

THE WEEK.

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Contents.

| | PAGE. |
|---|-------|
| CURRENT TOPICS..... | 271 |
| LEADER— | |
| “The Law Allows It and the Court Awards It”..... | 273 |
| CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES— | |
| Mr. Waldron and Evolution: A Reply..... Edward Douglas Armour, Q.C. | 274 |
| The Wooden Nutmeg Age: Its Influence in American Education Still Evident..... W. D. Lighthall, M.A. | 276 |
| Thoughts on the Labour Question..... Rev. J. H. Long, M.A. | 276 |
| The Statistical Year Book..... Rev. John Burton, B.D. | 278 |
| Parisian Affairs..... Diogenes. | 279 |
| At Street Corners..... | 280 |
| At the House of Commons..... W. O. Forsyth—C. E. Saunders. | 281 |
| Music and the Drama..... | 281 |
| Art Notes..... E. Wylie Grier. | 282 |
| POETRY— | |
| Entreva..... James T. Shotwell. | 275 |
| The Capavinsky..... | 279 |
| The Men of the North..... William T. Allison. | 283 |
| BOOKS— | |
| The Epistle to the Romans..... | 283 |
| Recent Fiction..... | 284 |
| LETTERS TO THE EDITOR— | |
| Mr. Goldwin Smith on the Monroe Doctrine..... S. Milliken. | 285 |
| The Draft Copyright Bill..... John G. Ridout. | 285 |
| Cost and Profit of Liberty..... W. F. Cocksbutt. | 286 |
| What's in a Name?..... W. | 286 |

Current Topics

The
Colonist.

Colonial affairs are becoming of some interest to Englishmen. This is seen in the increased amount of space devoted to consideration of these affairs in the public prints of Great Britain. Now that so prominent a man as Mr. Chamberlain holds the once scorned office of Secretary of State for the Colonies it will not be possible to revert to the old days when any wooley-headed individual was counted quite good enough for this uninteresting office. Canadian, Australian, and South African affairs are now considered by the London journalist to be almost equal in interest and importance to those, say, of some fifth-rate European State. This is an immense advance. In commenting upon the recent brief visit of Mr. Cecil Rhodes to England and his sudden return to the land of dust and diamonds the London scribes seemed almost to forget that Mr. Rhodes was “only a Colonist.”

Cecil Rhodes'
Bold Step.

Yesterday the London Daily News is said to have given prominence to the rumour that the Secretary of State for the Colonies had had an interview with Hon. Cecil Rhodes, the ex-Premier of Cape Colony, and that the Government decided it was highly important to ensure the prevention of Dr. Jameson's communicating with any one before he should be delivered over to justice. They therefore hurriedly despatched Inspector Forest with a warrant for his arrest on his way to England, with instructions to prevent Dr. Jameson from holding communication with any person. The rumour has it that upon learning of this step on the part of the Government, Mr. Rhodes started forthwith for Naples, with the intention of circumventing Inspector Forest and obtaining an interview with Dr. Jameson. As Max O'Rell once declared, we shall certainly hear more of Mr. Cecil Rhodes. What with a possible visit from Oom Paul and the coming trial of Dr. Jameson, to say nothing of the lively interest in Rhodesia, South Africa is attracting more than its share of attention. Canadians will have to do something picturesque—raid Alaska for instance.

The New
Leader.

Sir Charles Tupper, Bart., was introduced in the House of Commons on Tuesday afternoon and immediately took the seat occupied by Mr. Foster when leader of the House. The new Secretary of State's journey from Cape Breton to Ottawa was a triumphal procession, and if the greetings and reception at the Capital were not quite up to concert pitch we must remember that the pitch had been pretty high and well sustained for several days and could not be expected to last forever. Besides Sir Mackenzie still reigns in Ottawa. He would note with peculiar interest those who capered and pranced in the wake of the conquering hero. We have no special knowledge of the mind and heart of the Premier; but being human it is difficult to imagine how he could view with pleasure those who pay marked homage to Sir Charles. The Premier's displeasure cannot yet be ignored. Though our clever cartoonists delight to picture him as being gradually overshadowed by the mighty Baronet it is not quite clear yet that Sir Mackenzie agrees with the cartoonists. He resembles Sir Charles in that his bump of self-esteem is not undeveloped. The Secretary of State may lead in the House of Commons but the Premier's frown is still a factor in Canadian political life. It may not be for long. Out of Ottawa Sir Charles is spoken of as the leader of the Conservative party. But in the meantime Sir Mackenzie Bowell is a big man for he holds the Premiership of the Dominion. Until it is certain that he will be deprived of the office he will be surrounded by many devoted friends who will smile upon Sir Charles only when Sir Mackenzie is not looking.

The Remedial
Bill.

We have had time only to cast a cursory glance at the synopsis of the Remedial Bill which appeared in the daily papers. The basis of the Parliamentary jurisdiction of the Dominion is the remedial order. The Governor-General-in-Council having heard the appeal of the minority, had jurisdiction, under the Constitution, to make an order for redress. The Manitoba Legislature then was put in the position that if it did not legislate on the lines of the remedial order, the Parliament of Canada should immediately acquire the power to pass an act to execute the order. Other jurisdiction than this the Dominion has not. It becomes, therefore, a matter of the greatest moment to ascertain the exact purport of the remedial order or the basis of jurisdiction for subsequent legislation. Not only is it essential in this view, but it is also of immense purport in the relations between the Dominion and Provincial authorities. For example, if a Dominion remedial order were made to re-establish separate schools, with text-books to be chosen by ecclesiastics, and the whole government of each school to be under the Bishop of the Diocese in which it was situated, the Province might naturally refuse to execute it. If the Dominion Parliament, on proposing to execute it, found the storm of public opinion so great as to induce them to modify their opinions, and were, therefore, to pass an act, requiring text-books to be those in use in the public schools, and putting the government of the schools under a body of the same nature as that of the public school system, it is perfectly clear not on