

## The Week.

AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF POLITICS, SOCIETY, AND LITERATURE.

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### THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE.

#### Notice to Canadian Writers.

A PRIZE of one hundred dollars will be given for the best POEM on the Queen's Jubilee, to be competed for by Canadian writers, under the following conditions:—(1) The poem not to exceed one hundred lines; (2) To be delivered at THE WEEK office not later than May 1st next.

A similar prize of one hundred dollars will be given for the best ORATION on the Queen's Jubilee, to be competed for similarly by Canadian writers, under the following conditions:—(1) The oration not to exceed three thousand words; (2) To be delivered at THE WEEK office not later than May 1st next.

The right of publication of both poem and oration to be reserved to THE WEEK.

The competing poems and orations must bear on them a motto, and be accompanied by a sealed envelope marked with this motto and the words QUEEN'S JUBILEE PRIZE COMPETITION, and enclosing the name and address of the writer.

THE WEEK will award the prizes and will be judge of the fulfilment of the conditions.

THE State is in Ontario professedly and even ostentatiously secular; yet the Government, in its University Federation Bill, proposes to interfere in an internal concern of the churches in a manner that savours of the closest possible union of Church and State. As the one most directly concerned, the Church of England has been the first to protest against this assumption of the Government to prescribe for it the terms upon which its own clergy shall receive theological degrees, and to delegate this assumed authority to another and equally pronounced secular body—the Senate of the University. But all the churches may be affected by this surprising development of the theory of Church and State. Surely the Government is going beyond its province in arranging for the granting of degrees in Divinity without any application or authority from the churches, and then putting this dangerous power to lower the value of degrees in commission to irresponsible bodies. We commend to the notice of our readers the protest of the Bishops and other authorities of the Church of England, published in the *Mail* of Tuesday, and trust it may be followed by equally plain and vigorous action from other religious bodies.

By their anti-Coercion resolutions, both the Dominion and Provincial Legislatures commit themselves to the principle that any one self-governing part of the Empire has a right to interfere with the government of any other part; and they invite the British Parliament to remonstrate against any local bill pending at Ottawa or Toronto, whether it be a Scott Act, or a University Federation Bill. And this they do, not in order to give expression to the sentiment of the country or the Province on a general question affecting all, but as the mouthpiece of one nationality only, to curry favour with whom they commit the whole country, of every nationality, to a protest against the principle of Coercion of Crime. All others than the one nationality so favoured, forming by far the greater majority, are opposed to any such interference in the internal affairs of the British Isles, with which they hold the British Parliament is quite competent to deal; but this is disregarded, and the Legislatures of both Dominion and Province, speaking solely for a small portion of the people whose votes the members fear to estrange, have the audacity to address this impertinence to an independent Parliament as the voice of the Canadian people. It is nothing but the voice of the Irish voter in Canada, and in nowise expresses the opinion of the country; and we trust the British Government, recognising this, will administer such a rebuff to the meddlers as will not be forgotten.

THE opening proceedings of the Dominion Parliament disclose that the Government are quite alive to the importance of maintaining Canadian rights with a firm hand, if we are to obtain any fair settlement of our differences with the United States. The construction of a canal on the Canadian side, at Sault Ste. Marie, is required to complete the independence of our lake route; and therefore it is a work that ought to be done irrespectively of a possible closure to Canadians of the present canal. The canal will be but a mile long, presenting no great engineering difficulties, and will cost but a million—a trifle in comparison with the moral strength it will give the country. The Canadian Government, it is satisfactory to learn, are kept, not only fully informed, but consulted, with respect to the negotiations on the Fishery question; therefore we may hope that no settlement will be made flagrantly inimical to the interests of Canada. The proposed Depart-

ment of Trade and Commerce may effect much good. Trade and commerce is a most important interest to most Canadians, and should be placed in charge of an efficient Minister and Department.

THE growing difficulty between the Dominion Government and Manitoba respecting Disallowance, may be happily settled if the suggestion of the Speech from the Throne, delivered at the opening of the Manitoba Legislature, be adopted. The Speech asks for authority for an appeal to the Imperial Government for relief, if the policy of Disallowance be persisted in by the Dominion Government; and this appears to be the only probable means of relief in sight. The Dominion Government is bound by the contract with the C. P. R. not to authorise the construction of any railway south of that line, except such as shall run south or to the south-west; nor any to within fifteen miles of latitude 49. To obtain relief from this contract, failing concession by the C. P. R., a higher power must intervene, which it would probably do in favour of the Province, in view of the changed circumstances of both Province and railway.

THE uncertainty of the result of voting for Prohibition in Michigan is at any rate a good argument for local option. Whether Prohibition be carried or lost the question is decided by a majority or minority of only some thousand or two in the whole State. The State is divided into two camps; all the towns voting by large majorities against Prohibition; all the country parts by equally large majorities for it. If local option instead of Prohibition had been the question, the districts in favour of Prohibition would have made their panacea a law to themselves. But, no; they must also make it a law to everybody else; and so they have probably lost it altogether. And supposing they have carried it by a narrow majority, can they expect to enforce it in the towns, where its opponents are as ten to one? They had better have chosen local option; letting each homogeneous district adopt the law that suits itself best. This would not be perfection; but it is nearer to what should be aimed at—that every individual may be his own Prohibitionist if he likes, but nobody else's.

UNQUESTIONABLY important material advantages would accrue to Canada from Commercial Union. Mining especially, of all sorts, and the lumber trade, would be at once stimulated, and employment given to a good many people by the influx of much-needed foreign capital, and this would give a stimulus to the farming interest. But to the manufacturer and the artisan we fear the new order of things would be most disastrous. Middlemen would flourish on the business the throwing down of the customs barrier would pour upon them; but manufacturers, almost universally throughout Canada, except in some specially Canadian industry native to the soil, would soon meet the fate that usually awaits the small, poor, and comparatively unskilled competitor in business of a wealthy and highly skilled one. The tendency of trade is towards specialisation—towards adopting methods of production that will effect the greatest saving on old-fashioned methods; and this movement is fast bringing about the absorption of small businesses into large ones, where a saving is effected in the cost of management, in time employed on production, in a minimum of waste of material. With the Canadian market open to the highly developed business methods of the Americans, what probability of life would remain to the "small businesses" that now subsist here? Can a manufacturer whose business is adapted only to the somewhat crude requirements of a market of five million of people probably compete successfully with another whose business, long established and brought to the highest perfection, is extensive enough for the developed needs of a market twelve times as large? Does not every experienced merchant know that this latter, having secure possession of such a market, can afford to give away a thirteenth part of his products in the foreign market if by so doing he can crush out dangerous competition there, while at the same time maintaining the value of the other twelve-thirteenths at home by disposing elsewhere of his surpluses? This mainly is what the Canadian market will inevitably be used for, while Canada is under a foreign flag. The cheap labour to be found here will not help native industries, nor, except in a few special cases, induce the immigration of American manufacturers, who already manufacture at home more than they can consume, being shut out from foreign markets by their fiscal policy. Curiously, trade sticks by as well as follows the flag. While Canada remains a foreign country, Americans will get all they can out of it; and they will not feel that interest in developing its resources to the common profit of its people as well as themselves that they feel in developing the resources of a State of the Union.

THE ruin of Canadian manufacturers must involve the interests of other classes—the artisan and the trade labourer, unable to find work here,