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CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL NOTES	1, 2
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Chit-Chat and Chuckles	3
News of the Week	4, 5
Chess	5
Poetry—The Song of Spring	6
Sport with Wild Elephants	6
Industrial Notes	6
Draughts—Checkers	7
City Chimes	8
Parliamentary Review	8
Commercial	8, 9
Market Quotations	9
Serial—A Lover from over the Sea	10, 11
Mining	12, 13
The Sleigh Ride	14, 15

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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 a province 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.

Every man who has a vote should shoulder the responsibility of citizenship and deposit his ballot according to the dictates of his judgment. To shrink from voting is cowardly; to vote according to the direction of others is unmanly; but to barter a vote for the almighty dollar is despicable. Let the coming election show that bluenoses can give a straightforward, honest expression of opinion, and let it not be said that the Government to be sustained or elected owes its existence to bribery and corruption.

Much interest is naturally being taken in the Provincial Elections, but it must provoke a smile upon the face of a bystander to note how cocksure each party is of success. The truth is no one can predict with certainty what the outcome of the election will be. As there are many new voters who will for the first time express their opinion upon Provincial affairs, the election may be said to have taken place in January last, as upon the registration of these new voters must largely depend the result of the present contest.

The fitness of women for the various positions involved in what have been known as Women's Rights has long passed the stage of sneer, jibe and ridicule with which the idea was formerly received. Whatever opposition or distaste is now manifested is either fossil, sentimental, or, if serious, moderate and rational. It is becoming acknowledged that the liminary relations of the sexes as to the conduct of affairs are thoroughly revolutionized, and that the brain, energy and steadfastness of woman are for most practical purposes equal to those of man. The crucial, or what is supposed to be the crucial test, is the enfranchisement, more or less complete, of women for parliamentary suffrage, and on this point there is some very direct testimony. The complete success of a female civic council has been recently chronicled, and the improvement in the condition of public affairs in the Isle of Man since the complete enfranchisement of the Manx women is now being used as an argument in favor of the extension of female parliamentary suffrage to England. In the territory of Wyoming, women have enjoyed full suffrage for 21 years, and five Governors and the United States Attorney for the Territory join in testifying to the good it has done. Verily, the world moves, and there are indications that in this particular movement a distinctly new and broader tone of thought has superseded the old cavilling, which is, however, sure to attend a fresh installation of justice in human affairs.

While we are continually told that our farmers are fast going down hill on the road to ruin, it is interesting to note the prices of farm products quoted quite recently as prevailing in the formerly much-vaunted State of Kansas. Corn per bushel, shelled, 15 cents; oats per bushel, 11 cents; butter per lb., 7 cents; eggs per dozen, 8 cents; pork per cwt., \$2.50; milk cows, \$12.00; other prices in proportion. In view of such prices it seems singular that the settlers in Oklahoma, where there was such an extraordinary rush last year, should be in a state of starvation. This sort of thing scarcely enhances the idea of the benefit of the market of 60,000,000 l

Referring to another editorial in this issue, we would remark that the sum of \$9,000,000 given as the expenditure on the Panama Canal may strike many as being far too small. Referring elsewhere to other authorities, we find that probably over \$130,000,000 has been sunk. But the figures given in the report of the French Commission are evidently intended to represent the actual value of the work accomplished if it were now taken over. The sale of debentures below par, and the thousand ways in which money is made away with in promoting great schemes, may account even for the gigantic difference between the real worth of the work and what it has cost.

The new order doing away with public bars in Boston went into operation on the 1st instant. Saloon keepers and hotel proprietors immediately resorted to the expedient of having tables scattered about their rooms, but the prohibitionists have taken further steps to check this movement, while in the meantime petitions were actively circulated asking for repeal of the law, on the ground that the table system will increase drunkenness, and so, in one locality and another, the battle goes on. If the prohibitionists would abate some of their extreme pretensions to deny to every one the use of things which, in strict moderation, are good, we cannot but think they would soon, aided by the increase of habits of temperance due to considerations of propriety, self-respect and morality, achieve a more tangible and practical success than can ever attend the endeavor to dragoon all sorts and conditions of men down to a dead level of irresponsibility.

The Annual Report of the Postmaster General for 1889 deals with the increase in the drop-letter rate in the following off-hand fashion:—"A considerable reduction has taken place in the weekly average of letters and newspapers delivered by letter carriers under the free delivery system, owing no doubt to the increase in the rate upon drop or city letters and the attempts made to establish private deliveries. The illegal character of these private deliveries having been pointed out to the parties engaged therein, they have, it is believed, been entirely discontinued; and the free delivery by letter carriers will no doubt now return to its normal condition." This paragraph appears to us to be nothing short of pure "cheek." Not the slightest notice is vouchsafed of the universal dissatisfaction which greeted the vexatious and unnecessary two-cent impost, not a word is said about repealing it, nor does it appear to be the intention of Mr. Haggart to bring the subject before Parliament this session, which is now, we fear, too near its close to afford an opportunity to private members. We should further like to be permitted to enquire what signification presents itself to the mind of the Postmaster-General when he uses the term "free delivery." It appears to us that the additional rate on drop letters makes delivery anything but free. We are afraid Mr. Haggart is not quite "the man for Galway."

A remarkable testimony to the advantages of gymnastics and athletic exercises generally is borne in an article on "The Physique of European Armies" in the April number of the *Fortnightly Review*. Mr. MacLaren, presumably a superintendent of gymnasia, is quoted with considerable detail of statistics as to a detachment of non-commissioned officers sent to him to be qualified as military gymnastic instructors. The men ranged in age from 19 to 28 years, in height from 5 ft. 5 in. to 5 ft. 11 1/2 in., and in weight from 128 to 174 lbs., so that various types were represented. After less than eight months' training they were found to have gained, on the average, 10 lbs. in weight, 2 1/2 in. in girth of chest, 1/2 in. in the size of the forearm, and 1 1/2 in. in that of the upper arm. In some instances an actual growth in height of from 1/2 to 3/4 of an in. was ascertained. So marked was the development that the men, after four or five months, could not wear their tunics without letting out, and it is observed that "before this addition could be made to the chest every spot and joint of the frame must have been improved also, and every organ within the body must have been proportionately strengthened." It is difficult to estimate the advantage gained by these men in the expansion of their chests, and the additional scope thereby given to the heart and lungs—one of the surest means of diminishing the frequency of consumption.