

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.

"THE WEEK" PRIZE STORIES.

The three judges to whom was committed the task of reading and adjudicating on the one hundred and eight MSS. sent in for THE WEEK prize story competition have made the following award: 1st prize, \$50, to ALICE JONES, Halifax, N.S., for the story entitled "Hidden Treasure"; 2nd prize, \$30, to CHRISTINA R. FRANK, Selma, N.S., for the story entitled "In Acadia"; 3rd prize, \$20, to EMILY McMANUS, Odessa, Ont., for the story entitled "Fronoy"; 4th prize, \$10, to JESSIE M. FREELAND, Brockville, Ont., for the story entitled "Winona's Tryst."

A CONSPICUOUS example of the way in which the City Council of Toronto has shown the strange facility with which it fails to accomplish almost every important matter which it takes in hand is furnished in the history of its futile endeavour to secure the appointment of a competent Medical Health Officer. It may be, of course, that this somewhat ridiculous fiasco is due to an error in judgment in fixing the salary of the proposed officer at a figure insufficient to induce really competent experts to compete for the appointment. Were the Council sure of the capacity and fairness of the examiners appointed to test the qualifications of the candidates, its best course would be to promptly increase the salary and provide for another examination as soon as feasible. But even this matter, in which the sanitary reputation of the city and the health of all the citizens are involved, has like almost every other question before the Council, degenerated into a personal and partisan struggle. Of the comparative merits of the rival candidates we have no means of judging. The simple and proper course for the Council on the presentation of the Examiners' Report was evidently either that above indicated, or the appointment of the candidate having the highest number of marks. The declaration of Dr. Pyne, one of the candidates, and the Acting Medical Health Officer, places the question, however, in a new and extraordinary light. There are certain well-understood rules which, it is generally conceded, should govern all competitive examinations. Amongst these are, obviously, such as the following: The examiners should have no means of identifying the papers submitted. The candidates should have no intercommunication during the examination. The examination should be restricted within the prescribed limits, and should, as far as possible, cover all important subjects prescribed. No candidate should be permitted to leave the room for such length of time, or under such circumstances, as might enable him, if deficient in sense of honour, to consult books or other authorities. But Dr. Pyne solemnly declares that of three subjects prescribed but one was touched upon at the examination; that two of the candidates were observed conversing together; that one candidate left the

room and was absent for three hours, and when he returned had papers with notes on them; that some of the candidates were allowed to work for several hours after the time at which all were asked to finish and he had handed in his papers; that candidates were allowed to have in the morning the papers they had handed in the night before, also to use books; that the candidates were required to affix their own names to envelopes containing their papers, etc. It would be unfair to pronounce an opinion pending the reply of the Examiners, but, unless Dr. Pyne's statements are grossly erroneous, it is clear that the examination was worthless and should be so treated.

AMONG the many great projects now before the city of Toronto, that discussed by a correspondent in another column, is certainly one of almost unprecedented importance. It imperatively demands careful consideration and prompt action. If what is now not only an unproductive waste but a source of danger to the health of the city can be converted in a few years, without cost to the city, into a large area of habitable territory, covered with manufacturing and other establishments giving productive and profitable employment to thousands of industrious citizens, it is evident that the work of transformation cannot be commenced too soon. To neglect or even to postpone it is to sin against the best interests, sanitary, industrial and financial, of the city. There is, no doubt, much to be said in the abstract in favour of the view that the full benefits of all properties bestowed by nature and of all values derived from settlement should be secured in one way or another to the communities, not to individuals. Had the city of Toronto an ideal municipal organization and management, one in which not only the citizens but the world could have unlimited confidence, it might be wise and right to have all such enterprises carried on directly in the interests of the whole community, without the intervention of individuals or companies to divide the profits. But in the light of recent revelations of the way in which the finances of the city, its water-works, its sanitary arrangements and almost every department of its business, have been bungled, whether through incompetency or something worse, he would be a singularly courageous man who would be willing to entrust the civic authorities with the direct management of so stupendous an enterprise as the reclaiming of Ashbridge's Bay. While there is no reason to despair of the ultimate success of the present agitation for civic reform, it must not be forgotten that years of trial will be required to test fully the trustworthiness and efficiency of any new system, and of the officials chosen to administer it. In the meantime, everything points to the necessity for immediate and very energetic action. Under these circumstances it would surely be folly inconceivable to reject, without the fullest consideration and the gravest necessity, such an offer as that submitted by the Beavis and Redway Company. Is the offer made in good faith? Can the Company be relied on to carry out the contract, if one should be entered into, on so stupendous a scale? Evidently the simple reclamation without expense to the ratepayers of seven or eight hundred acres of land in a locality in which it is certain to become worth many millions of dollars long before the period fixed for its reversion to the city, is in itself a boon which it would be culpable in the extreme to withhold from the next generation of citizens or their children. Again the erection of works for the smelting of nickel and iron ores is the great want of the hour, and would be a benefaction to the whole Province, to say nothing of the benefits that would accrue to the city from the expenditure of millions of money and the employment of thousands of men in the enterprise. It would, of course, be presumptuous for us to say that the proposal should be accepted in its present shape, or in any shape without first inviting the freest competition. Forty-five years may be too long for the lease to run. One hundred thousand dollars may be too small a security for the fulfilment of such a contract, and so forth. Any covenant entered into should make forfeiture on equitable conditions of the land reclaimed and the money expended the penalty of non-fulfilment of contract, in which case there would really be no risk, seeing that the value of the unfinished work would in that case accrue to the city. The one thing that would be an unpardonable betrayal of trust would be the failure

to give the now famous proposal of the Beavis and Redway Company full and impartial consideration at the earliest possible moment.

NO thoughtful person can doubt that he who said, "Let me make the songs of a people and I care not who makes their laws," spoke as a philosopher. Believing thoroughly in the truthfulness of the saying, and being persuaded that to the wrong teaching and bad sentiment of much of the so-called patriotic literature of the nations is due much of the narrow prejudice and ill-feeling which still abound in national life and are the fruitful source of international conflicts, we took up with some misgiving the little book of "Patriotic Canadian Songs," which comes to us from the press of the Rose Publishing Company. So much has been said of late about Canadian patriotism, or the want of it, that we confess to having become a little tired of the refrain, and a little suspicious of the character of the loyalty that has to be perpetually goaded and stimulated into loud-mouthed expression. Is there not a little danger that we, as a people, may make the mistake of "protesting too much"? As the still-flowing waters are deepest, so we are inclined to think the quiet, unobtrusive patriotism will usually be found the most reliable in time of trial. Be that as it may, we are heartily glad to find in "Raise the Flag, and other Patriotic Canadian Songs and Poems," little that can be objected to on the score of taste or sentiment, and much that is pleasing and commendable in matter, style and spirit. This little book is, in fact, a compilation of some of the best productions in the patriotic line, of some of the best of our Canadian poets. It justifies in the main the statement of the "few loyal Canadians" who compiled and paid for it in order that it might be given as an appropriate "remembrance," for the scholars in the schools who have written the best essays in response to the *Empire's* gift of school-house flags, that our Canadian national poems "are singularly free from unfriendliness," and that there is in them no tone of aggression, but a steadfast determination to trust in God and stand firm for the right. This is as it should be, and the little volume which contains some of the best of these poems may be heartily commended, and freely placed in the hands of the young. And yet is there not still room for improvement in the tone of even Canadian patriotic songs? Are there not other characteristics quite as manly and noble, and quite as well worth cultivating as those hitherto celebrated? May not our patriotic poets confer a yet better boon on posterity by sounding the praises of such qualities as humanity, truth, justice, generosity, broadmindedness, or the power of putting oneself in his neighbour's place, and so forth, and seeking to have them implanted in the minds of the young, to be developed one day into Canadian national characteristics? We have always thought the reading and song books in the public schools of the United States largely responsible for some of the most unamiable traits in the United States' national character. Let our poets see to it, as far as in them lies, that the Canadian character, now in its plastic and formative stage, be moulded on broader lines and after higher ideals.

THE advocates of unrestricted reciprocity cannot certainly derive much hope from the bye-elections. The fact that the Government candidate in Napiersville claimed, strangely enough, to be himself in favour of free commercial intercourse with our neighbours, left room for the Opposition to argue that the result in that constituency was no criterion of the sentiments of the people in regard to the matter, or rather, that it proved that those sentiments were in favour of the views advocated by themselves. It is hardly probable, however, that had the people been deeply in earnest in regard to the matter, they would have preferred the candidate of the party which is well known to be opposed to unrestricted reciprocity, rather than the candidate of the party whose leaders are not only pledged to support it, but are so much in favour of it that they are resolved to make it the one great issue in the approaching general election. Their preference cannot be explained on the ground of party allegiance, seeing that the constituency had previously been Liberal in its sympathies. Commenting on these facts a week or two since, we remarked in effect that the then forthcoming contest in South Victoria,