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## THE WEEK:

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All articles, contributions, and letters on matters pertaining to the editorial department should be addressed to the Editor, and not to any person who may be supposed to be connected with the paper.

BY the death of Sir Alexander Campbell the Province of Ontario and the Dominion of Canada have lost a public man of a type which is unhappily becoming too rare in these days of party strife. He was one of the few who knew how to combine faithfulness to party with a high sense of public duty and an unflinching courtesy to political opponents. It is unnecessary for us to recount here the leading events of Sir Alexander's career. These have been prominently before the public since his lamented death, and are no doubt familiar to all our readers. He will probably be best remembered in Canadian history by the important services he rendered in the framing and inauguration of the Confederation. He took a prominent part in the deliberations of the memorable Quebec Conference, and afterwards had charge of the Confederation resolutions during their passage through the Upper House of the Canadian Legislature. For twenty consecutive years, dating from Confederation, he sat in the Dominion Senate. During the whole of that period he was the virtual, and during the last eight or nine of it, the actual and recognized, leader of the Conservative forces in that body. During all that score of years, with the exception of the term during which the Liberal party was in power, he was also a member of the Government. The number and variety of Cabinet offices which he filled at various times, and always with ability and credit, proves that he was a man of exceptional versatility of talent. He was in turn Receiver-General, Postmaster-General, Minister of the Interior, Minister of Militia, Minister of Justice. In the latter position he wrote one or two State documents, touching constitutional questions, which were deemed of considerable importance and are of permanent value. As Postmaster-General he had the good fortune to introduce a number of reforms of great and lasting benefit to the country. Among these were the establishment of the uniform three-cent rate for letters, the arrangement for single rates on books and newspapers between Canada and the United States, the introduction of postal cards, etc. As Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario he, by his statesmanlike dignity and impartiality in the

discharge of his official duties, as well as by his genial hospitality and his public-spirited readiness to aid every good work and movement, won golden opinions from the whole community and deep personal regard from many. His high personal character as a man and a gentleman, his large political experience and broad statesmanship, and his clear and practical appreciation of the true position and functions of a constitutional Governor, eminently qualified him for the high position in which he was just completing his term of office. Indeed it is not too much to say that in the manner and spirit in which he performed his gubernatorial duties, he has left a pattern worthy of imitation by all his successors.

THE Dominion Government has been prompt in filling the vacancy caused by the death of the much-lamented Sir Alexander Campbell. It is to be congratulated on the universal satisfaction with which the announcement of the name of the new Lieutenant Governor has been received on all hands. The Hon. George A. Kirkpatrick, LL.D., who took the oath of office at Ottawa, on Monday last, has represented the constituency of Frontenac in the Commons for more than twenty years, and for three years filled the honourable position of Speaker. He is therefore well versed in Parliamentary and constitutional usage. Like his predecessor he is a gentleman of high personal character, and exceptionally well fitted by intellectual and social culture, as well as by political training and experience, to occupy with dignity the position of the first citizen in the Province. Like the late Sir Alexander Campbell, too, his reputation for fairness and moderation in partisan politics is such as to afford ample assurance of his impartiality in the administration of the high trust which is now committed to his hands. He is in the prime of life, and may naturally be expected to take an active part in all such public functions as come properly within the somewhat restricted sphere of a Provincial Governor. He is to be congratulated on the hearty and practically unanimous welcome with which he will be greeted by the people of Ontario, and the citizens of the Province may be in turn congratulated on the choice of a gentleman for the position so universally acceptable.

THE Report of the City (Toronto) Engineer for 1891 is a voluminous document. Without attempting any review of the details of the various important works which have been under construction in the city during the past year, we may refer to one question of great interest which is trenchantly dealt with in the conclusion of Engineer Cunningham's personal report. In this part (pages 38 and 39) Mr. Cunningham makes some plain statements concerning the difficult and practically intolerable position in which the City Engineer is placed under the present system. These remarks are accentuated by the fact that the writer has himself, since the date at which this writing was made (April 5th), fallen a victim to the evil he describes, and been practically dismissed from the service of the city. The state of the matter, as described by Mr. Cunningham, is briefly this: "Though the Council has the power of vetoing recommendations made by the Engineer, yet the Engineer has the power, distinctly conferred upon him by by-law, of refusing to recommend any work, even though asked for by resolution of Council, or by petition of citizens." Not only so, but as no work can be undertaken without his recommendation, it follows that his authority may, in many instances, override that of both Council and citizens. This is a position of extraordinary responsibility. Whether such an absolute veto over the decisions of all the city authorities ought to be given to any one official, is fairly open to question. But that, when once such a responsibility has been placed upon his shoulders, his decisions ought to be loyally accepted and supported by both Council and citizens, goes without saying. It is easy to foresee that the moment any decision of the Engineer, no matter how wise or how conscientiously made, comes in conflict with the self-interest or prejudices of powerful citizens, whether members of the Council or not, that moment he is liable to suspicion and attack, and is entitled to the loyal and unflinching support of the Council and all good citizens. Mr. Cunningham's

reasoning at this point is irresistible. If the Council has confidence in the Engineer, it is bound to support him, whether his conclusions agree with the private opinions of its members or not. If it has not confidence in him—and the confidence needed under the conditions is very great—it should at once dismiss him and supply his place with one in whom it can absolutely confide. But to question his ability or his motives, or try to induce him to change his conclusion, much more to attack and worry him in the discharge of his professional duties, is to treat him with bad faith, and render the position intolerable, as we have said, for a self-respecting man. The whole subject demands reconsideration before another appointment is made.

"It is one thing to be a professional free-trader 'on principle,' but when your professional free-trader desires to invest his wealth in a manufacturing industry, it is surprising how very quickly he abandons his fad, becomes an enthusiastic admirer of protection and the N.P., and immediately proceeds to ask the Government for a bonus on his product."

THE above, which is quoted from a recent number of the *Canadian Manufacturer*, suggests some queries. Does the writer attribute the change of opinion which he describes, to the new converts to the doctrines of protection as a reproach? Does he mean to imply that they do not become genuine protectionists? Is your true protectionist such from some high and pure motive or "principle," which exalts him above every consideration of self-interest? Our perplexity in regard to the matter has been greatly increased by reading an article in a later number of the *Manufacturer* which has just come to hand. The occasion of this article is the establishment of the new journal called the *Printer and Publisher*. The chief aim of the paper, which we are led to infer is a very wicked aim, is said to be "to more thoroughly unite the printers and publishers in an effort to increase the diminishing revenues of the printing office, and to look more closely after their own interests than they have hitherto done." One of the ways in which they propose to thus consult their own interests is, it appears, to advocate the reduction of duties on certain articles of commerce, such as baking powders, in order that it may again become worth while for American manufacturers to advertise their wares in Canada. In the case of the particular article mentioned it is said that formerly the advertising of these powders had been worth from \$10 to \$1,500 annually to nearly every paper in Canada, but that the duty has of late been so increased that American-makers no longer advertise their powders in Canada, and the papers suffer in consequence. One might suppose that if Canadian manufacturers have succeeded to the business they would require to do the advertising and that it would be all the same to the papers. But it further appears that the N. P. gives the Canadian manufacturers of this necessary article so comfortable a monopoly that they do not need to advertise, but can sell at enormous profits without it. Our contemporary waxes eloquently indignant over the want of patriotism and principle and every other virtue which prevents the selfish printers and publishers from rejoicing in the policy which is enriching other Canadian manufacturers while impoverishing them. Now we have to confess ourselves so dull that we are unable to see why the business of printing and publishing in Canada is not as much a Canadian industry as the manufacturing of baking powders. The bringing into the country every year of the large sum of money represented by from \$10 to \$1,500 for nearly every paper published must, one would suppose, have benefited nearly as many labourers as does the increased manufacture of the article in question. If the Canadian manufacturers are now making enormous profits, it goes without saying that the consumers all over the country are paying higher prices for their baking powders, but the consumers do not count, we suppose. The loss of the snug little sum which the Americans must have been contributing to the revenue, under the lowest duty; the employment the traffic must have given to Canadian carriers and tradesmen, etc., might seem also to the uninitiated worthy of a moment's consideration, in striking the balance of advantages. But no doubt we are both