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CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL.	
The Late Naval and Military Manœuvres	1, 2
The Future of Canada	2
The Dead Kaiser's Diary	2
Notes	1
CONTRIBUTED.	
Howe on Imperial Federation	F. Blake Crofton 6, 7
Don't	7
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Chit-Chat and Chuckles	3
News of the Week	4, 5
Industrial Notes	7, 8
Commercial	8, 9
Market Quotations	9
Serial—At Cross Purposes	10, 11
Mining	12, 13
Home and Farm	14, 15
Chess	16
Draughts—Checkers	16

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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.

Astronomers at Nice and Milan profess to observe a colossal inundation in Mars; and another, somewhere else, thinks he discerns snow in the moon. Astronomers seem to be suffering from an epidemic of sensationalism lately. We know too much of the moon to believe the snow story, nor are we at all disposed to a facile credence of the other, but there is a theoretic possibility. Mars has very heavy snow caps at his poles, and it is thought by some scientists that even the Earth's centre of gravity might be changed by an over-accumulation at one pole, which might cause a shift of the ocean bed, and, consequently, perhaps a deluge.

It might be thought it had become scarcely worth the while of any man of mark to further discuss Mr. Ignatius Donnelly's Shakespeare-Bacon lunacy. Mr. C. Stopes does so, however, at some length and with some ability, though some of his deductions are trivial and some far-fetched. When he points out how essentially Bacon is a subjective writer, while Shakespeare is just the reverse, that Bacon would have scorned the scholarship of the plays, and that he evinced in his will extreme anxiety that all his writings, of which he had kept every scrap he ever wrote, should be preserved, we have about all the points of any consequence in Mr. Stopes' vindication of Shakespeare. We presume no sane man ever had any doubt in the matter.

The following opinions, coming from organs of the opposite sides of American politics, are quoted by the Washington *Public Opinion*. They are, among many others, indicative of the reaction we have long predicted:—"Prohibition makes crime, but does not prevent it. Prohibition increases expenses but shuts off the revenues. Prohibition invades the home, and in the name of the law restrains upright men of the liberties which the Constitution grants. It is an evil greater than any evil it opposes. It is a monstrosity which takes the reins from intellect and hands them over to fanaticism. It spreads a blight across every commonwealth where it holds sway."—*Omaha Herald (Dem.)* "The heart of the people is generally true to the causes of morality and temperance; but liberty of personal action is a right too sacred to a majority of Americans to permit them to be won to any radical movement which constitutes statutory denial to the many in the interest of a minority weak of will."—*Milwaukee, Wisconsin (Rep.)*

An exchange has the following, apropos of the city in which it is published. It seems to us that Halifax is a city in which it is quite as difficult to get odd jobs done. We therefore offer the proposition to our readers just as it stands:—"How would it be to get up a snow-shovelling, wood-splitting, messenger, and parcel-carrying brigade for the winter? During the cold season many cupboards are bare, work is not to be had, and life is hard to sustain. Is it not possible for a few level-headed citizens to get together and fix things so as to find as much work as may be for the poor? Lots of people want odd jobs done, and lots of other people suffer for lack of odd jobs to do, and neither can find the other at the right moment. How would it be to organize a bureau to bring these worthy folk together for mutual convenience and benefit?"

A well known and highly esteemed citizen of Halifax desires us to discontinue THE CRITIC to his address on account of what he considers an approval "of the advocacy of annexation." This gentleman, for whom we have every respect, misreads our broad intent. Can he not discern that we also "will not die Yankees if we can help it." We must have expressed ourselves but lamely if our whilom subscriber has failed to grasp the scope of our treatment of the subject. The right side of any great question was never yet advantaged by a querulous suppression of free discussion. This it is, not advocacy of annexation, which we desire to court. It is only doubt of the goodness of a cause that prompts a shrinking from argument. We have no fear of the trend of Canadian sentiment, and desire to see the strongest arguments the annexationists can bring forward. If it came to war, and traitors were discovered, we could decorate a few lamp-posts with them.

An unusual and exciting episode took place last month at Bellovar. There seems to have been a Pan Slavist festival at Kieff, in Russia, to which the Croatian Bishop Strossmayer sent a congratulatory telegram, which was certainly disloyal from an Austrian point of view. The Emperor Francis Joseph regarded it as so serious that he administered a stern rebuke to the Bishop in public, which, to judge by the aggressive and indignant tone of the Russian Press on the subject, seems to have been by no means undeserved. The Bishop, who is a man of note, was an opponent of Papal infallibility, though he subsequently recanted. The Vatican naturally dislikes to snub a prelate of distinction, but cannot afford to offend the Emperor, who is a staunch upholder of the Papacy. Probably the Bishop will have to swallow his dose quietly. His motive seems to have been that he regards the union of churches as above the integrity of the Empire, a point on which the Emperor differs.

We are wont to boast of the progressiveness of our age, and for proof we point to the rapid railway development that has taken place during the last few decades, which has made travelling not only expeditious, but also pleasant and comfortable. Unfortunately we have in this Province one railway corporation, of which the manager appears to be utterly oblivious to the needs of the travelling public, and equally careless as to the comfort of the passengers carried over the railway which he superintends. We refer to the Windsor and Annapolis Railway, a road towards which public monies were freely granted, but from which the public have never realized anything like a fair proportion of the advantages promised. The fares are abnormally high, the freight charges excessive, and the carriages, with one or two exceptions, unworthy of a trunk line. On a piece with the impolitic management of this road, is the neglect to heat the railway carriages during the inclement weather of the past few weeks, indeed, it is said, that fires in the first class cars were not made until the 8th of October, while those in the second class have not yet been started. Does the superintendent imagine that all the discomforts that have been borne by passengers during the past month tend to popularize the W. & A. Railway, or is his callousness so pronounced that nothing, not even the suffering of little children, can appeal to his better nature?

THE LATE NAVAL AND MILITARY MANŒUVRES.

An impression seems to have prevailed among some good people of Halifax that these trials of the possibilities of attack and defence were of the nature of a circus got up for the sole purpose of their amusement. As the amusement obtained did not equal some expectations, and as some of the usual sore heads whenever the Militia is called upon, lost a few hours of the services of their clerks and others, the dissatisfied fell upon the General and the Admiral, and blamed them for procuring a public holiday. Nothing could be more absurd. It should be superfluous to tell people with a modicum of common sense that the Naval and Military authorities had nothing on earth to do with any steps the citizens of Halifax might choose to take