

THE CRITIC:

A Maritime Provincial Journal.

DEVOTED TO

Commerce, Manufacturing, Mining and Agriculture.

1.50 PER ANNUM.
SINGLE COPY 5 CTS.

HALIFAX, N. S., SEPTEMBER 13, 1889.

VOL. 9
No. 37

CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL NOTES	1, 2
CONTRIBUTED.	
Letter to Cousin Caryl	"Dinah Sturgis." 6, 7
MISCELLANEOUS	
Chit-Chat and Chuckles	3
News of the Week	4, 5
Poetry—In Church	6
Our Cosy Corner	7
Industrial Notes	7, 8
City Chimes	8
Commercial	8, 9
Market Quotations	9
A Yarn of the P. and O.	10, 11
Mining	12, 13
A Run for Life	14, 15
Cheas	16
Draughts—Checkers	16

THE CRITIC,

Published every Friday, at 161 Hollis Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia

BY

CRITIC PUBLISHING COMPANY.

Edited by C. F. FRASER.

Subscription \$1.50 per annum in advance. Single copies 5 cents.

SAMPLE COPIES SENT FREE.

Remittances should be made to A. M. FRASER, BUSINESS MANAGER.

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.

The Comte de Paris has issued an electoral manifesto. He declares his object is to snatch power from the hands of an oppressive faction. He counsels union of the Conservatives and tolerance of the Boulangists, whose programme of revision, he says, will release France from servitude and restore religious peace. He expresses the belief that the Imperialists will not refuse to support a strong Republic, and appeals for the assistance of those who wish to found an honest Republic.

It has been stated to us in connection with the non-exemption of the saw mills on certain rivers from the saw dust clause of the Act, while the exemption has been allowed to others that "it has been very clearly shown by experts in Norway, the United States and Canada, three great lumber producing countries, that the theory that the saw dust is injurious to fish is correct," and it is set down to the account "of a few sportsmen" who have succeeded in persuading the Government to that effect. We are not to be understood as endorsing these opinions, but we agree in thinking the matter one calling for the most careful consideration and investigation, while it would certainly appear on the face of things that there is a default of justice in partial exemptions which make fish of one set of mills and not of another.

The highhanded but short-sighted and prejudiced efforts of those in the United States who have endeavored to shut out Canadian railway competition appear unlikely to meet with any measure of success. The merchant looks above and before all other things to his own material profit and advantage, and he of the North Western States joins hands with his brother of New England in deprecation of any attempt to smother railway competition. The spirit with which the western men are animated may be gathered from the following emphatic language; they "demand free passage for the products of the N. W. without hindrance by any body of men called Congress or inter-state railway commission." It is possible that this agitation may have far-reaching results in the direction of freer commercial intercourse, at all events it will probably prove a wholesome check to the intrigues of a Senate and Congress, which, having persuaded themselves into the premature conviction that the whole of the North American Continent belonged of inalienable right to the United States, were, earlier in the year, in Canada, now, animated by a spirit certainly anything but amicable towards

The editor of the *Trades Journal* takes us to task for referring to Mr. Sharp as an English poet, Mr. Sharp, it appears, having been born in Paisley, Scotland. Our hypercritical friend, who is a Scotchman, feels aggrieved at the general application of the term "English" to anything outside of England itself. Yet if he is a student of English literature he will find that his favorite, Bobby Burns, is regarded as no mean contributor to that literature. We ourselves have a goodly supply of Scotch blood in our veins, and would much prefer the use of the word British to either English, Scotch, or Irish, but when a poet born in Scotland writes exclusively in the English language, he is certainly just as much an English as a Scotch poet. Mr. Sladen, who was recently in this Province, was born in England and graduated at Oxford, and yet he is always referred to as the Australian poet. The recklessness of hypercritical journalism never fails to bear bitter fruit, and we recommend our friend of the *Trades Journal* to look out for the future, and not allow himself to be caught by chaff.

One hardly knows in what the charm of Aldershot consists; the scenery, though pretty, is not striking, a broad valley with a range of hills of no remarkable outline bounding it on either side, a perfectly level camping ground about a mile long, and perhaps a quarter of a mile broad, and half a dozen detached houses within range of sight, and description is exhausted. Yet it is certain that every one goes to it with pleasure and sees its relapse into its normal state of dead repose with regret. With perfect, if rather hot, weather in the day time, and a glorious moon at night, with kindly and genial companions, and the absence of the disturbing element, one seems to be living in an atmosphere of Indian summer tranquility, one's every day life seems a thing of the long-past, and if the weather would only "keep so" one feels as if he would be well content to let it be so, and never recall it or go back to it again. Yet it is not "always afternoon" and, as a matter of fact, what afternoon there is, is particularly well enlivened by two hours' sharp drill—they are putting in six hours a day. The camp is somewhat small this year, only two battalions, the 68th and 93rd, and the Kings troop of cavalry, but there is the advantage in it of a thorough superintendence and sub division of work among the large staff of able instructors. That no larger force is available for annual drill this year is due to the inertness of the Militia department in persistently disregarding the sensible suggestions that have been made to it by the General of Militia and the officers of the Staff. That the two year drill is not a screaming farce is due solely to the good feeling and willingness to learn of the men, and the energy of the instructors. Long ago the General recommended the reduction of the force to a number which could be drilled annually, but the real remedy would lie in the appointment of a Minister of Militia with pluck enough to face the House with the boldness of a good cause, and insist on reasonable supplies. The Militia of Canada is a splendid force if it is not starved.

There are probably many whose age of adventurous activity is drawing towards a close, who think that if they could have their time of youth and promptitude for all adventure over again, they would choose Africa for their field. Perhaps there are few who would accept a second lease of life even on the terms of beginning it afresh with all the experience of the past, but that is beside the question. To the class of mind that delights in having the unknown spread before it, to explore the "Dark Continent" has charms that but few other parts of the world at this period of its development possess. The darkness, however, is fast dispersing, and the most prominent illuminator is the Congo Free State, established on the most absolutely cosmopolitan basis under the nominal sovereignty of the philanthropic King of the Belgians. In this light its establishment marks a new and most significant departure in the organization of new communities. Already steamers of all the principal nations have navigated the waters of the great river for some time, but perhaps the most efficient stimulus and aid to the general civilizing purposes of the State will be the railroad, the preliminaries of which will be begun at once. The commerce of the region which will be traversed by the line will be of the utmost importance. There are thousands of trees, says an experienced explorer writing a few months ago in *Blackwood*, whose beautifully grained timber has only to be brought to Europe to find a ready sale. Teak, kingwood, camwood, lignumvitæ, and African black oak are only a few out of the valuable woods which now fall in their season, and lie rotting in the forests, while there is a creeper which winds itself round the trunks of trees like a huge serpent, and having climbed to the branches and spread over them, drops down numberless ropes, which seem to take root in the ground. If you cut one of these stems with a knife a white milky sap exudes between the bark and the woody centre, which is caoutchouc or india rubber. Besides these there are quantities of ivory and many other productions of value in the Congo country, the settlement of which has been begun in the most practical manner, and is evidently destined to a very rapid advance.