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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 California State World's Fair board has given permission to Miss Ray Beveridge, of San Francisco, to set up and operate a miniature blacksmith's forge in the California building. Miss Beveridge is a niece of Ex-Governor John L. Beveridge, of Illinois, and is said to be an expert at the anvil.

Mr. Blake scored a great triumph in his speech before the Home Rule Union in London, rousing his audience to enthusiasm and proving himself, as an admirer puts it, "One of the foremost orators living." His being asked to assist John Morely in Newcastle, where the hottest election contest was being waged, shows how rapidly he has advanced in the esteem of the Liberal Party, and the good work he did there is an augury of the success he is to achieve as an exponent of the Home Rule cause. Canada may well be proud of her distinguished son.

We note with much interest the founding of an anti-cancer league in Paris. The nature and cure of this malignant disease will be the sole study of the league. Medical men, explorers and geographers have all their fitting place in the new society. The influences of race and climate on the dread disease will be carefully noted. Many of the leading medical men of Paris have been instrumental in forming the league, and it is hoped that much interest will be excited among the medical fraternity. Any light thrown on the nature of this baffling disease will be a blessing to mankind at large.

The labor troubles in the United States have now apparently been settled by the calling out of the militia, but not without bloodshed, and the bitter feelings engendered are likely to smoulder and cause disaster in the future. The striking switchmen at Buffalo by their overt acts, their burning of cars and destruction of property, have deprived themselves of all sympathy, and are universally denounced by all classes of citizens. The Homestead strikers on the other hand had justice on their side in repelling by force the Pinkerton minions sent to subdue them, and their acts are much more favorably viewed. With all our boasted civilization it needs only the temporary triumph of the mob over the constituted authorities to witness acts of vandalism that would shame the barbarian. A country or government too weak to uphold the rights of the minority is unworthy of the name of Republic, in fact is the worst of despotisms. This is a truism that is now being forced to the notice of the citizens of the United States, and from all sides there is a demand that forces shall be available on short call to put down unruly mobs and maintain the law.

Another has been added to the long list of colliery disasters, the Park-slip coal pit in Wales being the scene. On Friday last an explosion followed by fire imprisoned one hundred and eighty miners in the pit. At first it was supposed that nearly all would be lost, but rescuing parties have saved upwards of fifty, and have also brought to the surface eighty-five dead and terribly disfigured bodies. The scenes at the pit's mouth, where the families of the entombed miners had gathered, were heart-rending, but prompt measures have been adopted for the pecuniary relief of those so suddenly deprived of their bread winners.

The action of the Minister of Marine in so promptly ordering the prosecution of all parties implicated in the fishing bounty frauds is refreshing in these days when charges in anyway likely to effect voters are as a rule suppressed, and investigation thwarted by the very parties who should prosecute. In the end the Minister will find that this manly straightforward action, so characteristic of him, will strengthen him with the people. The novelty almost takes one's breath away, but we trust the good example set will be followed by others, and brooding, whether in high or low stations, be made dangerous by the prompt punishment of the guilty parties.

There are twenty-three candidates for the final law examinations to begin on Tuesday next, and this large number furnishes food for reflection. The legal profession is now overcrowded, but there is always room at the top, and so a few of the candidates, if successful and if endowed with exceptional abilities, may win honors if not wealth, but the majority are destined to find that it is uphill work to even make a living. A glance round the field will show that only a very few solicitors live by the law alone. Some have had fortunes left them, a number with no particular ability have succeeded to large practices, and retain their clients by wisely consulting prominent members of the profession on all important and often unimportant business, but the majority of the profession supplement their legal work with other callings, and even then find it hard work to make both ends meet. The law is truly a noble profession in theory, but in practice it has been so often lowered by petty-fogging attorneys whose one idea is costs, that it has become a bye-word, and law and justice have become disassociated in the public mind.

Sir John Thompson has by ability, honesty and hard work, in a short political career, already placed himself in a foremost position amongst the public men of Canada. It is no small honor to be tendered the Premiership of the Dominion as the successor of Sir John Macdonald, the greatest political leader of his day, and his not accepting it is very good evidence that he preferred the office of Minister of Justice. The duties were in line with his inclinations, and gave scope for the display of his talents already proved at bar and bench as a jurist. We do not for one moment believe the reports that his religion was a bar to his appointment, on the contrary, as above stated, we are convinced that he was offered the Premiership and declined the honor. Still he has been the real leader of the Government, being the most capable to command, and it seems time to appoint a Premier able to perform the arduous duties of this office. The man pre-eminently endowed with all the qualifications for successful leadership is Sir Charles Tupper. He has resided in Ontario and should take an Ontario constituency, as Nova Scotia has now two able representatives in the Cabinet. Sir Charles may not wish this, he may now prefer to avoid the coils of such a responsible post, but duty calls and we do not believe that he is the man to shirk.

The so-called Republic of Venezuela is now in the throes of another revolution, and latest reports convey the intelligence that the insurgents have triumphed. With good government Venezuela would soon become one of the most prosperous countries on this Continent. Nature has lavished her richest gifts upon it. The soil is fertile, the climate varies from tropical in the low lands to temperate in the mountains, so that the products of both zones reward the husbandman. On the plains or great plains of the Orinoco numberless herds of cattle and horses find rich subsistence, while mines of gold, silver, lead and coal abound. El Callao, the principal gold mine, has a world wide reputation as a gold producer, and the Aroa copper mines have yielded largely for over half a century. But with all these natural advantages the country is not advancing. For years Guzman Blanco ruled with an iron hand, and when he was finally overthrown resided to Paris, where he had sent the millions he had fished from the public treasury, and where he now resides in luxurious ease, his one pastime being the instigation of revolutionary movements in his unhappy country. That he has been at the bottom of the present revolution there is no doubt, but the Venezuelans will find that in overthrowing the late government and placing in power a new dictator they have simply jumped from the frying pan into the fire.