

THE WEEK.

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THE WEEK: C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, MANAGER.

Current Topics.

Canadian French Nationality.

Some of the extreme ultramontane French journals of the Province of Quebec are dissatisfied with Mr. Laurier's frank announcement that he is for Canada first, and that his aim is to build up a great Canadian state, not a French republic. As Mr. Laurier has always used the language he now uses, and as he has reached his present high position in spite of the prejudice his bold announcements were likely to create among the people of his own race, it seems absurd to threaten him now with any evil consequences for speaking as he does. One of the charms of the Premier is his frankness, and it is to be hoped that no fear of personal consequences will deter him from raising aloft the flag of a Canadian nationality in which people of all races will stand on an equal footing as regards legal and political privileges. This is the only statesmanlike attitude, and it is one that all true Canadians will appreciate and uphold.

Land for the Settler.

The new Ministry at Ottawa would do well to look closely into the whole land question in the North-West Territory. Railway companies, Colonization companies, the Hudson Bay Company, and private owners hold a large amount of the best lands for purely speculative purposes. The actual settler who goes into a locality finds the lots adjoining his own unoccupied. The inevitable hardships of pioneer life are thus greatly aggravated. Settlers are kept further apart than they should be. The erection and maintenance of schools and churches, the two indispensable promoters of civilization, are made needlessly burdensome. Social life is made practically impossible. No material prosperity will compensate the settler for this deprivation, which, unless some change takes place as the result of legislation, is likely to be prolonged indefinitely. To make matters worse, the settler who is thus burdened knows perfectly well that he is adding by his toil and hardships to the value of the adjoining lands, and this knowledge gives rise to a well-founded discontent with the whole system. The new Minister of the Interior, whoever he is, should take this matter up at once, in connection with the subject of immigration.

Mr. Dalton McCarthy.

The brief address issued by Mr. Dalton McCarthy to the electors of Brandon on the occasion of his retirement from that constituency is a very moderate document. Having been elected as a protest against the interference of the Dominion Parliament in Manitoba's educational system, he did not see his way clear to resigning until he felt sure that all danger of such interference was at an end. It is a fair inference from this remark that Mr. McCarthy has been made acquainted with the proposals carried back by Attorney-General Sifton after his interview with Mr. Laurier, and that he regards them as quite reasonable from the point of view of the Protestant majority. Whether they will be equally acceptable to Archbishop Langevin remains to be seen, but no one need be surprised to find him more moderate after he returns from Rome than he was before he took his departure for the Holy City. Leo XIII. is a great statesman, and he is surrounded by able counsellors who are not disposed to ignore such a revolution as we have had lately in Quebec.

A Canadian Bar Association.

In Canada, as in the United States, each separate member of the Confederation has its own system of administration of justice, its own Bench, and its own Bar. This diversity does not hinder the legal profession in the United States from having one Bar Association for the whole country, and the organization has exercised a moderating and otherwise useful influence for many years. It was under its auspices that Lord Chief Justice Coleridge visited the United States some years ago, and it was at its annual meeting that Lord Chief Justice Russell delivered the other day at Saratoga his magnificent address on international arbitration. Why should not Canada have a Bar Association? This question has been for some time past exercising the minds of active and prominent members of the legal profession, and an international meeting of lawyers will be held to discuss it at Montreal on the 15th of this month. The proposal to hold such a meeting has been publicly endorsed by Sir Oliver Mowat, Minister of Justice, by Sir Hibbert Tupper and Hon. A. R. Dickey, ex-Ministers of Justice, by Mr. Newcombe, Deputy Minister of Justice, and by a large number of the lawyers who have seats in the House of Commons. The ground of approval is stated to be, "that an opportunity for a comparison of views and friendly intercourse is needed by the profession, and would be of service in helping to advance the science of jurisprudence, promote the administration of justice, and uphold the honour of the profession of the law in Canada." The fact that we have had a Canadian Supreme Court for over twenty years would seem to warrant the present effort to organize a Canadian Bar Association. The members of the profession in Ontario should attend the coming meeting and endeavour to induce the Association, if one is formed, to hold its next meeting in Toronto.

Manitoba.

The condition and progress of Manitoba are of supreme interest to the rest of the Dominion, and it is therefore extremely gratifying to be able to record a fairly rapid increase in her population. It stood