

THE WEEK.

Vol. X.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, APRIL 21st, 1893.

No. 21.

THE WEEK:

A Canadian Journal of Politics, Literature, Science and Arts.

TERMS:—One year, \$3; eight months, \$2; four months, \$1. Subscriptions payable in advance.

Subscribers in Great Britain and Ireland supplied, postage prepaid, on terms following:—One year, 12s. 6d.; half-year, 6s. 6d. Remittances by P.O. order or draft should be made payable and addressed to the publisher.

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C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Publisher.

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CURRENT TOPICS.

Strenuous exertions are being made by the friends of John R. Arnoldi to secure his release from Carleton prison. It does certainly seem hard that he almost alone of those guilty of similar, and some of them of even worse, offences should be singled out for exemplary punishment. Why for instance, should Mr. Senecal, whose breach of trust was at least equally glaring, be permitted to escape under cover of a technicality from the consequences of a mere civil prosecution, while Arnoldi languishes in goal as a criminal? Who can doubt, after reading Mr. McCarthy's summary of the facts brought out before the Commission, that the Postmaster-General was guilty of a betrayal of a still higher trust, and on a far larger scale, and yet he retains his place as a Member of the Administration? We believe that Arnoldi's crime admits neither of

defence nor of palliation; yet we do not see how the Government can with any regard to consistency refuse the petition for his release, under the circumstances.

"Why, for instance, did he (Col O'Brien) need to blurt out that Mr. McCarthy "had never received a tittle of emolument" from the Conservative party? A repetition of this statement will compel us, in the interest of Eternal Truth, to produce the records and show the thousands upon thousands and tens of thousands of dollars that the Evangel of the New Doctrine has received from the Conservative Government and the Conservative party."

Is it not more than a little strange that no high-minded Conservative has taken the Empire to task for the above most damaging statement? What does it mean? If it means simply that Mr. McCarthy has performed services, not for the Conservative Government and party, but for the State, for which he has been paid "thousands upon thousands and tens of thousands of dollars" by way of fair and proper remuneration, there is little point to the remark in the connection. To accept fair remuneration for necessary work performed does not surely lay one under special obligation. If it means more than that, it must mean that public funds have been expended for Mr. McCarthy's personal behoof, a statement which would be equally damaging to the Government and the individual.

What a scene of political and social unrest the face of Europe just now presents. In France the Panama affair is still threatening a general upheaval, a weak Ministry holds office by a precarious tenure, and all parties are preparing for a tremendous struggle in the approaching general election. In Germany the trial of strength between the people and the Monarch is still going on in the Reichstag, and unless a compromise can be very soon reached, the fiercest political battle which has ever been fought in the Empire will shortly convulse the nation. In Belgium the demand for political enfranchisement has become mixed with the contests of the labour unions in a novel if not unprecedented manner and the populace are in open revolt against the constituted authorities. The demand for universal suffrage may be successfully resisted for the moment, but is certain to prevail in the end, for when the mass of the people come to prize and claim their right to a voice in their own government, there is no

power in any nation which can long resist them. In Serbia a boy king deposes his regents by an act of treachery and takes possession of the throne, probably for a brief period, in virtue of a false declaration. In Russia the people are being decimated by starvation on the one hand, and tyrannous cruelty on the other, and the masses are too far down to be able effectually to help themselves. Even in Great Britain the dread spectre of possible civil war looms on the political horizon. And this is the last decade of the Nineteenth Century, and the boasted age of enlightenment and Christian civilization.

We commented, a week or two since, on the growing discontent of the farmers in Manitoba and the North-West Territories with the freight rates of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and ventured the opinion that the managers of the road would, if they were wise, not wait until that discontent culminated in forcing some action upon the Government and Parliament, before giving heed to the signs of the rising storm. We are very glad to know that the Winnipeg Free Press, which is generally regarded as having the confidence of the C. P. R. authorities, now says that it is in a position to state as a fact that there will be brought into force in time for moving the crop of 1893, a tariff applicable to all parts of Manitoba and the Territories, at least as far as the C. P. R. is concerned, that will make a very material reduction on the one now in force. Farmers are assured that in determining the area to be devoted to wheat this season they may take this promised reduction into account with the fullest confidence that it will come into fruition. If the pledge thus given on behalf of the company be redeemed and a substantial reduction made, as we see no reason to doubt, for the C. P. R. managers are wise and far-seeing, the Company as well as the farmers of the whole prairie country will have reason to be congratulated. It is evident, now that the wonderful and practically unlimited productive powers of that great country have been placed beyond doubt, that the question of cost of transportation is that upon which the development of the country really depends.

On tactical grounds, to take no higher for the moment, it must seem to an onlooker accustomed to constitutional government that the threat of forcible resistance to Home-Rule so openly made by the Ulster malcontents must be very bad policy. It