

THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

PRIZE—TWENTY DOLLARS.—In order to secure for the Christmas Number of THE CRITIC first-class reading matter, we have decided to offer a prize of twenty dollars for the best story, with the understanding that we are at liberty to select and publish the contributions of those who may compete for the prize. The story must not exceed three thousand words, nor be less than fifteen hundred. The regular staff contributors for THE CRITIC will not compete for the prize. The stories will be submitted to a committee of three gentlemen, and the prize will be awarded by them to the person sending the best. The *nom-de-plume* of the writer should be forwarded with the manuscript, the writer's real name being withheld until the *nom-de-plume* of the prize winner is announced in THE CRITIC. Stories to be forwarded to the Editor of THE CRITIC, 161 Hollis

The Dominion Government acted wisely in consenting to allow Riel's counsel time to appeal his case to the Privy Council of Britain. Had Riel been hung while the constitutionality of the court in which he was tried remained an open question, the Government would have assumed a most serious responsibility; as it is, the rebel leader will enjoy a short respite.

Khartoum is again in the throes of rebellion, and the civil discord which now exists threatens to lay the city in ashes. The Mahdi, by whose intrigue it fell a victim to the torch of the fanatic, now rests quietly in an imposter's tomb; while the heroic Gordon sleeps in an unknown grave. As the scroll of time rolls back, new and unexpected events transpire.

The Senate of Canada being a non-elective body and therefore not directly responsible to the people, has been fiercely assailed by the Young Liberals of Toronto. There can be no doubt that the present method of selecting senators is most objectionable, but its abolition would be a mistake. Reform is needed, and this time will bring about.

A rumor to the effect that the elections in Britain are to be postponed until January next has reached us, but as Lord Salisbury has already announced that the dissolution of Parliament is to take place on the 14th of November, the correctness of the report may well be questioned; and there are not wanting indications to prove that Lord Salisbury intends to adhere to his original intention of dissolving early in November.

A curious law-suit is in progress in Belgium. Several persons passing through a forest near Gand were directed by the cries of a wood cutter to a corpse hanging by a long rope from a tree. Asserting the right of a discoverer, the wood-cutter appropriated the rope, which he sold in small pieces to the curiosity-loving spectators. It was afterwards discovered that the deceased had suicided with a pistol, not with a rope, and that the wood cutter had hanged up the corpse. Hence the law-suit.

The *Broul Arrow*, the leading military journal published in Great Britain, refers in the following complimentary terms to the Canadian team at Wimbledon:—"A team that could put one quarter of their number into the Queen's three hundred, that could furnish three men to the 'Queen's sixty,' and that could carry off the second volunteer aggregate and three of the grand aggregate badges, is a team to be respected and one that will be remembered in England."

It is said that Gladstone has so far escaped the snare of the wily Insurance Agent, since no man living has ever yet been able to make out his policy. If he were a distinguished Canadian or American, and suffering as he now does, from what appears to be chronic hoarseness, he would be soon able to start a small drug shop with the innumerable restoratives which would be sent to him as presents, postpaid, by the thousand and one medicine men of the New World, quacks, of course.

There are few high officials in the Church or upon the Bench in Nova Scotia, who are not well known to our people, but the highest civil officer in the Province is, as a rule, only known by reputation; it is therefore with pleasure that we note the new departure made by the present occupant of Government House, Lieut-Governor Ritchie, who, for the past few weeks, has been making himself familiar with the wishes and requirements of the people in the western portion of Nova Scotia.

Lieutenant Storms who was sent by King Leopold of Belgium to look after the Flemish interests in the Congo State, appears to have been a somewhat ambitious officer. Overlooking his royal commission, he seized upon the government of a petty State, dubbing himself "King of Lauganyika," and "Lord of the Tribes." His arrest and summary court martial may convince him that after all there may be some truth in the saying, "Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown."

The Provincial Government is moving in the matter of railway consolidation in the Western part of Nova Scotia. So far as we can learn, their proposals to the existing companies have been fair and equitable. The bonds of the respective companies cannot be purchased at a fictitious valuation, they have a real market value, and thus the arbitrators can readily ascertain. Consolidation can only be brought about with the consent of the bond holders, and those who hold such stock should remember that no company can afford to buy them out at fancy prices.

The Mexican government has succeeded in making itself popular with the people, despite the deficits in the revenue which it is obliged annually to announce. No doubt the action of the government in its successful effort to frustrate the designs of President Barrios of Guatemala, has much to do with its present popularity. Barrios proposed to consolidate the Republics of Central America, and Mexico, seeing in this Southern Confederacy the extinction of her hope for territorial extension, took measures to thwart his designs.

When the Young Liberals, in their late meeting at Toronto, resolved to adopt manhood suffrage as one of the planks of their party platform, they placed themselves in antagonism to both the Liberal and Conservative parties in Canada. Sir John A. MacDonald, in the Dominion Parliament, and the Hon. W. S. Fielding, in the Parliament of Nova Scotia, have introduced and carried through franchise measures, in which the rights of manhood were ignored. Why paying twenty dollars per annum for an apartment in the back attic of a four story building should give a man the rights of citizenship has never yet been made sufficiently clear.

The Superintendent of Education makes annual visits and annual reports. We have annual meetings of ratepayers to make annually the necessary local provision for education. Annually, too, at the end of the school year, one school trustee, or school commissioner, gives place to another. Then, why do we not annually engage our common school teachers, instead of semi-annually, as at present? The system of annual engagements would assuredly lessen one bane of our schools—the itinerancy of the teachers.

The Hispano-German dispute arising out of the Carolines affair seems likely to take the course which is becoming usual in international complications. A little experimental grasping after territory, a much talked-of insult to a nation's honor, loud professions of innocent intentions, a final withdrawal of claims which it would be troublesome to press, or perhaps an appeal to the high court of arbitration—"and there's an end on't." It seems to be with nations as with men, they are becoming less hot-headed, less inclined to fight and more disposed to settle their differences peaceably. Wars are now too expensive to be entered upon rashly, and even victory entails more loss than gain. France is probably the only nation of the Harry Hotspur type in Europe, and France has been more respectful to her European school-mates since Germany gave her a drubbing.