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## The Week.

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THE announcement that Lord Lansdowne is to leave in the short space of a few weeks has taken Canadians by surprise. The duties of Governor-General of Canada are happily not very arduous. Genius of a very high order is not required for the discharge of functions which are mainly matter of form and routine, and strictly defined by constitutional limitations. These functions, and the very varied and by no means unimportant social and extra-official duties inseparable from his position, have been discharged by Lord Lansdowne to the fullest satisfaction of all concerned, and his departure will be witnessed with very general regret, a regret that will be, however, very agreeably tempered by the knowledge that he leaves us only to assume the highest gubernatorial position in the gift of the British Crown,—the Indian Viceroyalty. He follows, in this respect, in the footsteps of his brilliant predecessor, the present Viceroy. Should the precedents thus established be followed up, the post of Governor-General of Canada will itself come to be coveted, in a degree hitherto unknown, by Britain's prominent statesmen, who may regard it as a training-ground and a stepping-stone to the high honours and emoluments of Viceregal rule in India. Though Lord Lansdowne's successor, Lord Stanley of Preston, has achieved no special renown as orator or statesman, he will, no doubt, bring to the position that sober judgment and quiet dignity which are its chief requisites.

THE succession of defeats of the Dominion Opposition in the Parliamentary bye-elections continues with but here and there an exception to vary the monotony. Nor are the party leaders and press more successful, apparently, in their search for a policy on which to reunite the disconnected, and in some respects inharmonious, fragments into which the party seems to have become divided. Commercial Union itself, from which so much for a time was hoped, has now been modified and toned down to suit fancied exigencies, until it wears half-a-dozen different names. It can sometimes scarcely be recognized in its shifting aspects as "unrestricted reciprocity," "continental free trade," "free trade with the United States," "tariff reform," etc. To add to the sources of weakness and disunion, the nominal Liberal leader seems to shrink from assuming any of the responsibilities of leadership, and, no doubt, heartily wishes himself out of the complication, especially when he sees the need and even the name of a successor openly discussed. Possibly in due time the man and

the policy may be found which will evoke order out of confusion and strength out of apparent weakness. There is, no doubt, in the multiplicity of large and difficult Canadian questions, which are now, or will very shortly be, pressing for solution, a fine opportunity for the reorganization of the great Liberal party on a solid basis. It may be hoped, in the best interests of the Dominion, that both a strong leader and steadfast and patriotic policy may soon be forthcoming.

BOARDS of Trade are usually peaceful, conservative bodies, and the tension of feeling in Manitoba must be becoming very serious when President Ashdown, of the Winnipeg Board, felt constrained to conclude his address in terms so significant and suggestive as the following: "Should the Dominion Government attempt to continue the tyrannical restrictive policy hitherto adopted, it is a question for the authorities at Ottawa to consider how long, while hundreds of thousands of our fellow-Canadians are scattered over the country south of us, prosperous and contented, while many others from this side are continually joining them, and while the 1,200 miles of rock and morass between here and Pembroke has left little but sentiment to unite us to the east, that sentiment is likely to prevail against so many interests and the feelings of exasperation so rapidly growing here." Such language from such a quarter, taken in connection with Premier Greenway's announcement that he has already received several offers from prominent contractors to complete the Red River Valley Railway, and that he has every assurance that during the coming summer there will be through connection by rail from the boundary to Portage la Prairie, shows that the railway crisis, averted for a time by the failure of Premier Norquay's attempts, will shortly become again acute, unless some solution is found in the meantime.

SOME of the evidence offered before the Labour Commission during its sitting in Montreal has been of a startling character, and has naturally created no little excitement and indignation. It is to be hoped that the facts may be probed to the bottom; indeed it seems surprising that any members of the Commission should have thought it possible to stop short of anything but the fullest and most searching inquiry. Enough has already been proved to show the need of stringent legislation, following the lines taken for many years in England, and recently adopted in Ontario, for the protection of the young and helpless amongst factory operatives. It is a reproach that feeble women and children of both sexes should have been left so long without the protection of strict laws and careful, systematic, inspection, from the thoughtlessness or worse of overseers, who are not as a class, likely to be specially soft-hearted or considerate, or in any way fitted to wield irresponsible authority. It would be premature, perhaps, to express any very strong opinion in regard to the facts already established; suffice it to say that enough has been proved to show that the young and unprotected are far too much at the mercy of their taskmasters, and that facilities are not wanting for the infliction of cruelties such as should not be tolerated in any humane or Christian community.

EVERY honest and thoughtful citizen of both the United States and Canada must deeply regret the action of the American Senate in postponing consideration of the Extradition Treaty. That action opens invitingly wide for another ten months the double door through which defaulters, embezzlers and betrayers of trust in either country find in the other a refuge from the just consequences of their misdeeds. It is hard for even charity to ascribe to the Senate majority who have taken this responsibility any worthy or patriotic motive. The alleged danger of impairing in any way the right of asylum which each country holds sacred for purely political offenders can be little more than a shallow pretext; for this class of offenders was especially excepted from the operation of the treaty. The opposition of Senator Riddleberger and others which have led to this lame and impotent conclusion has too much the appearance of a discreditable truckling to the cowardly dynamiters and other assassins who have their living by traffic in explosives and servant girls' pence. The refusal to ratify the treaty can only be prejudicial to the cause of Irish Home Rule, by more distinctly identifying it with the murderous designs of dynamiters and dealers in infernal machines. As the *Chicago Tribune* observes, the fact