

THE WEEK.

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Contents.

	PAGE
CURRENT TOPICS.....	315
LEADERS—	
Multi-Partyism in Politics.....	317
Education and Culture.....	318
CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES—	
Pew and Pulpit in Toronto.—II.....	J. R. N. 319
Forget Me Not.....	Hugh Cochran. 320
Small Debtors in the North-West.....	Wm. Trant. 321
The Old Church on the Hill.....	Jean Gibson. 322
MISCELLANEOUS—	
The Latest News From Paris.....	Z. 323
Glimpses at Things.....	F. Blake Crofton. 324
POETRY—	
John Granger's Pomes: No Lynch Law in Canada.....	J. Canador Bell. 320
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR—	
A Parson's Ponderings.....	Rev. John Burton, B.D. 324
A Note from Mr. Veigh.....	Frank Veigh. 325
Miss Johnson as a Poet.....	A. H. Morrison. 325
Miss Johnson and Her Critics.....	Thomas O'Hagan. 325
BOOKS—	
Recent Fiction.....	326
In Sheltered Ways.....	327
Poems of Henry Abbey.....	327
DEPARTMENTS—	
Periodicals.....	328
Literary Notes.....	328
Music and the Drama.....	329
Art Notes.....	329
Personal.....	330
Educational.....	330

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Current Topics.

French Repatriation.

The Rev. Father Paradis, who has devoted much time and a great deal of effort to induce his French compatriots from Quebec to return from the United States to Canada, has promulgated a scheme for the repatriation of a colony of French people now resident in Michigan. They probably went over there to seek employment in the lumber woods, and as the timber disappeared they soon became superfluous. While it is difficult not to sympathize with Father Paradis in his zealous mission it is impossible to endorse the proposal he has made to the Canadian and Ontario Governments. After getting his few hundreds of exiled French people into the northern part of Ontario—and he expects the railways to bring them free of cost—he wants to have them supplied with free grant lands, to have roads made at an expense from \$60,000 to \$70,000, and to get a cash grant of \$75,000 from the two Governments to maintain them until they have built houses and cleared some land for themselves. Apart altogether from the obvious facts, that there are no means of compelling the immigrants to live in the place chosen for them, and that if it were possible to keep them they would form a very undesirable kind of settlement, there is no reason at all why the Province of Ontario should make any such sacrifice to settle a few acres or even square miles of territory. These people would produce no revenue to recoupe the Province for its outlay. They would not attract other settlers except perhaps those who, being of the same race and language with themselves, would become fused with them in a common solidarity. Settlers who are energetic and adventurous enough to come as individuals and of their own accord, should be made welcome, but this country cannot afford to plant expensive colonies, each made up of people of the same racial and religious characteristics. In saying this we have no desire to reflect on our French fellow-countrymen, who have many excellent qualities to fit them for being pioneers of settlement.

Patriotism and Party.

Three prominent Liberal-Unionists were affected in different ways by the want-of-confidence motion made the other day in the House of Commons by Sir Henry James—Sir Henry, himself, Mr. Chamberlain, and Mr. Goschen. The motion was technically one to adjourn, but this was selected by the mover as a convenient way to attack the Government policy of imposing a customs tax on cottons imported into India, and an excise duty on cottons manufactured in that country. Mr. Fowler explained that the customs duty was not a protective one, as, indeed, the offsetting excise duty makes clear. It was simply a mode of raising absolutely necessary revenue. Sir Henry James has done himself no good by this abortive attack, which Mr. Chamberlain is suspected of having prompted. This suspicion will injure the latter because it will further discredit him with the stalwart Conservatives. Worse hated by the Liberals he could hardly be. In marked contrast with their course was that pursued by their fellow Unionist, Mr. Goschen, the late Chancellor of the Exchequer. He opposed the motion, condemned the attack on Indian finance, and expressed the hope that the House of Commons would support the Ministry. If the majority of 304 to 109 for the Government helps to strengthen the Rosebery Ministry, credit for this result should be given, not to Mr. Goschen, who acted like a statesman, but to Sir Henry James who played the part of a factionist.

Another Arbitration.

It is said that Secretary Gresham, of the United States Administration, is convinced that further effort to induce Congress to vote the appropriation of \$425,000 recommended by him to be paid to Canada as a settlement in full of Canada's claim for damages on behalf of the owners of Canadian sealing vessels in the Behring Sea affair, would be useless, and that when the bill ordering such appropriation has finally failed, he will at once proceed to prepare a draft treaty for submission to the Senate, creating an Arbitration Commission, as provided for in the award, to adjust the claims. The general and no doubt a very natural feeling in Canada is that Congress and the nation it represents have not, to say the least, shown to very good advantage in this transaction. They are in honour bound by the Paris award to pay whatever damages can be shown to have been inflicted upon Canadians by the action of the United States cruisers. After having looked thoroughly into the facts, the Secretary is no doubt convinced that to settle the whole matter by the payment of the amount agreed on between him and the British Ambassador at Washington, would be an excellent stroke of business. But while Canadians may feel surprised and perhaps annoyed that what they deem so good an offer has not been accepted, it should be borne in mind that Congress has a distinct right to prefer settlement by arbitration. No doubt many of its members have persuaded themselves that the sum proposed by their Government is excessive. Believing that, they may, in perfect good faith, insist on the arbitration. The worst feature of the case is the intolerable delay and the undignified declamation, which seem inseparable from American methods of doing such things. These contrast very unfavourably