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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.

We regret the publication of a report in our last issue that a Halifax firm was trying to obtain the services of a young lady to do type-writing, shorthand, book-keeping and playing the piano for the sum of four dollars a week. We have since been informed that the report was started as a malicious slander in order to injure that firm, and that there is no truth in the matter.

The state of affairs in Newfoundland is admirably portrayed by a cartoon which appeared in *Punch* about two weeks ago. A Newfoundland dog with a lobster clinging to his tail is cutting around in a lively manner, and John Bull looking on remarks: "If I could only get him to stand still I could soon settle the lobster." If Newfoundland would not be quite so excited the task of settling the dispute might be made considerably easier for the Imperial Government.

A few weeks ago the British Government was notified by Chancellor Caprivi that Germany would abandon Damaraland at the end of the present year unless the Germano-British Company, established to develop the country, should succeed in raising the necessary funds. There appears to be some difficulty in doing this, and the decision of Germany is doubtless a wise one from a financial point of view. South-West Africa is commercially valuable only for its mining and mineral possibilities, and as it appears all the mineral and mining rights in the country were bought up by an Englishman prior to the taking over of the country by Germany, it looks a rather hopeless task to induce capitalists to invest in the enterprise of the Germano-British Company. The Government of Cape Colony will rejoice if Germany finally retires from the country, because from the first the proximity of the Germans was feared and objected to. Germany took possession in spite of prior British claims, and the Government of Cape Colony became almost rebellious, because in its estimation the Imperial Government had not been strenuous enough in opposing German occupation. There will in consequence be but little regret if Germany evacuates, and it will remove one obstacle to the ultimate federation of the whole of South Africa south of the Zambesi River, either as a British State or as an independent republic. Portugal has claims on the east coast south of the Zambesi, and as that pugnacious country is in a decidedly ill-humor with Britain, she will make all the difficulty possible in case of the federation scheme coming to anything. After all the scrambling for territory in the Dark Continent, it would be laughable to see all the powers getting rid of their acquisitions as fast as possible, as it may turn out yet.

The militia inquiry held in this city last week by Major-General Herbert has created no little comment, and people are swift to blame without much knowledge of facts. If our information is correct, it will be found in the course of a few months that things are not what they seem, and that those who now appear most to blame will come out right in the end. Meanwhile it is decidedly unfair to lay the odium that attaches to unwarrantable proceedings on anyone.

The water supply in Toronto is so bad that all the papers are crying out against it. Situated beside an ocean of pure fresh water, the inhabitants of the Queen City are obliged to bail and filter the foul water that is piped to them before they dare use it for cooking and drinking. It would appear a very simple matter to lay a pipe a sufficient distance out into the lake to avoid the sewerage from the city, but if the Torontonians want to have things very perfect they ought to cremate or otherwise dispose of the sewerage. The Queen City must look well to its water works if it wants to retain its title.

The European war-cloud, which has held its own for some years, and become almost historical, is again booming. Should a war actually occur between Russia and France on the one side, and Germany and Austria on the other, it would be a terrible calamity. Britain might be able to remain passive in such a case, because many of the former reasons for preventing Russian encroachment on the Black Sea have in a measure disappeared; but it is more than probable that she would be drawn into the conflict. Whenever there is a fight, Britishers are pretty sure to be present, if only to see fair play.

The annual report of the Commissioners of the Legislative Library is a strong presentment of the advantages of a thoroughly equipped library. The information gleaned in a great library filters forth, through a multitude of pores, to the profit and enlightenment of a nation. In lectures, leading articles, essays, sermons, speeches, and in the debates of real and mock parliaments, the people are made partakers of the intellectual food prepared by searchers in libraries. A well stocked public library is, as the Commissioners say, "a university open to all." The most urgent need of the Legislative Library, however, seems to be inadequate accommodation. A merchant should provide a storehouse before he buys his stores.

About the best arrangement for all concerned has been arrived at in connection with the proposal to establish a reformatory for girls. On Friday afternoon last a meeting to consider the subject was held at the Home for Friendless Women on Brunswick Street. Representatives of the Women's Christian Association, who have charge of the institution, were present, and they decided to try the experiment for six months of receiving such girls as the Stipendiary Magistrate may send, the matter to be again considered at the end of that time. It is thought that very few girls will require to be sent there, but it is, as far as we can see, an excellent arrangement. The ladies of the Christian Association have done good work with the home, and probably, unless some irremediably badly inclined girls are sent there, they will not be given very much extra anxiety under the new programme.

The news that another mutiny, such as the 2nd Battalion of Grenadier Guards were exiled to Bermuda for, has broken out in the 3rd Battalion of the same regiment, is alarming, inasmuch as it shows that a spirit of rebellion is working in the forces. The account of the disturbance states that the 3rd Battalion of the Grenadier Guards, the crack infantry guardsmen of England, quartered in Chelsea barracks, London, were ordered to parade in full marching order at 8 o'clock on Tuesday morning. The men, among whom there has been much discontent for some time past, refused to obey. On being remonstrated with by several leading non-commissioned officers, four companies of the battalion finally made a sullen appearance on the parade ground, but the remaining companies refused to leave the barracks. They were then placed under arrest. The affair appears to have been premeditated, as a similar refusal to parade occurred in a part of a detachment of Guards at St. George's barracks on the same day. The mutineers give as reasons for their action, that the orders issued to parade in full marching order are unprecedented under the existing conditions. They also assert that they have been subjected to excessive and tedious drills, for which there was no cause or reason other than for the convenience of their officers, who are said to go jaunting about on pleasure trips while the privates and non-coms remain in London. Perhaps the latter are longing for a taste of the exile of their 2nd Battalion comrades in Bermuda. The good old days of

Their's not to make reply,
Their's not to reason why,
Their's but to do and die.

appears to be vanishing into the past.