

The Week.

AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF POLITICS, SOCIETY, AND LITERATURE.

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THE Inter-Provincial Conference now sitting may be productive of much good, if the delegates of the several provinces honestly set to work to improve the condition of the Confederation, rather than try to gain advantages for their respective provinces. As is manifest, there are differences, that might become dangerous, between the Dominion Authority and the provinces, and if the Conference can formulate practicable remedies for any real fault in the Constitution, the Dominion Parliament ought to take cognisance of the proceedings. But we cannot see that the Dominion Government should take any part in the Conference: it is for the Provinces first to agree about grievances and proposed remedies. And the proceedings of the Conference ought to be public, if the resolutions are to commend themselves at all to the independent electorate, who will want to know the grounds on which they are asked to act. All can see that a flaw exists somewhere: it is a dangerous anomaly that with a practically common electorate, so many of the Provincial Governments are in hostility to the Dominion Government. The Provincial Legislatures certainly more truly represent the people than does the Dominion Parliament; and if Confederation is to last, the two must be brought into harmony. That we suppose is the ultimate aim of the Conference.

MR. CAINE, M.P., writes from Canada to the London papers advising the British Government to spend twenty million sterling in sending gradually into Manitoba two hundred thousand families of Irish tenant farmers from the congested districts, instead of embarking on a dangerous policy of Irish land purchase. But to settle any considerable number of Irish farmers together in one district would only be to transform that district into another Ireland. To do any good at all, the Irish must be scattered, and very thinly, among more thrifty and skilful races, from whom they could learn. There is plenty of land in Manitoba for two hundred thousand Irish families, as there is for as many families from the East End of London, but such an amount of leaven is too much to throw among the present population, and the result of any such step would be most disastrous to Manitoba for many years to come; although we do not doubt that if the immigrants could be fed, taught, and cared for, and kept in the country for several years, the next generation of Manitoba Irish might be a credit to the Province.

THE appointment of Judge Angers to the Lieutenant-Governorship of Quebec, a Conservative Lieut.-Governor with a Liberal Ministry, will afford that gentleman a fine opportunity to show the sincerity of the doctrine he laid down in 1878, during the Letellier troubles, that the Executive should have no other will than that of his Ministers, and that he was simply the instrument of his advisers. That is sound Conservative doctrine; Sir John in the Letellier debate quoted approvingly the dictum of Bagehot, that "the Queen herself would be obliged to sign her own death-warrant if the two Houses of Parliament voted it unanimously," but he qualified this with respect to the Lieut.-Governors of Provinces by maintaining their responsibility towards the Federal authority that had the power to appoint them. So that if as a result of the present Interprovincial Conference a hostile Liberal assembly should present his death-warrant to His Conservative Honour, we may expect it to be reserved for decision at Ottawa.

MR. BAYARD seemingly finds it impossible to reconcile the attitude of the United States Government in the Behring's Sea Seizures question, as stated in the brief we dealt with last week, with the contention that the three-mile limit on the Atlantic follows all the indentations and sinuosities of the coast. The vessels seized are therefore ordered to be discharged, and the headland theory, so deprived of that incidental support, will be traversed—if possible. But it is hard to see how that is to be done in face of a former pretension of the United States Government and a decision of a United States Court, to which we have already referred. In a case before the Commissioners of Alabama Claims last year, a claim was made against the United States Government for compensation out of the Alabama Award in respect of an American ship, the *Alleghanian*, which while

anchored in Chesapeake Bay was seized by a party of Confederate sailors and burned. Under an Act of 1882, it had to be shown that any vessel for which compensation out of the Alabama Award was claimed was lost on the high seas. In this case the ship was anchored more than four miles from both shores of the Bay, but yet within the headlands, and it was contended by the claimants that she was upon the high seas. But counsel for the United States Government contended that she was not, and this contention was sustained by the Court. There was no decision of American Courts bearing on the point, but the Court of Commissioners cited two English decisions in support of their finding. One of these was in the case of the *Direct United States Cable Company vs. The Anglo-American Telegraph Company*, in which it was decided that Conception Bay was part of the territory of Newfoundland. Now as the distance from headland to headland of this bay is about twenty miles, while the distance from headland to headland of Chesapeake Bay is twelve miles, here we have two decisions accepted and availed of by the United States Government, both of which are dead against their present pretension that the three-mile limit follows the indentations and sinuosities of the coast. The British Government admits this—when the bay is more than ten miles wide at the entrance; but the United States Government having for one purpose held or admitted that bays respectively twelve and twenty miles wide at the entrance are closed territorial waters, now for another purpose hold exactly the opposite and pretend that, when the rule is applied to the Canadian coast at any rate, there is no territorial jurisdiction beyond three miles from the shores of a bay however wide.

THE outcry raised against Mr. Chamberlain for illustrating an argument against Home Rule by pointing out, what nobody of knowledge and experience can deny, that Commercial Union with the United States means for Canada separation from Great Britain, is a deplorable effect of blind partisanship. If Mr. Chamberlain had expressed the contrary opinion, would the *Globe* have dubbed him "Coercion Joe," and talked about the people of Canada being as little disposed as the people of Ireland to submit to his policy of dictation and force? If the *Globe* instead of abusing the opposite attorney would show us how Canada can be drawn closer to Great Britain by adopting the United States prohibitive tariff against her, and how Annexation can be forever prevented by allowing the United States Congress to regulate Canadian taxes, it will not only show that what looks like an absurd pretension is a reasonable one, but it will prove also that the case of the Commercial Unionists is much stronger than their present method of argument would indicate.

IN a letter to the *Mail* Mr. A. W. Aytoun-Finlay indicates very fairly the claim England has to take part—and the leading part we should say—in the settlement of the Fisheries question. The Seven Years' War, in the course of which Canada was acquired, added nearly three hundred million dollars to the National Debt, on which the British taxpayer to-day pays interest. What proportion of this is due by Canada would be hard to determine, but surely we know that we owe a debt at least of loyalty to Great Britain and British interests, which we are morally bound to take into consideration in the Commercial Union question also. And as to the Fisheries question can we deny the right of the British taxpayer to be represented adequately on the approaching Commission? If not he, who has paid for safeguarding the Canadian interest all these years; and in case of a failure of the negotiations, and a renewed attack on Canadian property by our powerful neighbour, upon whom would chiefly fall the burden of defending it?

IN a speech at Nottingham Mr. Gladstone has refused to be drawn into any pledges about Ulster without knowing the sentiments of his own friends, or of the English and Scotch people, or of the people of the North of Ireland. But surely he has had ample opportunity to learn that the English and Scotch people will never consent to give an American-Irish Parliament at Dublin control over the destinies of the two million loyal Irish in Ulster and elsewhere; and as to "his own friends,"—his new found friends the Parnellites—he knows perfectly well what are their avowed sentiments regarding Ulster, although he is doubtless in blissful ignorance of their real sentiments on that and the Irish question generally. If he had told his hearers that Mr. Parnell would not consent to his giving a pledge about Ulster he would have been more candid.

MR. JOHN MORLEY recently addressing a Gladstonian meeting at Templecombe, repeatedly referred with pride to the immensity of the gathering, which it was computed consisted of between 15,000 and 20,000 persons. But it seems the managers of this political picnic, in order to make it suc-