

THE WEEK:

A CANADIAN JOURNAL OF POLITICS, SOCIETY, AND LITERATURE.

Second Year.
Vol. II., No. 50.

Toronto, Thursday, November 12th, 1885.

\$3.00 per Annum.
Single Copies, 10 cents.

CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK—		PAGE
Completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway		785
Rumours of a Parliamentary Dissolution		785
Collapse of the National Policy		785
Causes of the Depression in English Trade		786
Commercial Union the Eventual Destiny of Canada		786
Proper Definition of Free Trade and Protection Wanted		786
Imperial Federation		787
Disensions amongst Reformers		787
University Confederation		787
Progress of Temperance in England		787
Feverish Conceptions of Mr. Gladstone		787
The <i>Pall Mall Gazette</i> Case		788
The New Governor of New York State		788
Moral of the French Elections		788
Revocation of the Edict of Nantes		788
CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES—		
Is Confederation a Success?	Hon. J. W. Lonsdale.	780
Notes from Quebec	Nemo.	790
Education Notes	Censor.	791
An Estimate of General McClellan	B.	791
HERE AND THERE		792
CORRESPONDENCE		793
POETRY—		
Ballade of Summer's Sleep	A. Lampman.	794
EXTRACTS FROM "A DIARY OF TWO PARLIAMENTS"		794
MUSIC		795
SCRAP BOOK		795
OUR LIBRARY TABLE		796
LITERARY GOSSIP		796

The Week.

AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF POLITICS, SOCIETY AND LITERATURE.

Edited by W. PHILIP ROBINSON.

TERMS:—One year, \$3.00; eight months, \$2.00; four months, \$1.00. Subscriptions payable in advance.

ADVERTISEMENTS, unexceptional in character and limited in number, will be taken at \$4 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, 13s. 6d.; half-year, 8s. 6d. Remittances by P. O. order or draft should be made payable and addressed to the Publisher.

All advertisements will be set up in such style as to insure THE WEEK's tasteful typographical appearance, and enhance the value of the advertising in its columns. No advertisement charged less than five lines. Address—T. R. CLOUGHER, Business Manager, 5 Jordan Street, Toronto.
C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Publisher.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

THE driving of the last spike in the Canadian Pacific Railway, with a gracious telegram of congratulation from Her Majesty, will cause the public mind to travel backward and review the history of this enterprise from the time when the country was committed to it, with no survey or estimate, but with the explicit promise, recorded in an Act of Parliament, that the road should be completed without any addition to taxation. Whether the work will accomplish the political object for which it is intended—whether the last spike is destined to clench the Union of the Federated Provinces or to prove the first nail in the coffin of Confederation—the immediate future will show. The completion of the road is rather ominously attended by the financial failure of the political system, by a strong manifestation of the antagonism between the British and French elements, and by expressions of discontent, almost amounting to disaffection, among the people of the Maritime Provinces. Whether, as a commercial undertaking, the road is likely to be profitable to the Company it must be left to the Company to say: they have calculated the advantages of British Columbia, with its population of fifteen thousand whites, as a terminus, the chances of attracting the Oriental traffic as well as its value if attracted, and the proportion which the inevitable loss on the Lake Superior section will bear to the gains upon the other sections and the whole line. If the road will pay for its working at all, it will pay the owners a good interest on the sum which they have put into it, and which, apart from the subsidies, must be comparatively small. To Old Canada, at whose expense it has been built, the work is, commercially, a dead loss. The mere transit of produce, North-Western or Oriental, to a European market will be of no appreciable value. Of her hundred millions she will never receive back a cent, while the grain, which is her staple, and the farms upon which it is raised, cannot fail to be depreciated by the competition, prematurely and gratuitously brought down upon them, of the vast wheat-producing regions of the North-West.

RUMOURS are current of an approaching dissolution of the Dominion Parliament, and the Opposition appears to be furbishing its arms as if for an impending battle. It is difficult to see what could be Sir John Macdonald's motive for such a manœuvre. When last he used the prerogative of dissolution his motive was obvious enough: he wanted to take advantage of the popularity enjoyed by his Government during the flush of false prosperity which comes with the first days of Protection. But he can scarcely wish to take the opinion of the country on the blessings of a deficit combined with high taxation. Nor is it likely that he is in haste to encounter the wrath either of the Devil or the Deep Sea, between which he is placed in deciding the question of Riel. It is possible that by the lurid light of the deficit he may see bad times coming for his system, and that he may wish, before they come, to grasp a new lease of power. If, however, there is anything in the rumour, we cannot refrain from once more protesting against a palpable misuse of the prerogative. The people, in the exercise of their constitutional right, have elected their representatives in Parliament for a certain term of years. That term ought not to be abridged except when a constitutional necessity, such as is produced by a disagreement between the Executive and the Legislature, plainly calls for an appeal to the country. The stated term is necessary to the independence of the members, whose souls would not be their own if the sword of a final dissolution were always suspended over their heads, to be let fall at the Minister's discretion. The prerogative is not intended to empower the head of the party in power to throw the dice whenever he thinks that the chances are in his favour. It is intended to preserve the harmony between the two branches of the Legislature and between the Legislature and the Ministers of the Crown. To keep a party in power, the constituencies have been gerrymandered, and the franchise has been manipulated for the same end. This surely is enough without any further inroads on public right. There is no saying to what extent a corrupt Minister might prolong his tenure of office if he could always hold the election when he pleased. He is unwilling to appeal to the authority of the Governor-General; but if he has any real function it would seem to be that of guarding in the last resort the fundamental principles of the constitution against party violence or fraud. If he refused to grant a dissolution for a mere object of party strategy, he might possibly have some trouble, though we do not believe that Sir John Macdonald, in the present circumstances, would venture to try a fall with him, especially as Sir John's own endorsement of Sir Edmund Head's refusal to grant a dissolution merely for the purpose of enabling a Minister to fish for party gains would stand staring him directly in the face. But supposing the worst that is possible to ensue, a man of spirit, rather than be the figure-head of gerrymandering and corruption, would surely take up his hat and go home.

THE appointment of Sir Leonard Tilley to the Lieutenant-Governorship of New Brunswick denotes the withdrawal of a very estimable public man from any but a titular public life. In his departing ear sound the general praises of his integrity, industry and devotion to the public service, blended with the death-knell of his financial system. When a great increase of taxation results in a deficit there surely is no more to be said. The only thing to be said, at least, is that Sir Leonard Tilley is by no means the only victim of that revival of Protectionist fallacies which is one of the most curious phenomena of our time. He is not by any means the only statesman who believes that it is possible to increase the wealth of a country by taxation, and to make industry and capital more productive by forcing them out of their natural channels. "Sir Leonard Tilley," says Sir Thomas Farrer, "quotes certain figures, not undisputed, to show that in consequence of what he calls his National Policy, Canadian manufactures have increased in the number of hands employed by 50,000, in wages paid annually by £3,000,000, and in annual value of products by £16,000,000. He seems to think that this is a pure addition to the wealth of Canada, which but for his policy would have gone to foreigners or to Englishmen, instead of being, as it really is, a compulsory and artificial transfer of the labour and capital of Canadians from the industries in which they can produce more to the industries in which they can produce less, and a consequent diminu-