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Comments on the Cartoon.



CHAPLEAU LOVING THE WORKING-MAN.—Hon. Mr. Chapleau, the eloquent and picturesque Secretary of State, took a prominent part in a recent by-election in Quebec, in which the Conservative candidate, Mr. Lepine, was elected. Mr. Lepine had received the endorsement of the labor organizations, and hence posed as the "workingman's candidate." His triumph at the polls was, shortly afterwards, celebrated by a banquet, not to himself, but to Mr. Chapleau, whose persuasive rhetoric had done it all. This banquet was given by the toilers of Mr. Lepine's constituency; at least we presume so, although it was spread in Ottawa, and patronized chiefly by cabinet ministers, civil service employees and miscellaneous

swells. Three or four officials of labor organizations were also present as invited guests. In some quarters the affair has been spoken of as a hollow mockery, and it certainly had a "put up" appearance; but let us suppose that it was the spontaneous offering of bona fide workmen. Now was it not misplaced kindness on their part? What claim has Mr. Chapleau—or any of his colleagues—to the special gratitude of this class? He is one of the authors of the N.P. Is the N.P. in the interests of the workingmen? Mr. A. W. Wright, who sat at the table as the acknowledged spokesman of labor, says Protection does not necessarily raise wages; it simply puts some employers in a position to pay more—out of their tariff-made profits—if they see fit to do it. But, as Mr. Wright acknowledges, they rarely see fit; human selfishness inclines them to pocket all they make, and then ask for more. These extra profits that are made by virtue of the tariff come out of the people—the consumers—and to this class the workingmen belong. So the extent of the matter is, Protection does not increase wages, but it

increases living expenses. This is the policy which Mr. Chapleau advocates, and, presumably, believes in. What is there about it to enthuse the workingman to the pitch of getting up expensive banquets for him? This is something that it puzzles us to make out.

AT "CROSS" PURPOSES.—A new adjective seems to be required to fitly describe the C.P.R. in its present attitude towards the people of Manitoba. To say that it is displaying a hoggish greed is true enough, but too mild—far too mild. What we want is a word which will convey in a very emphatic way the superlative degree of gall, impudence and tyranny combined. For years this soulless corporation cursed the Western Province by virtue of certain monopoly rights granted to it by men who are called "statesmen." No; they didn't grant these rights by charter, but what is worse, they cravenly permitted the corporation to assume them. This went on until the people were goaded to the verge of open rebellion. Then the "statesmen" in question paid the company the equivalent of \$15,000,000 out of the public till for permission to allow the building of other roads in Manitoba—a permission which, under their charter, we repeat, the C.P.R. never had any right to interfere with. The money being paid and the alleged monopoly being purchased, the authorities of the Province proceed with the building of the Red River Valley Line. Finding it necessary to cross the line of the C.P.R., they make the required formal application to the Railway Committee of Parliament for permission, when down comes the syndicate with an injunction to restrain them, and an armed force to back up the injunction. The injunction is duly argued before the judge and dismissed. Does this end the dispute? By no means. A company which is manifestly and notoriously superior to the Federal Government is not going to obey a mere judge. At this writing it looks as though it would come to blows. In that case, happily, there is no doubt as to which party would get the worst of it.



AT last peace reigns in the Western Methodist Church, and the miserable slanderers of Brother Jeffrey are crushed beneath the Boards. The result will be, as it ought, to make the eloquent and original preacher more of a favorite than ever. And GRIP would like to take this opportunity to say that there is no minister in town more generally esteemed than Mr. Jeffrey, because there is none with more of that peculiarly endearing quality known as human nature about him. A man of big heart and generous hand,

as well as sound head and silvery tongue, may he live until his curly locks are white as snow, and even his broad brimmed and high crowned soft felt hat is superannuated.

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THE state of King street inclines the *Telegram* to conclude that civilization is an expensive failure. Civilization is all right, but there can be no doubt that cedar block paving on heavy-traffic streets is an expensive fraud. It seems to require a very long experience to drive this truth into the heads of our aldermen, however.

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OUR Government has decided to allow the American fishermen to ship their catch through Canadian territory in bond. The reason we know this is that the *Empire* says it is not so, and the *London Free Press* thinks it would be a good thing to do.

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A GREAT calamity has happened to the funny men of the German newspapers. A Congress of Barbers was lately held in Berlin, at which rules were laid down for the future guidance of all the members. One of these rules prohibits talking to customers while in the