

# THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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## THE CRITIC,

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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 judgment.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

The newest bogus thing is chemical milk, made from cheap sugar, water and drugs. It is claimed this product cannot be detected from genuine milk, and can be made at a cost of half a cent a gallon. Milkmen in some American States are said to be paying \$500 for the recipe. What next?

The railway commission which recently sat in Halifax, St. John, Quebec, Montreal, and other cities, has fully confirmed what the public has long believed, that is, that railways discriminate in rates between individuals, the largest shippers always obtaining the lowest charges. The right of railway corporations to thus give one business man an advantage over another, may well be questioned. It certainly has the effect of handicapping the smaller dealers.

Mr. J. T. Bulmer is fighting single handed the battle of Dalhousie, in favor of a site in keeping with the needs and future of the University. As the contract for the new building has already been let and work commenced in excavating for the foundation, Mr. Bulmer's efforts to attract the attention of the public are somewhat tardy. The iron is cold and unless Mr. Bulmer can, by the force of his blows, again bring it to white heat, he will only have to regret that an opportunity missed is an opportunity lost.

Amsterdam, Holland, is fast approaching a high rank as a city. Her trade with the Dutch East Indian colonies is assuming vast proportions, while her trade with America in Holland goods has, contrary to expectation, increased instead of diminished. In the colonies the raising of tobacco, although not carried on over ten years, is gratifying, the crops being heavy and the quality excellent. The population of Holland is now 4,000,000, and of the Dutch East India colonies over 22,000,000.

There are but two parts of the globe, inhabitable or uninhabitable, which still afford fields for the enterprising discoverers, and these regions are not the most promising fields for geographical research. The polar regions have been peculiarly fatal to the daring men who have sought to solve their icy mysteries, and the heart of the dark continent is not only difficult but dangerous of access. The latest item of interest from that region is that Hinklemann, an Austrian explorer, has been captured by a Zambezi chief and had his ears cut off and heart taken out. The trophies were presented to the chief's son. Explorers will soon take the North Pole by preference, if these episodes continue to adorn the history of African exploration.

The *Temp* says that England concedes to France a share in the financial administration of Egypt, in return for France's promise not to insist that a date be fixed for the withdrawal of the British troops.

We note that the farmers in Kent County, C. B., have, during the past season, forwarded an immense quantity of mushrooms to the London market, one individual having disposed of 446 baskets of them in one week at a good figure. Our farmers should note the fact and see if they too could not make money in supplying the Halifax markets with this delicate and nutritious fungus. Mushrooms grow in this country without cultivation, but when cultivated the yield is enormous.

Labrador is at best a most inhospitable country, and the people who inhabit it have to undergo untold hardships in securing even a scant livelihood. During the past few years they have undergone great privations, owing to the comparative scarcity and low price of fish, and famine has only been prevented by the assistance provided by Government or by the traders who annually visit the coast. It has been suggested that a colony of Labradorians should be sent to British Columbia, off the coast of which province extensive fisheries are known to exist. The suggestion we think a good one.

When will writers and printers agree on a sign by which the letter "n" can be distinguished from the letter "u"? In manuscript, the two letters, so far as the eye can determine, are exactly the same, and the only reason why compositors and "readers," in nine cases out of ten, carry out the author's intention, is because they use their common sense. But when they are dealing with proper names not familiar to them, they are obliged to make a random shot, and are as often wrong as right; and small blame to them if they shoot wide of the mark. For years the famous French dramatist, Sardou, was referred to as "Sardon."

There has been a project on foot for some time in France of cutting a canal between the ocean and the Mediterranean, and the present Government is studying plans. One of the inducements to sanction, and no doubt to subsidize this undertaking, is that such a canal, in the event of a naval war, would be of the greatest utility to France, whose ships would, in passing from one sea to the other, not have to run the gauntlet and pass under the guns of Gibraltar. In the meantime, Admiral Aube has determined to have some special railway tracks built for the conveyance of torpedo-boats from Cherbourg to Toulon. The torpedo boats to be thus carried are 33 metres long.—*Army and Navy Gazette*.

There is a hum in the offices of the legal fraternity throughout the Province, and there is every prospect that business will continue brisk for many months to come. A New Glasgow man who, unwittingly but injudiciously, perpetrated a libellous joke, is to be sued by the injured parties for \$40,000 damages. Professor Sumichrast, of Halifax, has brought a suit against H. V. Hind, of Windsor claiming \$20,000 damages for the distribution of a circular letter containing statements of a defamatory character. The publishers of "Picturesque Canada" are suing those who have subscribed to that work, claiming the payment of the full subscription price, \$2, and producing orders for the work signed by the defendants. As these matters are all before the Courts, an expression of opinion would be out of place, but the litigation, however unprofitable to the interested parties, will prove a veritable bonanza to our lawyers.

Recently a calculation has been attempted in a German contemporary of the relative numbers of individuals engaged in industrial and agricultural pursuits in some of the more important countries of the world. For this purpose an "industrial pursuit" has been made to include the mining and building trades, and by a person engaged in an agricultural pursuit is meant anyone connected with agriculture, properly so called, forestry, cattle, rearing stock, hunting, and fishing. The numbers show that Scotland takes the lead in industries, 548 out of every 1000 thousand individuals being engaged in an industrial pursuit, whilst only 188 are employed in agriculture. The most agricultural country is Italy, with 626 persons out of 1,000, whilst only 228 are occupied in various industries. The following table gives the numbers for the chief countries from which statistics have been obtained:—

|                        | Industry. | Agriculture. |
|------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Scotland.....          | 548       | 188          |
| England and Wales..... | 545       | 140          |
| Switzerland.....       | 419       | 545          |
| Germany.....           | 363       | 467          |
| France.....            | 319       | 463          |
| United States.....     | 244       | 473          |
| Italy.....             | 228       | 626          |
| Austria.....           | 222       | 598          |

The sum of these two numbers gives, in each case, the number of people out of 1,000 who have to rely upon "business," apart from a profession, for their incomes.