

# THE WEEK.

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## The Week.

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

RUMORS have been for some time rife in regard to alleged difficulties between the Quebec Premier and some of his Nationalist supporters. As these reports emanate mostly from sources hostile to Mr. Mercier, it has seemed necessary to take them with a good deal of allowance. His recent appointment of Mr. Pelletier, the principal member of the firm which has a monopoly of the Government printing, to the Legislative Council, seems likely to lead to an open rupture. The confident assertions that this appointment and other concessions of the Government to the Nationalist wing, have been distasteful to Mr. Mercier's Liberal supporters, and have led to earnest remonstrances, derive some colour from the Premier's open expression on Friday of dissatisfaction with the state of the Parliamentary printing, and his threat of the cancellation of existing contracts, in case the work was not more promptly done. It is pretty clear that there is not a little jealousy and ill feeling between the two wings of Mr. Mercier's supporters. But his great force of character will, in all probability, find a means of overcoming the difficulty, and restoring peace, if not harmony, in the ranks of his supporters.

WHEN the terms of the Fisheries Treaty were first announced we took occasion to point out that, even if ratified, it could not be regarded as by any means finally settling the dispute, or removing the causes of danger. The recent rather startling reports from the Nova Scotia coast unhappily confirm this view. Although, of course, the treaty has not been accepted, it is clear that the events which have made it necessary to send out the cruisers in force for the protection of the in-shore fisheries would be equally likely to occur were its provisions in full operation. So long as United States fishermen are forbidden to cross the imaginary three-mile line which marks off the in-shore fisheries, so long will the danger of the situation remain. Whenever those who may have been hovering in the offing for days or weeks with little success find an abundance of fish within the forbidden limits, the temptation to trespass will be too strong for most fishermen to resist. We fear we must go even further. So long as such senatorial firebrands as Mr. Frye are abroad, so long there will be plenty of his countrymen in the fishery business ready to claim a natural right to follow the schools of fish in-shore and take them when they can catch them. If trouble results, so much the better from their point of view. Under pre-

sent circumstances, there is, it is clear, nothing for the Canadian Government to do but to protect the in-shore fisheries as efficiently and at the same time as discreetly as possible. But there is danger in the presence of so much combustible material, and it will be no easy task for the new Minister of Marine to defend the rights of Canadian fishermen and at the same time avoid international complications. The statesmen of both countries should lose no time in striving to effect a real and permanent settlement of the whole question, on the basis of *quid pro quo*, and in such a manner as to remove forever the dangerous three-mile line from the international charts.

It is much to be regretted that the Niagara Falls Park Commissioners, representing, it may be supposed, the views of the Ontario Government, have seen fit to make a charge for admission to a view of the Rapids. The rich Province of Ontario could well have afforded to imitate the example of the neighbouring State by throwing the Park and its unique views open to the world free of cost. As a matter of taste and public spirit a cheese-paring policy in such a matter is indefensible. One of the good objects to be gained by the acquisition of the Park was to do away with the shame of allowing this great natural world's wonder to be made a thing of traffic, a means of vulgar money-making. We do not see that the principal is any the less objectionable when the charge is imposed by the Government, though, of course, the trickery and extortion may be done away with. As a great educational influence the scenery of the Falls should be made free, as the forest or the mountains, to all comers who have eyes to see. As a matter of economy, the charge will probably be a failure, and simply have the effect of driving tourists to the American side. It is to be hoped the Commissioners may be instructed to withdraw the hateful regulation.

FROM late despatches it appears that the Canadian Government is about to raise \$20,000,000 of the \$25,000,000 authorized by Parliament at the late session. From the favourable state of the money market and the high standing of Canadian securities there seems little reason to doubt that the money will be readily obtained on easy terms. The loan is issued, it is said, for the purpose of providing for the requirements of the Canadian Government, mainly in connection with the expenditure on reproductive public works. If this is an exact quotation from the terms of the advertised notice, there might be some room for cavil in regard to the use and meaning of the term "reproductive." If by the word is understood repaying interest on capital, we fear it would not be easy to point out many Canadian public works already existing which can stand that test, or to give any good reason for expecting that those about to be constructed will be able to do so. Indirectly, no doubt many of the public works upon which large sums have been expended are profitable. There seems too much reason to doubt whether the Sault Ste. Marie Canal, or the Chignecto Ship Railroad, if these are in the contemplated list, can be put even in that category.

THE body of students, counting up to nearly 400 in all, who have just passed the examinations of the various years in the Arts Department of Toronto University affords gratifying evidence of the steady growth of the Provincial University in popularity and influence. Of this number no less than eighty-four have been successful in the examination for the degree of B.A. This number, reinforced by those who have just completed their course at the other universities of the Province, will make quite a band of those who must be presumed to have laid the foundations of thorough culture and high intelligence, and who now go forth to various spheres of activity. It may be hoped that not all will join the already crowded ranks of the so-called learned professions, but that at least a goodly number will be added to the list of the educated in the pursuits of agriculture, horticulture and other ancient and honourable industries. The fact that four of the eighty-four graduates, and more than thirty of the undergraduates are women, indicates, too, that the opening of the courses and classes of the University to women, is appreciated, and the innovation, hesitatingly made a few years ago, likely to prove successful and permanent. The growth of the female contingent is apparent in the fact that while the number of women graduates is less than one-twentieth