

THE WEEK.

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Current Topics.

A Valuable Precedent.

The ministry of Sir Charles Tupper has resigned, and the Liberals are once more in power. The King is dead, long live the King. Rumour has it that the moribund Government desired to make a large number of appointments which the Governor General declined to ratify. Rumour also has it that the Tupper Government delayed their resignations only to carry through these appointments. Theoretically the practice is for an outgoing Ministry to have provision made for some of its friends—in England, by titles, in Canada, by office. But the theory is a bad one, and as it has been practiced in Canada, vicious. A precedent is now established which commends itself to common sense. The outgoing Ministry from the day they are condemned by popular vote will cease to control. Current business must be carried on, but no new engagements entered into, and appointments to office of political supporters after that date are made at risk of reversal. The Governor-General deserves the hearty thanks of Canadians for establishing this principle. It works both ways and both political parties must in future act accordingly. A member who votes hereafter in the last session of a Parliament with a promise of office made in the hope of his party returning to power, will do so at his own risk.

The Free Coinage of Silver.

The advocates for the free coinage of silver are in the ascendant at Chicago. As we foretold in the issue of the 12th June, the West and South have combined against the East. The Democratic politicians have commenced their mad career. To them, capital and national credit are things of naught. A patriotic combination between the respectable Democrats and the respectable Republicans may yet avert financial disaster in the Union. We fear not. On the contrary, we fear that the unreliable portion of the Republican voters will be seduced into the Democratic ranks. The bribe held out is too seductive for the uneducated to resist. From this time our readers may expect to see history being made by the United States in their characteristic rapid manner. The next step in the programme of these reckless men is to force the hand of the present administration already committed to a "spirited foreign policy."

An Explanation.

We return with the present issue to the usual arrangement of our columns. The number of readers who have complained to us that they have missed their "topics" is very large. The complaint is a gratifying one, because it shows that public attention follows what appears in these columns. We can assure those who have communicated with us on this subject that there is only one reason why we have varied our usual routine. The subject of preferential trade between Canada and England and between Canada and the other English possessions is so important that for the present it dwarfs all other issues. The great difficulty people find in Canada is that of obtaining authoritative information on almost any question, absolutely without suspicion of its being "cooked." As to the trade question there is a general uneasy impression that the two parties do not look upon that question from the same standing point. The Conservatives are supposed to have a leaning to London. The Liberals are alleged to look to Washington. The average non-party Canadian wants to know what the facts are before he judges. To supply this want for three issues we devoted the first place in our columns to Mr. Van Sommer's papers. To that gentleman we return our acknowledgments. His third paper on the various treaties contains a mass of information in tabular form, which could not be acquired without a great deal of research. It is very suggestive, and Canadians may draw some salutary lessons from it. The intelligent and thinking lover of his country will require no further explanation of a course which ought to show that THE WEEK desires only the interests of truth. We appealed some time ago for information from the North-West as to the Hudson Bay Railway. We have received some information, but not enough. The people in Eastern Canada desire to know all about that subject. We would welcome reliable information about the mining capabilities both of this Province and British Columbia. The Newfoundland question has sunk out of sight. Is it not more in the interests of the Dominion to discuss these questions than it is to try and set the Provinces fighting with one another?

Does It Pay?

The primary duty of any journal which aims at the ideal of THE WEEK is to give information. The field to be covered ranges through all subjects from Politics to Music, from discord to harmony. Stern fact and prosaic reality must find room as well as the fanciful creations of imagination. The struggle for existence is so exacting in a comparatively new country that there is almost no leisure class. The compensation paid to literature in Canada, and the consideration given to literary men by the great world are so small that only a very few devote attention to letters. The consequence is that the practical side of literature receives undue encouragement. The general trend of education is towards improvement in material directions. Education for the sake of education exists almost no longer. A man or youth in Canada goes to a University, not to receive a general education, but to receive special training for some profession or