

THE WEEK.

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Current Topics

Our Supplement.

We call our readers' attention to a rather remarkable journalistic effort in the form of the supplement attached to this issue dealing with the debate in the Local Legislature upon the question of Remedial Legislation. The report is the work of Mr. Sydney Flower, formerly of the Manitoba Free Press, who is not a shorthand writer, and who wrote out the enclosed report from his own notes and handed it into our office at half-past nine o'clock on Thursday morning—the debate having taken place on Wednesday afternoon and evening. Looked at merely as a specimen of facile composition it is interesting. As a record of an important Parliamentary debate it is very valuable, and will be appreciated by our readers as much for its frank and non-partizan character as for the polish of its style. It is the intention of THE WEEK, provided it receives sufficient encouragement to do so, occasionally to present in the form of a supplement full and impartial reports of the proceedings of the Ontario Legislature when the subject of debate is of more than ordinary interest and importance. No record is kept of debates in the Local House; dependence is placed upon the very inadequate and often inaccurate reports which appear in the daily press.

British Empire League.

An important and most interesting meeting of the Imperial Federation League was held in the Tower Room of the House of Commons on Wednesday morning. Colonel Denison presided, and there was a large number of members of Parliament present including Sir Charles Tupper, Sir Donald Smith, Mr. Dickey, and Mr. D'Alton McCarthy. The meeting would not have been complete had Dr. Sanford Fleming, C.M.G., not been present, and we were glad to see his honoured name amongst the number. Colonel Denison, in moving the adop-

Laurier and Bowell.

tion of the annual report, spoke of the aims and objects of the League, and said truly that there never was a time more urgent than the present for advocating Imperial unity. The Colonies ought to act together, and promptly, to accomplish the objects of the League, and Canada especially as the outpost of the Empire on this continent ought to make every effort to be able to present a firm front if attacked by any enemy. Sir Charles Tupper moved a resolution changing the name of The Imperial Federation League to that of The British Empire League in Canada. He said that there had sprung up a feeling that Imperial Federation was a misnomer for complete Federation of the Empire was impossible. There was no federation known that was not a parliamentary confederation, and the objections entertained were met by the change of name to The British Empire League. This League had the support of leading British politicians and merchants. One of its objects was to obtain such modifications of existing treaties as to enable the Colonies to make preferential trade arrangements with the Mother Country. From the fact that the Mother Country had decided to stand one-third of the cost of the fast Atlantic service, he showed how the British Empire spirit had grown. The question of defence immediately followed. The Lords of the Admiralty had decided on the benefits of the fast mail steamers, built under Admiralty inspection, and readily convertible into royal naval reserve cruisers. Every dollar spent in defence was spent in Imperial defence. In conclusion he read an abstract from a letter from Mr. James Lowther, M.P., an out-and-out protectionist in England, in which he referred to Sir Charles Tupper's speech to the Montreal Board of Trade on preferential trade relations, in which Mr. Lowther spoke of the advance the League was making in Great Britain. Mr. D'Alton McCarthy seconded the resolution, which was adopted together with the constitution. Sir Donald Smith remarked that though at first opposed to the change of name he now felt that in giving up the old name they yet retained everything they valued. We think the change a happy one, and to be cordially commended. It gets over a difficulty which has been a stumbling block to many. We can assure the members of The British Empire League in Canada that they will have the active sympathy and support of THE WEEK in all measures that may further the great cause it is their aim to promote.

A curious spectacle, or rather pair of spectacles, is afforded at Ottawa just now. A Protestant Premier is staking his political existence and the power and continuance in office of his party in a struggle to maintain Roman Catholic Separate Schools. A Roman Catholic leader of the Opposition moves the six months hoist of a measure which is intended to help his own Church. Are both of these gentlemen sincere? Or, is each of them so sure of the support of