

## THE CRITIC.

*The future greatness of this Dominion depends upon the development of her varied natural resources, and the intelligence and industry of her people.*

HALIFAX, N. S., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1885.

### NOTHING VENTURE, NOTHING HAVE.—THE SHORT LINE.

Our business men are now beginning to realize that the commercial interests of the Province of Quebec and those of the Maritime Provinces have something more in common than would have been thought possible twenty years since.

The Intercolonial Railway, which extends from Halifax to the southern bank of the river St. Lawrence, has during the past few years developed an immense carrying trade, which, had that road been built with a view to making it a commercial highway, would have far exceeded its present proportions.

When the representatives of Nova Scotia in the Dominion Parliament agreed to subsidize the Canada Pacific Railway, they did so with the express understanding that the Government would likewise grant a subsidy in aid of the shortest and most practicable railway line between Montreal and the Canadian Atlantic sea-port. This condition the Government have so far failed to fulfil. The subsidy to the Pope line, even if that road were to be built, cannot be taken as a fulfilment of the promise; but as the probabilities of the construction of the International line are now far from encouraging, the Government should be strongly urged to carry out its original agreement. We believe the Combination line to be the shortest and best, and were the survey of the missing link made without delay, the practicability of the entire route would be speedily established. We have been promised the shortest line, and this is what we should ask the Government to give us.

Halifax and Quebec are fortunate in having as their chief magistrates two gentlemen who appear to be fully alive to the vital importance of this railway, and supported as they are by strong, able, and energetic councils, there is no reason why their united action should not secure the survey of the missing link. With that survey made, we would then be in a position to approach Parliament with some hope of being able to demonstrate the eligibility of the Combination line.

Until that survey has been made, the missing link will remain an uncertain element, which may defeat the end we have in view.

The Short line means business for Halifax, and if our Chamber of Commerce, backed by the City Council, will but remember the adage, "Nothing venture, nothing have," they will, pending further developments, take the bull by the horns, join with Quebec, have the survey at once made, lay the result before Parliament, and have the satisfaction of seeing their efforts crowned with success.

### TURKEY'S CAREER IN EUROPE.

The present position of Turkey among European nations is that of a once powerful man who, having spent the best years of his life in pommeling his neighbours, turns to them for counsel and support against evils brought on by his own licentiousness. At one time the Turks occupied almost the whole of the territory which had been covered by the Byzantine Empire, when at the height of its power. Their first appearance in Europe was made in 1226, when they invaded Thrace. Under the leadership of Amurath I, Adrianople was taken in 1361, and Serbia and Bulgaria were over-run. Wallachia, Hungary, and Greece were attacked by Bajazet about the end of the same century. Amurath II over-ran Thessalonica and Albania, and defeated the Poles and Hungarians. Mohammed II gave the death blow to the Byzantine Empire by the siege and capture of Constantinople in 1453. This prince, who was surnamed the Conqueror, completed the subjugation of Serbia, Albania, Wallachia, Northern Greece, and many of the Aegean Islands. Under Selim I., who laid the foundation of the Turkish navy, the Turkish power was extended in the early part of the sixteenth century over most of Asia Minor and Egypt. Solyman II., surnamed the Magnificent, took Belgrade, the Servian capital, defeated the Hungarians, and continued his victorious march into the very heart of Austria, where he captured Buda, and even laid siege, though unsuccessfully, to Vienna. Under this prince the military power of Turkey was at its highest. From the Adriatic on the West to the Sea of Azov on the East, from almost the centre of Austria on the North to Cape Matapan, her away extended over Greece, Macedonia, Thrace, Servia, Bulgaria, Wallachia, a large part of Austria and Poland, and that portion of Russia which borders on the Black Sea.

But Turkey had reached the turning point in her career. Solyman the Magnificent was the last sultan who took command of his own troops; his successors preferred the pleasures of oriental luxury to the hardships of the camp. The Janizaries became virtual rulers of the State. These were originally a body of young Christian captives who had been educated in the Mahometan religion, had been trained to fight the battles of the Crescent, and had become the best disciplined force in Europe. From the time of Solyman II., however, their discipline relaxed, and they became more noted for resolutions and intrigues at home than for valor in fighting the battles of Turkey abroad. During the 17th century almost incessant warfare was kept up with Russia, Austria, Poland, Venice, and Persia. The treaty of

Carlowitz, in 1699, gave most of Hungary to Austria, Azov to Russia, Podolia and Ukraina to Poland, and the Morca (afterwards recovered) to Venice. The 18th century was taken up with unsuccessful wars with Russia and Austria, the former of which pushed her boundary line westward along the Black Sea to the Dniester. Early in the present century Servia became semi-independent. The revolt of Greece led to the interference of England, France, and Russia, who crushed the Turkish navy at Navarino in 1827, and secured the independence of the revolted province. We have now entered upon the period in which Turkey has been more occupied with internal troubles than with wars of aggrandizement. After Servia and Greece, Egypt was the next of her possessions which revolted against the Porte. From 1832 to 1841, when the European powers brought about a reconciliation, Mehemet Ali defied the authority of the Sultan, and even defeated him in several battles. Turkey's European neighbors had now taken her in charge, and from that time they have repeatedly interfered in her affairs. France and England engaged in the Crimean war and worsted Russia in her defence. Since then Russia has interfered on behalf of the persecuted Christians of Bulgaria and has chastised Turkey. The late Pasha of Egypt made that country all but independent of the Sultan. The present crisis in the affairs of Turkey is only the outcome of the general disaffection towards a weak central government which had previously shewn itself in Servia, Egypt, Montenegro and Greece.

### OFFICERS IN THE NATIVE ARMY OF INDIA.

Whatever may be said as to the efficiency of the native army in India, no one has yet been found to question its loyalty, and as it is, year by year, steadily improving, its effectiveness in time of war can scarcely be doubted. The native Indian is quick to learn the use of arms, and though somewhat slow in acquiring a thorough knowledge of military drill, he has in him the elements of an able soldier. The several departments of the native army in India may be considered as so many little Republics; each private knows that with good conduct and attention, he may rise to be an officer in the corps to which he belongs, and with this incentive before his eyes, he naturally desires to excel. The loyalty and contentment of the native troops is always referred to by the Viceroy of India, in his home despatches, as one of the most pleasing facts noticed by him; and yet these Viceroys have not hesitated to recommend a radical change in the organization of the army, a change which, if carried out, would speedily breed discontent and disloyalty. As before stated, the officers of each detachment rise by competition from the ranks, but it is proposed to change this system and substitute royal commissions similar to those held by officers in the British army. The object of this change is of course to provide sinecures for the sons of the Indian aristocratic classes, who now shun the military profession on account of the hardships they would have to undergo, while serving their time as privates in the ranks. The change is certainly, in our estimation, most undesirable. If the Indian aristocrat cannot endure the hardships of a soldier in the ranks, he cannot as an officer understand the privations which his men suffer. The knowledge of military tactics required by a British commander are not essential to one holding office in the native army of India, and there could be no great hardship in requiring the young aristocrat to compete with his fellows in the ranks for the honours and emoluments of the corps. If the British authorities desire to recognize and reward Indian bravery, they can do so by bestowing upon the meritorious the coveted Victoria Cross, but to introduce a change which might at once destroy the contentment and alienate the loyalty of the native army, would be both injudicious and hazardous.

### THE SCHOOL YEAR.

In a letter to the *Morning Chronicle* Mr. A. H. MacKay, Principal of the Pictou Academy, fully confirms the position taken by THE CRITIC with respect to the evils arising from the present division of our school year into two terms. We believe that the majority of the teachers fully recognize the inconvenience and loss of time which such a division involves, but to the general public, unfamiliar with the daily, weekly, and monthly routine of the schoolroom, the disadvantages may not be quite so apparent. Imagine a business man called upon to take stock in the very height of the spring and fall trade. Imagine the manager of a colliery suspending work in the pits during the shipping season. Would not business in both cases be interfered with at a most inopportune time? And yet in our Public Schools, the work of the session is semi-annually interrupted at the very seasons when no such interruptions should take place. Disarrangement of classes, and loss of time to both teachers and pupils, are the inevitable results, to say nothing of the other disadvantages, which follow. Now, we have in Nova Scotia an able Superintendent of Education and a Council of Public Instruction, who should be ready and willing to give a matter of such vital importance their most earnest consideration. In our criticism of the present method of dividing the school year into two terms, we have recognized that in the past such a system may have been of advantage to our schools, but we believe the time is now ripe for the radical change which we have proposed, and we would urge upon the gentlemen referred to, the necessity now existing for an amendment to the present school law, and trust that they will take the necessary steps to procure the requisite legislation at the coming session of the Provincial Parliament.

On Wednesday, the 14th inst., the centenary of Sydney, C. B., was celebrated. An account of the celebration and a sketch of the early history of the town will appear in THE CRITIC next week.