

## THE CRITIC.

*The future greatness of this Dominion depends upon the development of her varied natural resources, and the intelligence and industry of her people.*

HALIFAX, N. S., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1885.

### A FIXED FACT.

Many persons questioned whether Nova Scotia offered a sufficient field for a weekly journal such as THE CRITIC, but experience has proved that the field is a most satisfactory one in which to work. Within the past four months, our canvassers have been actively at work, and our circulation in that time has nearly doubled. Remittances from our country subscribers are almost invariably accompanied by favourable references to the paper. A friend in the West says, "Your paper is newsy, crisp, instructive and elevating." Another, in the Eastern part of the Province, says, "Continue to send along THE CRITIC. It's a friend I'm always glad to have at the week's end." With a growing circulation and an increasing advertising patronage, the outlook for THE CRITIC is bright and encouraging, and as it has now passed the stages of infantile diseases and has gained a place in the affections of the people, it may fairly be looked upon as a fixed fact in the journalism of Nova Scotia.

### THE SCOTT ACT.—AN INGENIOUS RECKONING.

But little interest has yet been evinced in the proposed Scott Act contest in the City and County of Halifax, but there are many persons among the ranks of the Prohibitionists who consider the result a foregone conclusion. We have received from an ardent Scott Act advocate an estimate of the relative support and opposition which the Act will meet with from the respective denominations. While we question the accuracy of this estimate, and feel that the writer has laid himself open in some quarters to severe criticism, we cheerfully insert it in THE CRITIC, in order that our readers may judge of its merits for themselves.

	For. Per cent.	Against. Per cent.	Not Polled. Per cent.
Church of England.....	50	10	40
Catholic Church.....	55	25	20
Methodist.....	65	10	25
Baptist.....	70	20	10
Presbyterian.....	60	20	20
Outsiders.....	10	75	15
Temperance Societies.....	95	0	5
Average.....	57 6-7	22 6-7	19 2-7

### PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION IN HALIFAX.

It must be admitted that Exhibitions in Halifax have not, as a rule, been successfully managed, but it is quite evident that no General Provincial Exhibition can be successful when held in points lying east and west of the city.

The recent Exhibition in Kentville was carried out with skill and energy, but it was after all poorly patronized as far as the eastern part of the Province was concerned. The same is true of western Nova Scotia with regard to the Provincial Exhibitions held in Truro, and it is therefore apparent that for a General Provincial Exhibition a more central locality should be selected. Halifax offers to exhibitors a market for their produce, and so far as we can learn is regarded by our prominent agriculturists as the proper place in which to hold the Annual Provincial Exhibition. If some of our leading citizens would take this matter energetically in hand, we might, next autumn, have a Provincial Exhibition worthy the name; and were it managed with the same care, forethought and economy as have been those held in Kentville and Truro, it would undoubtedly prove a grand success.

### COAL ROYALTY.

Two weeks ago the Block House Mine, Cow Bay, was to be sold by sheriff's sale at the suit of the Local Government. The Government's ground of action was that the mine owed \$12,000 in royalty. The Bank of Nova Scotia, having a mortgage on the property, prevented the sale.

Much sympathy is felt for Mr. Belloni, the owner of the mine. He has done much more, perhaps, than any other one man towards building up the Cape Breton coal trade; and the Government is freely censured for prosecuting him in his difficulties. In our own opinion, however, the Government is not blameable for enforcing the law, if this be done in all cases of arrears in royalty payments. We heartily endorse the following expression of opinion, from the last issue of the *Trades' Journal*:—

"Seeing the Government has adopted measures to recover the amount of royalty due by the proprietor of the Block House, it is only fair to him and to those companies which have regularly paid the royalty, that all companies who have not paid, should be treated in a similar way to the proprietor of the Block House. It will not do for the Government to make fish of one and flesh of the other. No matter how influential a

company, or its members, may be, let the Government collect the royalty due. There are more persons indebted to the Government for royalty than the proprietor of the Block House, and it remains for the Government to take the same active measures for its recovery as in this case."

The Block House is a leading colliery in Cape Breton Co. It and the other collieries in that county have usually been strictly punctual in paying the royalty. Cape Breton County has always been remembered when money was to be collected, and always overlooked when money was to be disbursed by the Government. Under these circumstances, it is no matter of surprise that the action of the Government seems unbecomingly harsh, and meets in certain quarters with unqualified condemnation.

### THE SHORT LINE—A SURVEY NECESSARY.

It is well our "city fathers" are up and doing in the matter of the Short Line Railway. They have declared themselves in favour of the Combination as opposed to the International Line, and as the prospects of the latter road are far from encouraging, we should lose no time in uniting our forces with those of Quebec to secure the survey requisite to establish the practicability of a road which would undoubtedly be the shortest and best line from Montreal to a Canadian Atlantic seaport. The interests of Quebec and Halifax are as one in this question, and every effort should be made to have the survey made before the next session of Parliament.

The C. P. R. Company have no longer any interest in the construction of the Pope railway, and it should therefore not be difficult for Quebec and Halifax to succeed in securing the object they have in view.

What we now want is not a wordy discussion, but a joint deputation from Halifax and Quebec to urge upon the Government the necessity of an immediate survey of the forty or fifty miles of unsurveyed line. We believe that the Government would grant this survey, and we urge upon those interested the vital necessity of immediate action.

### SERVIA.

Speaking at a banquet in London recently, the Servian Minister professed regret for the recent action of the Roumelians. He maintained that the Treaty of Berlin ought to be adhered to. It was the dissensions of Bulgarians, Servians and Greeks that had first enabled the Turks to bring them under subjection. Now Bulgarians, Servians, Greeks and Turks should come to an understanding which would make them strong within and without. He deprecated any attempt to bring about the preponderance of one of these nations over the others as tending to destroy the independence of the Balkanic peninsula. It was in the interest of that independence that his sovereign, King Milan, had demanded either the enforcing of the Treaty of Berlin or the readjustment of power among the Balkanic States. The Servian Minister spoke very reasonably, but it is a question whether the Servian Government is acting on such liberal motives. It demands the territory known as Old Servia; and this demand is supported by Austrian influence.

The following singular story is going the rounds of the American papers:—"During the illness of Mrs. Spurgeon, before Mr. Spurgeon left her room for the journey he was contemplating, she remarked that she hoped that he would not be annoyed with her for telling him what had been passing through her mind. She made him, however, promise that he would not try to procure the objects for which she had been longing. She then told him she had been wishing for a piping bull-finch and an onyx ring. Of course Mr. Spurgeon expressed his willingness to get both, and she held him to his promise. He had to make a sick call on his way to the station, as well as call at the Tabernacle. Shortly after reaching the sick person's house, the mother of the patient, to his amazement, asked Mr. Spurgeon if Mrs. Spurgeon would like a piping bull-finch; they had one, but that its music was trying to the invalid, and they would gladly part with it to one who would give it the requisite care. He then made his call at the Tabernacle, and after reading a voluminous correspondence, came at last to a letter and a parcel underlying the other letters. The letter was from a lady unknown to him, who had received benefit from his services in the Tabernacle, and as a slight token of his appreciation of these services asked his acceptance of the enclosed onyx ring, necklace and bracelets, for which she had no further use. This intensified his surprise, and he hastened home with what had been so strangely sent, went up to his wife's sick room and placed the objects she had longed for before her. She met him with a look of pained reproach, as if he had allowed his regard to override his promise, but when he detailed the true circumstances of the case, she was filled with surprise, and asked Mr. Spurgeon what he thought of it. His reply was characteristic: 'I think you are one of your Heavenly Father's spoiled children, and He just gives you what you ask for.'"—*London Figaro*.

The reinstatement of Tammany Hall as the controlling power in the Democratic party in New York, is one of the recent significant events in the politics of that State. The election of last year left Tammany destitute of both offices and influence. Its hostility to Cleveland, manifested by the falling off in its strongholds of the Democratic vote for President, left it with scarcely a claim for practical recognition at Washington. But John Kelly, its energetic "Boss," has been restoring harmony between the President's party and its whilom friends; and now Tammany seems to be again Dictator to the Democrats of the City and State of New York.