

THE WEEK.

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NOTICE.

A Special General Meeting of the Shareholders of THE WEEK PUBLISHING COMPANY will be held at the Office of THE WEEK, 5 Jordan Street, on Wednesday, May 6th, 1896, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

By order,

CARTER TROOP.

Current Topics.

The Accident to
Lady Aberdeen.

Lady Aberdeen has had an escape from what might have been a tragic fate. When the Princess was at Ottawa she was thrown out of her sleigh and suffered serious injury. It is unfortunate that Lady Aberdeen should have met with a somewhat similar disaster. We trust that the results of the unfortunate occurrence have already passed away, and in common with all Canadians we offer Lady Aberdeen our respectful congratulations on her escape.

The
Floods.

The great quantity of snow which fell during the Winter is now showing its effect as the warm sun of Spring commences to thaw it. The lakes and rivers are rising all over the country. The people of Toronto are delighted at the prospect of the water rising in the Bay. The people of Montreal have been dreading a repetition of the great floods which so often devastated Griffintown. Those who remember the flood of 1861 when the water reached far up McGill Street will know what loss such a flood can occasion. Lower down the river great damage has been done. But at Sherbrooke and Richmond in the Eastern Townships there has not only been damage but loss of life. Landslides on the North Shore may also be expected. The powers of nature still assert themselves and man's puny helplessness is made painfully evident in the face of these catastrophes. People have become so accustomed to the astonishing triumphs of science that they are apt to forget that God still reigns in the Heavens. When they are face to face with some great calamity then they appreciate that there are powers in the universe which compel even their self-sufficient arrogance to pause and think.

Grit vs. Tory
Tory vs. Grit

The date for the Dominion elections is fixed. The candidates will next be nominated, and soon they will be at it hammer and tongs. The Conservatives have on their side two strong points. The trade policy of the party appeals to the material interests of Canada. The strong maintenance of the Cana-

dian sentiment, and their striking out an anti-American policy has given them the hearty support of young Canada. The Liberals have on their side the disunion in the Conservative ranks over the school question. The Liberal leader is a French Canadian and can count to a certainty on French Canadian sympathy. He has studiously avoided committing himself on the school question for he has not said one word to show he will not, if elected, give his fellow-religionists in Manitoba what they ask. His followers can safely say one thing in Ontario and he another in Quebec. The weakness of the Liberals is their tendency to look to Washington. It shows itself even in trifles. Sir R. Cartwright, for instance, says that the R. M. College, at Kingston, was founded after the model of Westpoint. It was no such thing. It is on the model of Sandhurst. These evidences of American leaning make the Canadian people hesitate. If the Conservatives can make it clear to the Ontario electors that if they return Laurier he is very likely to give Manitoba Separate schools, which is what they object to, and that Laurier is certain to overturn the trade policy in deference to Cartwright's notions, they will win. If the Liberals can satisfy the electorate that they will not alter the trade policy, and will convince the people that they will no longer look to Washington, they will turn their opponents out of power.

The Canadian
Parliament.

No one can feel very sorry that the term of the present parliament is almost run out. The dead lock is not without precedent in the Imperial Parliament. Perhaps we might say that the Irish members behaved worse in London than the worst of the obstructers have done in Ottawa. Still the sight is not pleasant to contemplate. Why has not an attempt been made by both sides to put an end to the Manitoba difficulty? It is the fault of the Government, say some. It is the fault of the Opposition, say others. However this may be, we do not ourselves believe that the Opposition will have advanced their cause an inch by the course which they have taken. It is possible—we do not think it probable—that they may gain a majority at the next elections. If they do, their troubles will only be beginning; for this question must be settled not by a denial of a grievance in Manitoba, or a refusal to remedy such grievance; but by a settlement in a manner that will give reasonable satisfaction to all parties in the country and thus bring about peace.

Campaign
Rumours.

The *quidnuncs* are now having their fling. In many cases, the wish is father to the thought. The latest rumour is that Sir Mackenzie Bowell is no longer Premier and that Sir Charles Tupper has been called upon to form a Cabinet. The most satisfactory report is that Chief Justice Meredith will lead the Ontario contingent in the new ministry. It is to be hoped that this last report is true. The Chief Justice is the kind of man sadly needed in politics and hard to replace. On the Bench without any disrespect to his legal attainments the vacancy can be well filled. But it will give the same confidence to the Tupper ministry to see W. R. Meredith the Ontario representative that it does to the Ontario Ministry to see Sir Oliver Mowat the Premier, and no man can say more than that. On the other side they say that the Minister of Education is to join the Liberal ranks at Ottawa. If he does he will undoubtedly give them strength. The composition of the Quebec contingent is, as the late lamented Lord Dandrea used to say, something "no fellow can understand." Their ways in the French Province are peculiar. They are governed by influences that other Canadians do not clearly follow. They work out their own salvation in political matters to suit themselves. Mr. Chapleau seems to be their trump card. Whenever they get tired of one of