

THE WEEK.

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Current Topics.

The Dog Days.

Politics, like the individuals who make politics, suffer from the lethargy caused by extreme warm weather. There is absolutely nothing to record in this branch of Canadian news. Mr. Laurier has not yet formed a complete Cabinet. Ominous rumours are current that Sir Oliver Mowat is to be shelved as Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario. A more disastrous move for the Liberal Ministry we cannot conceive. In Sir Oliver Mowat are centred the hope and trust of Ontario. "Laurier, Mowat and Victory" was the slogan of the Liberals. Now it is "Laurier and Cartwright," if these rumours are true. We cannot too strongly urge the impropriety of any such exchange. Vast numbers of voters were indifferent as to Conservative success or defeat if Sir Oliver Mowat was to be transferred to Ottawa. The confidence of these men and of the public generally in Mr. Laurier's Administration will be seriously shaken if Sir Oliver is displaced. It will be taken as evidence that the honesty which has ruled Ontario for twenty years will be out of place at Ottawa under the new régime. Further, Sir Oliver represents the British sentiment of the Liberals, and his loss will be seriously felt because there is no man of that party who has spoken out on the Imperial question like Sir Oliver Mowat.

President Loudon to the Rescue.

What motive could have made President Loudon rush to the rescue of that much-advertised person, Mr. Goldwin Smith. A generous recognition of advice and sympathy given in the past is probably the cause of President Loudon's present action. During the trying times of the University investigation, Mr. Loudon took counsel with Professor Smith behind the scenes. The move to make the Oxford Professor an honorary LL.D. arose from that cause. Mr. Loudon now not only champions Professor Smith, but goes out of his way to belittle those who protested against the proposal to honour an avowed annexationist. Mr. Loudon is the guardian in his official position of the education of Canadian youth. This

last ebullition seems to prove more forcibly than ever that fathers who wish their sons to be brought up stalwart Canadians cannot safely trust them under Mr. Loudon's care—*Quem deus vult perdere prius dementat*. Mr. Loudon has now run his head deliberately into a hornet's nest and must take the consequences. Why did not Mr. Loudon tell the Times that at the meeting of the Senate where the soothing resolution was passed only six members were present? We are sorry Judge Falconbridge resigned. He should have held the fort. It is evident that the University needs overhauling.

A Question of Privilege.

We have received the official report of the Third Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, held in London, 9th to 12th June last. From this record we extract the following:—

Mr. Frank Arnoldi, Q.C. (Toronto): I wish to speak on a question of privilege with reference to yesterday afternoon's debate. In the course of the debate upon a motion with reference to arbitration, a question was raised by Mr. Mackenzie, of Dundee, as to the correctness of a statement made by Mr. Cockshutt as to the undistributed portion of the award made with respect to the Alabama Claims. I desire merely to support Mr. Cockshutt's statement by referring to the authorities in support of his position. I would refer to Haydn's Dictionary of Dates, edited 1895, by Benjamin Vincent, article "Alabama." I refer also to Hansard's Parliamentary Papers of Feb. 17, 1891. I need not say what the contents of these are further than to inform the members present that the amount for which the United States gave a receipt on the 9th of Sept. 1873.

The President: I think we cannot go into this detail. As a matter of privilege, and by way of favour, I have allowed you to state the substance of what you asked leave to say.

Mr. Arnoldi: I was merely going to say the receipt was 3,196,874*l.*, and the awards to claimants in respect of the amount were all closed on the 21st Dec., 1876, leaving a surplus of 8,000,000 dollars which is undistributed, and on the 17th Feb., 1891, in the British House of Commons, the First Lord of the Treasury said that there was a large sum still undistributed, but the policy of Great Britain was not to ask for the return of any part of it.

[Note by Mr. Mackenzie.—I was not present when Mr. Arnoldi was speaking, as reported above, and, by courtesy of the Editor of the Official Report, am now allowed to state that the total amount of the Alabama Fund remaining undistributed on 29th January, 1896, was \$11,581.47, and that there are adjudicated claims still unpaid which will absorb this money. I make these statements on the written authority, now in my possession, of Mr. William Edmond Curtis, Assistant Secretary, United States Treasury Department, Washington, D.C., and of Mr. Lewis Jordan, Chief of the Miscellaneous Division of said Department.—W. M.]

Who is right? It has been stated over and over again that there is a large undistributed balance of the Alabama award. If these American officials are telling the truth, the sooner it is generally known in Canada the better. We have been for years doing grave injustice to the Americans if what Mr. Mackenzie reports is true. Can any of our readers inform us, giving chapter and verse. The fact, as they are should be known.