

Our daily city contemporaries seem to be rather off their respective bases in commenting on New Brunswick politics. Mr Blair's Government is more Conservative than otherwise, yet our Conservative journal berates it, while a prominent Liberal paper seems to think it highly praiseworthy. The politics of the sister Maritime Province are not very particularly our concern, but we think this rather curious.

An "American Almanac and Treasury of Facts" devotes a page, into which it has managed to condense a good deal of information, to the Dominion of Canada, but it is evidence of the extremely limited amount of knowledge of the country prevailing in the United States to find it stated that the Members of the Senate are nominated for life by the Crown of Great Britain. Such an error in a publication intended to impart correct information is almost inconceivable.

If those who believe—as we are happy to be able to say a continually increasing number do, notwithstanding the disagreement of a few of our subscribers with our opinions on certain questions—notably that of prohibition—that THE CRITIC is occupying a most useful position in the journalism of this Province, would but secure us one subscriber each we would make the paper hum and greatly improve its more important departments.

The ploughing season is here, next comes the seed-time, then the elections, and afterwards the harvest. Our farmers are called upon to remember the House of Assembly by re-remembering it. We know that the next Legislative Assembly will be the choice of the people, but the choice of the people is always an uncertainty until the choice has been made. Why this is so we are at a loss to answer. Meantime we suppose we may look for little in the newspapers but party recriminations.

A country contemporary says that "international jealousy over water-ways is causing a comparatively useless expenditure of large amounts of capital which might be employed in some far better way." The allusion is to the construction of the Sault Ste. Marie Canal on the Canadian side, which, however, we regard as one of the most urgent works required for the consolidation of the Dominion and the carrying on of its internal commerce within its own borders. We had enough of being dependent on the American water-ways to Lake Superior when passage was refused to our forces of the Red River expedition in 1870.

Plain speaking is a virtue which we ought to appreciate most highly in opponents; we have reason, therefore, to be thankful to the *New York Sun* for the following uncompromising utterance:—"That there may be no needless misunderstanding, we beg our Canadian friends to understand that they can have Free Trade with the United States—the only important system of real Free Trade in the world—on the same terms as the United States themselves enjoy it, namely, on the terms of Political Union. All other propositions, such as that of Mr. Hitt in the House of Representatives the other day, can lead to nothing but vanity and vexation of spirit."

The Indian National Congress has adopted resolutions demanding home-rule for India, and hailing Mr. Gladstone the champion of the cause. This is no doubt high sounding and gratifying to native aspirations, but it is probable that Mr. Gladstone will find himself too much occupied with other important measures for the remainder of his life than to devote much of his energy to Indian reform, and the further consideration naturally suggests itself that there is really but little capacity for self-government among the mixed races which make up the great population. The more or less educated men who compose the Indian National Congress no doubt think themselves capable, and probably judge the masses by themselves.

Referring to the subject of the two-rowed barley, which, it is reasonably expected, will command a ready and profitable market in England, the following quotation from the *London Canadian Gazette* is eminently satisfactory:—"Certain samples of two rowed barley grown in Canada last year were recently received in London, and have been submitted by the High Commissioner to experts. The result is, we understand, most satisfactory. The gentlemen whose opinions were sought speak very favorably of the samples, and express the opinion that such barley would find a ready market here at the best prices paid for malting barley." These opinions will, no doubt, encourage Canadian farmers in the endeavors they are now making to gain a better footing in the barley markets of the United Kingdom.

Congress has recommended a Committee of five persons to be appointed by the President to make a thorough investigation of the liquor traffic with two years within which they are to report. They are to enquire into the alcoholic, fermented and vinous liquor traffic in all its phases. Its relation to revenue and taxation; its effect upon labor, agriculture, manufacturing and other industries, and its general, economic, criminal, moral and scientific aspect in connection with pauperism, crime, social vice and public health; its effects on the different nationalities and races, and on the general welfare of the people, and also to enquire into the practical results of license, prohibitory legislation and various methods of restraint and taxation relied upon for the prevention of intemperance in the several states and territories. The scope of enquiry is certainly extensive enough, and it is possible some useful information may be evolved or plan of action suggested. We are, however, inclined to think there will most likely be as much disagreement over the question when the Committee have finished their work as before they took it in hand.

Undoubtedly the most advanced step in what is usually called women's rights was taken a year ago by the town of Oskaloosa in the state of Kansas, which elected an exclusively female municipality. The ladies composing it have retired on the completion of their year of office with the entire respect of their constituents. They have, says the *Chicago News*, left the city out of debt and with money in the bank, with improved streets and improved morals. No such wholesale experiment has ever been tried before, but the city of Egerton in the same state has followed the example of Oskaloosa in also choosing a complete set of female officers. It is nothing less than a revolution, and apparently the example is bearing fruit, nevertheless it seems to us to bear the marks of American precipitation, and the love of novelty and sensational measures.

The Liberal party have now been in power in Nova Scotia for the past eight years, and they go to the country with their record and ask the people to express their approval of it. The Liberal-Conservative party directs the attention of the electors to the blots upon the Liberal record, and they ask the country to return to power a Liberal-Conservative Government, and promise to imitate the virtues while avoiding the alleged mistakes of their opponents. The destiny of these parties for the next four years lies in the ballot boxes which are to be used on the 21st of May. That their contents will prove a disappointment to one party is a forgone conclusion, but, not being gifted like the ancient seers, we cannot predict the result, otherwise we might save our fellow blue noses many hours of worry and make unnecessary the transfers of money which unfortunately are always concurrent with Provincial and Dominion elections.

Our Australian brethren, whatever else may be imputed to them, cannot be charged with niggardliness. The officers of the New South Wales School Cadet Corps are paid at the following rates, which, considering that they are not even professional soldiers, is not so bad. Commanding Officer, £586; Staff Officer, £550; Adjutant, £500. These rates are out of all proportion to those paid to officers holding very much more responsible positions, and to the worth of the services rendered. Even the Sergeant-Major gets £275, which is as much as a Major in a British cavalry regiment receives. £586 sterling is about \$2,850, and our Deputy-Adjutant's General receive, we believe, about \$2,000 altogether. We should indeed in this country open our eyes pretty wide at such rates of pay. If our own Militia is poorly enough paid these rates are altogether extravagant. However, if New South Wales does not object it is certainly no business of ours.

The political issues which are now being placed before the people of Nova Scotia, and upon which they are required to express their opinion at the polls, do not involve any distinctive party policies, such as those of protection or free trade, but they nevertheless deserve the earnest consideration of every patriotic Nova Scotian. The Provincial Government has certainly expended money freely upon the Province Building and the Victoria General Hospital, but it is well known that without this expenditure the Province Building would have gone to wreck and ruin, and the extensions to the hospital were not made before they were wanted. The Conservatives criticise the policy of the Liberal Government, not so much in the matter of expending money upon our public highways, but rather as to the channel through which this money was expended, and it is for the people to say whether they would prefer the Provincial Government or the Municipal Councils to control the outlay of money upon public roads.

When women take up a moral movement they are very apt to see but one absolute phase of it, and to push it to an extreme of which the natural outcome is the demand for special legislation. There has been no more prominent advocate of the rights of her sex, and of the promotion of the moral reforms which specially appeal to it, than Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton. The following utterance of this lady on the subject is therefore particularly interesting and instructive:—"The fetish of our time is the legislative enactment. It is considered that men should be more moral, more temperate, immediately a party arises in the State clamoring for a law to legalize its theories. But, unfortunately, progress cannot be obtained by an Act of Parliament. Development is a plant of slow growth, and the only soil in which it will flourish is that of broad human culture. Harmonious progress is not to be secured for the individual or society by hasty methods. You can make men hypocrites by prohibitory laws; you cannot make them moral."

The *Toronto Globe* remarks that "one good result will come of the Bremner investigation if it leads to the appointment of a Canadian as General Middleton's successor. There is not the slightest necessity for the British Government to send out an Imperial officer to take the command of our Militia. There are a dozen Canadians much better qualified to discharge the duties of the office than an English commander can possibly be. The methods that prevail in the British army do not apply to our citizen soldiery, and there is no reason why we should continue to place an office that has become little more than a well-paid sinecure at the disposal of the Imperial authorities." There is some truth in the observation concerning British army methods, but at present the Militia Act prescribes the appointment to the Command-in-Chief of an Imperial officer, and the Canadian force has not yet quite attained the state in which the services of officers of experience could be well dispensed with. The Canadian military system is yet in a stage of growth. It has much improved in the last few years, but it will take a few more yet to develop the results of the Military College, founded with wise forethought by Mr. Mackenzie, and of the several schools which are doing as good work as their limited numbers allow of. What is wanted is a better selection, which would give us the right man in the right place.