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The Canada School Journal and Weekly Review.

An Educational Journal devoted to the advancement of Literature, Science, and the teaching profession in Canada.

—o—T E R M S .—o—

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The World.

Our portion of Lord Salisbury's recent speech is of special interest to colonies. He declares himself in favor of Imperial Federation, which he says is in accordance with Conservative traditions, and one of the most important questions of the future. He was forced to admit, however, that his plans in regard to the matter had not yet taken tangible shape. This admission, in regard to a matter which has been so long and so much discussed, indicates the great if not insuperable practical difficulties which beset the project. As a subject for practical statesmanship it is clear that the Imperial Federation idea is yet in the clouds, and seems likely to remain there.

The last week has brought rather exciting news from France. The Conservatives, composed of Monarchists, Bonapartists, and other of the almost innumerable factions which make French politics so intricate a study, have made important gains in the recent elections. Three members of the cabinet have resigned in consequence of defeat, and a reconstruction of the

ministry is thus made necessary. It is pretty certain, however, that the Republican party will still remain in the ascendant. Even in case of a temporary defeat of the ministry, there is little probability that the incoherent factions of the opposition could be compacted so as to make administration possible. The chief significance of the electoral vote is no doubt its condemnation of the recent attempts of the ministry to extend the Colonial Empire by conquests in Tunis, Tonquin, and Madagascar. The French are not yet sufficiently versed in the principles of local self-government to make successful colonizers, and the people do not share the ambition of their leaders to work in that direction at such expense to the national purse and reputation.

One of the most disgraceful incidents in colonial history has recently been brought to light in Queensland. A Royal Commission was appointed some months since to ascertain the facts in reference to the alleged kidnapping of South Sea Islanders for work on the sugar plantations. The report of the Commission confirms the charge and reveals a history of fraud, treachery and murder, rivalling in horrible cruelty the worst features of the old African slave trade. The Queensland Government, to its honor be it recorded, has taken prompt action, and done all in its power to atone for the foul crime. The surviving natives to the number of nearly 600 have been sent back to their island homes, with compensation, such as is possible, for their wrongs and sufferings. Compensation (?) has also been made to the relatives of about 100 of the poor creatures who died from exhaustion and ill-treatment during seven months "free voluntary labor," on the sugar plantations. It is to be hoped that the compensation will be exacted from those responsible for this attempt to revive the horrors of the slave trade, and that exemplary punishment will be inflicted upon the leaders.

The great electoral campaign in England has begun in earnest. Mr. Chamberlain and Sir Charles Dilke on the one hand and Lord Salisbury on the other, have made very effective speeches. Mr. Chamberlain has outlined a comprehensive scheme of reform, including radical changes in land tenure, the abolition of primogeniture and entail free schools, &c. Sir Charles Dilke urges the Cabinet to confer upon Ireland the largest measure of self-government compatible with the integrity of the Empire. Lord Salisbury deprecates interference in the affairs of Eastern Roumelia, announcing, nevertheless, that the policy of the Government is to uphold the Turkish Empire, and at the same time, as far as possible, to foster the self-sustained nationalities which are coming to the front, and will have important results in Europe. He favors large changes in Great Britain in the direction of decentralization of authority, and extension of self-government. Parnell, too, has again been heard from. In regard to the two conditions which prominent statesmen have declared must limit concession to the demand for Irish home rule he says in effect, that no pledge