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## THE WEEK :

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NEWFOUNDLAND is in a sea of troubles in regard to her special fishery dispute. If it be true that the French fishermen have discovered a means of catching bait for themselves, thus rendering them independent of the Colony's bait laws, the island will be well-nigh defenceless against their encroachments. The Very Rev. M. F. Howley, Vicar Apostolic of the west coast of the Colony, is said to be trying to persuade his fellow-countrymen that the proper way to bring the fishery troubles to an end is to join the Canadian Confederation, and hand over the work of police protection to the Dominion. But, as the *Canadian Gazette* suggests, it might be well for Mr. Howley first to assure himself that Canada is willing to add a new international dispute to her already overfilled repertoire. It is by no means clear that such is the case, but we suppose it will be soon enough for Canada to say nay when the Newfoundlanders have been persuaded to ask admission to the federation. That they have as yet shewn no disposition to do. It has also been suggested, we are not sure but by the same prelate, that in the event of Great Britain continuing to turn a deaf ear to the complaints of the colonists, they may be driven to seek relief in annexation to the United States. But even the latter nation might hesitate before committing itself to the espousal of a quarrel of long standing and troublesome character with France. It is not pleasant to play the role of a Job's comforter in such a case, but it is pretty evident that the Newfoundlanders will have to work out, with such assistance as they can get from the Mother Country, their own deliverance. It is to be feared that there is little hope of a permanent settlement of the difficulty until the day of rest and stable government shall have dawned upon France. Whether that is near or far off it is now impossible to know.

THE *Canadian Gazette* wonders why it is that no respectable English paper thinks it worth while to give its readers reliable telegraphic news from Canada. It is

certainly rather wounding to our self-esteem to know that while "the Shah of Persia, or some other eastern potentate with whom England's concern may well be infinitesimal, has only to nod his head and the cable is set violently in motion on behalf of the *Times* and other London journals; Canada might pass through several stages of a revolution—a peaceful revolution, of course—before any English journal would think the fact worthy of a special cablegram." The explanation is not very far to seek. The question is not so much one of relative importance, as of political status. The Shah of Persia represents a nation. However uncivilized, unprogressive or uncouth, it is still a nation, and a nation so situated that its good or ill will is a matter of importance to England. Canada, on the other hand, no matter how powerful or progressive from a commercial point of view, is but a colony. What great English newspaper would think it worth while to expend large sums of money and to give considerable portions of space to the affairs of a mere colony. How many of its readers would be interested in Canadian special cablegrams, if they should be procured? It is doubtful whether the case would be much altered were the Dominion to become a part of a great Imperial Federation. We should still be but a little corner of the Empire, too insignificant in comparison with the central body or the great whole to be worthy of special attention. If Canada is ambitious of receiving the attention either of England or of foreign nations, she must herself assume the responsibilities of national life.

THE wasting and painful disease from which the Hon. T. B. Pardee had so long suffered terminated in his death, on the 21st inst., at his residence in Sarnia. For a short time after the reconstruction of the Ontario Government, which took place upon the resignation of the Premiership by Mr. Blake, in 1872, Mr. Pardee filled the office of Provincial Secretary and Registrar. His record as a public man and Provincial Minister was, however, made almost entirely during his fourteen years' management of the Crown Lands Department, to which he succeeded in 1873. That in this responsible and difficult office he developed and exhibited the qualities of integrity, fairness, and executive ability in a marked degree, will, we believe, be generally conceded by political opponents as well as by friends. Though the Department of Crown Lands is one which is a special object of scrutiny and suspicion, by reason of the vast pecuniary interests it involves and the tempting opportunities for favouritism it presents, we are not aware that any charge of personal corruption or political abuse was ever made good, or even left in reasonable doubt, during his administration. Though it is rather humiliating to say so, this is pretty high praise in these times of intense partyism in politics. Mr. Pardee's abilities as a speaker were of a practical, business-like, rather than of an ornamental kind. While vigorous in debate, and uncompromising in the maintenance of the views which he held to be sound and right, he was almost invariably good-humoured and courteous, and as a consequence stood high in the esteem of opponents as well as supporters. He was eminently wise in counsel and firm in action, and in his forced retirement from public life the Government and the Province suffered a loss not easily made good.

WOULD the crusade of the Anti-Jesuit agitators be any less effective were their orators to give at least some of the one hundred and eighty-eight members of Parliament who voted against Mr. O'Brien's resolution credit for common honesty of purpose? Why is it necessary to accuse all these indiscriminately of having been actuated by base motives or having succumbed to papal influence? Surely amongst so many of the chosen representatives of the Canadian people there must have been at least a few whose integrity should be as far above suspicion as that of any one of the heroic "thirteen!" Had the majority been unable to adduce cogent or at least plausible arguments in support of their vote there might have been more excuse for wholesale impeachment of their motives. Not all the leaders of the "Equal Rights" movement, but certainly too many of them, are given to this kind of denunciatory rhetoric. May we venture to submit that their appeals would be much more effective with the cooler classes of

those whom they address, were they to substitute for imputations of political or moral cowardice, and other despicable motives, against those who differ from their views and methods, some solid reasons sufficient to warrant those who have been accustomed to regard the local autonomy secured by our constitution as the one and only condition on which confederation was and is either possible or desirable, in forsaking that principle in this particular case, or in excluding Quebec from the scope of its operation.

THE pledge given by Mr. Dalton McCarthy in his Stayner speech that he would at the next session of Parliament move a resolution to abolish the official use of the French language in the North-West Territory has attracted considerable attention. Manitoba is so loosely distinguished in many minds from the vast territory beyond that Mr. McCarthy's proposed action has been misunderstood in some quarters as applying to or including that Province, and he has been reminded that the Manitoba Act, passed by the British Parliament to remove any doubts as to the validity of the Dominion Act creating and constituting that Province, has effectually put it beyond the power of the Canadian Parliament to effect any such change there. Even were it otherwise, the sound principle of local self-government would require that the initiative should be taken by the Province itself. Still further, as is well-known, the mixed character of the population in Manitoba at the time it was erected into a Province put the question of the use of two languages on a very different footing from that existing in the North-West at the time the Territorial Act was passed. Circumstances have very materially changed in the Prairie Province since it came into existence as such. Should its representatives in the local Legislature at any time decide, as it is, we believe, not improbable that they may do at an early day, that there no longer exists a necessity for the continuance of French as an official language, their representations could hardly fail to receive favourable consideration at Ottawa, and, no doubt, a constitutional mode of amending the Constitution in that respect could be found. But until such request has been formulated at Winnipeg, Ottawa interference in the matter might be regarded as an impertinence. The North-West has, also, it is true, received a kind of semi-autonomy, and it may be argued with some force that the movement for a change of the kind proposed by Mr. McCarthy should originate at Regina. At the same time there can be no doubt of the competence of the Dominion Parliament to take the initiative in regard to the Territory and, seeing that the North-West Act is still undergoing modification, the present would be a good time to commence. The consent of the local Council might pretty safely be taken as granted. The North-West Territory, therefore, offers to Mr. McCarthy and other leaders of the Equal Rights Association an excellent opportunity to commence practical operations.

IT is not unlikely that there may be a foundation of truth beneath the rumours which are just now radiating from Ottawa in regard to a prospective readjustment of the Cabinet. There is no doubt room for improvement both in the material and in the make-up of the Dominion Ministry. An infusion of new and vigorous blood might not come amiss in the trying times which are looming on the horizon. At the present moment when strenuous efforts are being put forth to open new channels of trade in various directions, and heavy subsidies are about to be given to projected steamboat lines with a view to further these projects, it seems especially desirable that the oversight of the trade and commerce of the Dominion should be made the special study and care of the most competent minister obtainable. Public opinion, forecasting the Premier's purpose, seems to have already set apart Mr. J. J. C. Abbott for the new portfolio for which provision has already been made by the Act of 1887. But it is to be earnestly hoped that whatever change may be found expedient in the personnel of the Cabinet, there may be no such increase in the number of its members as that said to be foreshadowed. If the present large staff of ministers is not sufficient to manage the affairs of a federation of five millions of people who have no less than seven or eight local ministries and parliaments to look after all local mat