

THE WEEK.

Vol. XII.

Toronto, Friday, December 7th, 1894.

No. 2.

Contents.

| | PAGE |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| CURRENT TOPICS | 27 |
| PHILIP GILBERT HAMERTON | 30 |
| NINETEENTH CENTURY RECREATION | 31 |
| MONTREAL LETTER | 32 |
| A DEPUTY SURVEYOR GENERAL'S REPORT OF 1788 IV.....(To be continued) | 32 |
| THE CATTLE THIEF (Pouch) | 34 |
| GLIMPSES AT THINGS | 34 |
| PARIS LETTER | 35 |
| JOHN GRANGER'S POEMS: PARSON JONES' SERMON.....J. Cawdor Bell. | 36 |
| CORRESPONDENCE | |
| Religion in the Schools: Per Contra.....Rev. John Burton, B.D. | 36 |
| THE DUFFERINS AND SHERIDANS. I.....(To be continued) | 37 |
| RONDEL.....Colin A. Scott. | 39 |
| LIBRARY TABLE | 40 |
| LITERARY AND PERSONAL | 41 |
| PERIODICALS | 41 |
| MUSIC AND THE DRAMA | 42 |
| ART NOTES | 42 |
| PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED | 43 |
| READINGS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE | 43 |
| PUBLIC OPINION | 44 |
| SCIENTIFIC AND SANITARY | 45 |
| MISCELLANEOUS | 46 |
| QUIDS AND CRANKS | 47 |

For Terms of Subscription and Advertising Rates see last page.
Address all Literary and Business Communications to THE WEEK PUBLISHING COMPANY, LIMITED, TORONTO, CANADA.

Current Topics.

Lord Jersey's Report.

Lord Jersey's report in favour of the resolutions of the Intercolonial Conference, foreshadowing, as they may fairly be supposed to do, the action of the British Government, will, no doubt, give a great impetus to the cable and fast Atlantic steamship projects. His remarks on the trade question confirm the conclusions which have been previously reached by others, strange as those conclusions may seem. The treaties with Germany and Belgium, which are one of the chief obstacles in the way of any reciprocal trade arrangements between the members of the proposed Imperial federation, would not, the Earl of Jersey thinks, preclude the making of preferential arrangements between the Colonies themselves, or even prevent the Mother Country from giving the Colonies preferential advantages, but would prevent her from accepting any preferential treatment from them. The Earl is of opinion that Germany and Belgium might be induced to consent to the abrogation of the clauses especially referring to the Colonies, without permitting the modification to affect the other provisions of the treaties. He more than hints, however, his opinion, which is quite in accord with that which has been expressed by most of those who have written or spoken from the British point of view, that the suggestion of a maximum tariff for foreigners and a minimum tariff for the Colonies would involve a fundamental change in the financial policy of Great Britain. We may add, as he probably intends to imply, that there is not much reason to suppose that the people of Great Britain will favourably consider such a proposal at present. But by and by—?

Our High Commissioner.

We commented, a week or two ago, upon the cabled report of certain strong observations alleged to have been made by Sir Charles Tupper in a speech in Dundee, while a local election

was in progress. Sir Charles was represented as having made a severe partisan attack upon the British Government as a whole and the Minister of Agriculture in particular. We expressed our unwillingness to believe that our Dominion representative in the Mother Country could have so far forgotten what was due to his position as to be guilty of what would have been as impolitic as rude. English papers now received justify our incredulity to a considerable extent. It appears that Sir Charles' appearance as a lecturer in Dundee had no connection whatever with the political struggle then going on, he having gone to Scotland by special invitation to lecture in response to the invitation of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society. Moreover, the offensive words quoted were not, so far as appears, used in the lecture, or spoken publicly at all. The expression upon which they were probably founded had been made use of during a personal interview with a deputation of farmers headed by Sir John Leng, M.P., one of Lord Rosebery's supporters. From a party point of view the remark could not be complained of by the present Government, since Sir Charles distinctly said that the course of the present Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Gardner, had been a great deal more straightforward than that of Mr. Chaplin, his predecessor. At the same time that remark, and an accompanying one to the effect that the Government were determined that no live cattle should be admitted, impugning, as they do, the honour and veracity of the British Ministers, are, to say the least, not overburdened with the courtesy which is generally supposed to be due from a foreign or Colonial Ambassador to the statesmen of the country to which he is accredited.

Political Prospects in England.

Whatever opinion may be formed as to the cause, the defeat of the Government candidate in Forfarshire, and that by so large a majority, is a severe blow to Lord Rosebery's administration. Not only does it injure the prestige of the Government, but, in view of the smallness of their previous majority, the loss of a single seat, counting two on a division, is serious in the most practical aspect of the case. If it be true, as now alleged, that the support of the Parnellite section of the Home Rulers will be definitely transferred to the Unionist side, the Government will hold their right to office by a very precarious tenure. Should their position be made still weaker by another defeat to-day, in the Brigg division of Lincoln, it will require a good deal of nerve for them to attempt to hold another session of parliament. Nevertheless, the inducement will be very strong for them to do so. As a matter of party policy their resolve, as at present understood, to change the order of the subjects on their programme, by placing their anti-Lords resolution last instead of first, is obviously wise. If they can hold on to office so long, and the House of Lords will play into their hands by rejecting two or three more reform bills, such as that for the Disestablishment of the Church in Wales, the Irish Land Reform Bill, etc., their crusade against the veto power of the House of Lords will no doubt be materially helped thereby. While the strength of the anti-Lords policy, as an election cry, may be rather increased than otherwise by Lord Salisbury's admission of the