

## The Week.

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IN this number we print the Queen's Jubilee Oration and Poem to which have been awarded the two prizes of one hundred dollars each offered by THE WEEK. While regretting that so many meritorious contributions have necessarily failed in the competition, we feel assured that the compositions chosen as best fulfilling its conditions, by the most eminent literary critic in Canada, to whom was committed the difficult and laborious task of deciding among nearly one hundred and fifty contestants, will be read by all with interest and approval.

THE proof of the wisdom and justice of the Government policy in the North-west must be sought in the rapidity with which the country becomes settled, and the contentment of the settlers. These, it is true, may have selfish aims with which justice may conflict; but, on the whole, if the community be fairly treated, they will be content. And as to settlement, success here may reasonably be taken as the proper measure of ability in Administration. If, owing to an unfavourable climate, the North-west is unfit for settlement, of course there is an end of the matter, and the Government cannot be blamed for the slowness of settlement. But is the Government prepared seriously to admit what some of its supporters advanced in argument in Saturday's debate? If not—and we hope not, for the thing is not true—then the exceeding slow increase of population in the North-west must be due to some other causes—removable, most likely, by more competent administration; and while there is time, before too much damage has been done, the Government ought to profit by the advice of the Opposition, and amend the land laws in any manner that may turn the tide from the States and induce a quicker immigration here.

CRITICS of the conduct of the Mounted Police, in relation to the recent murders of settlers in the North-west, should remember some of the difficulties of the situation. Canadian settlers differ from their neighbours in the Western American Territories. They have not been educated by circumstances, even by recent circumstances, to the point of constant vigilance in the protection of their homes. They are not expert in the use of arms; lynch law is practically unknown among them; inborn British respect for constituted authority still operates, even in the treatment of a horse-thief. American desperadoes of this character are well aware of this, and cross the lines to ply their trade where there is little danger of being summarily dealt with in the event of capture. Between fifteen years' imprisonment and a halter there is a wide and comfortable margin, of which they are not slow to avail themselves. The horse-thief, however, is usually a cool and conscienceless criminal, with whom murder is always a contingency not to be shirked. Whether he shoots or surrenders is merely a matter of whether he or the man with the warrant has "the drop." The arrest of such men by the Mounted Police presents peculiar difficulties. The vast area for their escape is one. It may be known to a certainty that a party of "wanted" half-breeds are in a particular "coolie," and a dozen or so of Mounted Policemen may be despatched to bring them in. The "coolie" may be twenty miles long. It would require a small army to surround it, so as to make escape impossible. Face to face with his man, moreover, warrant in hand, the Mounted Policeman is at peculiar disadvantage, in case of his almost certain resistance. The Policeman is not, nor could he be, empowered to give his prisoner the alternative of submission or being shot; and, carrying only a carbine and a revolver, he is without any weapon, such as the ordinary policeman is provided with, to discourage resistance. Indian and Half-breed law-breakers all over the North-west apprehend this difficulty perfectly, and it is no small factor in the open contempt for authority which they constantly show. Recent events seem to show that the disaffected element in the North-west is adopting a "plan of campaign" far more likely to further its ends than open rebellion would be, that of isolated murders, occurring without premonition of any kind, and followed by no train of circumstances that might reasonably be predicted. If this is the definite policy of Gabriel Dumont and his friends, strong measures must be taken at once, or the North-west will be depopulated more effectually than it would be by half a dozen rebellions. We cannot afford to support a standing army for the protection of the Territories, but we

can greatly increase the efficiency of the present force. Meanwhile, to expect a thousand Mounted Policemen to enforce the law over an extent of two million square miles, if they must do it in the face of determined, constant, and vindictive opposition, is absurd.

THE most prejudiced against that time-honoured institution, the Senate, can hardly contend that it has outlived its usefulness after last week's exhibition of its capacity as a nursery for philanthropists, in relation to that precious piece of legislation, the Chinese Immigration Act Amendment Bill. The sentiments expressed last Friday, in discussing the Bill, by the honourable members composing that body, would have done credit to any Sunday School convention. The Mongolian, notwithstanding his yellow skin and his queue, and his more unpleasant characteristics, is our brother, said, in effect, the elders in council last week. In the exercise of the truly fraternal relation, his coming must be facilitated, and his wife's, that he may multiply and replenish the earth, as saith the Scripture. The felicitous idea of encouraging the idolatrous Celestials to come to Canada to absorb Gospel truths, with other civilising influences, instead of exporting missionaries to dispense them, was dwelt upon at fervid length. It seemed a wise and prudent and economical, as well as a beautiful course of action. The example of France and Germany, in establishing schools to teach the Chinese language, was commended to the consideration of educational authorities throughout the Dominion. And the present law, looking, as it does, toward the discouragement of the desire to go East latent in every Mongolian bosom, was denounced by every term that could convey the impression of man's inhumanity to man. This is a noble and instructive pose for the benevolent *senectutes* of the Upper House, and as, in all human probability, it will not have more than a purely artistic effect upon the existent state of things, comment may seem uncalled for, if not actually profane. Nevertheless, we may be allowed to point out that, apart from the economic wisdom of their exclusion, it is precisely from a humane point of view that the Chinese should be kept out of the country. It is quite impossible for the benevolent gentlemen who would exercise the hospitality of the Dominion toward our benighted brother, to protect him after he arrives from the disagreeable effects of local antipathy, or to foresee the exact amount we may be compelled to pay in "Chinese indemnity" bills to counterbalance these effects, and preserve the trade relations with our Celestial friends, which the C. P. R. has made so advisable. We may legislate in favour of the Chinese, but we cannot undertake to persuade the British Columbians that they are desirable fellow-labourers. We must not ignore the experience of the United States in this matter, where, in the face of direct treaty obligations, these people have been, from time to time, shamefully maltreated, Congress powerless to do anything but pay the bill. We do not desire, even the most ardently philanthropic of us, to see a repetition of the Wyoming affair in Canada. By all means let us protect, civilise, Christianise, if possible, the large number of superfluous Chinese already within our borders, but let existing measures excluding them be amended rather in the direction of greater stringency.

MR. GUILLET's proposal to relegate the power of Prohibition to the Provinces is a step in the right direction, if it be meant at the same time to abandon the hopeless attempt to carry the Dominion as a whole. To be sure, the Legislature of a Province is quite as incompetent as the Parliament of the Dominion to reform men's habits by a Bill; and the attempt of a majority to force better men than themselves to submit to a degrading tutelage, quite inconsistent with the development of the Christian life, would be as arbitrary in the Province as the Dominion. Yet this proposal is a step—though but a step—toward a true position on this question; which will be attained only when the present intermediate position, of Prohibition by districts and towns, has been overpassed, and Prohibition has been narrowed to the sphere of the family, every man being his own Prohibitionist only. This is the only kind of Prohibition an intelligent Christian can embrace, and it cannot be effected by Act of Parliament.

IT is convenient to have at hand the chief arguments in favour of Commercial Union, and all interested in that question are under obligations to Mr. Wiman for taking the trouble to make them accessible for ready reference. In a small pamphlet issued by that gentleman, we find gathered together some dozen letters, papers, and speeches, which, while not professing to be complete, presents the case for Commercial Union, in its main outlines at any rate, as fully as can be expected at this stage of the discussion.

IF we are to judge of the American attitude towards the question by a letter from the Hon. Robert R. Hitt, Representative in Congress from Illinois, the complaint of the United States against the old Reciprocity