

# THE WEEK.

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## Current Topics.

Newfoundland's Future. The announcement that Sir William Whiteway, the Premier of Newfoundland, is about to visit Ottawa suggests again the project to bring the old Colony into the Canadian Confederation. We hope that the visit of the Premier has for its object the renewal of the negotiations broken off so abruptly last spring. The reasons in favour of Newfoundland no longer adhering to its policy of isolation are too obvious to need pointing out here. And it is abundantly clear that the Dominion will not be complete until that Colony is included in the Federation. We, of course, could never consent to have the command of Canada's eastern doorway in the hands of the Americans. We must be prepared to make a considerable sacrifice in order to bring the negotiations to a happy issue, and we must find out what Great Britain will do to further the project. As we recently remarked, Mr. Chamberlain is a bigger man than Lord Ripon. The present Colonial Secretary can do what his predecessor would not attempt, and he can be depended upon to further in every possible way a scheme so eminently in accord with the ideas which seem to inform and control his policy respecting the Colonies. The people of Newfoundland must not be left to imagine that Canada would take advantage of their necessities to drive a hard bargain. This is not the case. We trust that Sir William Whiteway will be treated with distinguished consideration during his visit at the Capital, and that everything will be done that can be done in reason to meet his views. Newfoundland's entrance is only a question

of terms. Are all our great men dead that we should despair of agreement being reached? We brought in British Columbia, and we can bring in Newfoundland.

### Nova Scotia and Repeal.

It is true that Nova Scotia entered the Canadian Federation unwillingly and that there has been in the past considerable unrest and dissatisfaction in the Province. But there is no truth whatever in the statement that this unrest and dissatisfaction still prevail. Nova Scotia has nothing to gain but everything to lose by severing her connection with the Dominion, and Nova Scotians know it well. The influence of that Province in the Confederation has been immense and second to none. Her representatives in the Dominion Parliament have been from the first men of conspicuous ability, of superior social and moral standing, the very flower of our public life. It is an admitted fact that our ablest Cabinet Ministers, with one or two exceptions, have been Nova Scotians or New Brunswickers. The majority of the men of weight and standing in the House to-day come from the Maritime Provinces. None of them favour secession. They are among the most loyal of Canadians. It may be that in the Legislative Assembly two or three feeble-witted members in their desire for notoriety shout and splutter empty nothings about secession. But nobody pays them any serious attention. The crowd may sometimes applaud their foolish vapourings, but men of understanding know it is all talk, and that if any serious attempt were made to translate the babble into action the ranters would be speedily crushed. Nova Scotia's part in our nation-building has been a great and noble part, and we firmly believe that she will be the last of the Provinces to pull down that which she has striven so strenuously and effectively to build up. We maintain that Nova Scotia is a tower of strength to the Dominion. Let any one attempt to lay violent hands on the Confederation, and it will be seen where Nova Scotia stands. She will lead in its defence.

### Lord Salisbury at Guildhall.

Lord Salisbury's speech at the Guildhall shows that the right man is at the helm of the Empire. No word indicated that he was aware of the existence of the Honourable "Bill" Chandler or Senator Lodge, both of whom have declared war, because Venezuela is not to be allowed to arrest whom she pleases on territory she is pleased to call her own. He seemed not to be aware of the existence even of the great King Prempeh of Ashanti, and his 7777 wives, although on a former occasion a war in Ashanti cost a good round sum. Neither did he mention that Brazil had ceased fooling about the barren islet of Trinidad being used as a cable station. He had not a word concerning Mr. Paul's tyranny in denying the suffrage to the gold-diggers of the Transvaal and his commercial vagaries in trying to force all imports to be brought in on his own railway. Of two greater things he sang, the East and the farthest East. Concerning the latter,