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## THE WEEK :

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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.

BEFORE this number is in the hands of its readers the sad news of the death of Professor Young, of the University of Toronto, will have been received with deep and sincere regret by many of our readers to whom the deceased was favourably known, personally, or by reputation. The loss to the University of Toronto will be well-nigh irreparable. It is no disparagement to the other able and learned members of the Professoriate to say that in the higher qualities of a College lecturer, in his power of critical analysis, of lucid exposition, and of compelling thought and stimulating mental effort to its highest pitch, Professor Young was without a superior, and, probably, without an equal in the University. Though the subjects pertaining to his Chair are often ranked amongst the driest and most unpopular in the College course, in his hands they became aglow with profound and living interest, for almost every student who attended his lectures. However sparsely occupied the benches in other class-rooms might be at times, the lecture-room of the department of Mental and Moral Science was always sure to be well filled. It is also pleasant to record that great as was the admiration excited by Professor Young's keen intellect and profound scholarship, as shown in the lecture room, it did not exceed the respect and affection inspired by his lofty moral character and unaffected kindness, as seen in domestic and social life. Those who were compelled to do homage to his talents were none the less constrained to respect his manly and Christian virtues. His somewhat sudden death was the result of a stroke of paralysis, by which he was prostrated a few days ago, shortly after his return from one of his lectures at the College. As an account of Professor Young's life and work appeared in these columns, a few months since, amongst our sketches of "Prominent Canadians," the particulars need not here be repeated. It has always been regretted by those who desired to get a full and complete statement of Professor Young's metaphysical and ethical views, that he did not give them to the public in permanent form. It is to be

hoped that material may be found amongst his papers for a posthumous publication, such as may to some extent supply the deficiency. But on this point we are without information.

ANYTHING more illogical or unfair in the way of a Customs regulation than Mr. Bowell's proposal to include the charges for transportation and shipment of imported goods in the value on which the duty is to be assessed, it is not easy to imagine. The Minister may, perhaps, when the subject comes up for discussion, be able to throw some light upon it which will change its aspect, but as it stands the rule certainly looks arbitrary and unreasonable in the extreme. Why should goods brought from a greater distance be chargeable with a higher rate of duty than those brought from a nearer point in the same country? Why should those imported from a far country be placed under a disadvantage as compared with those imported from a neighbouring country? One would naturally suppose that the principle underlying the National Policy would favour discrimination in the opposite direction, if at all. As a rule, articles brought from a great distance are such as cannot be produced at home, and should therefore be permitted to come in at the lowest possible cost to the consumer. On the other hand, those articles which are bought from our next door neighbours, whose climatic and other conditions are much the same as our own, are usually such as enter into direct competition with home productions. Against these protection is most needed. It is to be hoped that the rumour that Minister Bowell will modify his act in this particular may prove well founded.

THE principle of the Bill introduced in the Senate by Senator Abbott, described as "an Act to permit the conditional release of first offenders in certain cases," is one which not only commends itself to the common sense of non-experts in prison discipline, but is understood to be approved by the judgment and experience of some of the most careful and thoughtful students of penology. True, the stigma of being a "ticket-of-leave" man is a terrible one, and may, there is reason to fear, go far to hinder the culprit in his most honest efforts to retrieve his reputation and earn an honest livelihood. This is, we suppose, to some extent unavoidable, especially since the man or woman conditionally released must be kept in sight by the police. But this is one of the legitimate consequences of wrongdoing, and must be accepted. But anything is better than the present method of putting the young offender directly into the horrible school of vice which is to be found in the corridors of a prison. If with the "conditional release" system is joined the separate cell scheme, two great steps will have been taken for the better repression of crime.

REFERRING to the measure for the restriction of immigration proposed by the United States Congress, the abolition of grants in aid of immigration by the Canadian Dominion, and the discouragement of immigration which for years has been the settled policy of the of the Australian Legislatures, the *Colonies and India* says that the outlook for emigration to the usual camping grounds is, indeed, gloomy, and quotes a philosophic contemporary's opinion that the large probability is that before little children are fit to emigrate the opportunity of emigration will have disappeared, and that the most wonderful movement of our century, the march of the surplus European population across the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, a march incomparably greater in volume than that of the barbarians upon Rome, will have almost suddenly died away. To us it seems more probable that this view greatly overrates the effect of any legislation, positive or negative, that is being, or is likely to be proposed, in America at least, for a long time to come, and greatly underrates the forces that are still working to promote the great movements of population. The aim of both the United States and Canada is not to check immigration, but to change its character. So long as this continent contains vast areas of unoccupied land, capable of cultivation, and vast stores of undeveloped resources suited for the supply of the world's needs, so long a steady, though possibly diminished, stream of population will flow in from the over-crowded centres of the Old World. Nor is it at all unlikely that with the increased

facilities for speedy transport the diminishing cost of the ocean passage may nearly or quite neutralize the effects of the discontinuance of assisted passages. The law of human gravitation, strengthened by the constant growth of intercourse and knowledge, will continue to work irresistibly to restore the equilibrium. The United States and Canada may have been taught by experience that not every incomer is worth to the country the \$1,000 at which he was formerly appraised, but neither can fail to recognize that the calculation holds good of every industrious and able-bodied immigrant who either brings with him or knows how to find, the means of gaining an honest livelihood.

ETERNAL vigilance is the price of efficiency in the management of public institutions. There is a very natural and constant tendency on the part of all organizations supported largely by public funds or permanent endowments to fall into easy-going habits and follow stereotyped methods, often without very close inquiry into their continued usefulness or special adaptation to specific ends. The criticism made the other day by General Middleton upon the operations of the Dominion Rifle Association affords an instance of this tendency. We have gone on year by year reading the reports of the meetings and doings of this Association, and taking, perhaps, a pardonable pride in the high scores made by individual members at the butts, without ever stopping to ask how much it is actually accomplishing in the way of making the rank and file of our volunteers skilful in the use of the great military weapon of the day. But, when once our attention is called to the point, we can all remember how frequently the names of a comparatively few famous shots recur in the reports and how small a proportion of these are of the rank and file, though we could not have supposed it possible, had the statement been made on less competent authority than that of Sir Frederick Middleton himself, and the reports of musketry instructors, that 30 out of every 37 of our militiamen could not be relied upon to hit a haystack with a rifle bullet and that only about 20 per cent. of those who are called out for drill can be regarded as first-class shots. General Middleton deserves the thanks of the country for his outspoken and telling criticism, albeit it may not have been agreeable to those who have been content to go on with the pleasant farce from year to year. That a radical change of methods must be brought about seems clear. Surely some means may be devised whereby the average militiaman can be taught to use his rifle with some approach to skill and precision, otherwise the organization might as well be given up and the money saved.

THE injustice which the Quebec Government persists in inflicting upon the Protestant minority in the distribution of the school taxes collected from Protestant corporations, is rather aggravated than otherwise by the curious reason given by Premier Mercier for refusing to correct the wrong. He and his Government can give no help, he says, to promote the introduction or passage of a Bill to change the mode of distribution because, forsooth, the Council of Public Instruction has unanimously passed a resolution recommending that no change be made in the School Legislation. This Council, two-thirds of whose members are Catholic Ecclesiastics, is as Mr. G. W. Stephens informs the *Witness*, a "subordinate body, created by the Legislature for the purpose of making rules for the Government of Normal and Common Schools, to select the books, make rules for the Board of Examiners, register the names of all classes and teachers holding certificates, and revoke teachers' certificates." That to such a body should be transferred the right of determining whether the Provincial Legislature may or may not legislate on a given subject is, to say the least, something new in Constitutional Government. To add to the complication, the Protestant members of the Council protest that no such resolution was ever passed, unanimously or otherwise, by the Council.

THE work of the Parnell Commission is, judging from present indications, practically over. It is undeniable that the events of the last few days have wrought a great change in the state of public opinion and feeling. The utter collapse of the testimony on which *The Times* seems