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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 sharp difference of opinion between Britain and the United States over the Behring Sea Modus Vivendi appears to be increasing if anything. Lord Salisbury will not consent to renew the "Modus," and the United States has adopted a very belligerent tone over the refusal. However much the eagle may scream there is little fear of war being declared.

England continues to quietly push her way in the Dark Continent, her latest act being the voting by parliament of \$100,000 for the survey of a line of railway from Mombassa to Victoria Nyanza. British rule is generally beneficent, and although the prospects of a good return for outlay and protection are carefully inquired into beforehand, British fair play usually make it a change for the better when any people or territory comes under her aegis.

A new and much enlarged postal card now comes from the United States. It is three quarters of an inch wider and an inch longer than the cards in use in Canada, and is cut from heavier material, which makes it a substantial and really useful device for message sending. The United States is away ahead of Canada in some of its postal arrangements, and we always feel that it is not fair for us to be obliged to pay a three cent letter rate on missives to that country while our friends over the border only pay two cents for their letters to us. For the Republic to bring out an improved postal card is adding insult to injury, and it is quite time for Canada to be getting even with it. An enlarged postal card is urgently called for.

The courageous exploit of Laura Secord during the war of 1812-13, which has become matter of Canadian history, is probably known to many of our readers. It will not be without interest and sympathy then, that they will hear that two granddaughters of this brave woman, the Misses Laura Louisa and Mary Augusta Smith, have applied to Parliament through Mr. Innes, M. P., for support in their old age. The ladies are 64 and 62 years of age respectively, and are without resources. In view of the services rendered to the country by their grandmother, they think that Parliament, acting for Canada, would willingly come to their assistance in their time of distress. This appears to be a suitable opportunity for Canada to recognize the debt she owes, and to discharge it in full to these ladies. We do not know yet what action will be taken, but sincerely hope that pensions will be granted the Misses Smith.

The Presidential elections, which take place in the United States next November, have for some time been agitating the public mind of our neighbors. The recurrence of the contests every four years is a costly piece of business, and as the canvass is vigorously opened about a year before the election actually takes place, a great deal of valuable time is wasted. The Republican National Convention is called to meet at Minneapolis on June 10th, and the Democratic Convention will follow at Chicago on June 21st. The prospects at present indicate that Mr. Harrison will be re-nominated by the Republicans, and either ex-President Grover Cleveland or Governor Hill, of New York, by the Democrats. The charms of Mrs. Cleveland would have a powerful influence for her husband should he enter the contest, and would probably do much towards securing his election. We feel that we in Canada have much to congratulate ourselves upon that we escape Presidential elections. A head appointed by the Crown suffices for all purposes, and we are none the less self-governing.

An exchange commenting on the publishing by daily papers of the Blaine divorce case, suggests that (judging by the popular taste for such trash) a profitable field of journalism could be cultivated in the domestic affliction line. Here is a hint not to be despised by the people who consider it a noble thing to pander to low appetites for gossip and scandal, instead of trying to elevate the public taste by supplying nothing but what is sound and pure. We welcome the suggestion, because if the journals spoken of were to make a specialty of that class of matter, our ordinary papers would be almost wholly free from it. We have journals devoted to nearly all the trades and businesses, and why not one for divorces and domestic quarrels of all kinds? The "society," that dines sumptuously every day and attire itself in costly and fine fabrics, would then be able to get its most appreciated literature unadulterated with anything instructive or of good report, such as is at the present time represented in a small degree in papers which serve up scandal, in order that sensible people will not totally reject them for the sake of the little good found therein—just as the Lord would have spared Sodom if it had held ten righteous people.

We referred last week to a case where co-operative industry had proved undoubtedly advantageous to both employers and employed, and we would now like to call attention to another similar case on a larger scale. The O. S. Nelson Manufacturing Co., which recently removed its works from St. Louis to the town of Leclaire, is said to be the largest concern in America to adopt the co-operative principle, which was done about six years ago, and profit-sharing has been carried on with the best of results ever since. Outgrowing their plant in St. Louis the company moved to its present site, which has been called Leclaire in honor of the great Frenchman, in order to found a model community where the profit-sharing plan could work at its best. The following sketch of the plan of dividing the profits is from the March *Cosmopolitan*, and we give it in full, because we consider that it is in this direction we have to seek for a remedy for many of the difficulties besetting labor problems: "At the close of the year the profits were to be divided as follows:—First, the capital invested was to be allowed the lowest market rate of interest, which in 1886 was seven per cent.; second, ten per cent. of the balance of the profit was to be set aside as a guarantee fund to provide against losses in a bad year; third, a certain sum was to be set aside as a fund for the relief of sick and disabled workmen, and the relief of their families and of the families of deceased workmen. The rest of the profits was to be divided among the workers according to their earnings, and also according to the amount of their stock, every one being accorded the privilege of investing the dividend on his earning in stock. Employees who had not served the company six months within the year were to be excluded from the profit-sharing." A few changes have been made in this plan each year since, but it is substantially the same still, and the 300 employes have received increased benefit each year. Many of them have become stock-holders in the company and draw interest amounting, on an average, to nearly sixteen per cent. on their shares. In proof of the practicability of the plan we have only to quote one of a series of resolutions passed by the employes at the collation given to celebrate the settlement at Leclaire. "Resolved, That a system which demonstrates the possibility of reducing the working hours from ten to nine without any reduction in the wage standard; which, in addition, gives every man an interest in the profits proportionate to the salary he earns; which creates a community such as this about us, with its opportunities for independence and comfort such as a city does not afford, and which steadily prospers in a commercial way from year to year—a system which does all this is no fabric of a dream, no involvement of the impractical enthusiast. It is business, it is humanity." This success is interesting to everyone, and the theory on which it is founded deserves careful attention.