

THE WEEK.

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THE WEEK: C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, MANAGER.

Current Topics.

Immigration.

The increase of the population of the Dominion, and especially of the region west of Lake Superior, is an absolute necessity to the prosperity of the country. An enormous amount of capital has been expended on this part of the Dominion, with very little return. The net result is a railway across the plains, for which there is an insufficiency of traffic, and which is consequently forced to charge heavy rates for freight and passengers; a few scattered settlements which ought to have been continuous in order to minimize the hardships of pioneering; a number of Indians cooped up in reserves and maintained at Government expense, when they might just as well have been left to roam in freedom over the wilderness; and a costly police force, which, but for the policy of throwing open the whole country prematurely, might have been dispensed with. The withdrawal of capital for investment in land that is still non-producing has exhausted the older Provinces, while the fiscal burdens resulting from unprofitable public expenditures has had a stifling effect on almost every form of industry. The acquisition of the North-West from the Hudson Bay Company has so far proved a burden instead of a boon to Canada. Whether it will continue to do so depends on the policy to be adopted. That the people of the West are themselves fully alive to its great need is shown by the organization of a "Western Canada Immigration Association," with branches in Western Ontario, Manitoba, Assiniboia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia. The central office of the society is, very appropriately, established in Winnipeg, the gateway of the North-West. Such a propaganda can do much to aid the Government in promoting settlement, especially as it has adopted for its aim the principle that "every acre of land must be freed and given to the people." The treatment of speculative holders may have to be drastic, but the public interest demands that every owner shall either live on his holding or sell to some one who will do so.

The C.P.R. Telegraph Operators.

The recent strike of telegraph operators on the Canadian Pacific Railway has terminated more pleasantly than such struggles generally do. The strike was called off on a promise by the railway management that the grievances of the men would be considered without prejudice, and now it is announced that an agreement has been arrived at, which is satisfactory to both parties. It is announced also that the employees are thoroughly loyal to the company, and such a consummation is one on which both the management and the public are to be congratulated. It would be bad for both if the telegraph operators were not keenly vigilant to prevent accidents, and their vigilance is not likely to be enhanced by a feeling of ill-will toward the great corporation which employs them.

The Queen's Counsel Case.

The Court of Appeal for the Province of Ontario has unanimously decided that the Ontario statute which authorizes the Lieutenant-Governor to confer the title of "Queen's Counsel" is valid. This does not mean that the Governor-General has no right to confer the same title, but he does it as Vice-regal representative of the Queen. The occasion of the statute in question was a doubt as to whether the Lieutenant-Governor represents Her Majesty in her capacity of fountain of honour, and to settle the whole matter, including the right of precedence and pre-audience in the Ontario courts, the statute was passed. The judgment may be appealed, but it seems very unlikely that such a decision, which affects only the courts of this Province, will be reversed. On the other hand, a Queen's Counsel of Provincial appointment cannot, *ipso facto*, claim precedence or pre-audience in a Dominion court as against a Queen's Counsel of Vice-regal creation.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union.

It was announced at the Canadian convention of the W.C.T.U., held recently in Toronto, that the world's convention of the same society would be held in this city next year. The event is sure to be an interesting one, as it will bring here a large number of eminent social reformers from Great Britain and the United States. At the annual convention of the United States Union, held last week in St. Louis, a letter was read from Lady Somerset in which she says, "it is as certain as anything in this changing life can be," that she will attend the meeting in Toronto in 1897. Both in Britain and in the United States the attention of the W.C.T.U. has this year been occupied with plans for the amelioration of the unhappy lot of the persecuted Armenians. At the St. Louis convention Miss Frances Willard presided, and in her opening address she gave prominence to the same subject.

Algoma Coal.

Owing to widespread interest in the recent report that anthracite coal had been discovered near Sudbury in the District of Algoma, Professor Coleman, of the School of Practical Science, was recently sent up to inspect the locality. His report, published in the form of a "bulletin" of the Bureau of Mines, is a careful statement of thoroughly ascertained