

# 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., MAY 5, 1893.

{ VOL. 10  
No. 18 }

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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  
SAMPLE COPIES SENT FREE.

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.

**THEY WILL ALL VOTE.**—The people of Belgium have carried the day in their battle for a more unrestricted franchise. The revolt against the Government was quiet but well organized, and a telling pressure was brought to bear upon the Belgian Parliament. According to the new law all citizens over twenty five years of age will be allowed to vote, and the heads of families or men possessed of a superior education will be allowed a second ballot. The last provision is a clumsy one, but the whole movement reflects credit on the enlightened subjects of an enlightened King.

**OUR HALIFAX STOCK EXCHANGE.**—For the satisfaction of the holders of bonds and stocks, and for the information of buyers and sellers in general, we commence in this issue the regular publication of the buying and selling prices of bank, insurance and joint stock companies' shares and other securities. Our new departure will we believe be appreciated by business men and by investors generally. Great care will be taken to have our stock exchange list corrected up to date. Our aim has been to list Nova Scotian securities, more particularly such as have a recognized provincial standing. No doubt in the outset some omissions will occur, but we hope within a few weeks that such omissions will be corrected and that our readers will have the benefit of a full and correct list of home securities.

**WHO IS RESPONSIBLE.**—The citizens of Halifax, especially the business men, have ceased to be surprised at looseness in the conduct of its city affairs, more particularly as to the method in which the city bookkeeping is done. A reform has been demanded, and on two distinct occasions the late city council was called to consider a report from a committee of the Board of Works dealing with this question, but many of the members scented gun-powder, and prudently absented themselves from the meetings, thus escaping a possible explosion. The questions now are: who is responsible for the present state of affairs and how long is it to continue. The questions will have to be dealt with vigorously by the new city council, and the citizens have a right to expect that the action of our City Fathers will be prompt and effective.

**SWEETS TO THE SWEET.**—The honey exhibit from Canada is now well placed at the World's Fair. It consists, so far, of exhibits from fifty bee-keepers, and of all special apparatus connected with bee culture. Smokers, honey-extractors uncapping knives, hives, supers and receptacles of glass and wood have been sent. Mr. Pringle, a well-known bee-fermer, is in charge of the exhibit as Honey Commissioner. The exhibits from his own hives are marvellous, and the information which he is prepared to give to intending bee-keepers is exceedingly valuable. Mr. Pringle's bees are supplied with

food of the choicest varieties, and he claims that the finest honey in the world is that which is extracted from the white and alsike clover. His bees are also supplied during July with the basswood or linden blossoms, from which they suck the sweet nectar. The Canadian thistle yields a superior honey, and many wild flowers are much sought by the busy insect, but the daintiest honey by far is found in hives which are set up near a field of odorous white clover. Another point on which Mr. Pringle is enlightening the public, is on the unripe extracted honey which is being put upon the market. It is the unfinished product of the bees taken from the hive before the bees have capped the wax cells. Such honey is wanting in body and flavor and has no keeping qualities. Unless this inferior honey can be kept out of the market it will prevent the sale of properly ripened and extracted honey. Mr. Pringle has no doubt that the Canadian exhibit of honey will compare as favorably with the exhibits from other countries as it did at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition in England, when Canadian honey, especially that from the Province of Ontario, won easily the coveted prizes.

**A TROUBLED COLONY.**—The strained financial position in Australia has precipitated a political crisis, which might otherwise have been avoided. Lord Jersey, who has been a most popular Governor, has decided to return to Great Britain, notwithstanding that he has still two years of office before him. The nobleman seems to be of opinion that the action of the hero "who fights and runs away that he may live to fight another day" is more to be commended than the almost suicidal death of the hero who falls in an unhopeful strife. The cause of the present trouble is no doubt to be found in the demoralized business world, and in the active work of the members of the opposition in the colonial parliament. Sir George Dibbs, the Prime Minister, has a substantial majority in the Assembly. He has cast in his lot with the colony, and has suffered as severely as any individual on account of the recent bank failures, yet he found that in order to raise necessary funds it would be advisable to impose a temporary income tax on the people. Sir Henry Parks took up the gauntlet, claiming that the tax was unjust and unfounded and that it would be diverted to the pockets of an incompetent and bad ministry. A deputation of prominent men was arranged and a heavy pressure put upon the Governor to induce him to dissolve the Legislature. Lord Jersey refused the request on the proper constitutional grounds that there was no need of precipitating a general election when the Ministers were supported by a Parliamentary majority. Lord Jersey has no desire however to await the result of his refusal, for in the face of his eminent's proper decision he has retired from the field and is now safely home in England. The appointment of a new Governor will be a ticklish piece of work, for a long-headed, experienced and a strong-minded (yea, even a stubborn) statesman will be needed to guide the colony through the next few years, which cannot but be most trying.

**OUR CANADIAN CHILDREN.**—All friends of children are watching with deep interest the progress of the bill to protect and define the rights of children which is now before the Legislature of Ontario. The principle of the bill in brief is that "every child born in the country has its own rights as a citizen which its parents cannot alienate," and its object is to make each city responsible to the Provincial Government for the welfare of that neglected class of children—the waifs and strays and those of bad parentage. The bill provides that children may upon properly proven charges be removed from the control of their parents or guardians and be placed in custody recognized by the Province, and it recommends that a Curfew bell shall be rung at nine o'clock each night in every city and town of the parish as a signal that children are to be removed from the streets unless they are in charge of proper guardians. The object of the bill is unmistakably excellent, but the methods for enforcing it, should it become law, are extremely faulty. Any person is at liberty to bring a charge of neglect or ill treatment of children against parents or guardians. Any person making such complaint may obtain a warrant to search for and detain the child in question until it can be brought before a judge. When we consider how widely different are the theories of many of the best people on the vexed question of the bringing up of children, we cannot but think that widely different interpretations will be put on what constitutes neglect or ill-treatment, and that special encouragement is given to mischief-making and malicious people. The Childrens Visiting Committee which is to be composed of three men and three women, selected by each county judge, the sheriff and two members for the Legislature of the district, has been characterized with justice as an irresponsible body capable of keeping two-thirds of the families of each district to which they they are appointed in exceedingly hot water. The bill is as yet in the rough—it contains much that is helpful and wise, and the mere fact of its introduction is a proof that a lively interest is being taken in a class for whom it is proverbially difficult to legislate to advantage.