

THE WEEK.

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THE WEEK: C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, MANAGER.

Current Topics.

The holding of a fall Convocation for the University of Toronto this year was the resumption of a good old custom that was broken off a few years ago by the fire which destroyed Convocation Hall. It is to be hoped that the authorities will be able to continue the practice uninterruptedly in the future. The Convocation on the 6th inst. was divided into two parts, one assigned to the afternoon and the other to the evening; the former was held under the auspices of the Council of the University, and the latter under auspices of the Council of University College. The principal theme in the addresses of the Visitor, the Chancellor, and the President, was the need of more income in order to enable the University to perform efficiently the increased work entailed on it by the growth of attendance and the progress of science. As a State institution it has never received, and cannot reasonably expect, gifts from individuals. The Legislature seems reluctant to add to its effective endowment. Practically all it can do is to increase its tuition fees, and this seems likely to be resorted to.

One of the most noteworthy addresses was given by Mr. Hardy, the new Premier of Ontario. With the facility acquired from long practice in addressing turbulent political audiences he rode buoyantly on the tide of undergraduate applause, and succeeded in saying not a few things that may be regarded as significant. In reply to the plea of poverty put forward by the University officials he indicated clearly enough that no grant of money need be expected, but he hinted that one of land might possibly be favourably regarded by the Legislature, especially as the Province is "land poor." It is worthy of mention in this connection that the original Uni-

versity endowment has been diminished in several ways to a considerable extent, and therefore a land grant would be legitimate as an act of restoration. As the Chancellor pointed out, however, this would not provide immediately the revenue so much needed, and therefore an increase of fees seems to be inevitable. It is not at all certain that a moderate increase is so much to be regretted as some of the speakers seemed to think. What is worth getting in the way of education is worth paying for as well as working for, and there is no reason to believe that an addition of fifty per cent. to the present fee would hinder any considerable number of really earnest students from taking a University course. No great harm would result from debarring those who are not in earnest.

The Study of Cratory.

Mr. Hardy called attention to one very regrettable omission from the curriculum of the University—the study of oratory. As he rightly asserted, the time for making speeches to masses of people on all sorts of subjects has not passed away; indeed, there is some reason to believe that oratory will play a more influential part in the future than it has ever done in the past among the devices of the propagandist. It is not creditable that a great university should be without the means of giving a training, at least to those students who desire it, in gesture, voice culture, and other branches of the oratorical art. The aim should not be to cultivate glibness but the opposite; it should be to train young men and women to expertness in the systematic and effective expression of their views without being under the necessity of reading them from the written page or reciting a memorized essay. Most of the great American universities have recognized the academic importance of this department of culture, and it is to be hoped that so practical a hint from a statesman who has reached eminence without the advantage of an academic training will not be lost on the University authorities.

The Tupper Jubilee.

Sir Charles and Lady Tupper have just celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage, and THE WEEK joins heartily in the chorus of congratulations which they have received. For many years they have been familiar figures in Canadian public life, and it is pleasant to notice that partisan acrimony has not hindered the political-opponents of the distinguished baronet from paying to him and his partner in life the most sincere and appropriate compliments. This is as it should be. Public men cannot afford to allow public differences of opinion to become matters of private feud. The domestic circle, of which the patriarchal pair are the founders, is a more than usually interesting one, as it contains several members who are well known to the Canadian people, including more especially their eldest son, Mr. Stewart Tupper, of Winnipeg, and their second son, Sir Hibbert Tupper, of Halifax. The former is a prominent barrister, and the latter has been Minister of Justice of Canada. All Canadians, and many outside of this country, will unite in the wish that Sir Charles and Lady Tupper may live to enjoy many returns of the anniversary of their wedding day.