

# THE WEEK.

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## THE WEEK:

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### CURRENT TOPICS.

The members and adherents of the Church of England in Canada are to be congratulated on the important forward step which has been taken in the formation of a General Synod for the Dominion. The jurisdiction thus brought within one synodical jurisdiction is a wide one geographically, and the immense distances which separate the members will no doubt greatly increase the difficulties which the General Synod of Canada will have to meet in practical operation. Nevertheless, the same desire for union and consolidation has enabled the representatives from all quarters to overcome all differences of opinion and other difficulties and adopt a constitution with so much practical unanimity, will no doubt triumph over all other obstacles. The length of time during which the scheme has been under consideration and the manner in which it has now

been effected afford a good illustration of the way in which great ideas, when they have once taken root in the minds of a number of thoughtful and influential men, grow and mature until eventually they bring forth fruit. We must not fail to observe, too, an aspect of the movement which is of wider interest than the bounds of this particular Church. Every such case of Dominion consolidation, whether of churches or any other societies, or organizations, is but a fresh indication of the progress which is being made in the direction of nationality, and at the same time a fresh bond of union to help hold together the Provinces, by promoting that better acquaintanceship and closer sympathy between the East and the West without which there can be no real or lasting political union. The denominations which are effecting such consolidations are doing service to the Confederation as well as promoting their own best interests.

A suggestion has been made by some one, and warmly endorsed by the Toronto Mail, which seems to us worthy of attention and which we hope will not be lost sight of. The proposal is that a building in connection with the Industrial Exhibition be set apart as a permanent museum for the reception of relics of those early days and pioneer experiences which are now so rapidly receding into the dim distance. Within the memories of many now living changes have taken place in the ways of domestic and industrial life, especially in the rural districts, so radical and wonderful that the boys and girls of to-day would hardly guess the use of some of the old machines and appliances of various kinds which were in use in the days of their great-grandfathers. We cannot easily conceive of a collection of curiosities which would have greater interest for a large class of the young than one which should illustrate the development of the social and industrial life of the older provinces of the Dominion from the days of the first settlers until now. The implements used on the farms, in the kitchens, in the various mechanical trades, the furniture, the dress, and many such things would be fraught with a keen interest for inquiring young minds, accustomed to the conveniences and elegancies of the present day. Nor would the pleasure be confined to the young. A walk through such a building would awaken thrilling memories in thousands who have reached middle age, while many an old pioneer would find himself carried back to the days of yore until the thronging

recollections would stir his nature to its deepest depths. And then how the charm of such a museum would increase as the years went by. A century hence it would be invaluable and almost unique. By all means let the suggestion be carried out. A rich store of material could no doubt be gathered for little more than the cost of collection.

Mr. R. G. Horr, who is conducting the war on behalf of protection with great energy and ability in the columns of the New York Tribune, quotes in a recent number the testimony of two members of the Bermuda House of Assembly, who recently gave evidence before the Committee of Ways and Means, to prove that under the McKinley tariff the people of Bermuda pay the duties both on the articles sent by them to the United States and on the articles received by them from the United States. It is very likely that this is the fact to a considerable extent, because, as those two gentlemen say, the onions and other products exported by them to the United States come into competition with similar articles produced in that country, while, on the other hand, the articles imported into Bermuda from the United States do not come into competition with similar articles produced in the Island. The Bermuda duty is, therefore, strictly a duty for revenue, and is consequently paid by the consumer. It is difficult to see how a fair-minded, self-respecting American can sympathize with Mr. Horr in the evident gratification with which he adduces the alleged fact as an unanswerable argument in favour of protection and the McKinley tariff. Is there no such thing as honesty or fairness between nations when questions of tariff and revenue are concerned? What has become of national pride, to say nothing of nobler impulses, when the great American nation can take advantage of circumstances or its own superior shrewdness to compel a neighbour with whom it has dealings to pay a part of its revenue, in addition to providing for its own? What should we think of such cleverness as between individual neighbours? Mr. Horr's argument reminds us of the practice of certain of the newspapers of the Republic which chronicle with glee every indication, or fancied indication, that the tariff has wrought injury to British artisans, as so many proofs of the wisdom and beneficence of the McKinley Act. Surely honesty, the genuine honesty which insists upon giving *quid pro quo*, must be in the long run the best policy for the nation as for the individual.