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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.

There is apparently a fatality in the period of eighteen years in the history of France for the last century. Louis 16th was beheaded in the 18th year of his reign. Napoleon 1st was banished to St. Helena eighteen years after the conclusion of his glorious Italian campaign. Louis Philippe was driven to abdicate in the eighteenth year of his reign. Louis Napoleon's reign lasted the same period, and the now apparently tottering republic has endured nearly the same ominous number of years.

It is not, apparently, all smooth water and plain sailing with the truculent Premier of Queensland. He is it seems one of four directors of an Investment and Mortgage Company. There has been some gross mismanagement or worse, and an action has been instituted against them for corrupt acts. Public opinion was actively heaping odium on them, and Sir Thomas with difficulty got away in a steamer to China—a bourn whence many say he will not return—to avoid the writs out against him. It is thought in Brisbane that the exposure will do the colony a great deal of harm.

The general tenor of the various reports embodied in the Militia Blue Book show a steady improvement of the Force generally, largely owing to its increasing permeation by graduates of the several schools of instruction. Some reforms which have been persistently urged by the staff, however, yet remain untouched. Notable among these is the deficiency of valise and other equipments necessary to enable a force from each District Head Quarters to take the field efficiently equipped at short notice. More than one D. A. G. unites in urging the adoption of Dr. Olver's excellent valise arrangement, and it is high time this step should be taken. The reduction of superfluous bodies to facilitate the drill of every corps each year is also most important to the cohesion of the National Force. It is not to be supposed that these points do not impress themselves on the Minister, and it rests with Parliament to afford a sufficient vote for these purposes, for a slight addition to the existing force of the schools, and for the establishment of a cavalry school, and, we should say, another infantry school, in the West. It is satisfactory to find high encomiums on the efficiency of the Mounted Infantry School at Winnipeg, and it is notable that the Governor of Jamaica has applied to have a Militia officer of that Island attached to a Canadian Militia Corps, to enable him to avail himself of a course at one of our Schools of Instruction.

European Royalty has, during the last twelve months, experienced more than a common degree of affliction, and, curiously enough, it has been chiefly distributed among the greatest and most despotic houses. While the tragedies of the house of Hohenzollern are still fresh in the public memory, that of Hapsburg, whose private discords and infelicities are by no means of yesterday, mourns a culmination in the suicide of Prince Rudolf, the circumstances of which, imperfectly known as they are, seem to point to some grounds for the recent threatened action of the Crown Princess. To cap the list, the amiable and charming Czarina of Russia is reported to be in thoroughly shattered health. Her nervous system, long unstrung by anxiety on account of nihilistic plots, has succumbed to the culminating shock of the late railway accident, and reduced her to a state of complete hysterical prostration. Truly, "uneasy lies the head that wears a crown."

There is a good deal of the usual ridiculous fuss being made about the Haldimand election. Haldimand has generally been a Liberal County, and there is nothing remarkable in the recent success of a Liberal candidate. Still less does that success warrant the broad statement of Liberal newspapers, that on account of it, Conservatives may as well admit that there is an overwhelming sentiment in the country in favor of Free Trade with the United States. That the average political partizan swallows this sort of stuff with complacency, and holds his mouth open for more, leaves but a poor impression of his intelligence. Unrestricted Reciprocity has recently been defined to mean "Free Trade between Canada and the United States, without conditions regarding the world at large." This is comparatively unobjectionable, but, even so, Canadian manufactures would be slaughtered. But the United States politicians settle the whole question by refusing reciprocity, even in natural products, unless on a basis leading to annexation. What is the use of "insulting the intelligence of the people," by insistence on a cry out of which our amiable neighbors persist in extracting the vitality.

The delegation on the subject of the Short Line received from the Privy Council assurances which, if words mean what they are taken to mean, should be to a certain extent satisfactory, but as yet they are but words. Meanwhile the tone of Mr. Van Horne's utterances is anything but satisfactory. "Recently," he is reported to have said, "but pursuant to a long matured plan, the Canadian Pacific has been extended across the State of Maine to a connection with the railway system of the Maritime Provinces of Canada—an extension demanded in the public interest as well as in the interest of this Company. There is a large traffic between these Provinces and Western Ontario, making local connections in Ontario doubly important." Then he branches off into discussion of Western connections. It may not be so intended, but there is quite an air about this of assumption that the C. P. R. has done all that is necessary. Meanwhile all that is apparent is that while St. John is brought into connection, Halifax is left out in the cold, and must be till the line is built between Moncton and Fredericton. We suspect a strong disinclination on the part of the C. P. R. to build this link. Like the Allan Line, the C. P. R. seems to have no interest in Halifax, and we regard it, in this connection, with the most profound distrust. The Grand Trunk, whose interests point to Portland, is also to be reckoned as one of the enemies of the Maritime Provinces.

We do not go the full length of saying that Professorships should be invariably filled by Canadians, but only this far—that if an English or Scotch university man of preponderating eminence could be secured, it might be an injustice to the rising generation to set ourselves against him. This is, however, not the case. The salaries current here are not such as to be an inducement to the very highest calibre across the water, and none but the very highest would justify a preference in that direction. As regards the Dalhousie Professorship, we have no hesitation whatever in indicating Professor Roberts as the man who would be of the highest service to the institution. It has been mooted whether this gentleman's erudition is, in some directions, altogether as deep as that of Professors Smith and Tweedie. This may or may not be, but Professor Roberts has the great advantage of a creative genius. With it goes the magnetism and the energy which rouse enthusiasm, and this is the most telling quality a university magnate can possess. Professor Roberts is in the very front rank of the heirarchy of Canadian Poets, but the poet of to-day is no dreamer, and Mr. Roberts' intellect is of the keen and active order which is as capable of grappling with any business question as of poetical inspiration. The sound critical faculty which he possesses in a marked degree is a further recommendation. Altogether we look upon Professor Roberts as the man whom Dalhousie would do itself the most credit by electing. He will, if chosen, be emphatically the right man in the right place.