

# THE CRITIC:

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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.

**TROUBLE IN GREECE.**—Political affairs in the classic kingdom of Greece are still unsettled. The new Ministry has resigned, as it was found impossible to negotiate the loan which they advocated. French agents are making internal matters unpleasant by evincing a desire to punish the nation at large for the failure of a trade treaty with France, while Russian influence is openly shown against the interests of Great Britain in the matter. It is not probable, however, that the conspirators will succeed in precipitating the downfall of the little dynasty.

**THE GOSPEL CHARIOTS.**—One of the novel features of the World's Fair is the ubiquitous rolling chair propelled by some long-winded though short-pocketed college student for the sum of 75 cents per hour. Theological students largely preponderate as the pushing power, and hence the slang name of the well-known rolling chairs. Every attention has been paid to the comfort of the sightseeing public, the fat man has an easy means of locomotion provided him, the invalid is spared needless fatigue, and a kindly thought has provided a double chariot for the bridal pair, whose thoughts are not wholly with the wonders which surround them. We hear that not a few of these chairs are occupied by these interesting hand-linked couples, and their identity as brides and grooms is rather enjoyed than otherwise by the gentlemanly students.

**HARD ON THE DENTISTS.**—A decision given in a recent law suit at Minneapolis has been widely commented upon by members of the dental fraternity, who agree in denouncing the decision as unfair, while they admit that the reversal might have entailed some awkward scenes. It appears that the dentist had supplied a satisfactory set of teeth to a prominent merchant, but that the gentleman in question, although in easy circumstances, declined to settle the bill. When sued for the amount a judgment was obtained for the seizure of the unpaid for teeth. The sheriff however refused to employ force to obtain the grinders in question, lest he should be charged with violating the personal rights of the debtor, and the second decision in court is that the teeth have become a portion of the debtor's anatomy and as such are not to be disturbed. The dentist is now looking around for some other means of obtaining value for value.

**A DROP IN BICYCLES.**—Many men have been prevented from participating in the delights of bicycling because of the great cost of the machines. The bicycle trust has steadily kept up the price of wheels of all descriptions, and the manufacturers have made enormous fortunes. Now however a break has come in the ranks, and one of the largest manufacturing concerns has withdrawn from the trust, and advertises all wheels of its make at a selling discount of 40 per cent. The drop in prices cannot fail to popularize the healthful, useful and pleasant pastime.

**A FRAUD PREVENTED.**—Although imitation is said to be the sincerest form of flattery, it is often both unpleasant and unprofitable to those who set the copied fashion. Canadian cheese-producers have been fighting for some years a carelessness in the tariff laws which did not prevent the stamping of American cheeses as the output of Canadian dairies. Unfortunately the imitation did not extend to the quality of the cheese, but stopped short at the forged label, and the British buyers in resenting the imposture, depreciated the general reputation which Canadian cheese enjoys. It is estimated that the cheese export of Canada in 1892 was 128,410,730 lbs. of which 10,140,978 lbs. were fraudulently stamped American cheeses, which were shipped along with the genuine article. Henceforward it will be extremely difficult to continue the imposition, for a special custom house officer is stationed at Montreal, who will be responsible for the correct branding of all American cheeses.

**A SOCIALIST SCHEME.**—We are so accustomed to regard Australia as a new country greatly in need of immigrants that the new scheme for founding a branch colony in Paraguay may seem far-fetched to many. An association has, however been formed, under whose auspices the Social Utopia of New Australia is to be inaugurated, and within a few days a number of prominent Australians with their families will sail for their new home. The colonists include practical working bushmen with rather a preponderance of highly educated teachers, lawyers, etc. They give as their reasons for deserting their mother country, first, that Australia has been on the wrong track economically and industrially from the first; second, that the Island continent has become the happy hunting ground of the monopolist and the millionaire, and that within a few decades the workmen cannot fail to be reduced to the European level of poverty and degradation; and thirdly that with the Governmental engine in their own hands they hope for happier days.

**A NOTE FOR FRUIT GROWERS.**—Many of our provincial fruit growers have done all in their power to preserve their orchards from insects, pests and fungus disease, and have patiently sprayed their trees, only to have their work swiftly and surely undone because of the condition of trees in the adjoining orchard. One badly-kept orchard in the centre of a fruit district is capable of ruining the entire output of the district, for the insects will speedily multiply, and the other ills which trees are heir to will disseminate as rapidly. In California the negligence of orchard-owners became such a crying shame that legislation was procured to protect the rights of the husbandmen, and in each district a professional sprayer has been appointed to attend to the work. It has been found that the increased value of the fruit has been so great that the small sum paid for the spraying of each tree is not regarded as a tax, and if the scheme works so well in California why should it not be used here to the advantage of our fruit growers.

**A FRIEND IN ALL WEATHERS.**—It is with regret that we note the departure of Wiggins the weather prophet, from the routine of his profession, and his embarkation on the uneven seas of his new science, meminology. It is not probable there will be any lack of weather because of the prophet's desertion—such as it is there will probably be enough of it; but we shall miss the hand which has tempered many severe atmospheric shocks, which has prepared us for earthquakes and occasionally for picnic weather. What is to become of the weather industry unless more interest can be evoked from the community? Where are the young men who should be pledging themselves to the noble work of acting as professional mediums between earth and sky. Should we as Canadians be dependent upon the whims and airs of the U. S. weather service? Are we to be assailed with cyclones and all the other moving but objectionable habits of American weather simply because we have no weather service of our own? A vicious and unstraight-forward whiff of wind may be directed any day upon our harbor, as a result of liberal bribery the fogs of the Bay of Fundy may invade our coasts, and our aspirations as the ocean port may be chilled. As patriotic Canadians we protest against the negligence of the authorities and pray that Wiggins' our own uncertain but still dear Wiggins, may be restored to us again.