

THE WEEK.

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THE WEEK : C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, MANAGER.

Current Topics.

New
Senators.

Hon. David Mills, of London and Mr. George A. Cox, of Toronto, have been appointed members of the Canadian Senate.

Their elevation to the vacant positions will be received with unqualified public approval. Mr. Cox is one of the best known men of business in the Dominion. By exceptional ability, indomitable perseverance, and strict integrity he has raised himself to a position of great social, political, and financial eminence. He is president of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, and is a leading spirit in the management of several other important financial institutions. He will bring to the deliberations of the Senate, a well-trained intellect, ripe business experience, and an unfailing courtesy of manner which is all too rare in Canadian public life. Mr. Mills has been almost continuously a member of the House of Commons since Confederation. During the Mackenzie regime, he held the portfolio of the Interior long enough to prove his administrative capacity, but his reputation is mainly that of a parliamentarian. More than most of his contemporaries he has exemplified the fine old traditions which have made the British House of Commons the most famous and most efficient legislative chamber the world has ever seen. His knowledge of parliamentary practice has been extremely useful to the House in many emergencies, and his acquaintance with constitutional and international law has enabled him to render to the public very valuable services outside as well as inside of Parliament. He has been for several years professor of these subjects in the University of Toronto, and he has been of counsel in more than one important *cause celebre* involving grave constitutional issues. The skill in debate which his long membership in the House of Commons has developed will prove extremely useful in the Senate, which, owing to the presence in it of Sir Oliver Mowat as Minister of Justice, is likely to be asked to take a somewhat active part in the work of legislation. Until

he sees fit to return to the House of Commons, Mr. Mills will find abundant scope for his special talents in the less turbulent arena in which he has been appointed to serve his country.

Religion in the
Public Schools

The members of the Anglican deputation which waited recently on the Ontario Executive Council, to urge that better provision be made for religious and moral teaching in the public schools of this Province, presented their case with moderation and good sense. It seemed to be taken for granted by all, and it was expressly assumed by some of the speakers, that the only way to secure this was to provide opportunity for the use of the Bible as a class book of instruction by the teacher during school hours. The difficulties in the way of such a change in the law are grave but not necessarily insuperable, and they were frankly admitted by the deputation. One of the most formidable of them was raised by the Premier in the form of a question: What would those pupils, whose parents do not desire their children to hear the teacher's religious instruction, do while the other pupils are receiving it? This class might at first sight seem to include only those who do not themselves believe, and who do not wish their children to believe, in the Bible, but a moment's consideration will show that it is much more comprehensive. It will be found to include a large proportion of the intensely denominational members of evangelical churches. If the teacher belonged to no branch of the Christian Church they would prefer to have no Biblical instruction given by him; and their preference would be perfectly rational. If he belonged to some religious denomination the members of other denominations would be suspicious of proselytism lurking in his teaching. One probable result would be a struggle between denominations for control of the school boards in order to make sure of the complete orthodoxy of the teacher. How long would our public school system stand such an agitation in every school district in the Province? This is a difficulty for which the deputation offered no adequate solution.

College
Athletics.

The close of the athletic season is a good time to remind college students of some of the dangers connected with devotion to academic sports. The most serious are the physical strain to which athletes are necessarily subjected, the incompatibility of severe athletic practice with serious intellectual work, and the tendency to develop a professional spirit among those who ought to remain amateurs in the best sense of that term. Omitting altogether liability to accidents on the field, which may happen to any one who plays and from which the trained athlete is less likely than the untrained one to suffer serious consequences, the strain of preparation for matches is during the first few weeks of the academic session a menace to health unless the athlete is carefully watched by some one who is an expert. Far too little attention has been given to this aspect of the matter by both parents and faculties. Exercise for training purposes must be somewhat violent, and it must be long and continuously sustained. Only a naturally strong physical constitution can