

THE WEEK.

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Current Topics.

Those Bonds.

Another act in the screaming farce of "How Messrs. Coady and Shaw made a Mess of It" has just begun by the sailing for Scotland, on Wednesday last, of the leading comedian in the piece, Toronto's City Treasurer, Mr. Coady. It would really be quite interesting to know wherein lies the fascination for Mr. Coady and Mr. Shaw of Messrs. Paulin, Sorley, and Martin, the obscure brokers of Edinburgh, with whom it is quite clear no contract has been made for the issue of the bonds, but whose mystic spell has led the city into practically insulting so honourable and prominent a banker as Mr. R. Wilson Smith, of Montreal, and treating with strange neglect and discourtesy one of the foremost financial institutions of the world, the Canadian Bank of Commerce. We shall refer again to this matter next week.

The Water Problem.

The water in the lake nearly twenty-one inches below its level at this date last year; the four-foot water pipe running not much more than half-full, including the deep layer of sand which it is more than probable fills a considerable portion of that space; the pumps suffering great damage from the sand which finds its way into the pipes through the old wooden conduit; accidents to the conduit particularly liable to occur at any moment, cutting off entirely the supply of water from the lake and shutting us up to the unsavoury liquid of the bay—such is the not very re-assuring picture which the City Engineer, who "does not wish to raise any unnecessary alarm" sets before us, of the state of things existing at present in relation to our water supply. Should the dread calamity befall us, our situation would be deplorable indeed, but it would be hard to say whether the Council or the citizens would be most to blame. Certainly, we should have only our own remissness, as a corporation, to hold responsible for the result. The Engineer tells us that the thing which should be done with all possible speed is to abandon the old wooden pipe, and to substitute in its place a steel conduit of the estimated cost of \$75,000. Surely, the Council will find some means of raising this money with the least possible delay, so as to have the change accomplished this season. To think of entering upon another winter, threatened with all the dire consequences which would result from the catastrophe feared by the Engineer is appalling. Anything but that.

A Poverty-Proud Damsel.

"I'm sorry we can't join the Dominion," writes a Newfoundland clergyman in a private letter, "but the terms offered were not sufficient to allure the poverty-proud damsel Newfoundland from her rocky isolation. It is a curious fact," he continues, "that there is an intense feeling among the people against confederation. One would have thought that a financial crisis like the present would have induced the people to clutch at any remedy, but confederation, charm it never so wisely, seems to have no allurements for Terra Nova." This clergyman lost \$30,000 by the failure of the Union Bank, but instead of sitting down and wringing his hands in despair, he set about providing relief works for his starving parishioners. For the last three months and more he, together with other of the clergy, "have been at it night and day trying to keep our people alive. As soon as we were able to make roads, we set to work and employed the destitute at 50 cents per day. We divided our roads into three sections—one section to be worked by the Church of England, another by the Roman Catholics, and the third by the Methodists. The clergy were the 'bosses' and had to work for nothing. . . . I fear that the spiritual side of our work is slightly ignored, but the wants of the body seemed decidedly imperative, and it is not much use to promise a man a stall in Paradise when he doesn't know where he will obtain his next meal." This cheery and eminently practical divine, who knows how to make the best of things, had no sooner succeeded in getting the road-making well in hand than he began negotiations with Sir Herbert Murray, the Imperial Commissioner, respecting the poverty-stricken fishermen and their summer "out-fit." It is a relief to know that every assistance was given these poor fellows. The reports from Newfoundland are of such a conflicting nature that information from one who is himself in the thick of the fight and whose accuracy can be depended upon, is especially welcome. As this active clergyman has exceptional advantages in the way of gaining information, and is in close touch with all that concerns the people, we may take it as an accepted fact that confederation is not viewed with favour in the Old Colony. It is a pity.

The Battle of Stoney Creek.

Special attention is just now being directed through the influence of our historical societies and other agencies, to the perpetuation of the names and deeds of those who faithfully and heroically served Canada in its earlier days, especially in the War of 1812. The Wentworth Historical Society is just now making exertions to commemorate one important event in connection with that defensive war, which is in some danger of being lost sight of. The facts of the Battle of Stoney Creek, and the names of the brave men who planned and won that important victory, should not be suffered to sink into oblivion. The following paragraph from a speech made by Senator MacInnes, at a recent meeting of the Society above named, contains a succinct account of this memorable affair which will be read with interest and is worthy of being placed on permanent record:—

"The battle of Stoney Creek was one of the most decisive battles of the war of 1812-14. The victory achieved was the means of saving the whole of the Niagara peninsula