

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 judging or disapproving of any part of an article or contents of the paper, and in exercising due care as to what is to appear in our columns, we shall leave the rest to their intelligent judgement.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Charity appears to be the only common ground upon which all creeds and classes can stand side by side, and yet the race and religious differences which set nation against nation, class against class, and man against man, viewed in the broad light of Christianity, unaccountable.

The French press in Montreal is advocating the advisability of transferring from London to Paris, at the close of the London Exhibition, the exhibits of Canada. The idea is certainly a good one, and if carried out, it tends to increase our commercial intercourse with that country.

The bursting of the Collingwood's big 43 ton gun has created a stir in all quarters. From the investigation, we gather that a large proportion of heavy artillery used in the navies of Europe, is utterly unreliable, and that a return to longer, lighter, and stronger guns, will at once be made.

In ten short years the sugar trade of the world has been revolutionized. Long since, the yield of beet root sugar in Europe was but a few thousand tons. It now reaches 2,000,000 tons annually. Small wonder is it that our West Indian trade has been disturbed.

From all parts of the country come most gratifying reports as to the prospects of the crops. Notwithstanding the late frosts, the fruit has set well, and the outlook for a plentiful supply is good. Roots and garden vegetables are unusually forward, while the hay crop promises to be one of the largest we have had for many years.

Uncle Sam's household is beginning to feel cramped in its territorial domain. Some of its members now propose to levy a tax upon emigrants, in order to prevent Europeans from coming in and possessing the land. It is rather late to think about locking the door after the key has been thrown away the well.

In Canada we have no distinctive national game suitable for the summer season. Cricket, baseball, lawn tennis, and croquet, all have their devotees, but in the United States, base ball is the recognized game of the people. It is estimated that no less than 5,000,000 base balls have been manufactured in the United States for use during the present season. This gives one base ball to each eleven of the population, indicating the general popularity of the game.

The frugality and thriftiness of the French tradesmen and peasantry is proverbial, but the financiers of England and Germany must have been astonished to learn that offers were received for the late French loan of \$100,000,000, aggregating two billion dollars, \$20 to every \$1 asked for. When the peasantry of a country can do this, national stability is assured.

Those who derived pleasure from the perusal of Henry George's now famous book, "Progress and Poverty," will find his work on "Protection" an interesting reading. For those who only like to see in print that in which they concur, the volume is not in any way suited, as it raps the knuckles of both free traders and protectionists.

Newfoundland has excellent fisheries, but her agricultural resources are as yet undeveloped. Five hundred Newfoundlanders are about making a new home in the Pacific Province of the Dominion, and this fact has caused the government of the colony to turn its attention to the development of the internal resources of the Island.

Euthu-iastic aerinants have never lost faith in the ultimate triumph of the balloon ship, but heretofore their gaseous craft have always been rudderless and entirely at the mercy of the uncertain wind. A German inventor has beaten the record, having invented a steerable balloon, which, being propelled through the air at a speed greater than that at which the wind blows, is guided as easily as a steamer or sailing vessel on the water. "Up in a balloon, boys," will, according to this, have some meaning in it.

With so many European nations on the brink of a great sleeping volcano, it is a relief to find that united Italy, under the wise and economical Depretis administration, is enjoying a season of peace and quietude unknown in the days when each petty Italian State sought to preserve its autonomy, without regard to the welfare of the country at large. With a strong federal government, an able executive, and a contented people, Italy is laying the foundations of a nationality which may yet astonish the world.

Not a bad story was recently told of a General in India, who, upon reviewing the troops, noticed a man in the ranks who wore a disreputable looking pair of trousers. Going up to the man, the General said—"My man, are those your best trousers?" "No sir" was the answer. "Why have you not them on?" "I only wear them on State occasions." "Well, sir," said the General, "if I consider it proper to wear my best breeches when I come to inspect this regiment, I think the men might at least wear theirs also."

In many counties, local issues will doubtless overshadow the great issue which is now before the electors. The fact that potatoes are selling at 15 cents per bushel is thought by some persons in King's County to be convincing proof that a change of Government is needed; while in Colchester County some electors hold their former representatives responsible for the hard times, and accordingly will not support the Tory ticket. The price of potatoes, hard times, and local issues, are of no concern to the man who has to earn his bread by his daily labor, than repeal, confederation or continentalism.

Says the London Times, still the leader of the press: "At the time of the first great Exhibition, five and thirty years ago, it could hardly have occurred to anyone that the British Empire itself would in the next generation, be capable of furnishing forth from its own resources an exhibition of the products of its Industry, Agriculture, and Fine Arts, by the side of which even the great Exhibition of 1851 would almost have paled its intellectual fires. But it is as the symbol of the moral unity of national sentiment which constitutes a world-wide Empire that the Exhibition appeals most strongly to every subject of the Queen."

In Southern climes, where women mature at an early age, marriages at 13 and 14 are very general, but in the more temperate latitudes, young ladies generally prefer to spend their teens as spinners, leaving the wedding ring for more advanced years. During the past few decades, a marked change as to the age of matrimony has been noticeable in this Province, the shelving period having been pushed forward at least ten years. This is as it should be; it enables our young women to better qualify themselves for the duties of wives and mothers, so that when they assume these duties they are prepared to discharge them to better advantage.

The marked change which has taken place during the past few weeks in the temper and tone of the utterances of the American press with respect to our fisheries, proves that the current of public opinion is no longer directed by Senator Frye and his colleagues. American common-sense and love of fair play have intervened to prevent a few angry New Englanders from plunging the United States into a conflict, the consequences of which no man could foretell. Let Uncle Sam agree by treaty to admit our fish free of duty for all time, and we will haul up our cutters and allow the American fishermen to purchase all the bait they require.