

THE WEEK.

Seventh Year.
Vol. VII. No. 47.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24th, 1890.

\$3.00 per Annum
Single Copies, 10 Cents

THE WEEK :

AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF POLITICS, LITERATURE, SCIENCE AND ART

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 \$4.00 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 prepaid, on terms following:—One year, 12s. 6d.; half-year, 6s. 6d. Remittances by P. O. order or draft should be made payable and addressed to the Publisher.

No advertisements charged less than five lines. Address—T. R. CLOUGHER, Business Manager, 5 Jordan Street, Toronto.

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Publisher.

CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

TOPICS—	PAGE
Removal of the Export Duty on Logs.....	739
The Sir Johns on the McKinley Bill.....	739
The Great Libel Trial.....	739
A Lawful Outrage.....	739
The Congregational Union on Socialism.....	740
A Practical Church Congress.....	740
The Need of Municipal Reform.....	740
Profit Sharing.....	740
Postal Telegraphy Proposed.....	741
Russian and American Grain.....	741
General Booth's Utopia.....	741
LEGAL REFORMS.....	741
LONDON LETTER.....	742
HORACE: CARMEN IX., LIB. III. (Translation).....	742
PARIS LETTER.....	742
LIFE ON A CATTLE SHIP (Concluded).....	743
CANADA (POEM).....	744
THE PASSION PLAY AT OBERAMMERGAU.....	744
CORRESPONDENCE—	
The Labour Question.....	745
THE RAMBLER.....	746
GIANT CAPITAL (POEM).....	746
THE DEATH PENALTY.....	746
ART NOTES.....	747
MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.....	747
OUR LIBRARY TABLE.....	748
LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.....	749
READINGS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE.....	749
CHESS.....	750

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

TO CANADIAN WRITERS.

PRIZE COMPETITION.

PRIZES of \$50, \$30, \$20 and \$10 will be given for the FOUR BEST SHORT STORIES by Canadian writers only on subjects distinctively Canadian, on the following conditions:—

- 1.—The MS. must not exceed six thousand words and must be written on one side of the paper only.
- 2.—It must be delivered at THE WEEK office, 5 Jordan Street, Toronto, not later than 1st November, 1890.
- 3.—Each competing story must bear on the top of the first page a motto and be accompanied by a sealed envelope marked with the same motto and the words PRIZE STORY COMPETITION, and enclosing the name and address of the writer.
- 4.—All the MSS. sent in to become the property of THE WEEK.
- 5.—THE WEEK will award the prizes and will be judge of the fulfilment of the conditions.

Owing to a generally expressed desire THE WEEK has decided to accept MSS. sent in for the Short Story Prize Competition whether typewritten or not.

CONGRESS, it must be admitted, placed the Canadian Government between the horns of a somewhat embarrassing dilemma in the matter of the export duty on logs. The Premier and his colleagues had to choose between continuing the export duty to the great loss of those who had manufactured lumber to sell, as well as of those who wished to sell the logs themselves, and relieving both classes of exporters, by an act which may be construed as a humiliating admission that Canadian trade is, to that extent, at least, at the mercy of the United States. It is well, no doubt, that the Government has had the moral courage to choose the latter alternative, even though it may have done so, simply because the other course open to it would have required moral courage in yet higher degree, that needed to face the indignation and possible loss of votes which must have resulted from continuing the export duty and depriving the lumber manufacturers and the country of the proffered commercial advantage. Nor is it to be forgotten that in removing the obnoxious duty the Government has discontinued a kind of tax which is, equally with its antithesis, the bounty system, one of very questionable expediency in any case. We are, indeed, inclined to think that the real or seeming hesitancy of the Government to meet the American advance in this matter really made the "surrender," if such it be, only the more conspicuous. Had the action now announced followed

closely upon the heels of the Congressional Bill, it would, at the same time, have appeared more graceful, and have been easily defensible on the ground that Canada is, as has been so vigorously asserted, quite ready to meet the United States half way in any movement looking to better trade relations. It is, of course, to be regretted that Congress did not see fit to include spruce lumber in the category to which the more favourable tariff would be applied upon the condition named. But the fact of its omission simply illustrates the supremely selfish character of the tariff legislation of our neighbours. We cannot indeed impute such selfishness as a special fault of the United States, seeing that every other nation acts upon the same principle in framing its commercial policy. The question is, we suppose, really but one of greater or less enlightenment and scope of vision in questions of economics.

IN connection with the foregoing it may not be amiss to enquire whether those members of the Dominion Cabinet, and of the Canadian press, who persist in alleging that the tariff legislation of the United States is conceived in a spirit of hostility to Canada, and with the distinct purpose of compelling her to sue for admission into the Union, are not doing us an injury. An influential Washington journal recently took occasion to deny the imputation in the most distinct terms, and to declare that it is absurd to suppose that the McKinley Act was designed and passed with any other view than that—however shortsighted and mistaken it may prove—of benefitting the United States by protecting its industries from foreign competition. It is not easy to see how any one who has followed the course of this legislation could reach any other conclusion. Had Canadian annexation been the aim, or even one of the chief aims of the framers and supporters of the Bill, it is inconceivable that the fact should not have cropped out in the course of the debate. Politicians who could seriously believe in the possibility of being able to coerce Canada into the Union by such means, and could enact hostile tariff legislation with that end in view, would scarcely even care to conceal their purpose throughout a warm and prolonged discussion, much less could succeed in doing so. They might well suppose that their object would be promoted rather than retarded by letting their aim be made known. By permitting the object of the Bill to appear they might reasonably hope, not only to secure its readier passage (assuming that the desire to secure Canada was general in Congress and in the country), but to accomplish that object the sooner by showing the Canadian people the futility of hoping for a lowering of the tariff wall until their political absorption should have been accomplished. As a matter of fact there was throughout the debate an utter absence of any clear note of the kind indicated. Nor do we know any good reason for doubting that the great majority of the people of the United States, with the exception of those living near the border, are quite indifferent to Canada, or that many of their most influential leaders are quite sincere in declaring that they do not desire to see the territory of the Union enlarged in any direction. In fact a large majority of both politicians and people evidently know little and think less about Canada. Their mental attitude towards her is one of almost absolute indifference. Such an idea as that in question may have never entered their heads until it was suggested by telegraphic reports of such speeches as those of Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir John Thompson. Whether it is desirable or wise that the idea should be planted there by the highest authorities in Canada is a question worth considering. It cannot, certainly, tend to promote the influx of capital and population our country so much needs, to have the impression go abroad that the members of the United States Congress believe Canadians are living on their sufferance, or tottering on the brink of annexation and liable to be carried over at any time by an additional turn of the tariff screw. Of course their holding such an opinion and legislating accordingly would not change the fact, but it would not be without influence at home and abroad. It is well, therefore, that it should be understood, not only that their tariff measures cannot bring about the result indicated, but that they are not shaped with reference to it.

THE trial of Mr. McGreevy's action against Mr. Tarte, on the charge of libel, will probably be in progress before these paragraphs go to press. The case is remarkable by reason of the sweeping nature of the allegations on which the action is based, and which the defendant has so boldly undertaken to prove. Comment on the probabilities would not, of course, be permissible while the case is *sub judice*. But without committing ourselves by any expression of opinion in regard to the truth or falsity of the charges, it may not be amiss to note the heinousness of the offence of which one party or the other must be held guilty. Either Mr. Tarte has made himself a criminal by one of the most outrageous slanders ever promulgated to destroy the reputation of a public man, or both Mr. McGreevy and the Public Works Department of the Canadian Government are corrupt to the very core. It would be hard for an unprejudiced mind to determine which of the alternatives is the more improbable. If it is hard to believe that a man of Mr. Tarte's intelligence and reputation would commit the folly and atrocity of inventing such a list of crimes, and laying them to the charge of an innocent man, it seems no less incredible that not only Mr. McGreevy, but other men high in office and in public confidence, could conspire to betray a solemn trust and rob the public treasury, as asserted. Mr. Tarte's charges are too numerous to be recited here, and are, doubtless, too generally known to need recapitulation. They all in common state that Mr. McGreevy did, on the various occasions, and in the various modes specified, make use of his position and influence to obtain surreptitiously such information from the Department of Public Works as enabled him to secure for certain firms Government contracts, and that he received in payment for the information thus furnished, sums of money ranging from \$20,000 to \$30,000 in each case. In the face of such allegations, Mr. McGreevy had, evidently, no resource but the present prosecution for libel. The issue is a very serious one, and it is to be hoped, in the interest of the country, that the facts may be probed to the very bottom, whoever may suffer in consequence.

THE delegates to a Woman's Missionary Society, which met in Montreal a week or two since, protested in an indignant resolution against the operation of the law which caused a Christian Chinese lady to be deprived of her liberty and conveyed through Canada in bond, like a bale of merchandise. A remonstrance was, we believe, drawn up and forwarded to Sir John A. Macdonald. It will, of course, be fruitless, as the bonding arrangement was, no doubt, the legal and logical outcome of the legislation which places a special tax on Chinese immigrants. But the ladies did well to protest. From the missionary point of view, such an incident is a deplorable outrage. One can fancy the thoughts and feelings of an intelligent and educated Chinese woman, who has been led to embrace Christianity as the embodiment of the broadest doctrine of human brotherhood and the highest expression of universal good-will, on visiting, for the first time, a Christian country, only to find herself deprived of her freedom, and hurried through the country with probably a ticket attached to her, for no other offence than that of having come to the country. It would, we fear, take a good deal of explanation to show the traveller, however intelligent and clear-minded she might be, that cheerful submission to such an indignity was a duty owed to the Christian science of political economy. In connection with this unquestionably difficult Chinese problem we observe that the people of San Francisco propose to push the policy of exclusion to its logical extreme, by expelling all Chinese from the city and county, on the ground that their presence imperils the health and morality of the community. If the description given of their filthy, vile and criminal habits is true, or approximates truth, there is certainly a demand for vigorous measures. But why may not both this difficulty and the closely related one caused by Chinese cheap labour, be met by the enactment and enforcement of such regulations in respect to modes of living as the laws of sanitation and morality demand? No Christian sentiment could be outraged by forbidding, for instance, that more than a certain number should