

# THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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The mounted police in the North-West of Canada are to have their numbers increased from five hundred to one thousand men. Such a force, properly officered, should be sufficient to preserve peace and order without the aid of volunteer militia. For the next few years it would be unreasonable to expect the tide of immigration to flow into the North-West, without making an adequate provision for the protection of the settlers.

Lord Randolph Churchill is the leader of the Conservative Democracy in England, and as such he deserves to be recognized by the new premier the Marquis of Salisbury. It would, however, be most dangerous at this critical juncture to place this somewhat impetuous politician in the important post of Secretary for India. Lord Randolph is unquestionably a man of ability, but his talents are not of the order that would make him a success as secretary for our great Indian Empire.

On Wednesday next, Dominion Day, the Canadian Club of New York will be opened with appropriate ceremonies. The Canadians, like the Scotch, never forget their native land, and when thrown together in foreign countries they evince the same clanish traits as the latter race. Many of the leading merchants, bankers, and professional men of New York, are of Canadian birth, and the fact that they have united in the formation of a Canadian Club proves that they have not yet forgotten the land of the Hemlock and the Pine.

We understand that the Cleveland administration has expressed its willingness to recommend the renewal of the Fishery clauses in the Washington Treaty, provided that American fishermen are allowed to fish in Canadian waters pending the ratification of the agreement by Congress. This means that for the next six months the markets of the United States are to be closed to Canadian caught fish, while they are to remain open to fish caught by Americans in Canadian waters. The agreement may suit Brother Jonathan, but it's somewhat one-sided nature will make it unpopular with the Canadian people.

It is proposed to change the name of Cape Breton County. The reason is, that at present many outsiders unthinkingly assume that that County embraces the whole Island. We believe the coincidence in the names of the Island and one of its Counties, has militated against the interests of Cape Breton, and therefore we are glad to hear of a proposed change. Sydney, however, should not be chosen. It is a name that another County in this Province had, and has discarded. Most of our readers remember when Antigonish used to be spoken of as "the shire-town of the County of Sydney." Some one of the counties of Cape Breton ought to bear the beautiful name, "Bas D'Or." All whom we have heard discussing the proposed name of Sydney say that that is a very good name for a town, but that they would like something different to apply to the county in which that town is situated.

The power of Disallowance of Provincial Acts vested in the Dominion Government is one which should be exercised most judiciously, otherwise trouble is likely to ensue. When a Provincial Legislature passes an Act which is retrospective in its character, and materially affects a large number of persons living without the Province, it is the duty of the Federal Administration to checkmate such legislation by the use of the power of Disallowance. The Legislature of Manitoba have recently enacted a law whereby the residents in that Province are virtually relieved from all liabilities incurred by them in the other provinces of the Dominion. Were this Act to come into force in two years' time, the business men of the East would be in a position to secure themselves against loss, but as the provisions of the Act are retrospective, inasmuch as they relieve all persons from liabilities previously incurred, it is manifestly unfair to outside creditors, and should therefore be promptly disallowed by the Federal Government.

The present Dominion Government have many supporters in the city of Halifax, and many friends throughout Nova Scotia; they wish to retain their influence in this Province they should remember that this can best be insured by promoting the true interests of the people. The trade of Halifax, and of Nova Scotia with the Upper Provinces, is seriously handicapped owing to the lack of direct communication. The distance between Halifax and Montreal via the Intercolonial being two hundred and ten miles in excess of the shortest and most practicable route between these cities. The government have agreed to pay towards the construction of the shortest line a subsidy of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars a year for twenty years, which may be considered a liberal grant, but the application of this money is the question in which Halifax is interested, and when our commercial men realize that there is a probability of its being absorbed by a railway which can be of no direct advantage to Halifax it is scarce surprising that our business men, irrespective of party, protest against the appropriation being thus made.

The citizens of Halifax are desirous of seeing the shortest and most practicable route chosen, and the government that thwart this desire must be prepared to abide by the consequences.

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## EDITORIAL NOTES.

A correspondent of a city contemporary the other day became humorous. He wrote of Halifax as if it were a town of the same rapid growth as Boston, San Francisco, or St. Paul.

Advices from Antigonish and Cape Breton report that part of the Province as considerably ahead of the usual time in farming operations. Already the wheat crop in the western counties begins to cause predictions of the best crop since ten or twelve years.

Traffic receipts on the Canadian Pacific Railway for the week ending June 14th show an increase of \$18,000 over those of the corresponding week of last year. The receipts of the Grand Trunk for the same time show a decrease of \$36,168.

An Ontario Conservative journal says that Ontario produces the journalists of the Dominion. Yet the great Conservative newspaper of Ontario, the *Mail*, came to Halifax for an editor in chief, M. J. Griffin. Logan, McNeil, Lyons and Smith, now journalists in the upper provinces, are natives of Nova Scotia.

A Cape Breton correspondent, whose communication has been to hand for some time, will excuse the *Critic* from being a *Grin* journal when we tell him that until of late when our independence became well-known the Liberals of Halifax feared the *Critic* was a Tory journal. We are not, and need not be anything else than perfectly independent. *Est modus in rebus.*

The coming first of July marks the eighteenth anniversary of the birth of the young Dominion of Canada; and when we look back over her brief history we cannot but think that her progress has been satisfactory. Her growth in population, trade, and commerce is of a solid nature, while the development of her agricultural and other great industries are without parallel, saving in the Western States of America and in Australia. Were it not that Canada has in the past been somewhat overshadowed by the United States, the Dominion would to-day be recognized as one of the most progressive countries in the world. The weakness of the Confederation lies in its sectional differences, which may be attributed to the fact that before the Union was consummated the inhabitants of the confederated provinces were comparative strangers to each other. Commercial intercourse has done much towards the unification of the interests of the several provinces, and seconded as it now is by the centralization of our political, religious, and educational interests, we may hope that each year may see the people of the Dominion become more united, and the Confederation cemented in such a manner as to insure its perpetuity.