

THE WEEK.

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Current Topics.

The Battle of Lundy's Lane.

The celebration of the 81st anniversary of the battle of Lundy's Lane, and the unveiling of the splendid monument now erected by the Government of Canada in honour of the brave ones who fell on the field that memorable day, took place yesterday afternoon at the Lane, an immense concourse of people being assembled together. A distinguished array of prominent speakers were present, the Secretary of State representing the Canadian Government. In the course of his speech Hon. Mr. Montague, in the name of the Government, formally delivered the monument to the Lundy's Lane Historical Society. A pleasing feature of the great event was the beautiful wreath of evergreen which was discovered upon the monument when it was unveiled.

Preferential Trade Regulations.

The despatch just published, giving the views of the British Government, as expressed in the minute of the late Secretary of State for the Colonies, Lord Ripon, upon the trade resolutions passed by a majority of the representatives of the Colonies at the Ottawa Conference, is, so far as Canada at least is concerned, a very important document. These views are, it is true, those of the Minister of a defunct Administration. But we know no reason for believing that those of the British Government as now constituted will be likely to be materially different. As our readers know, it has seemed to us from the first extremely improbable that the statesmen of the Mother Country would, under any circumstances, favourably consider a policy which, in the language of Lord Ripon's minute, "involved a complete reversal of the fiscal and commercial system maintained by Great Britain for half a century." British Governments are slow to reverse the action of predecessors in matters involving foreign and colonial relations. Nor is there any indication, so far as we are aware, that Lord Salisbury, or Mr. Chamberlain, or any of their colleagues, hold opinions in respect to trade policy materially different from those of their predecessors in office. It may as well, therefore, be taken as settled that the policy of inter-imperial and intercolonial trade, approved and adopted at the Ottawa Conference, is impracticable and hopeless. The opinions even of those who united in originating and recommending this policy will, no doubt, differ materially in respect to the relative importance of this part of their scheme, and so in respect to the extent to which its rejection affects

the whole plan of which it formed a part. It would, therefore, seem to be necessary for them, as the next step, to reconsider the whole matter, and determine whether it is essential to their scheme, and whether they shall reconstruct that scheme with a view to the abandonment of this part of it, or shall resolve to persevere in pressing it upon the attention of the Home Government, in hope of its ultimate adoption.

Low Water in the St. Lawrence

Recent despatches from Montreal contain the somewhat alarming statement that the water in the harbour is almost unprecedentedly low for this time of year, and is still falling at the rate of about an inch a day. It is, therefore, not to be wondered at that ship-owners and other business men in that city are viewing with some anxiety and alarm the approaching completion of the Chicago drainage canal. Should the effect of this canal be to lower the level of the lakes only two and a half inches, according to the estimate of the engineer in charge, this itself, under the circumstances indicated, will be a serious matter. We presume that the Dominion Government are taking such measures as may be deemed desirable to call the attention of the British and United States authorities to the matter. It is encouraging to know that some of the cities on the other sides of the lakes and of the St. Lawrence are quite as deeply interested in the question as those on the Canadian side. Yet it is evident that there is no time to be lost. If there is real danger of material damage to Montreal and other cities from the reduction of the depth of water in the lakes and river, it would seem that the time for vigorous protest is before rather than after the completion of the canal. What would seem most desirable is that there should be a friendly conference between representatives of the Mother Country and Canada, and of the United States, respectively, in order to settle clearly, if possible, what are the extent and the limits of the rights of border nations, in the matter of deflecting portions of the water of boundary lakes and rivers. In this, as in most other affairs, an ounce of prevention costs much less and is worth much more than a pound of cure.

Education in England.

Another week of elections in England leaves it beyond question that the Unionist majority will be as large, if not larger, than the most sanguine friends of the new Ministry hoped or predicted. Apparently the most dubious questions will now be whether the disparity in the strength of the two parties is not likely to be greater than is compatible with the best working of the party system of government. It is very likely, however, as we have before observed, that the inherent differences in the opinions and principles, and still more in the habits of thought and feeling, of the two great component elements of the Parliamentary majority, may, to some extent, supply the place of a strong and compact Opposition. The educational policy of the new Premier, if we may forecast it from some of his recent utterances, will be one of those questions which bid fair to put the strength of the bond which unites the two elements of the party to a pretty severe test. Lord Salisbury has not hesitated to declare himself in favour of religious and denominational teaching in