

THE WEEK.

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Contents.

	PAGE.
CURRENT TOPICS.....	843
LEADERS—	
The Royal Society of Canada	846
CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES—	
Our Schools.....	J. H. Long. 846
Mr. Ewart's Dialectics.....	A. B. 848
Lundy's Lane.....	849
Nile Vignettes: III. Ramesses.....	Alice Jones. 850
Jottings From a Library.....	R. v. John Burton, B.D. 851
The Flag—Preference by Antipathy.....	John S. Ewart, Q.C. 852
Parisian Affairs.....	Z. 853
At Street Corners.....	Diogenes. 855
Montreal Affairs.....	855
POETRY—	
Religion Now.....	Bald Eagle. 848
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR—	
The Crown and The Star.....	R. G. Edwards. 856
The Duty of the Press.....	J. Jones Bell. 856
The Pan-American Congress.....	A Member of the Congress. 856
Governor Eyre.....	Anglus. 856
BOOKS—	
Natural History Lore and Legend.....	856
Briefer Notices.....	857

Current Topics.

The Ottawa Separate Schools.

A document that will attract attention when made public, is the report of the Commissioners appointed by the Ontario Government to investigate the condition of Ottawa's Separate Schools. It seems to be the impression at the Capital that the report will be somewhat startling as the Commissioners have obtained facts that are a surprise even to themselves. It is said that they have abundant evidence to show that the Roman Catholics had good reason to be dissatisfied with the education their children were receiving. It is further said that the teaching of the Christian Brothers receives the severest criticism, but that the Separate School Boards will be exonerated, and the clerical authorities are to suffer the blame for the lapse of their schools into such a condition of inefficiency. The *Montreal Gazette*, in commenting upon the matter, says that this news "coming after the developments in connection with the French-speaking schools in Prescott and Russell will not help to make the Separate School idea any more popular in the Province whose electoral vote may have a good deal to do with deciding whether or not Separate Schools shall be re-established in Manitoba. If rumour has correctly estimated the situation at Ottawa, the Separate School will have been wounded in the house of its friends and by its friends." The Roman Catholic authorities should not give "the enemy a chance to blaspheme." If they must have Separate Schools they must at least be efficient enough to satisfy the Roman Catholics themselves.

"The Economist" at Fault.

The London *Economist* for July 20th has an article by its special correspondent at Ottawa on "Canada Under Protection." As the article is numbered "one," we presume that more are to follow, which is greatly to be regretted. The present instalment is a severe indictment of the National Policy. We have no objection to that. But we do object to the misrepresentations and half truths which disfigure the article from end to end. It is too much to expect *The Economist* to know anything about Canadian affairs, but it is not unreasonable to expect it to ascertain the trustworthiness of its correspondents before giving publicity to their state-

ments. The article in question is an insult to the Canadian people. It has already done harm, and if the writer is still at Ottawa he should be drummed out of the country.

The North-West Exhibition.

The first North-West Territorial Exhibition was opened at Regina on Tuesday. It is an event of great interest and significance, and it was meet that the opening function should be participated in by the Governor-General and the Premier of the Dominion. The exhibition is of much more than local importance. It is of national concern, and all Canada is interested in its success. It is a demonstration of the capabilities of the great North-West, of that vast and splendid region which has already impressed the imagination of nations, and whose future greatness and influence in the world none can pretend to tell or to limit.

Tories in the Ascendant.

The latest returns from the British elections, when but one constituency remains to be heard from—that of Orkney and Shetland—show that not only have the combined Conservatives and Unionists obtained a large majority over all other parties in the Commons, which was expected, but that the Conservatives alone have obtained a majority over all other parties in the House, the Unionists included, which was not expected. This purely Conservative majority of eight or nine, while it would not be sufficient for working purposes should their Unionist allies at any time secede in a body, is ample under the circumstances to shield Lord Salisbury and his Conservative colleagues from any danger that can reasonably be considered possible. In the supposable though at present improbable event of an early breaking up of the alliance, there would almost certainly be found in the Unionist ranks a considerable number whose predilections would carry them over to Lord Salisbury rather than to Mr. Chamberlain, and the accession of a dozen or a score from this source would make the Conservative Chief easily master of the situation. It cannot escape our thoughts, of course, that the unexpected development of strength on the part of the Conservatives increases, rather than otherwise, the possibilities of such a rupture, by making their leaders much less dependent upon the support of the Unionists than they would otherwise have been. Though the election has been really too one-sided an affair to arouse the deepest interest, we may make bold to prophecy that the development of the policy of the new Administration during the approaching session will be followed with surpassing and anxious attention in all parts of the United Kingdom.

The Hudson Bay Railway.

The discussion which took place in the Senate during the closing days of the session, and which has been followed up in the leading party papers, gives another illustration, little needed, of the difficulty which the independent inquirer often finds in getting at the real merits in a matter of controversial legislation. It is certainly objectionable, if not suspicious, that so important a matter, involving an expenditure of \$1,600,000 of the public funds, with, perhaps, as