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## The Week,

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The agony in Manitoba is over, for the present at least. Dr. Harrison's Administration has proved very short-lived. Built as it was upon a very narrow, and as unfriendly critics on both sides would say, perhaps with double meaning, treacherous foundation, it could not withstand the shock of defeat in two constituencies, at the outset of its career. The outlook in the Prairie Province is full of difficulties and dangers. Mr. Norquay takes his old place as leader of the Conservative party, if it can any longer be called Conservative. Should the appeal to the people, which is probably inevitable, result in his restoration to power, he will be at once confronted with all the old difficulties, aggravated by a doubtful record and an empty exchequer. Should the forces of his opponents triumph, the Province would have at its helm, in Mr. Greenway, a new and untried man, and one of whom it would not perhaps be too much to say that he has hitherto given little evidence of the possession, in any high degree, of the statesmanlike qualities which will be sadly needed in the embarrassing circumstances in which the Government, whatever its political colour, will find itself. Under a Liberal Government the railway difficulty would be likely to become at once acute, though as the retiring Administration has also in the Lieutenant-Governor's opening Address to the Legislature, committed itself unreservedly to the policy of pushing forward the Red River Valley Railway to prompt completion, all the conditions are present, in any event, for a renewal of the struggle with the Dominion Government. Unless, as seems not improbable, the Dominion Premier should be prepared, on the opening of Parliament, to submit some proposal looking to the quieting of the Canadian Pacific Company's monopoly claims, it is difficult to see what the end of the struggle will be. Such a proposal would at once transfer the seat of conflict to Ottawa. Meanwhile the splendid output of twelve millions bushels of wheat, announced in the opening speech, affords gratifying proof that the resources of the Province are in themselves ample, and good reason to hope that, with the free railway construction, which is pretty sure to come in some way, and with the honest and vigorous local administration which may be hoped for, the Province has before it, whether in the near or more remote future, a grand development. Either the occasion will find new men, or the present men will rise to the level of the occasion.

In both the United States and Canada the forces of monopoly are unwittingly but powerfully pushing forward the work of reform. In the former country the multiplying trusts, the latest and most obnoxious pro-

geny of high taxation, are doing their best to disgust all fair-minded citizens with the fiscal system which makes such abuses possible. In Canada the Sugar Refiners, in particular, are working blindly but energetically towards the same end. Anything more tyrannical in conception, or more high-handed in action, than the recent course of the refiners at Montreal, it would be hard to conceive. If their decision to charge higher prices for their commodities to wholesale grocers refusing to enter their combination, and even to dictate to such grocers the relative proportions in which they must purchase different grades of sugar, is not of the nature of a boycott, it is hard for plain understandings to perceive the difference. If the various trades-unions should combine and bind all their members to purchase no goods from certain merchants who refused to sell at rates named by the unions, it is to be presumed the law would step in and forbid the thing as a conspiracy. The sugar-lords seem, rightly or wrongly, to fear no such consequences. It is well, they are helping on the public education. The people of Canada put into their hands, by their own deliberate action, the lash which they are now applying so vigorously. Upon whose backs should it be used if not on those of the givers?

The proposal of the second Quebec Conference to transfer the power of absolute veto over Provincial legislation from the Federal to the Imperial authorities assumes the necessity of having this veto-power vested in some authority, by specific legislation. The non-legal mind is puzzled to understand why any such special provision is necessary. Is not the power of veto inherent in the Royal prerogative and inseparable from it under any circumstances? If it is it cannot be necessary to confer it by special statute. If it is not,—if, for instance, in clothing the Federal Executive with that power by means of the British North America Act, the Sovereign absolutely put it out of her own hands,—why may she not do the same thing by virtue of some other arrangement? In view of the narrow and strictly local limits within which the powers and functions of the Provincial Governments and Legislatures are confined under the Federal Constitution, there is hardly any conceivable place, within those limits, for such legislation by any one of the Provinces as would call for veto by the British Government. If then the question of the validity or constitutionality of Provincial legislation were transferred from the Federal Government to the proposed judicial tribunal, without appeal, why would not every purpose be served, and the present source of irritation removed? Any act of a Provincial Legislature, if declared valid by the constituted tribunal, would be placed entirely beyond Federal control. If pronounced unconstitutional it would, on the other hand, immediately fall to the ground, or be liable to be forbidden by the Dominion Government. The functions of the Constitutional court would still be purely judicial or interpretative; hence no valid objection could be taken to clothing it with the necessary powers. Such a method of adjusting the difficulty seems so simple and feasible to the non-legal mind that it must be assumed some insurmountable obstacle, legal or constitutional, lies in the background, else it would have been recommended by the Conference. The anticipated debate may throw light upon the matter, and demonstrate the necessity of going back to the old colonial status in this respect—an expedient to which many, even of those who object to the use which has been made of the prerogative by the Federal authorities, will strenuously object.

A USEFUL discussion, which the *Toronto World* claims the merit of having initiated, is going on in the newspapers, with regard to the necessity of vigorous action to locate and develop the mineral wealth of Ontario. The belief is common and no doubt well-founded that large sections of the Province are rich in mineral ores of various kinds, but notwithstanding the extensive geological surveys that have been carried on by the Dominion Government, there seems to be still a lack of definite information, such as can be readily turned to practical use. Should Sir Charles Tupper succeed in obtaining a measure of reciprocity in natural products, with the United States, the opening up of an extensive market would no doubt prove the best means of stimulating discovery and development of our mineral resources. But in any case it is doubtful if the Local Government could do better service than in devoting a considerable sum to careful exploration and to making the results known to the world. The field of geological and mineralogical research is one in which the Dominion and the