

## The Week.

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C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, *Publisher*.

WHAT were but a few months ago little more than speculative visions of the future of the C. P. R. are to-day, despite their seeming improbability, fast becoming realisations. Shipload after shipload of tea from Japan are passing over it to the Eastern States; and Mr. Frazer, a China merchant, in an interview with a *Montreal Star* reporter, expresses great expectations as to the development of the trade. The time occupied in transit is, it seems, shorter than by any other route—forty-seven days from Yokohama to Montreal, while the rates are in close competition with those by the Suez Canal route—£3.10s. sterling per ton of forty feet. So favourable indeed does Mr. Frazer regard the prospects of the new route to be, that he estimates that the proportion of three-fourths of the total imports of China and Japan teas into America, hitherto the share of the Suez Canal route, will hereafter come by the C. P. R.; which, throughout its route can drop off consignments to the States, so saving cost of carriage from the seaboard to places west. The western distribution into the States may be made south from Winnipeg, and the eastern from Brockville. There is something highly pleasing to the British heart in the hope that some portion of the profits of the Suez Canal Company may be diverted to Canada; for it has been estimated that since that wretched ditch was dug the French shareholders and officeholders about it have reaped from British trade just about enough to recoup the French nation the damages it had to pay for making war on Germany. The Suez Canal has never been properly constructed—it is a work that any reputable English engineer would be ashamed of; and the French company having put all the earnings into their pockets, it will begin to entail a heavy outlay for deferred repairs just when its revenues are falling off—a prospect at which we must own we are not so cosmopolite-humanitarian as to repine. But turning again to the C. P. R., from its prospects as a trade route to its prospects as a passenger route, we may endorse most fully all that Mr. Frazer has said on this head. No doubt the road will be used as a military road by the Imperial authorities; and besides this it is, we believe, sure to become a favourite route for civilian travel between England and the East. The scenery along it is fine; the Canadian air bracing; and to persons enervated by long residence in India or China, to whom the passage through the Red Sea and the scorching hot winds coming from the deserts on either hand is justly a matter of nervous dread, the alternative route now opened, entirely through one of the most salubrious climates in the world, is a boon little less than health itself. The present writer once heard a passenger through the Red Sea, who was utterly prostrated with the heat, say that in forty years' residence in India he had never suffered from the heat so much; and if this dreadful ordeal can be avoided by persons already so weakly that it is fraught with danger to them, and if, moreover, by taking the new route they will be drinking in health with every breath of this bracing air, who that can will not take it!

ACCORDING to Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, the Government propose to do two things in Ireland, to administer the law and to consider carefully a scheme of decentralization in the direction of local self government, framed upon a popular basis. But if that is the whole of their policy, as he said in the debate on the address, they will not next session receive the support of the Unionist Liberals. Something must be done in the agrarian difficulty; and if when Parliament reassembles some plan is not proposed which shall relieve the poorer tenants, whose holdings have become non-rent-producing, through the decline in the value of agricultural produce, without letting off that other and larger class who are perfectly well able to pay, but take advantage of the Nationalist agitation to avoid their obligations—then the Unionist Liberals, failing something analogous to this being done, must turn out the Government. They have very fairly given the Government all the time asked to mature their plans; they refuse to support any motion whatever that might even remotely tend to a Government defeat in the meantime; but when the term has elapsed, the Government must show itself capable to deal with the situation, fully and in every part, or give way to others. The Tories will not show themselves to be so capable if they content themselves merely with the coercion of crime and the National League, while transferring the control of the

municipalities to the very men who form the main strength of the National League. Local self-government is not at all what is wanted in Ireland just now, except by the politicians of the National League, who would accept and use it as a powerful, because legal, machinery to the realization of their illegal objects: what is wanted are healing measures side by side with coercive justice—the maintenance of the Union, whilst removing any grievances that may threaten the Union.

MR. PLUNKET, however, stated that the policy of the Government was to extend the Land Act of 1881, and its success largely depended upon the restoration of social order. No doubt, this must not be neglected. If the Parnellites were permitted to frustrate this healing work by boycotting, intimidation, and moonlighting, a peaceful end to these troubles would never be reached. The law must be re-established again in Ireland, and the National League, if it continues its treasonous practices against the law, must be repressed with an iron hand. It would be a dangerous experiment to call in the military to the aid of the civil power in any country where law prevailed; but Ireland is so enmeshed in this Nationalist conspiracy that the only law valid there is that of the League, and the sending of Sir Redvers Buller—a soldier entrusted with the power of a magistrate—may, if he possesses military force of character, be the means of much good. It is not Englishmen that are being robbed, ill-used, and murdered in Kerry, but Irishmen—which surely proves that not all Ireland, or even nearly all, belongs to the National League. As the case was very neatly put by Mr. Penrose Fitzgerald at a meeting of the Cork Loyalist Association, in Cork, on August 7: "Never before in history had there been such terrorism and coercion as that of the National League. They were told that all Ireland, or nearly so, was with the National League. If that were the case, what was the necessity of all the murders, mutilations of dumb animals, and houghing of cattle that they heard of? It was for the purpose of making the tenant-farmers and labourers, who did not agree with them, subject to the League." If Sir Redvers Buller can free these poor people from this outrageous tyranny, practised by men whose chiefs in Parliament have the matchless impudence to attempt to impede the Government whom they openly defy, as they defy every sanction of morality, by moving such an amendment to the address as that of Mr. Sexton, "representing the necessity of measures for the re-establishment of Her Majesty's authority in Belfast,"—if General Buller can re-establish Her Majesty's authority, and so overcome the League, in Kerry, he will do infinitely more towards the pacification of Ireland than almost anything else short of clapping the Parnellite incendiaries into Newgate.

As we thought when writing last week, it was an error of our contemporaries to suppose that Germany and Austria had in any way consented to the dethronement of Prince Alexander. The truth seems to be that Russia has withdrawn from the tripartite agreement lately existing among the Continental Empires. There was never any actual alliance between Germany and Austria-Hungary and Russia; but Russia has of late been admitted to the League of Peace established between Germany and Austria-Hungary after the Russo-Turkish war—admitted, not as a trustworthy ally, for anything more than an armistice between the two competitors for the heritage of Turkey in the Balkans is impossible; but admitted by Prince Bismarck as a friend of Austria, and embraced by Russia from a conviction that Austria, having for the nonce Germany at her back, could no longer be safely meddled with. It is from this League of Peace, which is not itself broken up, that Russia has now excluded herself; but the alliance between Germany and Austria subsists, with its attitude of warning, not to say menace, towards the restless policy of Russia. The great desire of these Powers is to keep the peace; and Russia is welcome to their friendship so long as she does not disturb the peace; but a glance around the world shows that she is so acting as to with certainty soon bring on international complications of the gravest character. The peace of the Balkan Peninsula is threatened by disturbances in Macedonia, fomented by Russian agents; Turkey is alarmed at the concentration of Russian troops on her Armenian frontier; Roumania is fortifying Bucharest to protect herself from being used as a Russian high-road in a fresh invasion of Bulgaria; England has just been compelled to protest against Russia's breach of the Treaty of Berlin in the matter of Batoum, and to resist her renewed attempts at encroachment on the Afghan boundary; and China is alarmed about Russia's intentions in the Corea. In South-Eastern Europe, in Asia Minor, in Afghanistan, in the far East—wherever in Europe or Asia there is at this moment an open sore in international relations, says the *Times*,—it is the same restless and grasping policy which is at the bottom of the trouble; and is it at all probable that, to spite England, as some would have it, Germany and