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Comments on the Cartoons.



SIR JOHNNA, THE LION KING.

—It must be gratifying to all who admire manly independence to note that in Dalton McCarthy Sir John has met a lion who cares nothing for his party whip. The attempt to keep the member for South Simcoe quiet on the dual language question, not because his attitude was an unsound one, but because it was inexpedient from a party standpoint, has completely failed. If we had a dozen more men on the Conservative side who could bring themselves to believe

that Sir John is not inspired, and that to differ from him and on occasion act against him is not necessarily impious, it would be a good thing for the country. We would like to see the monotony of this one-man power broken once in a while whether the kicker was right or wrong. It would conduce to the health of the body politic. In the present instance our conviction is that Mr. McCarthy is right, and we are glad to know that he has practically gained his point. Of course the Government has been too cowardly to allow the Bill to pass, but by relegating the question to the people of the North-West for settlement it has pretty safely assured the abolition of the official French at an early date. Our approval of Mr. McCarthy extends to his Bill, abolishing official French, but we regard his alleged notion of abolishing the use of French in social and business life, as an absurd idea which could not possibly be realized, and which would be undesirable even if practicable.

WHY QUEBEC IS BANKRUPT.—Quebec has a debt of some \$28,000,000, and an estimated deficit for next year of about \$1,000,000. In view of this state of affairs it is said Premier Mercier proposes to apply to the Federal Government for \$12,000,000, under the name of "better terms." Should he receive this assistance (and it must not be forgotten that there is a "French vote" at Ottawa to back up the demand) the payment will mean a considerable addition to the burdens of the Ontario tax-payer, and it is accordingly not impertinent for that patient being to enquire how it comes that Quebec is so pauperized. The answer to this enquiry is—to a great extent it is by reason of the existence of a State Church, whose vast accumulations of property go untaxed, and whose demands upon the public treasury for direct payments are unceasing. There is no reason, in the nature of things why the Province of Quebec should not be as prosperous as Ontario. The impediments to its prosperity are wholly of human creation and ought to be removable by human agency.

THE DUAL LANGUAGE DUEL.—This dual question is going to become a *duel* question, though the fight will not be strictly between the two races, but between those who believe with Mr. McCarthy that to build up a great and united nation we must recognize but one language; and those who take the view of the *Globe*, that we can work out our highest destiny on the lines we are now working on.



THE dime museums are yawning for a consistent Protectionist, but they might as well hanker for a Dodo. A consistent Protectionist is entirely a fabled animal. Nothing of the sort has ever existed, nor ever will. This fact, if you sit down and think about it, is enough in itself to condemn the philosophy of Protection as unsound. Here, for example, we find the organs of the present Canadian Government rejoicing with the world in general at the gradual cutting down of the

Atlantic steamship record. No doubt, if at length the voyage is reduced to three days or to twenty-four hours, they will be as glad as anybody else; and yet consistency requires them as Protectionists to regard such a possibility as a calamity to this country. According to Protectionist doctrine, it would be much better if the good old times were restored when it required three months to cross the Atlantic, because that was a practical protection against the influx of "pauper-made European goods." It is also noteworthy that none of the profound philosophers of the N.P. has ever yet undertaken seriously to tackle the question: If a high tariff around the Dominion's boundaries is good for the Dominion, why wouldn't high Provincial tariffs be good for the Provinces?

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THE utter selfishness of the protective system is another feature of it which is calculated to make it hateful to every lover of humanity. Here, as the latest example, we find the New England manufacturers demanding the abolition of the duties on coal, coke and iron ore, the raw materials of their business; but these energetic petitioners are by no means willing that the corresponding duties on their finished products should at the same time be done away. It is a shameless game of grab all round; a scramble in which all the better emotions of humanity are trampled under foot. It is to be hoped that this unseemly spectacle may before long revolt the moral sense of the people to such a degree that they will demand the entire sweeping away of a system which, under the specious disguise of assisting industry, is nothing better than brazen faced robbery.