

THE WEEK.

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THE WEEK: C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, MANAGER.

Current Topics.

Labour Day.

"Two men I honour," said Carlyle in one of those curious rhapsodies of his; one of the two is the man who toils. Whether it was in this spirit that the Dominion Parliament appointed "Labour Day" as a public holiday or not, we need not inquire. As a matter of fact, we have such a holiday, and few of us will be disposed to find fault with it, or even question the motives which prompted those who decreed it. Labour Day was well observed this year, especially in our towns and cities, where it is easier to bring large masses of the toilers together. As years pass, the institution should become more and more important, with the growth of a more enlightened perception of its real significance. It should become a means of drawing together in bonds of sympathy all classes in the community, some of which are now too ready to fly at each other in what is by a freak of language called "industrial war."

Athletic Triumphs.

Two athletic events of the week turned out to be fitting sequels to the Canada's achievement as Canadian triumphs. Gaudaur, the Orillia oarsman, captured the world's single scull championship on the Thames, and the Canadian cricket team won the international match at Philadelphia. Gaudaur's evolution has been no mystery, no succession of surprises. He has won his high honours fairly, by hard work and temperate living, acting on a capital of splendid physique to start with. Canadians are so entirely free from local jealousies in these matters that all parts of the Dominion will alike rejoice in his achievement, and hope that by an equally creditable moderation he may be able long to retain the championship he has so creditably won. Should the success of the Canadians at Philadelphia promote a renaissance of cricket in this country, there will be no disposition to regret the result. The fine old English game can, for intrinsic merit, hold its own with any of its more modern and more popular rivals.

The Ballet.

When a sight-seer goes to the theatre to see the ballet he has no right to complain of the spectacle, for he knows what to expect. The situation is entirely different when the management of the Industrial Exhibition introduces the ballet as part of the spectacle witnessed from the grand stand on the grounds. It ought to be borne in mind that to a large number of the citizens of Toronto, and to a still larger proportion of visitors from outside places, the ballet is an unfamiliar and a shocking sight. It should also be borne in mind that the Industrial Exhibition is mainly a municipal institution, in which large amounts of the public money of Toronto have been sunk. A word to the wise is enough. The people will hereafter look to President Withrow personally to protect the public against such shows as have this year called forth just animadversions from the pulpit. It is easy to get up enough of variety without introducing any spectacle to which a gentleman would not care to take his wife or daughter.

The Gael in Canada.

One of the pleasant reunions of the Exhibition week was the dinner given under the auspices of the Toronto Gaelic Society. The avowed purpose of the function was to promote co-operation among the various Gaelic societies of the Dominion, and as their objects are laudable in themselves it is satisfactory to learn that the meeting was highly successful. The chief speaker of the occasion was the veteran Gaelic scholar, Rev. Dr. McNish of Cornwall, but he was followed by such eminent "sons of the Gael" as Rev. Principal Grant, of Queen's College; Dr. Ross, Minister of Education for Ontario; Mr. D. C. Fraser, the stalwart orator who represents Guysboro' in the House of Commons; Mr. David Spence, the veteran and unwearied propagandist of the Keltic movement; and Mr. Alexander Fraser, president of the Toronto Society, who is a cultivated Gaelic scholar as well as a graduate of a Scottish university. It may not be amiss to call attention here to an event of which no mention is made in the report of the proceedings—the establishment of a "University of Wales," in the work of which the Keltic language and literature will find an appropriate and an honored place.

The North Oxford Election.

Of Canadian journalists there are now many, but none too many, in public life, and their number has been fortunately increased by the election of Mr. Andrew Pattullo, editor and proprietor of the Woodstock Sentinel-Review, to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Sir Oliver Mowat to Ottawa. North Oxford has been represented in the Ontario Legislative Assembly by Sir Oliver since 1872, and the constituency could hardly have made a better choice of a successor. Apart from the literary training which is the necessary outcome of practical journalism, Mr. Pattullo has qualities that no training can give, though it may improve them—an alert and aggressive mind, breadth of view, liberality of temperament, and a sense of humour, the lack of which causes too many public men to make themselves ridi-