

THE WEEK.

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Current Topics.

Announcement by
the Directors.

The Directors of THE WEEK Company regret very much to announce that Mr. Carter Troop, having joined the staff of the Montreal Journal of Commerce, will not further act as editor of this paper. The Directors have much pleasure in testifying to Mr. Troop's ability, energy and high character and are exceedingly sorry to lose Mr. Troop's services. All matter intended for THE WEEK may be addressed as usual to the Editor of THE WEEK. No effort will be spared to secure for the paper the maintenance of the same independent tone which has been its distinguishing feature during Mr. Troop's able management.

The
Mandament.

The long-expected *Mandament* of the superior Roman Catholic clergy of the Province of Quebec has appeared. It is, of course, addressed to the faithful and concerns them primarily. The outside world has, however, more than a languid interest in the course the hierarchy take. If they interfere with the liberty of the citizen to vote as he pleases and threaten him with the pains and penalties of eternal damnation if he refuses to follow the bidding of his ecclesiastical superiors it becomes a matter of more than domestic concern. Besides, as a matter of policy, to arouse the Protestant feeling of the English-speaking Provinces would be a tactical mistake. We presume these considerations have been duly weighed by the signers of the document in question. The whole Remedial Bill question is very much one of factitious importance, but if anything could make it vitally interesting it would be a well-founded Protestant fear that the Romish clergy were attempting to re-assert their ancient claim to rule mankind. If they really intend any such course the *Mandament* does not disclose it.

The Text of the
Mandament.

"The Manitoba school question being before all a religious question, intimately bound to the dearest interests of the Catholic faith in this country, to the natural rights of parents, as also to the respect due to the constitution of the country and to the British Crown, we would consider ourselves traitors to the sacred cause of which we are the

defenders if we did not use our authority to assure its success. Please remark, our dearly-beloved brethren, that a Catholic is not permitted, let him be journalist, elector, candidate or member, to have two lines of conduct in a religious point of view, one for private life and one for public life, and to trample under his feet in the exercise of duties not social the obligations imposed on him by his title of a submitted son of the church. Therefore all Catholics should only vote for candidates who will formally and solemnly engage themselves to vote in Parliament in favour of the legislation giving to the Catholics of Manitoba the school laws which were recognized to them by the Privy Council of England. This grave duty imposes itself on all good Catholics, and you would not be justifiable, neither before your spiritual guides nor before God Himself, to set aside this obligation." The above sentences are the exact words of the document itself. All parties interested can govern themselves accordingly. The *pronunciamento* seems to us to go very near the border line of dictation. It now remains to be seen how Jean Baptiste will take it.

The Political
Dilemma.

From now until election day the whole Dominion may expect to be in a turmoil. No business worth speaking of will be done and no new enterprises commenced. The situation has not materially changed except that the Liberals do not seem prepared to make use of their advantages. The Conservatives are in doubt as to which king they ought to serve—King William or King Pope. Their leaders have nailed the flag of the Remedial Bill to their mast and will sink or swim under it. Those of their followers who represent, or hope to represent, strong Protestant constituencies, are in a dilemma. They are like the priest in Lever's story who was forced to give the countersign condemning the Pope to regions not named to ears polite. He either had to condemn the holy father or go to the guard room. These candidates are in the same boat. They must vote against the Remedial Bill or imperil their seat. But the curious point is that the same sword cuts both ways. Liberal candidates are in the same dilemma. Their leader has carefully refrained from saying whether he will or will not give the Catholics of Manitoba the separate schools they have asked for. The average elector who would like to vote on the Liberal side if he could, finds not a pin to choose between Sir Charles Tupper and Mr. Laurier in this matter. He feels morally certain that if Sir Charles Tupper were turned out to-morrow and Laurier put into power separate schools would be established in Manitoba in a twinkling, with the connivance of Mr. Laurier's friends there, who would be willing enough to assist him, while they are now willing enough to baulk Sir Charles Tupper. The north of Ireland contingent, led by Mr. McCarthy, are plain spoken enough. No separate schools for them—but Mr. Laurier could not assume that position because he knows how impossible it would be for this country to continue to exist on any such basis. If he declared that the refusal of separate schools was part of his policy he could not command a baker's dozen of supporters in Quebec.