

THE WEEK.

Fifth Year.
Vol. V. No. 18.

Toronto, Thursday, March 29th, 1888.

\$3.00 per Annum.
Single Copies, 10 Cents.

The Week.

AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF POLITICS, SOCIETY, AND LITERATURE.

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C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Publisher.

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THE meeting of the Toronto Branch of the Imperial Federation League on Saturday evening, was large and enthusiastic. The speeches breathed the spirit of loyalty to the Mother Land and faith in the possibility of realizing the great idea which underlies and animates the League. It is to be regretted that some of the speakers should have thought it necessary to intermingle with their declarations of attachment to Britain and British institutions expressions savouring of hostility to the great English-speaking nation on our borders. These sentiments are, of course, but those of individuals, but they seemed at least unnecessary on the occasion, and must be detrimental rather than helpful to the cause. The policy and diplomacy of the United States are based upon about the same principles as those of Great Britain and other nations. The spirit in which the speeches of Colonel Denison and others were conceived was, in this particular, in marked contrast with that which was so noticeable in the recent addresses of Mr. Chamberlain—those delivered since his return to England as well as those given in Toronto and Washington. The people of the United States will always be our next door neighbours, whatever may be our future relations to the great Empire of which we form a part. They are of the same blood and very much of the same traits as ourselves, and there is no reason why our international relations should not always be pervaded by kindly regard and mutual esteem.

WHILE the enthusiasm of the speakers at the Federation League meeting was all that could be desired, the speeches were still characterized by that absence of practical features which has been so far the conspicuous weakness of the movement. It is, of course, evident, as Mr. McCarthy observed, that it is not for a Colonial Branch of the League to formulate the exact terms of a basis for the federation of the Empire. At the same time it is suggestive of the difficulties with which the question is beset that no such basis, even of the most general kind, has yet been formulated in England itself. Some of the speakers asserted that commercial discrimination in favour of the Colonies was not indispensable to the success of the movement. If this can be shown, the prospects of the final consummation of the federation will be vastly improved. The commercial arrangement seems hitherto to have been regarded as the turning point and crucial test of the scheme. It has loomed up in the distance as the rock on which

it might be doomed to founder. In England there seems to be almost a complete solidarity of sentiment against any change that would involve a return to taxation, however slight, of food products. And yet it could not escape observation that the thoughts of the speakers on the commercial resolution at the Toronto meeting seemed to revolve around this idea of discrimination, or rather to recur to it as a point of special attractiveness. On the whole, however, the managers of the Toronto Branch of the League may congratulate themselves on having given by their meeting a distinct impulse to the movement.

THE debate on the Reciprocity resolution still drags its slow length along, and judging from the large number of members on both sides who still wish to give their views, is not likely to be concluded before the Easter recess. Though the question is of great importance it is one of those upon which the *pros* and *cons* are soon exhausted. After the first two or three speakers on each side had addressed the House there was really little that was new left for any other debater to say. Subsequent speakers were of necessity compelled either to exercise their ingenuity in reproducing the substance of previous speeches in new form, or to turn aside to matters more or less irrelevant. The inconsistency of the present opinions of the leading men on both sides with positions taken on former occasions has been much dwelt upon, and it would be hard to say which party has been most successful in unearthing the embarrassing speeches of opponents. It must be somewhat discouraging to the supporters of the resolution to know while speaking that they are foredoomed to defeat, however they may console themselves with the reflection that such has been the fate of all great reforms in their earlier stages. On the whole the speaking has thus far been above the average, and there have as yet been, happily, few of those violations of the amenities of debate which too often mar the best efforts of parliamentary orators.

THE Manitoba Railway Question is still *sub judice*, or, if a basis of agreement has been reached by the negotiating parties, it has not, at the date of this writing, been given to the public. Considerable excitement was caused last week by the somewhat unceremonious departure of Messrs. Greenway and Martin, the Manitoba Ministers, from Ottawa. They complained, it is said, and not apparently without some reason, of the long delay to which they were required to submit, without explanation or definite promise, at a very inconvenient time, the Manitoba Legislature being in session, and of the scant courtesy with which they were being treated, after having come so far at the request of the First Minister. Since their departure, however, Sir John and his colleagues seem to have been giving earnest attention to the question. An understanding has, it is believed, been come to with the managers of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. Messrs. Greenway and Martin have, at Sir John A. Macdonald's request, returned to Ottawa. Rumour has it that a very comprehensive and costly scheme is being elaborated for the removal of the hateful monopoly, and the satisfaction of all the conflicting interests involved in the dispute.

THE Session of the Ontario Legislative Assembly, which came to an end last week, was perhaps not less fruitful of useful local legislation than the average, though there was much waste of time during the first few weeks. The chief political interest of the Session centred, of course, in the debate on the Quebec Resolutions. What practical result will follow the adoption of those resolutions remains to be seen. The adoption of manhood suffrage was so slight an advance on previous legislation that its effect upon the political complexion of the next house cannot be great. If it were otherwise the Government would have been bound by precedent, both British and Canadian, to dissolve the House and appeal to the new constituencies. Even as it is it might be contended with a good deal of force that this course should have been adopted, since after the first of January next, when the new Act comes into operation, there will be a considerable number of electors who had no voice in the selection of the present representatives. Were the parties in the House more evenly divided, so as to afford the Opposition some reasonable hope of success in a new contest, this view of the case would, no doubt, have been more urgently pressed. As matters now stand, neither party having much to gain by a new election, it is not likely that the course of the Government