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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.

OF INTEREST TO THE FARMERS.—Our Nova Scotian producers along with other Canadian exporters will rejoice in the fact that the British Board of Trade has decided to give a monthly statement of the British and Canadian trade returns. In future apples, eggs, poultry and other exports will appear in the report as Canadian goods, and will no longer be classed vaguely with the exports of "other countries." By the way the Canadian turkey must have figured largely on the festive boards of England in the place of the typical smoking roast, for an immense number of birds was sent over, no less than 20,000 arriving at Liverpool during the week preceding Christmas.

FAIR PLAY IS A JEWEL.—There has lately been a readjustment of salaries in the case of a few clerks in the Custom House, and the New Year has been made happy to them by substantial increases in their yearly allowances. We have nothing but congratulations for these few fortunate ones, but there are a number of others, old tried officials, who are equally, if not more deserving of increases in pay, and yet who have not been remembered. Year after year rolls by, and hard worked and most efficient clerks receive no increase of salary, while comparatively new comers or officials with the lightest duties are steadily advanced. This is decidedly unfair, and must tend in the long run to demoralise the service. The department should be placed under the same system as prevails in the Post Office, where advances are made step by step, and where length of service and efficiency are the sole guides in the promotion of the clerks. The Customs Department is at least as important a branch of the public service as the Post Office, and if it is not to be demoralised, the system, or want of system, as far as the advancement of the clerks is concerned, should be reformed.

A PRACTICAL LESSON.—In many of the public schools in the neighboring Republic and in parts of Canada special attention has been given to instilling the proper idea of money into the minds of the school children. The practical method adopted in many instances has been incomparably superior to the former method of familiarizing the child with financial matters by giving him abstract examples in computing interest and in calculating profits on supposed investments. Now each child actually becomes the proud possessor of a bank account, and takes a more active intelligent interest in the business of saving and depositing small sums that could be attained in any other way. A common method in vogue is for the teacher to open a set of books, in which she keeps an individual account of all deposits made

by the pupils, which may be from one cent upwards. The aggregate amount is deposited in a local savings bank, until each depositor has accumulated a dollar, when he is permitted to open an individual bank-account. Some of the more well-to-do scholars become members of the loan and building association, and derive great benefit from the obligation they take upon themselves of making a uniform monthly deposit. Teachers who have had the longest experience of the working of this business departure in the school system agree that the results are markedly good, and predict that the School-Saving's Banks will soon be permanent features of our public schools.

AN IDEA FOR THE FARMER.—We have all heard of the old time farmer Hans, who ordered his son to carry the grist to mill over his shoulder in a sack, of which one end was to be filled with the golden grain and the other with a big stone for balancing. The son conceived the bright idea of dividing the grain between the two ends of the sack and doing away with the heavy and unprofitable stone, but the old Dutchman informed him "it was better as it was," and insisted on the clumsy method of his forefathers being practised. The non progressive spirit of the old Dutchman is shared by too many of our farmers, who look askance at any suggested improvement in farm life or farm appliances. So we shall not be surprised if we draw down upon our heads a storm of "potter as it was" when we ask for the objections to an idea recently sent out by a well-known farmer of the United States. Mr Brooks, the gentleman in question, objects to the practice of grouping stock pens, sheds, stables, etc., around the farmhouse. Not only is the beauty of the farm marred by the unsightly buildings, but, apart from this aesthetic view, strong sanitary objections may be urged. The odors, unlike those of Araby, which arise from the pig-pens, the stench from the cattle-yards, the steam-cloud from the manure heap, pollute the air—so much so that one might unconsciously smother the farm from afar. Mr. Brooks states that too many farmers regard the home as the adjunct to the barnyard, whereas the barnyard should only be regarded as a subservient although very important factor of the farm life. The barns, sheds, etc. might be removed some little distance from the house, and the new arrangement, although inconvenient in some trifling ways, would soon be found both more pleasant and more economical. We confess that we are rather inclined to side with Mr. Brooks, but we can quite understand the sentimental feeling of those who admire the patriarchal air of the house clustered about with out buildings and in some ways we can almost sympathize with old Hans, and agree with him that maybe "it was better as it was."

CO-OPERATION.—The friends of co-operative labor will be much interested in an extremely rational article on the subject of the division of profits recently published. The author takes the ground that the failure of many co-operative concerns is caused by ignoring in part the man whose skill and administrative ability enables him to carry on the business. In the co-operative division of profits administrative ability is often unrecognized, and the man whose knowledge is an absolute essential to the business is supposed to throw himself wholly into the business of the firm for the sake of making money for other people. He is paid in the proportion only of a superior workman. Business ability is a merchantile commodity demanding justly a high price. Again it is the fashion to decry those fortunate men who have amassed great wealth. The Vanderbilts and Stewarts, of New York, have had much abuse on this score—they have been held up as who esale robbers, and yet, when one looks into their methods of business, it is plainly seen that their wealth was properly acquired by methods which the friends of co-operative labor cannot gainsay. Vanderbilt did not wring his money from an unwilling people. On the contrary he used his business ability for the good of the public as well as for himself. Vanderbilt's steamers could carry passengers from New York to Boston for five dollars less than those of any line. Vanderbilt's railroad from New York to Chicago could carry passengers and freight yet more cheaply. In short it was in the interest of the public to patronize Vanderbilt enterprises. The fortune of Stewart, the great dry-goods merchant, is another case in point. Hundreds of small shop-keepers were destroyed by his mammoth establishment, but the public was better and more cheaply served. There was no usurer's profit on the goods sold, the princely fortune which the merchant left behind him proves his profits to have been not greater than five per cent. Now it is not probable that either of these men would have entered into a co-operative concern where their business ability was not counted as valuable as capital. In both cases their business ability created their capital. An able man, whose interests are bound with those of his employees, and yet whose brain services to the business are not reckoned at the rate of the skilled labor of his employees, is an absolute essential to every co-operative enterprise.