

# THE WEEK.

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## Current Topics.

The Bishop  
of Niagara.

The selection of Canon DuMoulin as Bishop of Niagara is a great loss to Toronto and a very great gain to Hamilton. The tone of the Canon's telegram of acceptance is that he regards the election as a call from God. *Vox ecclesiae, vox Dei.* Every member of the Church of England in Toronto will breathe the most sincere wishes for the continued happiness of the new Bishop in his new field of labour. St. James Church has lost an eloquent preacher and a hard working conscientious Rector. The qualities and accomplishments which made the Canon one of the most popular clergymen if not the most popular in Toronto will be his best passport to success with his new flock.

The Prohibition  
Decision.

The Privy Council have just decided that the right of allowing the importation of liquor may rest with one jurisdiction while the right to prohibit the manufacture may rest with another. In Ontario the Provincial legislature can not prohibit the importation of liquor while it can prohibit the sale locally within the limits of the Province. The Judicial Committee takes away with one hand what it gives with the other. The practical result is that the question of prohibiting the liquor traffic is transferred from the Provincial to the Dominion arena. This transfer means that prohibition will never be secured in Canada. The French Canadians are too sensible to allow it to pass. The temperance advocates, that is, the total abstinence advocates, for the two phrases mean entirely distinct things although they are often confounded, will now do more practical good by encouraging the movement in favour of compulsory treatment of irreclaimable drunkards under medical supervision than by striving to punish B, C and D who know when to stop for the fault of A who does not know when he has had enough.

Toronto's Estimates  
for 1896.

The City Treasurer of Toronto has brought down his budget for the current year. The total amount of expenditure to be dealt with is over three millions of dollars. Of this amount almost two thirds are uncontrollable, the other third is controllable. The rate of taxation will be according

to the estimate almost seventeen and a half mills (17½) on the dollar—as against sixteen and a quarter mills last year. The largest single item of uncontrollable expenditure is the Public Schools \$419,795 as against \$371,518 last year. The High Schools are to cost \$40,275 as against \$28,981 last year. The total cost of Public and High Schools this year is \$460,070 as against \$400,499—an increase of \$59,571. On this head the Treasurer says: "Large as this expenditure is, there can be little doubt that the ratepayers receive good value for the outlay, and that the school system of Toronto is on an excellent basis, admired by all visitors to the city. No other city in the Dominion offers better educational facilities than Toronto, a fact so generally admitted that to it is due, no doubt, much of the phenomenal increase in the population of the city; parents with their families coming here from all over the province to take advantage of the unrivalled opportunities offered by our schools, public and private, colleges and the universities." This statement of Mr. Coady's is no doubt his honest opinion. Other people may not be so confident on the point as Mr. Coady is. The subject will bear discussion.

Mr. Laurier on  
the Count.

In Mr. Laurier's tribute of respect to the late lamented Mr. Mercier, we think that the leader of the Opposition forgot one slight item. He forgot to mention the absorbent power of the late deceased Count. We have before us the statement of sums which that distinguished gentleman paid his friend, the Widow Rivet, for wine. They total up the amount of 1,754.20 francs, besides for Monopole Champagne alone 381 francs, and a further small sum of 3,380 francs for "wines" unclassified. Ye Gods! Think of it, 5,715 francs for wine. M. Mercier should have been made a Prince not a mere Count. And then—one bath, six francs; barber, bath and piano tuner, fifteen francs. Two baths and 5,000 francs worth of wine—it reminds one of Falstaff. Alms to the poor, twenty francs; soap, fifteen francs; not used for the bath but for shaving purposes. Then think of this: Certain Expenses, 100 francs; pocket money, 100 francs; pocket money, 150 francs. Who would not be Premier of Quebec? The last item fairly takes one's breath away: *Sundries of which it was impossible to keep an account during the trip*, 16,084.40 francs, centimes. Notice the .40 centimes. Such was the man whom Mr. Laurier delighteth to honour. We agree with him. A man who could raise such a colossal toot was a Bohemian of the first water, and ought to be commemorated in permanent material—brass preferred. Mr. Laurier cannot surely be truly reported when he is said to have praised the Count as a great man. If he had spoken of his mighty powers of suction, of his undoubted capacity for liquids if nothing else, and also for spending your money and mine in a terrific bender, we could understand it. Further explanations are in order from Mr. Laurier. For the benefit of the uninitiated we may add that a franc is nine pence sterling or twenty cents of good Canada money. The total cost of this Paris jamboree of the noble Count was over ninety-eight thousand francs or about nineteen thousand dollars.