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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.

Railways on paper have become most common both in the United States and Canada, but one of these prospective highways is likely soon to take a tangible shape. We refer to the North Eastern which is to connect the coal-fields of Pictou with the harbor of Halifax. This projected railway is now attracting the attention of some shrewd American Capitalists, who regard the possibilities of the road as encouraging and who will upon certain concessions push the enterprise through in the shortest possible time. With winter coaling facilities Halifax will at once become the greatest coaling port on the Atlantic coast of America. We wish the project good speed.

Mr. Van Horne has published a letter in defence of the action of the C. P. R. in Manitoba in which he takes the ground that its right of way is its own property, bought and paid for with its own money; that by the annulment of the monopoly clause it is left in the same position as the G. T. R. and other lines holding Dominion Charters, and has the same right to resist the crossing of its track by other roads. After all this resolves itself into mere technical obstruction. The spirit of the bargain by which the monopoly was abandoned was that other roads might be established. If they cannot cross the C. P. R. their legitimate ends are frustrated, and the spirit of the compact is violated. Such a contention if successful would also establish the untenable precedent that no provincial railway could cross a Dominion Line, and that would never do.

The reception of Principal Grant throughout Australia is a gratifying tribute to Canada as well as to an eminent individual. It is not generally known how closely Canadian constitutional experiences are watched in Australia. Some years ago the Melbourne *Argus*, the leading Australian journal, devoted a large space to a review of Dr Bourinot's work, which it held to be superior in lucidity and logic to that of Sir Erskine May. Referring to it again the *Argus* says: "Our kinsmen are meeting difficulties as they occur, and are showing that it is possible for colonists to cast provincialism aside and to form a nation." Whether or no we entirely merit the high opinion of our Australian brethren, appreciation is often so potent a stimulus to a nation, as well as to an individual, that the fact of its expression induces a healthy desire and endeavor to live up to it.

Imperial Federation has received a considerable impetus from the highly successful meeting held at St. John, on Wednesday week. It should be followed up by the formation of branch leagues throughout the Maritime Provinces, if its supporters desire full discussion of the question.

There is nothing succeeds like success and it is the success of THE CRITIC during the past four years, that is now encouraging us to still greater efforts to secure our coveted goal of 10,000 subscribers. Our canvassers are now everywhere in the field, our special offers are in the hands of every subscriber, and we are spending time and money in improving the paper. The public appreciate enterprise, and as long as we keep up THE CRITIC to its present level we confidently count upon a continued increase in the number of our subscribers.

The *Whitehall Review* brings up again the subject of closing the Straits of Belleisle. It refers to the valuable paper of Mr. J. J. Fox, for 30 years chief officer of customs at the Magdalen Islands, read before the Nova Scotia Institute of Natural Science, which we also noticed some months ago, and adds a paper on the subject from the pen of the late Col. Duncan, R. A. The idea was also dwelt upon at some length by General Sir Selby Smyth, in one of his annual Militia reports, some 8 or 9 years ago. The possible effects on climate of this closure are too little considered as yet to afford grounds for sound opinion, but we note the statement that but few icebergs really come down through the straits, while the expenditure is roughly estimated at \$37,000,000. The discussion of the question will however, tend to fresh scientific exploration of the ice region of the North Atlantic, to more practical ends.

L'Electeur, always ready to rear up on its hind legs on small provocation, berates the Governor General for singling out French Canadians as objects of paternal advice against the ideas of independence, annexation, commercial union and other cries of the kind, and asks why they should be selected for warning rather than English, Scotch or Irish Canadians, and he is reminded that he should not lean to one side, or forget that he owes sympathy to the interests of the colony which pays him, otherwise Canada may be tempted to claim the right to be consulted in the choice of its Governors. If *L'Electeur* had not been absorbed in its own braying it might have known that Lord Stanley, a week or two ago, administered not so much a mere friendly warning as a decided rebuke, to an English and Protestant body, (the Sons of England Society.) which had committed itself, in an address to him, to the expression of sectarian and nationalistic views.

We are sorry to find the Scottish Home Rule Association—whose Secretary, a Mr. McNaught, is now in America—making itself ridiculous by falsifications of history. Mr. McNaught seems to be appropriately named, for his utterances literally amount to "naught" either in the way of truth or logic. We are disappointed to find Scotchmen, whose strong points are common sense and repudiation of gush and untruth, playing mischievous demagogic antics. The strong, simple and sufficient reason for Home Rule for Scotland is the embarrassment of the Imperial Parliament by local legislation. We have not space this week to give this subject the notice it requires, but the foolish statement that the Union was the main cause of the rebellions of 1715 and 1745, and that the legislative neglect of Scotland "has been such as no other country in the world would have borne so long with patience," suffice to indicate that there are ignorant windbags even in the Land o' Cakes.

PLAY VERSUS BRUTALITY.

A good deal has been said from time to time about the degeneration of certain games into brutality. In a series of articles in the *Contemporary* some seven or eight years ago on "Unity in Nature," the Duke of Argyll pointed out that development was not always upwards, but sometimes in the contrary direction when a downward impetus has been imparted. The Duke illustrated his position by the instance of the Iroquois, who when the earlier European settlers encountered them were a far more peaceable people than they subsequently became, and were exhibiting decided tendencies to advancement in agriculture. But a change came over things. They began to develop lust of blood and conquest, the attributes of the savage warrior became the highest consideration, work was relegated to the women, and the ultimate development was that merciless ferocity which exterminated the Eries, and with which Fenimore Cooper's novels familiarize us. We have often fancied his portraits are nearer the truth than ordinary critics have thought.

Some such deterioration on a small scale is apparent in the otherwise fine games of Football and Lacrosse. In the latter, indeed, we seem to be