

THE WEEK.

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Current Topics.

"Silly"
Interviews.

The "silly" season furnishes ample opportunity for silly reports in the newspapers. The interviews with premiers and ex-premiers and the chronicle of the movements of ministers and ex-ministers give occupation to reporters and editors who otherwise would find their columns a blank. In Canadian politics the Conservatives are apparently a "house divided against itself." The faction who opposed Sir Charles Tupper for various reasons, and the faction who followed Sir Charles Tupper are not at one in their views as to who should be leader. Of the Liberals Mr. Tarte is most *en evidence*. He seems to be a Dominion Alderman Hallam—always "bobbing up" to express his opinion. The notice given to Mr. Tarte by Conservative journals seems to show that he is dreaded. If the disclosures which he says he can make are really true, it will not be long before the ranks of the convicts in the penitentiary are increased. Perhaps that is why he is so much abused by the other side. As for the average voter, all he says is *fiat justitia*.

The Naval
Manœuvres

The manœuvres of the British Fleet during the last fortnight have apparently justified Lord Charles Beresford. An immediate increase in the number of seamen will be demanded. Public opinion in England always sustains the maintenance of a sufficient fleet. But what naval men fail to appreciate or, at all events, what they have not yet brought home to the British people, is the danger of the stoppage of the food supply of the British Isles. The protection of the coasts from invasion is a minor problem compared with this one. The invaders could, perhaps, no matter how strong or careful the fleet might be, effect a landing, but, if they did, could they get out again? But the stoppage of food—there is a matter which no fleet can prevent so long as privateering is allowed. The United States are not bound by the Treaty of Paris, which abolished privateering as between most civilized countries. There would be a swarm of privateers preying on British commerce starting from American ports, and

in a fortnight the British food supply would be seriously threatened. This question is the one for naval experts to consider more than that of invasion.

The
Sick Man.

The cable reports from the East show that serious events may be expected there. A rising in Crete—a revolt in Macedonia—both simultaneously—are very bad signs for the Turk. Principal Grant has been preaching a "new crusade." Undoubtedly, the Turk ought to go. As we have before said, he is an anachronism. The trouble is the old one. Who is going to bell the cat? If England tries to do it, Russia and Germany will step in. If Russia does it, the rest of Europe will interfere. Perhaps, an international alliance may be come to which will attempt the putting an end to the life of the Sick Man. But the division of the spoil will make it almost impossible to secure harmony. Then the Turk himself cannot be ignored. He is something like the Spaniard. You may overrun his country, but you cannot conquer him. If the emergency produces another Amurath, while Fanaticism supplies the followers, the conquest will be no easy one. Take it for all in all, the problem is one to be gravely considered. Meanwhile Britain is reinforcing her Mediterranean fleet. There, at all events, England will not be caught napping.

American
Stocks

The shrinkage in American securities still continues and the gold deposit is still being eaten into by withdrawals. Where is it to end? The Democratic candidate for President having been accepted by the Populists and both parties having substantially the same platform, the American voter ought to know what to expect. But he does not; because the Republican candidate is a Mr. Facing-both-ways. What he is certain about is that McKinley is protectionist to the hilt. Meanwhile the interim report of the Secretary of the Navy shows a feverish anxiety as to the construction of new battle-ships and new gunboats. They are being pushed as rapidly as possible. Everything betokens the greatest possible political dangers. English people view with grief these symptoms of American social troubles. Many unreflecting persons say that it is only the politicians who are making all this noise. But they do not belong to the generation who saw the beginnings of the Southern rebellion. Politicians did the talking there, but they dragged in the Lees and Jacksons and Polks, men who were not politicians, and behind them thousands of peaceful citizens who were ultimately called upon to die for their homes invaded in retaliation for rebellion urged on by "politicians." The sober, steady man of business finds himself coerced by the good-for-nothing carpet-bagger. The God-fearing, church-going father of a family is compelled to leave his comfortable home at the bidding of corner-grocery loafers. There has been too much pandering to the worthless element in the United States. Now respectability finds itself helpless before anarchists and socialists, before Coxey, before Bryan, and before McKinley. The "boss" is apparently supreme.