

The Week.

AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF POLITICS, SOCIETY, AND LITERATURE.

TERMS:—One year, \$3.00; eight months, \$2.00; four months, \$1.00. Subscriptions payable in advance.

ADVERTISEMENTS, unexceptionable in character and limited in number, will be taken at \$4 per line per annum; \$2.50 per line for six months; \$1.50 per line for three months; 20 cents per line per insertion for a shorter period.

Subscribers in Great Britain and Ireland supplied, postage pre paid, on terms following:—One year, 12s. stg.; half-year, 6s. stg. Remittances by P. O. order or draft should be made payable and addressed to the Publisher.

All advertisements will be set up in such style as to insure THE WEEK's tasteful typographical appearance, and enhance the value of the advertising in its columns. No advertisement charged less than five lines. Address—T. R. CLOUGHER, *Business Manager*, 5 Jordan Street, Toronto. C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, *Publisher*.

NEXT week begins the Dominion and Industrial Exhibition. The programme is an attractive one; and from the achievements of former years there is every reason to confidently expect the present display to be one of which Canada may be justly proud. It is fitting at this moment, when enterprise is unhappily being paralysed by an agitation that is not likely to have much other fruition, that people should embrace such an opportunity to see what industrial progress Canada is making; and we trust that as farmers note the display they will reflect what might probably be the consequences to their own as well as others' interests if, separating themselves from the industrial community, they should place it out of the power of their fellow workers to hold another such exhibition.

If the reported harvesting of some Russian wheat in the Northwest, eight days earlier than Red Fyfe sown beside it twenty-four days earlier in the spring, be a correct statement, then the problem of the future of Manitoba and the Northwest is in a fair way to solution. Here is a difference of over a month in the period of growth; but reckoning only half that time as gained it is obvious that such a gain before the early frost of autumn set in, might—and most probably would in nine seasons out of ten—turn failure into success. The gain of a month was made at Mowbray, Manitoba; from Brandon, N.W.T., a gain of three weeks is reported; while at the Central Experimental Farm the gain was only eight days. But we hope this difference arises from the greater suitability to the Northwest of the Russian wheat (which came from Riga, being grown in a latitude six hundred miles north of Ottawa); not to any sanguine miscalculation by the experimenters. The yield—forty-three bushels to the acre—reported at Mowbray, where the best result as to time was obtained, is remarkable; but the quantity sown—eighty-four square yards—was so small that it cannot be taken as a criterion, but must be regarded rather as a result of nursery farming. Still, when the needful allowances have been made, much remains for congratulation; the prospect is bright; and when we remember that in early days Ontario went through much the same experience of frost-killed harvests that Manitoba and the Northwest have lately had, and surmounted its difficulties through gradually finding what varieties of grain were most suitable to the climate, we see in the results of these experiments much reason for courage, perseverance, and hope.

CONTRAST the prospects of agriculture, even in Manitoba, with what we see in England. Of course the cases are not in any way parallel: the causes of the depression are different, the classes affected are different. Still it may be profitable for the Canadian tiller of the soil to know that others dependent on agriculture are even worse off than himself; and in his darkest hour he may be encouraged by a feeling of gratitude as he thanks the Fates that he is not an English landlord. Writing to the *London Standard*, a Mr. Pryor Chelmsford says:—"About a year since, I heard an Essex gentleman state that within sight of his house there were 10,000 acres of land without a tenant, and much of it out of cultivation. Two months ago I met the same person, and asked him 'if agricultural matters had improved?' His reply was, 'that nothing could be worse,' and that he could now tell me of 20,000 acres in the same condition as that described when he had last spoken on the subject. He has now verified his statement by sending me the enclosed list of seventy-five farms within sight of his residence, thirty miles from London, comprising 21,472 acres, all of which is without a tenant, and much of it out of cultivation. I think, sir, the public should know this fact, and that much of the land alluded to is some of the best wheat land in the kingdom. It is amusing to hear M.P.'s talk of the necessity of breaking up and cultivating 'waste' lands." The *Standard* prints the list of farms in question.

If any doubt the legal right of the Dominion Parliament—and therefore of the Government—to disallow the Red River Valley Railroad, they may be satisfied by a reference to the recent decision of the Privy Council in the matter of the Quebec Corporation Tax, which established that, while the Act of Confederation exhausted the whole range of legislative power, whatever was not thereby expressly given to the Provincial Legislatures

rested with the Federal Parliament. The Provinces are in fact a creation of the central authority; not the central authority, of the Provinces. The greater has power over the less; therefore the Dominion Parliament is within its right, legal and moral, when it disallows a Provincial Act either because it is *ultra vires* or because it is inconsistent with a policy adopted by itself, the supreme legislature. The C. P. R. was constructed, not solely for the benefit of Manitoba and the Northwest, but for the benefit of the whole Dominion; and anything that tends to thwart this purpose, though it enure to the advantage of Manitoba and the Northwest, may, if it do not also in equal measure benefit the rest of the country, be forbidden. Would not the diversion of the Northwest trade to the States damage the trade of Eastern Canada? And have Manitoba and the Northwest, which owe their present commercial value entirely to the enterprise of the older Provinces, the moral right to evade payment of this debt—not only to evade payment of their portion of it, but to weaken the whole security? That is what they would do if they succeeded in giving the American competitors of the C. P. R. access to the Northwest. A few thousand settlers might thereby get lower railway rates; a few hundred land speculators perhaps would be enabled to get rid of some bad bargains; but those are not sufficient reasons for imperilling the success of a national enterprise such as the C. P. R., for putting at hazard the value of that great property. Ontario and Quebec are something in the position of a coöperative firm that has established a branch in the West: they will give it a due proportionate share of the common profits; but all must work together: it is unreasonable for the branch, after being set up in business, to ask to be allowed to trade on its own account, for its sole profit, and mainly with a competitor of the parent house.

SIR W. DES VŒUX, the ex-Governor of Newfoundland, does not seem to expect any remarkable results from the Newfoundland Bait Bill. He values it chiefly as an acknowledgment of the absolute right of a self-governing colony to control its own fisheries. Yet by confining French fishermen to certain waters on the west coast of Newfoundland, where they have fishing rights under the Treaty of Utrecht, owing to the distance from the fishing grounds they will be handicapped somewhat. The loss of time will offset a little the bounty given by the French Government, which was paralysing the British fishermen; and so the French plan of reconquering the fisheries will to that extent be thwarted, while they will be punished for not fishing fair.

THE *Mail* hopes to tempt Canada into Commercial Union with the example of the German Zollverein. But the cases are not parallel; in the Zollverein were included many States, while in the proposed American union there would be but two. A truer parallel perhaps would be the political union between Great Britain and Ireland aimed at by Mr. Gladstone's Home Rule measures. As Mr. Goldwin Smith has repeatedly shown, when dealing with the Irish question and with Imperial Federation, such an union between two countries (or among several) so greatly unequal, is quite impracticable; the result must be that the larger would immensely outweigh the smaller, and in the case where there were several constituents, the smaller in self-defence would combine against the larger. So it would be with the American-Canadian Union. Provision might be made, as in the German Zollverein—a provision much relied upon by the *Mail*—that no alteration in the tariff regulations shall be made save with the unanimous consent of all concerned. But what would be the use of a portion of four million of people dissenting from the decision of a portion of sixty million? Suppose Canada should desire to develop some special industry—say the Fisheries, for the benefit of the Maritime Provinces—and should go to Washington for the necessary funds—what would likely be the result? The history of the present fishery dispute will help us to an answer; we need not assume that the leopard will change its spots because we wish it.

FOR months past the air has been thick with supposed evidences that the order of Knights of Labour is breaking up. Secessions from it and strife within it have been adduced to indicate its speedy demise; while successful combinations have been formed against Mr. Powderly, which must result in his defeat or resignation at the annual convention next fall. But the order seems to die very hard, and Mr. Powderly's seat looks as firm as ever. In fact, the convulsions within it, instead of indicating dissolution, more likely indicate a process of regeneration. The secessions from it have been mostly of the anarchic element in Chicago and New York; the strifes, the defeat of these anarchists in their attempts to exercise a controlling influence in the order, or the repression of such men as Martin Irons. A victory, indeed, has been won by the conservative element, and some reforms, moreover, made, which, taken in connexion with the