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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.

Financial matters are attracting public attention in Britain no less than in America. The fact that Britain has not nearly so much gold in reserve as several other great powers is seriously commented upon. This is offset, however, by the fact that the gold in circulation in Britain exceeds the gold in circulation in any other country, and although not so readily available in case of panic as a reserve fund, it is still a matter for satisfaction.

It is reported that Liliuokalani, the new Queen of Hawaii, is in poor health, and will not probably enjoy her new honors long. Her condition has been kept a secret, but the fact that the young Princess Kainiani, now at school in England, has been commended to return at once to Hawaii, points to the conclusion that her case is serious. The sovereign of Hawaii nominates the successor to the throne, and it will be interesting to know who the present Queen will appoint her heir.

Another phase of the claims of Portugal, elsewhere referred to, is presented in the action of the Portuguese Government in lodging a claim through their minister in London for a rectification of the frontiers of Goa, involving the cession of a certain amount of territory now included in British India. This claim is considered petty and unjustifiable by the Foreign Office, and Portugal by making it has rather overreached herself. The irritation caused by this claim will be prejudicial to Portugal when the African claims are being settled. No doubt Portugal fondly hoped by this move to induce Britain to give her a good deal in order to be rid of her pestering.

Before the next issue of THE CRITIC appears the elections will be over, but unfortunately not in time for us to obtain the returns before going to press. The fight is close one, and enthusiasm on both sides is hot. Even in the schools the boys and girls have become strong partisans and wear red or blue ribbons in token of their party. The greater number of them have a sensible idea of why they take sides, and the girls are quite as well posted as the boys. A young lady while pinning on her red ribbon a few days ago was asked if she knew why she was a Tory? "Ye," she said, "because I don't want annexation." This shows a better understanding than that of a lady belonging to a strong Liberal family, who asked a few days ago whether Sir John A. Macdonald was a Grit or a Tory! Fortunately few ladies make such a deplorable display of ignorance as this, and an increasing interest in the affairs of state is noticeable among them.

The inconvenience of transacting business in English money to persons accustomed to the simpler decimal system is frequently apparent. There is but little hope, however, of the decimal system being adopted, although it is greatly desired in some parts of Britain. Mr. Leng, member of the House of Commons, recently forwarded to the Chancellor of the Exchequer a memorial from the Dundee Chamber of Commerce and numerous merchants, manufacturers and others of that town in favor of a decimal system of coinage, weights and measures. In acknowledging the memorial Mr. Goschen said: "I must own frankly for myself that, though I am sensible that powerful arguments can be put forward in support of the decimal system, I cannot undertake to recommend its adoption in this country."

It was a triumph that came too late, that of Mr. Bradlaugh in the House of Commons a few weeks ago while he lay upon his death bed. The House at last expunged the resolution of June 22nd, 1880, declaring that Mr. Bradlaugh be not permitted to take the oath or make an affirmation, but it is doubtful if the news ever reached the member for Northampton. His career is a remarkable instance of sound sterling qualities overcoming religious prejudices. The action of the House is not to be taken as any sign of approval of Mr. Bradlaugh's opinions, but only that the members were convinced that he had right on his side in this matter. It will probably serve as a precedent, so that in future intolerance and religious tests will have no weight in keeping a representative of the people from acting in his full capacity as such. In proof of the high esteem in which Mr. Bradlaugh was held it is said that in several of the Northampton churches prayers were offered for his restoration to health on the Sunday before his death. This is testimony to the character he achieved during his parliamentary career.

The news of the Springhill mine explosion, causing the loss of 123 lives, was received in Halifax last Saturday evening. No such extensive calamity has before occurred in Nova Scotia; the Foord Pit and Drummond Mine explosions together not causing so many deaths. The danger to which our fellow-men are exposed in the collieries is not often thought of unless some accident takes place, but then our sympathies are aroused. The desolation in Springhill can scarcely be imagined. Fifty-five widows mourn their husbands and breadwinners, and 164 children lost their fathers. The work of burying the dead began on Tuesday, most of the bodies having been then recovered. Doctors from Parrsboro and other places promptly responded to the call for aid, and clergymen have acted in concert in conducting the burial services. Many heart rending scenes occurred at the mouth of the pit as the bodies were brought up. Some families lost three or four members. While we cannot lessen the grief of the bereaved who have lost their ones in such a sudden and terrible manner, we can assist in sending the money called for to relieve their necessities. The cause of the explosion is not yet known, but the inquest will, it is hoped, throw some light on the subject.

In Newfoundland the anger against Britain on account of her half-hearted way of dealing with the French Shore troubles is now further increased by Britain's refusal to ratify the Newfoundland-American reciprocity convention, recently drafted, and which it is alleged Canada protested against to the Colonial Office. This has drawn down upon Canada also the wrath of the ancient colony, which embodies in the legislative address in reply to the Governor's speech accusations that Britain is subservient to party politics in Canada. Lord Knutsford, Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, in speaking of the matter in the House of Lords on the 17th inst., stated that it might at some time be possible to secure for the colony the advantages it desires without prejudicing the interests of the Empire, and in view of the approaching elections, and the proposals of Canadian politicians for a reciprocity treaty with the United States, we cannot but concur in the putting off of any definite treaty between Newfoundland and that country. Canada has all along sympathized with the sister colony in her difficulties, and would not wish an injustice done her in this matter. It is much to be regretted that ill-feeling should spring up between Newfoundland and Canada, and we cannot but think the irritation of the Newfoundlanders is too hasty, and that events will prove that it was better for Britain not to consent to a convention prejudicial to the interests of so large a colony as Canada. At the same time the fact that much excitement prevails among the people of St. John's over the situation cannot be ignored. This is not unnatural from their point of view. They think that Canada has unwarrantably interfered with their negotiations, and resent the success of this interference most deeply. Explanations will probably in due time be made by our Government that will tend to a better understanding of the questions at issue.