

# THE WEEK.

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## The Week,

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## TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

ZORILLA, the Spanish Radical, is probably alarmed by the evidences of increasing esteem on the part of the Spanish people for their king. He has issued a vigorous manifesto, proclaiming the necessity of a Spanish Republic and defining the Republican programme, of which one important and suggestive item is the assimilation of the colonies. He assures the world that there will soon be a revolution in Spain, that it cannot but succeed, and that "a Republic is the only form of government that will allow Spain to enjoy order, morality, justice, and liberty." Whatever one may think of Republicanism as against Monarchism, and above all Bourbon monarchism, it is obvious that King Alfonso is making rapid growth in the regard of his people; and it looks as if Zorilla's proclamation were a note of much-needed encouragement to his disciples. Never has there been more real sympathy between the people of Spain and her restored monarchy than at this moment, when the king has, by his firmness and capacity, commanded the nation's respect, and by his earnest patriotism apparently gained its affection; when, moreover, people and prince together are smarting under the insult of a powerful neighbour. It is possible that the Spanish people, in its present stage of development, may with better reason look for justice, order and liberty under a constitutional monarchy than under a government resting solely on its own unpractised hands. Spain has not had the discipline and training in self-government where-with the Anglo-Saxon race has been blessed. One people has tried the experiment of undertaking to govern itself and to learn how afterwards. The cabin-boy made himself captain at a bound, and only now is beginning to show some mastery of the science of navigation. It was a bold experiment, that of France, and led to some wild sailing and several disastrous shipwrecks. If France has ultimately succeeded, it has been after titanic and agonizing effort, the lesson of which is not likely to be lost upon other nations.

At the farmers' convention, lately held in Winnipeg, a delegation was appointed to wait upon the Dominion Government and ask that the griev-

ances under which the settlers are now suffering be removed. A deputation to the local legislature was also appointed, with the duty of pressing the legislature to assert its claims to the right of chartering railroads within the limits of the old Province of Manitoba. It was moved in amendment that the delegates be sent to the Imperial Government to ask separation from the Dominion and the establishment of a new western federation. While this amendment was lost, it is a fact worthy of careful notice, that the proposal received some support and a large amount of serious consideration. In view of the recent statement of Lord Lorne in Glasgow, that Canada was in all respects practically independent, a statement which might go for what it is worth, but that we hear it echoed daily in our midst with fatuous reiteration, it is remarkable with what readiness crops up the tendency among us to run like babies with every squabble to Downing Street. It is not probable that the Imperial Government would pay aught but the most meagre attention to the delegates' request, but this by no means alters the principle upon which should be based our consideration of the facts. The question of the integrity of Canada is one which concerns Canada herself, and within herself she should keep the discussion of it.

THERE is now a breeze of altercation between the party press respecting the statement of Mr. Sackville West, British Minister at Washington, to the effect that during the fiscal year ended 31st October, no fewer than sixty-four thousand Canadians crossed the line and took up their abode in the United States. Over the mere emigration of this number of persons we ought not to suffer ourselves to become excited, since in every country a portion of the population maintains a perpetual outgoing and incoming; but if it can be shown, as unfortunately it can be to some extent surmised, that a great many of such of these as left the older provinces would have gone to our own North-West but for the evil repute into which that territory is being brought by the agents of party, and for party interests, there is cause for the deepest sorrow. The North-West has its disadvantages—great and abiding must be the drawback in a treeless country swept by bitter winds and supplying no coal; yet, in view of the cheapness and fertility of the land, and the ease with which it can be cultivated, suitable immigrants, if no other obstacles were shown to be in the way, would continue to come in and settle; but we fear that the policy which keeps up an incessant cry of grinding monopoly by railway companies, and criminally oppressive land regulations by Government, has begun now to bear its fruit in the countries from which we ought to draw our population; to make the emigrant look upon our North-West as a land full of oppressions, and therefore to be avoided. Railway monopoly perhaps there is, oppressive and bitter monopoly, but it may be unavoidable, and better than no railroad at all; unsatisfactory the Government land regulations may be, but surely there can be no set purpose in making them unsatisfactory, least of all in Canada, where the first aim of legislation is to satisfy votes. But whatever foundation there may be for the cries of discontent, it is the duty of patriotism to refrain from picturing our western Canada in such a guise that the immigrant landing in the New World will pass our territories with a shudder.

ALL those who are desirous to see preserved the peace and good-will which are essential between our brotherhood of united colonies, must be glad to know that the long-standing and intricate question of the Boundary dispute is now, through mutual concession, or rather through mutual common sense, on a fair way for settlement. Ever since the confederation the situation of the western boundary of Ontario has been open to dispute, but it was not till Manitoba began to develop into a province of importance, to assert her possessions and declare her territory that the conviction forced itself upon the Federal authority and the Governments of the other provinces concerned that means should be taken to define the boundary and set at rest the disputes. After some fruitless efforts in the direction desired, at last it was agreed that the question of finding the line should be left to arbitrators selected on behalf of the Federal and Ontario Governments, and agreeably to this decision Chief Justice Harrison, Sir Edward Thornton and Sir Francis Hincks were appointed. On the 3rd of August, 1878, the arbitrators made their award, which confirmed to Ontario the region then and still in dispute. It is out of this award that has grown all the bitter inter-provincial discords that have disgraced the constit-