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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.

Newfoundland affairs appear to be nearing a crisis. On Friday a protest was read in the House of Commons against the Government's proposed coercive legislation, the Colonial Legislature asking that the legislation be postponed until the colony can be heard in defence of its cause. A deputation is to leave Newfoundland for England immediately.

The fifty-first Congress of the United States, which came to a close on the 4th inst., was so extravagant that it has gained the name of the "Billion Congress." It has, moreover, left to its successor numerous embarrassments and difficulties. The currency question and revenue problems will be ticklish enough for the incoming Democratic House to handle. The surplus has been wiped out, and either additional taxes will have to be imposed or an economical policy followed as to expenditure.

THE CRITIC makes its appearance to-day as a twenty page paper, a fact which we feel sure will be appreciated by our readers and advertisers. During the six years and a half of our existence as a newspaper we have endeavored to keep up to the standard aimed at in the beginning, and supply nothing but reliable news in all our departments, and keep our columns free from cheap and nasty literature of all kinds. We feel confident that our efforts have met with approval, and our constantly growing circulation testifies that the people of the Maritime Provinces like to read a wholesome news paper. We therefore have great pleasure in increasing our space, and shall, as usual, make it our aim to give our subscribers every week the largest supply possible of high class reading such as has made THE CRITIC, besides being valuable to the mining, manufacturing and commercial men of the community, the best family paper in the Maritime Provinces.

The Dominion blue books for 1890 are arriving daily now, and some of these are especially valuable. One of the best is the Archives of Canada, prepared by Mr. Douglas Brymner, Dominion Archivist. Mr. Brymner is a journalist of experience, and this fact doubtless accounts for the style of writing, which is clear, interesting and readable. The reports before us contain much that is valuable. The London Record office has been levied on to a great extent. To Canadians this issue is of deep and absorbing interest, for the ground covered belongs to a period of our history which is full of

striking and picturesque incidents. The making of Canada is here clearly exemplified, the documents published treating of the two older Provinces from the period of their formation into Upper and Lower Canada, extending in the case of the former to 1817, and of the latter to 1823. The documents exhibit the organization of the Provinces, including the early legislation, and in the papers are to be found correspondence, reports, etc., relating, in both Provinces, to the eventful war of 1812-15. Many of the papers to be found in this report cannot be seen elsewhere.

The reports of the British Tenant-Farmers' delegates, who visited Canada at the request of the Dominion Government last summer to report on the agricultural resources of the country, have been published. The first three parts of these reports we have received. The fourth is not yet ready. They are extremely favorable to Canada as a settling place, and point out the many advantages offered to immigrants. What we are particularly glad to notice is that the recommendation is to settlers of a desirable class, farmers with small capital and young men and women who are strong and able, and willing to work at good wages. The extensive circulation of the reports in Great Britain and Ireland will do much towards making Canada favorably known. We hope the day has gone by when Canada was considered a land of snow and ice, the climate consisting of nine months winter and three months cold weather, but still there is much misconception to be removed. It is intended, if possible, to place a copy of these reports in the hands of every farmer in the United Kingdom. The London Daily Graphic of March 6th has a most satisfactory article on the subject by J. G. Colmer, C. M. G., secretary to Sir Charles Tupper, which is embellished by portraits of the delegates who visited the Dominion last summer.

A policeman's lot may not be a happy one, and doubtless long hours on duty are trying to the spirits. Nevertheless there are duties to be performed which in a quiet city like Halifax should not be neglected by the gentle bobby. The public mind is being stirred to its depths just now about the duties and the failings of the members of our police force, some people inclining to think that they need sympathy and others that they neglect their duties in almost every respect. When so many complaints are made it is obvious that there must be something loose about the performance of duty by the preservers of the peace, but unless they are properly organized and instructed what else can be expected. The appointment of a truant officer to look after children absent from school has been receiving the attention of the City Fathers, and an officer has been appointed for this special duty. This to us seems needless. It would scarcely be fair to remark that the officer might see fit to neglect his duty, but surely if the policemen on duty in the city now cannot succeed in looking after truants it will be of little use to have a special officer. Boys are noted for their ingenuity, and if they don't contrive to outwit the truant officer it will signify that the latter is a very smart man. The fact is that the city, although quiet, is not kept in that state of perfection that ought to characterize it, and the police force does need to be more efficient. A stranger, viewing our bobbies, would certainly say that they do not look as if they were over-worked or underfed, and that such a stalwart body of men should be able to do a large amount of work.

"What shall we do with the Dago?" is a question not quite so absorbing as the question, "What shall we do with the Mafia?" promises to become since the New Orleans massacre. The enormity of the various crimes committed by the people concerned have been talked over by almost everyone in America. First there was the murder of Chief Hennessey, then the failure of the jury to convict the men who, it is almost certain, killed him, and lastly the rising of the indignant people to sweep the murderers from the earth. It is deplorable from whatever point it is viewed. It was hard lines for the members of the jury to feel that if they brought in a verdict of guilty against those men that their own lives would probably pay the forfeit, just as Hennessey's did for an offence against the Mafia, but they should have done their duty. Murderers should die the death, and if juries can be intimidated, as in this case, there is no getting over the fact that the sword of justice must be unsheathed by someone. The Mafia is a secret society of Italians, and there should be no shadow of wavering in the justice meted out to its murderous members. The Italians in the United States are, it appears, organizing to revenge the death of the lynched men, but as the question of citizenship is doubtful, it is probable that Italy will be quite willing to accept any proof that may be offered to show that they were naturalized Americans. The King of Italy is said to deplore the revengeful nature of his subjects and discountenances secret societies. If a stern and impartial administration of law were observed in the United States the populace would have found no necessity to rise and rid themselves of the murderers.