition has accomplished in Maine or high licenses in Iowa.

The Editor of the *Desert News* is now in jail at Salt Lake City, charged with supporting four wives. Our sympathy with our brother journalist would take practical shape if he would but tell us how he managed to make provision for his quartette of wives. The profession will wait with anxiety for an explanation.

To Canadian eyes, Chinese girls do not appear beautiful, but however artificial may be the means taken to insure small feet, they are more natural in the choice of names for Chinese lasses. We have read of a Chinese mandarin whose five daughters gloried in the names of Cherry blossom, Peach blossom, Plum blossom, Bamboo leaf, and Pine wood.

The citizens of Chicago are in a funk. Observations prove that the surface of Lake Michigan is rising at the rate of four inches per annum. The householders upon one street in the north-western part of the city have been obliged to abandon their homes and the water is fast encroaching upon the Park.

Punch in a recent issue has a capital cartoon of King Theebaw's successor, which has attracted much attention. A large gun represents the trunk with two small field pieces as the legs of the body. The arms are two rifles, to the muzzles of which are appended a sword and dagger. A large shell represents the head, it being surmounted by a British military helmet. The figure is labelled "Martial Law."

Some instances have been brought to our notice of unfair trade upon the part of some manufacturing establishments in the Upper Provinces, in which manufactured goods were sold to retail traders in the Maritime Provinces, below the cost of the material used. This is unfair to our manufacturers who, while perfectly willing to compete for business upon a fair and equitable terms, have no intention of allowing the Lower Provinces to again be made a slaughter market. Business is business, and if the manufacturers of Ontario hope by unfair means to secure our markets they may find that the rule can be worked both ways.

The *London Financial News* has been looking into Panama Canal facts and figures, and reaches some interesting conclusions. M. DeLesseus' calculator was that, beginning in 1881, the canal could be built in eight years and not exceed \$120,000,000 in cost. In June, 1883, the date of the last official report, \$45,900,000, or over one-third of the total estimate, had been spent and just about one per cent of the excavation was done. Up to June, 1885, the *News* learns, the total expenditure has been \$104,033,000 or five-sixths of the total estimate, and the work done was one-tenth of all that will be necessary. The *News* goes on, allowing for the heavy extra cost of tide-locks, retaining walls against the Chagres river etc., and concludes that not less than \$525,000,000 will be required, or would be, to complete the work. It thinks this never will be raised and that the canal will never be finished, and that if finished it could not pay.

Dr. McLennan scored a point when, a few days ago, in the House of Assembly, he spoke in refutation of the statement that Inverness County was once treated with undue generosity by the Local Government—having been allowed to become indebted to the Province by drawing a disproportionately large share of "road advances." The Dr, however, showed clearly that, in days gone by, other Counties—Cumberland, Colchester, and Pictou, for instance—had been dealt with in a more generous manner. He believes, that what is "saucy for the goose," ought to be "saucy for the gander", and that, therefore, to compensate for the large advances made by the Local Government to other Counties, and never repaid, the amounts now owing by Inverness and some Counties similarly situated, ought to be wiped out. This is, no doubt, the belief of his constituents, and there are not many men in the Assembly that are so dutiful and faithful to their constituents as the Doctor is to the people of Inverness. He is unquestionably one of the best men in the House.

A novel experiment was recently tried in Egypt by the British Light Artillery Canal Corps. Light brass guns capable of throwing a ten pound shot were placed between the humps of the camels, in such a manner as to prevent injury to the beasts. The corps then filed out upon the desert and at a given signal 72 pieces borne by as many camels were successfully discharged. This novel experiment reminds us of a story which is told about some military enthusiasts who had hit upon the idea of utilizing the mule as a gun carriage. The party having procured a light ten-pounder, fastened it securely to a mule, the muzzle sternwards. When the fuse was lighted, the fizzing noise attracted the mule's attention and he at once began to turn his body round and round, in order that he might see what was causing the disturbance. The dismay of the professed experimentalists on realizing the danger of the position in which they had placed themselves and the rapidity with which they sought the shelter of a boulder lying near by, can be imagined better than described, as also their suspense during the few seconds which elapsed before the discharge of the gun, which at once killed the mule and their hopes.