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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.

The American workman has been kept well before the public during the past few years, and his rights and duties have been very rigidly and diversely defined. Last week Representative Chapman, of Michigan, brought a measure before the House of Assembly providing that aliens who are non-residents of the United States shall be forbidden to work at any mechanical trade or at any mechanical labor within the borders of the Republic. The measure is a sweeping one, and should it become law it will be very difficult to enforce. The measure is not one that would be expected from a Republic where the citizens boast of the freedom and equality which has been the platform of their independence.

Prohibition seems to have worked well in Kansas, where there is but one penitentiary to the entire State and less than a thousand prisoners, while in Texas, where the population is less in number by a hundred thousand and where no restriction is put on the liquor traffic, there are two penitentiaries and over three thousand convicts. In North and South Dakota prohibition has lopped seventy per cent. off the liquor business in the first year of its enforcement, and the only people who have felt the worse for the law have been the saloon-keepers, brewers and distillers. In the State of Illinois local option is given to the towns and cities, and the thrifty town of Pullman, with its eleven thousand citizens, has become so orderly since the adoption of the Act that a police force of but two constables is found sufficient.

The usual winter exodus of the Italian portion of the population of New York has begun, although the U. S. papers do not chronicle the fact. No less than 10,000 Italians have embarked for their beloved *Italia* during the past month. They have found that by earning wages of \$1 25 a day during the summer months and by carefully husbanding the greater part of the sum, a winter trip may be afforded. In fact a steerage ticket to Italy, and the cost of support while there are, even when combined, much less than the cost of food and board in New York during the winter, when the weather is apt to be cold, and times are apt to be hard. When we consider that the average daily expenses of an Italian workman during fine weather are not greater than 25c. per head, we wonder that the Italian has not long ago been classed with the Chinese workman, and that he has not ere this received his notice to quit.

We all remember the pomp with which the famous Geary Bill was announced to the world by our American neighbors. "The Chinese were to go" or to be photographed, registered and generally inspected within twelve months from the passage of the Act. Although more than half the allotted time has already elapsed the Chinese still remain, and with the exception of the merchants of the Pacific Coast, they are both content and prosperous. Of the 107,475 Chinamen in the United States but 5 have attended to the summons of the Government, have filed in the applications, and have visited the "picture-makers." The remaining number decline to move in the matter, and they find certain security in their numbers. If the Government does not want them then let the Government remove them—at a cost of some ten millions of dollars, for no less a sum will be required to remove the Celestials to Home China. The almond-eyed aliens want to know what "Melicans goin' to do 'bout it?"

President Harrison's last official "message" is of great interest to all Canadians, who will doubtless regret that the policy of the Dominion Cabinet has not been satisfactory to the autocrat of the Republican party. The President characterises the actions of the Canadian Government generally, as being unreasonable and unfriendly, and in particular refers to those matters with which he has had to deal in his official capacity—the Bering sea seal-fisheries, the Atlantic fisheries, the canal tolls and the policy of the C. P. R., on all of which affairs we seem to have shown through our representatives a most spiteful spirit of interference. The only new grievance, however, seems to be that the C. P. R. is unwarrantably interfering with American lines by competition, and that our Government has accorded to it such special privileges that American carriers are cut out of the freight trade over some parts of the road. There is a certain weight in the last charge, and there is also much to consider in the canal toll question, but an amicable adjustment is not likely to be attained by a querulous series of petty complaints in an official document which should be dignified and far-reaching in its scope.

Printers' Ink, a spicy weekly devoted to the interests of advertisers, has itself become the best advertised paper in the world, perhaps through its plucky fight with the United States postal authorities. The Post Office Department excluded it from the privilege of second class matter through the mails and forced it to pay full postage. It was an arbitrary and unjust decision, as *Printers' Ink* was able to point out that the privilege had been afforded to campaign committees, and that the Post-Master-General and Superintendent of the census had "each taken personal advantage of the opportunity to use the mails in a manner that the Department pronounced illegal for other citizens," but still it seems that there is no redress, and that clerks in the Department have it in their power at any time to harass publishers by sudden and strained interpretations of the Act. The powers it gives of blackmailing are unlimited, and are taken advantage of to silence adverse criticism of the Department or to extort boodle. *Printers' Ink*, however, is not to be bullied or coerced into silence, and in its fight with the Department has the sympathy and support of the press and the people. In the end it will succeed not only in its own contention but in removing the abuses which now disgrace the Department.

It is probable that in the coming week a most popular modern craze will be abruptly ended in Great Britain at least. A number of running word competitions have been circulated by British magazines, the competitors being called upon to send a shilling postal order with their solution of the problem or their "list of words made out of words." A well-known weekly paper published this sentence in a late issue:—"To our minds such rigorous treatment hardly seems—." And the public are called upon to fill the blank with the proper word, and at the same time to fill the pockets of the long-headed publishers. The treatment referred to was that which the ancient Romans are said to have given themselves on their arrival in the cold latitudes of Britain, when they beat their bare legs with nettles in order to neutralize the effects of the climate. A hundred suitable words would therefore at once suggest themselves to the competitor, who was privileged to make as many guesses as he had shillings to invest. The successful competitors were to divide the shilling pool among themselves, and this expectation of making something out of nothing led to \$125,000 being put up on this lottery risk in a single week. This abnormal consumption of postal orders attracted the attention of the P. O. officials, who at once laid the matter before the Gladstone Government, and a suit was brought against a newspaper proprietor for infringing on the regulations of the lottery laws by an illegal use of the mails. If the police courts will not declare against the lottery the Home Secretary will petition parliament for a special enactment prohibiting all such prize competitions.