

we experienced many difficulties in the carrying out of this conception, we are pleased to state that all obstacles have been overcome, and that THE CRITIC has been able to do its quota towards forwarding the interests of this our common country. The truthful sketch which we have drawn, will, we trust, induce many an intending emigrant to take up his abode among us; and as we have already heard of our Exhibition number being circulated in York, Aberdeen, Dublin, and other populous centres, we may fairly hope that the object aimed at will be achieved. Our agent at the Exhibition in London, to whom we have consigned THE CANADIAN CRITIC, writes—"The number is all that can be desired, and is by all odds the best Exhibition paper here." We take this opportunity of publicly thanking those who have given us valuable assistance in the preparation of our Exhibition number, and trust that their efforts to serve their province and country may always be prompted by the same loyal patriotic spirit.

POLICIES AND PERSONALITIES.

In this, the most enjoyable season of the year, when everything about us is fresh, bright, pure, and fragrant, and our thoughts, aside from the practical business of the day, should be directed in attractive and pleasing channels, it seems to us unfortunate that the party newspapers still continue to serve up to their readers literary pabulum of a dyspeptic nature. Political questions have at all times a special interest for a portion of the community; but when these questions are worn threadbare, and the political quill-drivers are obliged to resort to unseemly personalities, in order, as they suppose, to keep up the interest, we think the public has a right to complain. The question of Repeal, which has for the past six weeks agitated the minds of the people of Nova Scotia, is in itself a broad question of policy. It is one which can be, and should be, decided upon its merits aside from party politics. Nova Scotia is receiving, as a member of the confederation, all that she is entitled to, or she is not. This is a question of fact, capable of being settled one way or the other. But in the discussion of this question of Repeal, we see no good reason why those who hold opposite views should feel themselves called upon to vilify the conduct, and impugn the motives of their antagonists. And if this is true of individuals, it is more true of party newspapers, which, being leaders of public opinion, should thwart this growing tendency to indulge in personalities. It seems to be the aim of party journals, to traduce the characters and belittle the abilities of political leaders, and hence Sir John A. Macdonald and the Hon. A. W. McLellan on the one side, and Honorables W. S. Fielding and J. W. Longley on the other side, are exposed to a continuous cross-fire from the respective party organs. We are constantly told by these journals that our public men are steeped in corruption, that they have lost all regard for truth, and that personal aims and objects alone prompt their actions. Now, there is not one man in ten in this Province who believes this to be the case, and the iteration and reiteration of these assertions in the party journals only serve to make the public heartily sick of politics; so much so, that they frequently overlook the excellent articles which constantly appear in the columns of these same papers. Sir John A. Macdonald and the Hon. A. W. McLellan are the avowed leaders of the party of protection. If the Liberal journals are opposed to this policy, they surely can find a sufficient number of points of attack without dragging the Premier and his colleague through the mire of personal abuse. In like manner, the Honorables W. S. Fielding and J. W. Longley are the avowed advocates of Repeal, and if their policy be open to hostile criticism, it by no means follows that the Liberal Conservatives should endeavor to place the stamp of corruption upon the Provincial Secretary and Attorney General. THE CRITIC has, from the outset, been opposed to a Repeal of the Union, believing, that if better terms were due this Province, they could be obtained by the united action of our Dominion and Provincial representatives, and we believe that the sequel will show that our honest, independent advocacy of this course will, in the end, prove us to have been in the right.

TRUE LIBERALISM.

Liberal-mindedness grows apace. At a Charitable Society's annual banquet, recently held in Bathurst, Australia, Mr. A. B. Rae, a prominent Presbyterian gentleman there, showed a broadness of view, a charity, and a candor that are to be commended. A Presbyterian and a born Scotchman, speaking to an audience, largely made up of a similarly non-Catholic element, he had the courage to propose the health of Pope Leo XIII. The following report of his remarks on the occasion is taken from the last number to hand of the *Southern Cross*:-

"It would, said Mr. Rae, be a mistake to omit, at such a place and at such a time, the toast to the governing head of two hundred and sixty millions of Christians. He himself was not a Catholic nor an Irishman, but he hoped he was an honest Presbyterian Scotchman, and that if he had had any prejudices in his native country, he had left them there, and had not carried them to vitiate the pure air of this grand new country where prejudices of a religious character were entirely out of place, and a hindrance to united action by the people. Though Pope Leo the Thirteenth does not seek notoriety as a scholar, he is one of the most erudite men living, and, still better, he is the constant and earnest advocate of education. He has proven himself great as a philosopher, a philanthropist, and a peace-maker; it was known how recently Papal diplomacy prevented an armed outbreak. This Pope, while of course anxious to promote Catholic interests, is an earnest champion of society and powerful supporter of good government in Protestant countries; and, no doubt, his vigorous denunciations of Communism, and of all peace-threatening conspiracies, had a good effect. If any man should tell him (Mr. Rae) to pause and bethink him of

less admirable Popes, he confessed he would not; history greatly differs as to the character of two or three Popes; he had read some on both sides, and was satisfied that even these two or three were by no means so black as they had been painted on his side of the canvas. They had done things he should not wish them to do; but what if they had acted perfectly conscientiously? 'Let it suffice for the nonce,' as John Ruskin had said, 'that the present Pope is deserving of any little respect or honor we Protestants can fairly show him; and if paying him the respect to which we believe him entitled, should help to draw closer the bonds of union between us and our Catholic fellow countrymen, why should we hesitate to be fair and outspoken?' He, therefore, proposed the health of the spiritual head of two hundred and sixty millions of their fellow-mortals, (prolonged and enthusiastic applause); if any man had too much prejudice to swallow that toast, he would prescribe a few grains of true charity for him to clear his mental and moral stomach. (Renewed applause.)"

If Mr. Rae's motives are as meritorious as they appear to be, it is a pity, for the honor of human nature, that there are not more people as liberal-minded as he

"For one small touch of charity
Can lift us nearer God-like state,
Than if the crowded orb should cry
With those that cried Diana great."

ENSILAGE—A VALUABLE FODDER.

Everything that bears upon the use of Ensilage as fodder for cattle must be of interest to that large class of our readers engaged in agricultural pursuits, and it is therefore gratifying to us to be able to give them an epitome of the exhaustive report of the British Ensilage Commissioners. In a preliminary report they expressed the opinion that the system of storing undried green fodder crops was a valuable auxiliary to farm practice, and the commissioners now observe, in conclusion: "As in the case of all important innovations, it is not surprising that the introduction of the system of ensilage into this country has been met by a considerable amount of prejudice and incredulity. During the progress of our inquiry we have endeavored amply to discount all exaggerated estimates of its merits. After summing up the mass of evidence which has reached us, we can with no hesitation affirm that it has been abundantly and conclusively proved to our satisfaction that this system of preserving green fodder crops promises great advantages to the practical farmer, and if carried out with a reasonable amount of care and efficiency, should not only provide him with the means of insuring himself to a great extent against unfavorable seasons, and of materially improving the quantity and quality of his dairy produce, but should also enable him to increase appreciably the number of live stock that can be profitably kept upon any given acreage, whether of pasture or arable land, and proportionately the amount of manure available to fertilize it."

NOW AND THEN.

Notwithstanding the keen competition in the labor market of to-day, the workmen stand on a far higher plane than that of their predecessors in the latter part of the last century. To-day, food, clothing, and the necessaries of life are far cheaper than they were eight or nine years ago, while the average pay of laborers has trebled, and in many cases quadrupled, during the intervening period. True, the mechanic and laborer have, in these times, much to complain of in the frequent recurrence of seasons of depression, during which it is difficult to obtain work under any circumstances; but as compared with the commencement of the century, these are much more than counterbalanced by the increased wages received during prosperous times. But the toiler of to-day has more advantages over his ancestor than mere increase in wages and cheapness of living. Articles which he now regards as necessaries of life were once deemed luxuries only within the reach of the rich. His tea, coffee, sugar, fine wheaten bread, etc., were beyond the reach of the masses a half century since, while the facilities for educating and training the families of workingmen, now so good, were then of the most primitive character.

According to McMaster's History of the people of the United States, the condition of the wage classes in 1800 was pitiable. In the great cities, unskilled workmen were hired by the day, bought their own food, and found their own lodgings. But in the country, on the farms, or wherever a band was employed on some public work, they were fed and lodged by the employer, and given a few dollars a month. On the Pennsylvania canals, the diggers ate the coarsest diet, were housed in the rudest sheds, and were paid \$6 a month from May to November, and \$5 a month from November to May. Hod-carriers and mortar-mixers, diggers and choppers, who, from 1793 to 1800, labored on the public buildings, and cut the streets and avenues of Washington city, receiving \$70 a year, or, if they wished, \$5 for all the work they could perform from March 1st to December 20th. The hours of work were invariably from sunrise to sunset. Wages at Albany and New York were three shillings, or, as the money then went, 49 cents a day, at Lancaster, \$8 to \$10 a month; elsewhere in Pennsylvania workmen were content with \$6 in summer and \$5 in winter. At Baltimore men were glad to be hired at eightpence a day. None, by the month, asked more than \$6. At Fredericksburg, the price of labor was from \$5 to \$7. In Virginia, white men employed by the year, were given £16 currency; slaves when hired were clothed, and their masters paid \$1 a month. A pound Virginia money, was, in federal money, \$3 33. The average rate of wages the land over, was, therefore, \$55 a year, with food, and, perhaps, lodging. Out of this small sum the workman must, with his wife's help, maintain his family.