

## The Week.

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THE *Globe's* righteous championship of *le Canadien* is one of the most interesting and instructive spectacles presented by modern journalism. Even in the past of the profession parallel instances of devoted zeal are rare. As a general thing very real and tangible evils are required to rouse the spirit of the crusader; but in the heat of its enthusiasm the *Globe* rushes daily into an imaginary fray, creating enemies for its protégé the *habitant* for the pure pleasure, it seems, of destroying them. It does this by assumption—the usual way. The *habitant*, according to the *Globe*, is the Ishmael of the Dominion. Poor, wretched, friendless, and despised, he is regarded with animosity and spoken of with a curse (*vide the Globe*) by every English-speaking Canadian politically un beholden to his Church. He is hated for many reasons, but chiefly for his piety, his politeness, his industry, and his honesty. The *Globe* however is free from these widespread prejudices, and has set itself the task of combating them. That it is no easy task everybody who has observed the energy and persistence of the *Globe's* devotion to it will readily believe. It is quite possible, however, that the *Globe's* high-purposed course in this matter may shed a deep gloom upon the spirit of many of its readers. That the *Globe* has readers of moral rectitude we do not for a moment doubt, and all such persons must feel, and feel deeply, that they are not opposed to piety and politeness and industry and honesty, even in the Church-ridden *habitant*. They must believe the Liberal organ the victim of a misconception. They must also see in the misconception a decided reflection upon the average Canadian's common sense.

THAT is one way of accounting for it. There are others. The people of Ontario are aware that the *habitant* as a moral or social entity does not cross their minds twice a year. When he does, the sentiment that accompanies is usually one of pure pity. The combined wrath or malevolence that exists in Ontario toward the race would not, it is safe to say, seriously disturb any member of it could it be directed against him. They are equally sure that the anachronism of a Church-controlled State is a problem to which they are bound to give an amount of thought and anxiety which is not lessened by the spectacle of the great Liberal party allying itself to perpetuate this anachronism. The attitude of every right-thinking person, not only in this Province but in the Dominion, is antagonistic to the present secular supremacy of the Roman Catholic Church in Quebec, recognising in it a relentless foe to the progress of all within its sway, and an instrument of oppression not only to French Catholics but to every tax-payer in the Dominion. "Is it not," queries the *Globe*, "the patriotic, the Christian, the humanitarian part to let bygones be bygones?" Truly. Let bygones be bygones by all means, let precedents be precedents, let what has happened in the past not be without warning and illustration to us as to what may happen in the future. The exercise of forgiveness for injuries past by no means implies that we should not defend ourselves from injuries to come. And the individual who can read the history of the Roman Catholic Church in the Province of Quebec, with an eye upon its influence upon Dominion Legislation, without learning to expect such injury must be a very unsuspicious individual indeed.

WE know that it was not always thus. We all remember the time when the *Globe* was not obliged to invent enemies for the *habitant* but fought for his welfare, even as his best friends are doing now, against the influence which makes for his ignorance and impoverishment more than all the other hard conditions of his life together; when not only for its lack of truth, but for its ludicrous absurdity, its recent inference that the clergy of Ontario are quite as influential as the clergy of Quebec in the secular affairs of their flocks would have been inadmissible to its columns. Various explanations of the change occur to the uncharitable, but to the open-minded among its new adherents the *Globe's* conversion must seem little short of miraculous. "Est ce que," one imagines them saying in their simple wonder, "ce journal a envoyé un représentant à Ste. Anne de Beaupré?"

IF any doubt existed in the beginning that the construction of the Red River Road to Manitoba's American boundary would prove an episode of

grave importance in the history of Confederation, recent events have banished it. Those who foresaw the immediate suppression of the scheme by the Dominion Government, those who predicted the impossibility of proceeding with it for financial reasons, and all others who prophesied forebodingly for the completion of the road, find their expectations set at naught by actual facts. The road is built, and the situation must be faced. It is in all respects a peculiar, and in one respect a paradoxical situation. In view of the very large extent to which Ontarians are out of pocket by the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and the other fact that its exclusive control of North-West business is undoubtedly beneficial to Ontario, strong opposition to the boundary road might reasonably be expected here. Instead of which we see and hear on all sides the most cordial sympathy with the scheme—so cordial indeed that the utterances of more than one organ seem directly prompted by a desire to incite Manitobans not only to maintain their rights, but to go beyond them. Any action, one might easily infer from them, is justifiable that antagonises the present Government. Recognising that something must be excused to the ardour of controversy and the heat of enthusiasm in the cause of the weak against the strong, we must, nevertheless, deprecate the tone of the Opposition Press upon this matter. Its motive is doubtless far from being that of bringing about another rebellion, yet the persistence with which it places that possibility before the disaffected element is about as well calculated to produce it as any of the influences so threateningly at work at present. The C. P. R. has managed to make itself somewhat unpopular in this quarter of the Dominion, and the people of Ontario know too well what it is to struggle for Provincial rights to withhold sympathy from a sister Province similarly struggling; but neither Ontarians nor sensible Canadians of any Province desire to see a struggle in which Federal dignity would suffer the disgrace of defeat in addition to its present humiliation.

FOR there is no use in attempting to evade the fact that Federal authority is and will be humiliated, regrettable as it is in itself and disastrous as its consequences may very possibly be. It is admitted on every hand to be insanity to attempt to thwart the Manitobans in their present temper, and in face of the opinion of the majority both there and throughout the Dominion, of both parties. The action of the Norquay Government in carrying the case before the Privy Council is wise and praiseworthy, in that it shows a desire for the approval of the Crown, but it is exceedingly doubtful if the Crown's disapproval, presupposing the expression of an opinion, which is not at all certain, would prevail to move the people from their present attitude one inch. Decisions of the Privy Council form admirable *derniers ressorts* for Provincial and Dominion disputants in probably ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, but where they clash with the direct interests of an entire provincial population acting in accordance with what they believe to be both their moral and their legal rights, we are afraid that they would represent opinion and authority alike foreign and impotent. Pending the decision and events that follow it, about the only conclusion that can be drawn from the unfortunate state of things in Manitoba is that the Government cannot be congratulated upon the policy that made it possible.

BOTH the Republicans and the Democrats have recently published their programme at conventions held in the State of Ohio. Addressed to the electorate of the Republic, these utterances are important as indicating the general trend of political thought in a near neighbour, whom some among us desire that Canada may become connected with still closer. A glance at the views of each party does not reveal anything particularly encouraging to the Commercial Unionists. The Democrats, it is true, demanded a reduction of the tariff, which might remove some Canadian objection to Commercial Union; but the Republicans are not likely, if they can help it by any means, to permit their rivals to profit by any such *coup d'état*. For the reason that it would perhaps strengthen the Democratic party they would reject it and everything that tended to it; and so would the Democrats in the reverse case. The Canadian Unionists, when once the subject gets into American politics, will certainly have not only their Canadian opponents to contend with, but also one or the other of the two American parties. The platform of the Republicans does not, however, seem to favour Commercial Union at all. They have declared for a maintenance of the tariff, being opposed particularly to any reduction of the present duties on wool and woollen and worsted goods. This is important to note, because the *Canadian Journal of Fabrics* points out that the moment we are obliged to adopt the American foreign tariff our Cape wool, our Australian wool, and dozens of items of mill supplies will cost double their present prices, and up must go the cost of manufacturing;