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## The Week.

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### CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

TOPIC—	PAGE
Canadian Political Morality	131
Limitations of Party Journalism	131
The Manitoban Government	131
Prospects of the Fisheries Commission	131
Growth of the British Empire	131
Italy and Abyssinia	132
The British in Eastern Africa	132
The Coming Session of the British Parliament	132
The Development of India	132
Utah's Application to be Admitted as a State	132
Canal Tolls and the Washington Treaty	132
LAND VALUES AND THE PUBLIC REVENUE	Phillips Thompson, 133
ART IN FRENCH CANADA	John Talon Lesperance, 133
AT THE FALLS OF RIVIERE DU LOUP (Poem)	Agnes Maule Machar, 134
LONDON LETTER	Walter Powell, 134
MONTREAL LETTER	Louis Lloyd, 135
PROMINENT CANADIANS.—SIR SAMUEL LEONARD TILLEY	George Stewart, Jr., 136
POESIE (Poem)	J. H. Brown, 137
BISHOP CLEVELAND COKE ON CHRISTIAN HISTORY	C, 137
LOHENGRIK—A LEGEND OF THE RHINE	H. R., 137
READINGS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE	139
OUR LIBRARY TABLE	140
THE TORONTO PRESS CLUB	141
DRAMATIC RECITALS	141
QUEST	141

Two recent incidents conspire to show to how low an ebb Canadian political life has fallen, under the influence of the party system. The revelations of the Glengarry election trial are such as would have done no discredit to the days of Walpole in England, or those of Francis Bond-Head in Canada. With instances of gross personal bribery by agents, appointed or self-constituted, of candidates on both sides, the records of the Courts have made us, unhappily, too familiar. But the cases are still rare, and it may be hoped will long continue so, in which money has been distributed right and left with such reckless profusion, and with the full sanction, if not immediate cognizance of the candidate himself, as in Glengarry by Mr. Purcell's agents and friends. While the honest men of the Liberal party were still, it may be hoped, blushing over these disgraceful revelations, the Conservatives of Queen's, N.B., as if to balance the account, did themselves the lasting discredit of returning at the head of the poll a man whose course has done much to bring both the party and the constituency into contempt. It would be superfluous to recount the two familiar facts connected with Mr. Baird's return to Parliament and his subsequent career up to the time when he was at last forced, by stress of public indignation within the House and without, to abandon the seat to which he must have known perfectly well he had neither legal nor moral right. But his subsequent attempts to make merchandise of the constituency, and his shameless avowal in effect, on the public platform, that he regarded any stratagem as fair in a political contest should have aroused such righteous indignation as would have cut him off forever from all hope of a place in Parliament. Worst of all, these cases, humiliating as they are to every honourable Canadian, are exceptional only in that they are a little worse than dozens of others, which plainly belong to the same category of dishonour.

THE tendency to despair of any early purification of Canadian public life, which is induced by such occurrences, is rather aggravated than otherwise by the attitude of the party press. Were the leading journals on either side to speak out in unequivocal repudiation of the men and the methods which are inflicting so dire disgrace upon their party there would be some room to hope for better things in the near future. When instead, those papers which have been most unsparing in denouncing the alleged corrupt practices of their opponents are found condoning with faint censure the grossest bribery by or on behalf of their own adherents, and even

pleading in half-apologetic tones that the arch-briber of Glengarry "spent his own money," the case looks dark indeed, so far as hope of reform from such a quarter is concerned. The source of the difficulty lies at the very roots of party journalism. The limitations as to editorial candour imposed upon a writer for the party press are such that it is impossible for him to be perfectly frank and impartial in his treatment of a party question or a subject involving party, no matter who may be helped or hurt. Anything in the shape of an honest admission, or concession, unfavourable to his own case, or that of his party, made by a writer on one side is instantly caught up by the organs of the other party, torn from its context, and so distorted as to be made the medium of unfair and damaging misrepresentation. Fairness, not to say generosity, to a political opponent is a virtue yet to be acquired by the party press of Canada.

FEW persons who have paid any attention to the way in which political affairs have been managed in Manitoba will be greatly surprised by the revelations which, it is said, are being made as to the state of the Treasury. The influence of the boom, which for a time seduced even cautious business men into courses of extravagance, could hardly fail to produce a spendthrift Government. Private individuals, when capital and credit are exhausted, are forced to return to economical habits, but to the manipulators of the public revenues the necessity comes only when the resources and credit of the whole Province are exhausted. The case of Manitoba will probably add new interest to the discussion in regard to the workings of the subsidy system, and the need of giving the people of the Provinces more direct control over their sources of revenue as well as over expenditure. Meanwhile, Premier Greenway and his Cabinet have before them an open door, and a large opportunity, though not of the kind they would undoubtedly have preferred. The evidence, if furnished, of the unfaithfulness and dishonesty of their predecessors will aid them most effectively in securing a good majority. If then, by inaugurating a reign of economy and efficiency, they can manage to provide for carrying on the public business, and at the same time keep expenditure well within income, they will deserve, and no doubt receive, the confidence and support of the people for years to come.

UNLESS rumours and probabilities are alike at fault, there is little ground to hope for any result of the labours of the Washington Fishery Commission that will be at all satisfactory to Canadians. The American members of the Commission stand, it is believed, firm as adamant in their original position. They have a tremendous advantage which they are not slow to use in the fact that the question of settlement is a matter of vastly greater moment to Canada than to the United States, and in the auxiliary fact that they have in their threatened Retaliation Bill an argument of tremendous force, against which Canada can bring no counter argument of much avail. It is, at first thought, matter for surprise that the points in dispute are not at once referred to friendly arbitration. If, as certain hints of the Canadian Government organs, as well as the statements of Washington correspondents, seem to indicate, the reluctance to resort to this method of settlement is on the part of the Canadian Commissioner, a new and discouraging phase of the subject is presented. The fact would go far to warrant the view that however good the Canadian contention may be in law, or even in equity, it is hardly in accordance with modern usages or modern notions of international comity.

THE enormous extent and power of the British nation are so familiar to us that they have ceased to appear marvellous. From a group of islands, comparatively insignificant in size, off the coast of North-Western Europe, go forth forces and influences which dominate a large part of the earth's surface, and are to a great extent moulding its institutions and history. From recent returns it appears that of the total tonnage of sailing and steamships on the registers of the principal countries of the world, the United Kingdom had in 1885 very nearly forty-four and a half per cent. Reckoning only the steam tonnage she had sixty-seven per cent. of the total furnished by the chief fourteen merchant navies of the world. Between 1875 and 1886 the increase of her foreign trade was sixteen and a half millions, whilst the increase in the case of the United States was only seven millions, that of Germany about six millions, that of France