

# THE WEEK.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, JULY 24th, 1891.

Eighth Year.  
Vol. VIII., No. 34.

\$3.00 per Annum.  
Single Copies, 10 Cents.

## THE WEEK:

AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF POLITICS, LITERATURE, SCIENCE AND ART

TERMS:—One year, \$3.00; eight months, \$2.00; four months, \$1.00. Subscriptions payable in advance. Subscribers in Great Britain and Ireland supplied, postage prepaid, on terms following:—One year, 12s. 6d.; half-year, 6s. 6d. Remittances by P.O. order or draft should be made payable and addressed to the Publisher. ADVERTISEMENTS, unexceptionable in character and limited in number, will be taken at \$4.00 per line per annum; \$2.50 per line for six months; \$1.50 per line for three months; 20 cents per line per insertion for a shorter period. No advertisements charged less than five lines. Address—T. R. CLOUGHBA, Business Manager, 5 Jordan Street, Toronto. C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Publisher.

### CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

TOPICS—	PAGE
The Political Situation	539
The Budget Debate	539
A Tardy Act of Justice	539
Other Electoral Reforms	540
Sir Charles Tupper's Proposals	540
The North-West Bill	540
The Hudson Bay Railway	540
The Educational Convention	540
Free Education in England	540
Taxation without Representation	541
PUBLIC OPINION— <i>The Hon. J. W. Longley</i>	541
TWO SONNETS OF PETRARCH—"VAGO ANGELLETO"; "DOLCI DUBRIZZE"	<i>Lois Saunders</i> 542
OTTAWA LETTER	<i>X</i> 542
A VISIT AT POINTE-A-PLATEAU	<i>Alchemist</i> 542
"ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL"	<i>E. A. Meredith, LL.D.</i> 543
THE TORONTO LANDING	<i>Rev. Henry Scadding, D.D.</i> 543
BEHAVIOUR IN CHURCH	<i>B.</i> 544
AN INDIAN RECOLLECTION AND ADVENTURE	<i>A. H.</i> 545
EVENING ON THE RESERVE	<i>Iota</i> 545
A NEW WORK ON POLITICAL SCIENCE	<i>W. P. Dole</i> 546
SUMMER AFTERNOON. (Rondeau)	<i>Z.</i> 546
PARIS LETTER	<i>Z.</i> 546
THE RAMBLER	546
CORRESPONDENCE—	
Patriotism in its Right Mind	<i>Fairplay Radical</i> 547
ART NOTES	547
MUSIC AND THE DRAMA	547
OUR LIBRARY TABLE	548
LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP	548
PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED	549
READINGS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE	549
SCIENTIFIC AND SANITARY	550
CRIBS	551

All articles, contributions, and letters on matters pertaining to the editorial department should be addressed to the Editor, and not to any person who may be supposed to be connected with the paper.

THE political unrest, not only at Ottawa, but all over the Dominion, is becoming almost as intense as it was in the memorable days preceding and during the investigation of the Pacific Scandal. Distrust and suspicion are becoming rife amongst the people, irrespective of party affiliations. As an Ottawa Conservative journal says:—

It is impossible to glance even superficially at the press of the country, not the Liberal, but the Conservative and Independent press, without realizing that the tenor of the recent developments in the capital is so repulsive to the people at large that one of those flood tides of moral fury into which Macaulay pictured the English race as periodically swelling, is now on the rise in this country, and very apt, justly or unjustly, to overturn the present Government. If the Government and the Conservative party are wise they will stop at no half-measures to stem the tide, and we venture to say that it is a half-measure that minor officials should be decapitated for illegalities affecting a few dollars in each case, while Cabinet Ministers against whom serious accusations are made and who are practically on trial before the people, remain in charge of the departments out of which much of the evidence for or against them must come.

The commendable promptness which the Government has shown in dealing with the "minor officials" who have been found guilty of minor offences will avail them little so long as the people have reason, or think they have, to suspect that the chief offenders in the high places are to be sheltered, if possible, from the storm. It will be alleged, of course, that there is a broad difference. The suspensions and dismissals have all been made, so far, on proof or confession of guilt. There is as yet neither confession nor positive proof of wilful wrong-doing on the part of any Minister. And while it is true that in the eye of British law every man must be held innocent until he has been proved guilty, it is no less true that there is a certain degree of reasonable suspicion which destroys the usefulness of a public officer and disqualifies him for a position of responsibility and trust. No business man would retain a clerk in such a position, pending the results of an investigation, when appearances and circumstantial evidence were as much against him, as they are,

in view of the evidence of Mr. Murphy, Mr. Valin, and of written documents, against the present Head of the Department of Public Works. So long as there is a possibility of innocence there is a possibility of grave hardship in acting on the presumption of guilt. But after all, as Butler long since pointed out, "probabilities are the very guide of life." And in the case of Sir Hector Langevin there is this to be said further. The very evidence that should prove the honesty of the man would shatter the reputation of the Minister and certify his utter incompetence for the position he holds. For there is absolutely no escape from the alternatives of incompetency or dishonourable conduct. However, as we are neither supporter nor opponent of the Government, we are not called on, as our contemporary, to offer either advice or warning. We have already gone somewhat astray from the object with which we set out, which was to express the hope that the tide of moral indignation at corruption wherever found and by whomsoever committed is already at the flood, and that it may not cease to rise until a thorough purgation has been effected. Macaulay's figure is founded on historical truth. The progress of nations in political morality is like that of the incoming tide. Reaction may follow, but the whole nation has been lifted, nevertheless, to a somewhat higher level. We can but hope that present events mark the beginning of such an uplifting in Canadian political life.

THE Budget Debate drags its slow length along in the Commons. What earthly purpose, good, bad or indifferent, can be served by this dreary succession of speeches long drawn out after all possibility of advancing any new argument of importance has passed away, it would puzzle either the Finance Minister or Sir Richard Cartwright to tell. Does any orator on either side speak with the faintest hope of convincing any adherent of the opposite party in Parliament? To ask the question is to answer it in the negative. Is the debate carried on for the education of the country? There might be some force in this plea, were there any reason to suppose that the people of the country are with open mind reading the speeches on both sides from day to day, and fairly balancing them with a view to reaching sound conclusions. But what are the facts? Many, it is very likely, read the speeches as given in their respective party papers. Comparatively few, we suppose, receive the *Hansard* reports. Fewer still read them, for in the great majority of cases they prefer their party newspaper, which reaches them long before *Hansard* makes its appearance. What is the result? A glance at the columns of these newspapers will suggest the answer. The Conservative reads summaries more or less full of the speeches of the Conservative speakers; the Liberal, of those of Liberal speakers. This is one of the vices of the party newspapers in Canada, and there are unhappily no signs of improvement. In fact there is reason to fear that they are positively deteriorating in this respect. We take up, for example, the latest numbers to hand and turn to the Parliamentary reports. The *Empire* gives us at considerable length the speeches of Mr. McLennan, Col. O'Brien and Mr. Moncrieff, using but an inch or two of space to inform its readers that Mr. Landerkin indulged in some "weak talk," and that Mr. Dawson "as a new member made a creditable speech from his point of view." Turning to the *Globe* we find the speeches of Dr. Landerkin and Mr. Dawson reported with considerable fulness, and learn that these were of unusual interest, and that other speeches were delivered by Mr. McLennan, Col. O'Brien and Mr. Moncrieff. It follows that the reader who is really desirous of hearing both sides with a view to reach correct conclusions must take both papers. Does one in a hundred of the average electors do this? If not what shall be said of the educative influence of the debates? Some of the party newspapers never tire of lauding British practices and precedents. Would it not be an excellent innovation if they were to adopt the practice of the leading English newspapers and show British fair play by giving both sides with equal fulness? It is intimated, however, as an additional reason or excuse for prolonging the farce on this occasion, that Parliament wishes to kill time while waiting for the report of the Committee on Privileges and Elections. There is

no doubt truth in this view of the case. But what a confession of the unwisdom and wastefulness of our Parliamentary methods! Twenty-five or thirty members are deputed to conduct an investigation which could be much better carried on by a court of justice, and two or three hundred amuse themselves by playing at legislation while watching their progress and awaiting their decision. Such a mode of conducting the public business is certainly not flattering to our capacity for self-government.

SINCE Sir John Thompson's accession to the Cabinet he has earned for himself an enviable reputation as a lover of fair play. This reputation will, to say the least, not suffer by reason of the Bills which he has introduced to amend the different Acts affecting the Dominion franchise and procedure in elections. First among the abuses, the opportunity for which is to be taken away, we may mention one which, by reason of its very pettiness, has been particularly galling to the Opposition. We refer to the advantage which has been taken of that clause of the Election Act which provides that a protest against the return of a member must be made within thirty days after the announcement of the result of the contest in the official Gazette. As, hitherto, no date has been fixed either for the making of the return by the Returning Officer, or for the publication of the name of the successful candidate so returned, the door has been open for gross partiality, on the part both of the Returning Officer, and of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery whose business it is to see to the gazetting of the returns. It was possible for either of these officers, by the simple process of delaying the publication of the names of Opposition members in the Gazette, to give the friends of the Government a much longer time within which to enter a protest than that permitted to their opponents. Every one will remember the consequences at the election last preceding that of the present year. In numerous cases the names of supporters of the Government were gazetted long before those of their political opponents. It will always remain a blot upon the history of the Government of that day, that the Clerk who was responsible for taking this contemptible advantage of the Opposition was rewarded with promotion instead of the censure he deserved. In the late election, too, there seems to have been unnecessary and suspicious delay on the part of some of the returning officers in making their returns. Sir John Thompson has now consented, under pressure, it is true, to remove the possibility of repetition of such unfair tactics, by simply requiring returning officers to make their reports within one week after polling day, and the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery to gazette the returns in the order in which they are received. Of course this is but an act of the simplest justice, but in these days of red-hot partisanship, the Minister who, for the sake of justice to political opponents, deprives his party of an unfair advantage must have his meed of recognition.

TWO or three amendments to the Franchise Act, in the Bill introduced by the Minister of Justice, are worthy of mention. The most important is probably that which is effected by the simple process of eliminating the words "by birth or naturalization" from the form of oath by which the would-be voter is required to affirm that he is a British subject. The expunging of these unnecessary words will, it is thought, cut off large numbers of persons who, though born in Canada or Great Britain and therefore enabled to swear—if their consciences happen to be of the elastic kind, which accommodate themselves to the letter rather than the spirit of the oath—that they are (?) British subjects by birth, after they have become by naturalization citizens of the United States. This very desirable amendment is as likely, we suppose, to tell in favour of one party as of the other, but it is devoutly to be hoped that it may in future elections shut out car-loads of voters who have no longer any just claim to the rights and privileges of Canadian citizenship. Another change which is deemed of some importance is the insertion of a clause in the Franchise Act requiring the revising officer to state the number of names on the lists of voters as finally revised. This is intended, we suppose, as a check upon