

THE CRITIC:

A Maritime Provincial Journal.

DEVOTED TO

Commercial, Manufacturing, Mining and General News.

\$1.50 PER ANNUM.
SINGLE COPY 5 CTS.

HALIFAX, N. S., FEBRUARY 24, 1893.

{VOL. 10
No. 8

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THE CRITIC,

Published every Friday at 161 Hollis Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

BY
CRITIC PUBLISHING COMPANY.

Edited by C. F. FRASER.

Subscription \$1.50 per annum in advance. Single copies 5 cents

Remittances should be made to A. M. FRASER, BUSINESS MANAGER.

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.

IN THE SHEEP FOLD.—Perhaps of all domestic animals the sheep suffer most severely during the chill months of winter. They are too often neglected by the farmers, on the plea that if properly housed they can take care of themselves until grazing weather arrives, and too often they are poorly fed during their shut-in season. The sheep that in the spring are lean and languid are not profitable sheep to the farmer. It is in his interest to keep them at all times in good condition if he wishes to secure good wool and good mutton. Both the horse and the ox can be "fed up" in a short period, but the sheep does not share their peculiarity in this respect. The farmers who are now feeding their flocks with cleanly and suitable food, and who are mindful of their proper shelter, are the farmers whose profits from their flocks in the coming season will make their careless neighbors both wondering and jealous.

COMPARATIVE GROWTHS.—Observations have been taken in the schools of the City of Worcester as to the comparative growth of boys and girls. Over three thousand pupils were weighed and measured, and the results of the investigations were most interesting. At five years of age the boys were, as a rule, taller than girls of the same age, but by the seventh year the two sexes were found to be of equal height. From the ages of nine to eleven the boys were found to be the superior in height, until at about the twelfth year, when the girls rapidly increased in size, distancing the boys for a period of three years. From fifteen on the boy steadily grows, of course until he has passed the early years of the twenties, while the girls were found to have ceased growing at the age of seventeen. In weight the boys had a decided superiority excepting in the years between twelve and fourteen, when the girls were found to be much the heavier.

NO LONGER DUCKED.—Not long ago complaint was made in the court, Toronto, of a woman who was characterized as a "common scold." The evidence against her was plain and convincing, but both judge and jury were embarrassed by the fact that the punishment prescribed by the law of the Dominion for such an offender was "a public ducking in the horse pond." As there was no horse pond at hand, and as public opinion has long ago disallowed ducking even for worse offences the jury did not attempt to show the courage which their convictions entitled them to, but incontinently sent in a verdict of "not guilty," thereby relieving the judge from a most embarrassing situation. A similar case came recently before a court at Jersey City, N. J., where the woman being found guilty, a \$10.00 fine was imposed by the judge in lieu of the now-impracticable sentence. It will be news to many women that the ancient penalty of ducking is still an authorized punishment for offenders.

PROGRESSIVE INDIANA.—The residents of the State of Indiana are quite ready to move in the matter of road-reform, although the peculiar provisions of the bill which the promoters of the movement have recently introduced into the State Legislature are more sweeping than judicious in their scope. The farmers will be delighted to share their burden of the expenditure with the owners of bicycles and other pleasure vehicles, who are to be invited to pay \$1.00 a year to the road funds. It is also proposed to tax traction engines, timber wheels, and portable engines, at the rate of \$10.00 per annum to appropriate all unclaimed fees to the road-service, and to secure the free labor of County prisoners and State convicts. Perhaps the most peculiar provision is, that wife beaters shall not have the option of a fine, but shall be compelled to do road service. The bill will doubtless be shorn of some of its glories before it becomes law, but its present state indicates fairly well the aspect of the American mind towards a much-needed reform.

WITHIN THE PRISON WALLS.—We are glad to note a more rational tone on the subject of the treatment of convicts. Many people now admit that even the convict is a human being, and that he is entitled to reasonable treatment. When we consider the social status of the prisoner of the last generation, we cannot but be surprised and delighted at this revulsion in public feeling. In many parts of the United States and in Canada the prisoner becomes in a sense the property of the Government. His family may be in utter need outside of the prison walls, while he may be earning comfortable wages within, but it is not in his power to aid those who should be dependent upon his honest efforts—he is set to make money for the Government. A more rational treatment would be to allow the prisoner to support his family by means of his labor beyond that necessary to repay the Government for his board and lodging. It would speedily be found an economical change, for the enforced pauperism of his family would be partially, if not wholly, prevented, and a high incentive to industry would be kept before the laborer. This suggestion seems to us to have the right ring about it, and we shall be heartily glad if at some future day it may be found to work advantageously in the prisons of our Maritime Provinces.

A WORD FOR THE LITTLE ONES.—The Kindergarten system of education has been given a fair trial in our city. A capable instructress has trained several young teachers to carry on the work, and yet Halifax is extremely ill equipped with these most necessary schools. The Kindergarten system has proven itself to be one of the greatest modern educational plans, its benefits are far-reaching, improving the morals, the manual skill and the general ability of every child brought within its influences. It is not a cheap system, but on the other hand its results have been vastly beneficial in the cities where the Kindergartens have been adopted. In many of the large American cities and in several of our Canadian cities, the Kindergartens have done a grand work in reclaiming the children of degraded or of poverty-stricken parents. Why cannot Halifax have as good Kindergarten departments as other cities? Why should our children be debarred from advantages which are accorded to many whose homes are in much smaller towns? Is it a question of expense for it can hardly be one of expediency. If so, let the idea of the breadth and scope of the Kindergarten training be everywhere made known, until public opinion shall demand and obtain the much-needed educational privilege.

HOW DEATH THE LITTLE BUSY BEE?—The keeping of bees is found both profitable and pleasant work in many parts of our Province, but each year we hear of novices in the art who are disheartened by their last year's experience. The trouble is, that they fail to recognize that bee-keeping is an art, and a fine one, requiring experience, skill and energy. In the first place the bee stock should be carefully selected, on the same principle that the farmer selects good strains of blood to breed his stock from. The experienced honey-raiser does not trust to random stock from country hives, but obtains the famous Italian bees, secure in the knowledge that he is repeating the experience of centuries of bee keepers. Another error of the amateur is in ignoring the needs of the little insects during the winter season. Too often the slighty built nives which have done good service in sunny weather are the only protection for the bees in the cold winter months. Thick walls and double windows in their hives are needed for the bees in our Province, else they will too often continue their chilled season of hibernation into the sleep of death. Many hives in which the question of warmth has been considered, are yet found to be full of dead bees in the spring. The cause of the destruction is that the bees are too far-removed from the honey, owing to the faulty construction of the hive. After our present severe winter many of our bee-keepers will have reason to be discouraged, but a little careful study of the cause of their failures will be greatly to the advantage of their next year's experimenting.