

THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

A recent discovery of a seam of coal fourteen feet in thickness at Crowfoot Crossing, eight hundred miles west of Winnipeg, caused great excitement in Winnipeg, and experts who have visited the place feel confident that new seams will yet be discovered in the vicinity. The quality of the coal is said to equal that of the best American anthracite, and it is predicted that the coal fields of the locality bid fair to equal those of Pennsylvania and Ohio. With cheap fuel and cheap breadstuffs, new possibilities open up for the Canadian North-West.

The Shanghai *Herald* states, upon what is claimed to be reliable authority, that Russia has by treaty assumed a protectorate over Corea, and that measures will be at once taken to Russianize the people, and to establish upon the peninsula an eastern Sebastopol which may serve as a menace to China and Japan. The joint control which has hitherto been held over Corea by the Chinese and Japanese Governments has been gall and wormwood to the spirited Coreans; and unless Russia is prepared to support her claim to the country by force of arms, she may find her protectorate ignored, and the independence of Corea established without her consent.

"What shall we do with Riel?" was a question which Dr. Grant undertook to answer before a Halifax audience last week, the solution being banishment from the country. When Riel delivered himself up to Gen. Middleton as a prisoner, it was agreed upon all sides that it would have been well could he have been tried by martial law, but as this was impossible, the rebel leader was passed over to the civil authorities. He has been tried by a civil tribunal, found guilty, and sentenced to death. What we have to do with him now is to allow the law to take its course without interference on our part. If French influence can save him, Riel will not be hanged, but if it is by French influence that he be saved, then it is time we united, irrespective of party, to crush out the growing power of the French in Canada.

The proper care of insane persons, and the providing of suitable treatment for those labouring under the disease of insanity, is the duty of every civilized community; but while we in Nova Scotia have done much in this respect, we still come far short of making ample provision for the treatment of all insane persons within the Province. As pointed out by a correspondent in our last issue, Cape Breton is now in dire need of a local hospital for the insane, and as the demands of the people of the Island are now engaging the attention of our Local Government, we trust their wishes in this respect will not be overlooked. The cottage system, which is so highly recommended by those interested in the care of the insane in the State of New York, could be introduced with advantage in Cape Breton, and as its immediate establishment would be comparatively inexpensive, the system deserves the immediate attention of our legislators.

Herat, which has been variously styled "The Pearl of Khorassan," and "The Hilt of the Sword of Afghanistan," is now being strongly fortified under the direction of British Engineers. 1,000 men are engaged in the work, and it is expected the fortifications will be completed before the end of October. The hills which were said to dominate the city, are, it is stated, at too great a distance from Herat to be of any great service to an attacking force.

The annual revenue of the Mexican government is about thirty millions of dollars, one third of which is required to meet the interest upon the public debt. The estimated expenditure for the current year is thirty-four millions of dollars while the estimated revenue is but thirty millions of dollars. An annual deficit of four millions of dollars would soon destroy the credit of Mexico in the money markets of the world. An increase in the customs duties or a decrease in public expenditure must soon take place.

The London *Daily Telegraph*, in an able editorial upon crustacea, thus refers to the lobster fisheries of Canada:—

"An experiment of much interest is now being made by the Maritime Provinces of Canada in the introduction of live lobsters to the English market. The steamer "Clifton," from Miramichi to England, took out a tank containing 500 live lobsters, and if they reach England in good condition a large business is anticipated. There is already considerable trade with Great Britain in preserved lobsters. Although the fishery was almost unknown in Canada ten years ago, it is now third in point of importance. It is carried on in over 600 factories, which send annually to British, United States, and other markets between sixteen and seventeen million cans, representing a value of between two and a half and three million dollars."

Through our exhibits in London, Paris, Antwerp, and elsewhere, the mineral wealth of Nova Scotia has become more widely known, but the agricultural capabilities of the Province have never yet been thoroughly advertised. It is therefore most desirable that our farmers, as well as our miners, take advantage of the Indian and Colonial Exhibition to be opened in London May 1st, 1886. The oats, barley and buckwheat produced in Nova Scotia will hold their own against similar grains produced in other lands, and if our farmers will now, in time of harvest, select full grown heads, with the stalk and root attached, for exhibition in London, they will by thus advertising the Province add materially to the value of their farm properties. Unfortunately, May is not a good month in which to secure a fine show of Nova Scotian fruit, but fruit preserved in acid or alcohol, and long keeping varieties may be exhibited with advantage, and later in the season other specimens of fruit may be forwarded.

The Duke of Cambridge is said to have been much displeased with the proposition of several members of Parliament that his salary should be reduced to the extent of one thousand six hundred and fifty-two pounds, including forty pounds which were charged for carrying His Royal body from Calais to Dover. A first class passage between the two places named costs a trifle less than twenty shillings, and it is scarce surprising that the representatives of the people should object to pay the excessive sum charged. As a matter of fact the Commander-in-Chief receives twelve thousand pounds a year by the goodwill of the nation, three thousand one hundred and ten pounds for the nominal office of Ranger of Hyde Park, four thousand five hundred pounds as Commander-in-Chief of the Army, two thousand one hundred and thirty-two pounds as Colonel of the Grenadier Guards, beside one thousand pounds a year in other ways. His Royal Highness also has a private estate with a rental of four thousand pounds, and a Royal residence assigned to him in Piccadilly.

We cull the following from *The Paper Trade Journal* of Aug. 15th: "We note in this issue the advent of a new enterprise in the formation of a company intended to further the production of chemical fibre by the use of sulphurous acid. We are assured that some new and important elements in the production of what is more commonly known as sulphite pulp will be developed by this company, and, what is of most importance, perhaps, the cost of production is to be greatly decreased, both in the processes and the plant required, as to make it a matter of great interest to paper-makers. The new concern does not intend to engage actively in the manufacture of fibre, but, having secured control of what is expected to effect a revolution in the manufacture of fibre, it will grant licenses, of which, we understand, some of the incorporators will be among the first to take advantage." Another notice in the same paper states that the company is known as the American Sulphite Pulp Company and is incorporated under the laws of the State of Maine. It has acquired the title to a number of valuable patents for producing chemical fibre by the sulphite process, and among them the Ritter Kellner patents. Our neighbours across the boundary have got hold of a good thing, but Nova Scotia has many advantages over them in the cost of wood, etc. Come, Nova Scotia, do not be left behind.