

THE WEEK.

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THE WEEK: C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, MANAGER.

Current Topics.

Queen Victoria's
Peign.

Her Majesty has now occupied the throne of Great Britain and Ireland for a longer period than any other monarch did before her. The reigns of Henry III. and George III. were both exceptionally long, but the former lacked several years of the length of hers, and a considerable proportion of the latter must be deducted on account of the insanity of him who was only nominally king. The Queen has still, in spite of growing physical infirmity, the full use of her mental faculties, and she still takes a real and effective interest in home and foreign politics. She is the Sovereign in reality as well as name. One gratifying feature of the situation is that no section of her subjects manifests any desire to have it otherwise, for she was never more popular personally than she is just now. Another is that there has been a widespread and genuine expression of appreciation of the Queen in the press of the United States. In spite of occasional symptoms of irritation, there is amongst our neighbours a feeling of personal respect for Queen Victoria which is due largely to the exertion of her personal influence to prevent France from active interference on behalf of the South at a critical period of the Civil War. Had Great Britain co-operated with France for such a purpose then, the suppression of the rebellion would have been made far more difficult and might have been made impossible. How much was effected by Her Majesty's persistent opposition to such a scheme can never be known, but that she did oppose it is beyond a doubt, and this stands to her credit with the people of the United States to this day.

Senator
Ferguson

The death of Senator Ferguson at a comparatively early age is a matter for deep public regret. So many senators have grown quite old in the service of the country that we can ill afford to lose any of those who unite physical vigour with good

ability and political experience. Dr. Ferguson never gave himself up very exclusively to the practice of his profession. He preferred to gratify two very pronounced inclinations that conflicted with medical practice—a taste for business and a passion for politics. He was gifted with the personal qualities which win friends and contribute to popularity, and though he suffered eclipses as all do in the political struggles in which they participate, his name is not associated with anything discreditable to himself or calculated to make his friends ashamed of his memory. The Ministry of the day should endeavour to replace him with a successor equally capable and equally removed from senility.

Emigration to Brazil.

The persistence of French families in emigrating from Quebec to Brazil is a phenomenon that well deserves the serious consideration of all who are in a position to observe it. There can be little doubt that these people are doomed to bitter disappointment when they reach their destination, and probably the most effectual check to the fraud perpetrated upon them will be the accounts sent back of the sad experience of the emigrants. But what prompts the desire to leave the country? The economic condition of Canada, according to some; the exactions of the Roman Catholic Church, according to others. There may be truth in either or both of these views, but in any case there is room for some searching of heart. We cannot afford to lose our French population unless it is to be replaced by one equally desirable. Large sections of Quebec have already lost very many of the young, the enterprising, and the vigorous members of the community, who have gone to New England and to other parts of the United States. Whatever change of economic or ecclesiastical policy may be found necessary to retain these people should have at least fair consideration. Of what use is it to go to great expense to bring immigrants here to people our vacant territory while the people who have been born and brought up in the country are leaving us in defiance of the warnings alike of public officials and of their own ecclesiastics? The matter cannot be probed too soon or too thoroughly.

Game Law Enforcement.

The Commissioner of Crown Lands for Ontario has issued a circular notice to the outside employees of his Department, respecting the enforcement of the law for the protection of game. It is more than ordinarily peremptory in its tone, and perfectly explicit in its terms. The wood-rangers and other officers are expected and instructed to aid the game wardens in preventing violations of the statute, and in helping to secure the punishment of those who violate it. Officers found guilty of conniving at illegal slaughter of game will be, and ought to be, dismissed from the public service. No country is better situated than Ontario is for securing a reasonable observance of such precautions as may be found necessary for the preservation of game, because no country has so large a staff of officials who can, without any additional cost, be utilized for preventive purposes. There can be no doubt that the game law is better enforced now than it ever was before, but there can be no doubt either that