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## THE WEEK:

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All articles, contributions, and letters on matters pertaining to the editorial department should be addressed to the Editor, and not to any person who may be supposed to be connected with the paper.

A WARM discussion is now going on in reference to the choice of those members of the Senate of the Provincial University who are elected by its graduates. It would of course be out of place for us to pronounce any opinion upon the merits of rival candidates. We have grave doubts as to the wisdom or propriety of forming electoral committees, or framing "tickets" of eligible candidates. We are of opinion, too, that nothing but a serious fear of the interests of the Arts department, which should always take leading place and rank in the minds of those who are entrusted with the management of university affairs, were being subordinated to those of some other department, could justify the formation of a special alumni association for their defence. Whether such a danger at present exists, or has recently existed, in connection with Toronto University, it is not for us to say. But in view of various facts which have recently come to the knowledge of the public, it is clearly high time that a reform movement should be made. Whether such a movement should take the form of "a crusade against those who practise or endorse crookedness in university administration" depends, we should say, upon the question of fact whether there are any such persons in positions of influence and responsibility in connection with such administration. That any members of the present Senate would consciously "practise or endorse crookedness" we should be very sorry to believe, though we cannot but repeat the opinion we have before expressed that the action of the majority who voted down the resolution calling for an enquiry into certain matters connected with the Park Hospital Trust and the extension of the biological building stands sadly in need of a better explanation than has yet been vouchsafed. There seems, too, to be need for some definite action to reassure those interested in the University that full justice is being done to the public on the one hand and to the members of the teaching staff of the institution on the other, in the distribution of the work and the emoluments of the institution. The sum is this, so far as we are able to judge from what has been brought to the knowledge of the public. The time has come when the Senate of the University should claim its right to a more full and complete control of all matters connected

with the management and oversight of its affairs than it has hitherto exercised. To this end it is desirable that men of ability, independence and energy should be elected to represent the members of Convocation on that body. Much weakness has resulted in the past from the irregular attendance of many of the members of the Senate, often through no fault of theirs, we dare say. This fact makes it desirable that only those should be elected who, in addition to their qualifications, are so situated as to be able to attend its meetings with regularity, and who have sufficient interest in the welfare of the institution to ensure their doing so.

THE decision of the British Privy Council, allowing the two appeals of the city of Winnipeg in the well-known cases before it, and thus virtually affirming the validity of the Public School Act of the Province, will, it may be hoped, set at rest the vexed question of the right of the people of Manitoba to determine their own school system and to free themselves from the incubus of Separate schools. It is not unlikely that an attempt may be made, as has been foreshadowed, to induce the Dominion Government to take up the case on behalf of the Roman Catholic clergy, and propose remedial legislation of some kind, under cover of the section of the British North America Act, which provides that an appeal to the Governor-General in Council may be taken against any Act of a Provincial Legislature which prejudicially affects any right or privilege of a minority with respect to denominational schools. But the existence of any such right or privilege is in effect the very thing which was in question in the appeal which has just been decided upon by the Judicial Committee of the British Privy Council. The clause of the Manitoba Act upon which those who sought to quash the Winnipeg Assessment Act relied, reads as follows: "Nothing in such law (relating to education) shall prejudicially affect any right or privilege with respect to denominational schools which any class of persons have by law or practice in the Province at the union." This clause is identical with the corresponding one in the British North America Act, save that the two words "or practice" are added, evidently with a view, it must be admitted, to cover the case of the Roman Catholic schools which existed in the Red River country before its acquisition by Canada. From a legal standpoint it would seem clear that if the claim has been decided against under the Manitoba Act, which includes those two words, it must fail, *a fortiori*, under the B. N. A. Act, in which these words do not appear. The courage and determination which have hitherto been shown by the people of Manitoba in defending what they regard as their rights can hardly fail to increase the reluctance of the Dominion Government to enter upon another contest in which the issue would be at least doubtful. There seems, therefore, good reason to hope that the decision now announced will be accepted as a final settlement of the question, so far as the legal and constitutional rights of all parties are concerned.

THERE is no Province in the Dominion which would be more ready to resent and resist any real or fancied encroachment on its constitutional rights than the Province of Quebec. It seems, therefore, at first thought, somewhat strange that the press and people of that Province should be so anxious to bring the authority of the Dominion to bear against the little Province of Manitoba, in a matter in which the people of the latter believe, and seemingly with good reason, that their rights are involved. Apart from the legal and constitutional questions which may now be considered settled, it is evident that many of our French contemporaries which champion the cause of their co-religionists in Manitoba, do so on the ground of what they regard as a moral right. They sincerely believe, no doubt, that their French fellow-countrymen in the Prairie Province are being treated with much less fairness and generosity by the Protestants of Manitoba than the Protestants of Quebec by the French Catholic majority in that Province. Hence we are constantly being reminded of the liberality shown to the minority in the latter Province in the matter of Separate schools. It might be deemed a sufficient reply to such an argument to remind

those who use it that the Protestant separate schools of Quebec are the *quid pro quo* for the Catholic separate schools of Ontario, and that so long as the compromise is observed in the letter and the spirit by the Government of Ontario, so long the same course must be expected on the part of Quebec. But there is a still better reply which we can only reiterate as often as the view under consideration is presented. It is true that this reply has been made so often that it has become monotonous, and that it seems difficult if not impossible to induce our French Catholic fellow-citizens to give it its due force and value. It is, nevertheless, we firmly believe, conclusive in the case. It is this: The analogy which would give the argument great force if it existed as assumed, utterly fails because of the radically different character of the schools. The public schools of Manitoba and of the other Protestant Provinces are absolutely non-sectarian; those of Quebec are as distinctly sectarian and Catholic. The public schools of the other Provinces are neither Protestant nor Catholic. The teachers employed may be either Protestants or Catholics. The sectarian and conscientious views of children and parents are scrupulously regarded. We need not say how different is the case in regard to the Quebec public schools. Cannot our contemporaries see that this simple fact makes a radical difference, that it spoils the assumed analogy?

ORDINARILY the Canadian public has enough to do to keep track of the combinations which are formed and operating in their own country, and have little time to spare for interesting themselves in what is being done in the way of their formation or suppression among their neighbours. It happens just now, however, that our interest is identical with that of the people of the contiguous States in the outcome of the proceedings which are being taken against the Reading combination, in the Supreme Court of New Jersey. The effect of the arrangement by which the Reading Company have leased the Jersey Central are already felt to the extent of an increase of fifty cents a ton in the price of anthracite coal in Toronto and other parts of western Canada, and there seems to be good reason to fear that, unless the combination can be broken up by the State courts, a much larger increase may result in the near future. An American contemporary says of the proceedings of the week before last: "The Reading Company in its briefs pleaded that its leasing of the Jersey Central was authorized by a law of New Jersey passed in 1880." Attorney-General Stockton in his reply urged that the authorization to make leases was simply an authorization to make such leases as would enable the corporation better to carry on the work for which it was originally chartered. "No New Jersey corporation was ever authorized to lease itself to a foreign corporation for the purpose of suppressing the competition it was created to promote. The leasing of the New Jersey Central was an illegal combination for a purpose that had been recognized as illegal by American and English courts from the beginning." Whatever the effect of this plea, which to the lay mind seems, we confess, to be rather weak in point of law, however strong in equity, it is hardly possible that the coal-consuming public will quietly submit to have the price of their fuel permanently increased by such a process. The advance already gained of fifty cents a ton means, it is computed, a loss of fifteen millions to coal-buyers. The corporations concerned could hardly have struck a more effectual blow at the combine hydra than by touching the public in so tender a spot, and with so ruthless a hand. The public in the United States, as in Canada, is long suffering in such matters. But when it is coolly proposed that two self-seeking companies shall put their heads together for the purpose of making fabulous gains out of the demand for a prime necessary of life, thereby defeating the beneficent designs of nature which has provided such bounteous store-houses of the material for the benefit of the whole people, the plotters are reckoning without their host. We are not sure that a temporary triumph of the combine would not be a blessing in disguise, by hastening, as it most surely would, the day when the public control of railroads and public ownership of the treasures of the earth shall have become recognized as the intention of nature, and a necessity of advancing civilization.