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Comments on the Cartoons.



THE PROVINCIAL DOCTORS IN CONSULTATION.—Hon. Mr. Chapleau, who is by no means the least intelligent of our public men, professes that he cannot understand the object of the Inter-provincial conference. For want of a better explanation of it, we suppose, the hon. gentleman proceeds to allege that it is a conspiracy of the provinces to overturn the present Federal government. Absence in Europe must be accepted as an excuse for this remarkable want of information on the part of the Secretary of State; for it is safe to assume that every other intelligent citizen of Canada comprehends quite well the general object of the conference now sitting at Quebec. For Mr. Chapleau's special benefit we may state that the provincial premiers, — amongst whom is the Conservative leader of Manitoba—are met to discuss some weaknesses which have been developed in Canada's constitution, and which must bespeddily remedied if Confederation is to continue. This object must strike every candid person as highly commendable, and we are at a loss to know why any statesman of either party should not be both willing and anxious to further it. Perhaps, after all, Mr. Chapleau is not so much in the dark as he pretends, but being conscious that the Cabinet of which he is an ornament has done a good deal to bring these constitutional weaknesses to public attention, he regards any discussion of them as an affront to himself and his colleagues. It is a great pity this important business could not have been carried out in a strictly non-party spirit. We are all equally interested in the welfare of the country, and it might have been supposed that the Act of Confederation could at least have been discussed in a patriotic and friendly manner by all. Of course, nothing more than discussion is proposed by the conference, though,

if the outcome be some suggestions of practical usefulness in the direction of strengthening the union and settling existing difficulties, both political parties will owe Mr. Mercier thanks for having brought about the meeting.

THE ENGINE AND THE "COO."—The Manitobans are doing honor to Davy Crockett's maxim—"Be sure you are right, then go ahead!" There being no doubt as to the rightness—moral and constitutional—of building a railway within the provincial limits, they are going ahead "for all they are worth," and the Dominion Government, with a fatuous disregard of consequences truly surprising, are still pursuing obstructionist tactics. When George Stephenson appeared before a committee of the British House of Commons, in connection with the earliest of railway projects, one of the members enquired what the consequence would be if a cow should get on the track in front of this, er—this, ah—what dye-call it—engine? The committee paused for reply. "Well," responded Stephenson, in his ponderous fashion,—“it would be all the worse for the coo!” There is matter for thought in this, esteemed Sir John.



A GROWING MONOPOLY.

Uncle Sam—Looks to me, Jay Gould, as tho' you were having a deal too much!

JOHNNY'S OBEDIENCE.

THE family were sitting together in the evening, when Johnny, aged 11, came in from the street with his hands covered with dirt and his clothes torn.

"Johnny," said his mother, "how do you expect me to keep you looking clean and nice, if you behave as you do? You should try to be more of a little gentleman than you are. You should take more pains."

"Yes, Johnny," said his father, "if you don't want me to give you a sound spanking rather suddenly, you'll take more pains with yourself, and try to be a better boy."

And Johnny went out to the pantry,—he had often before found the gloaming the best time for his depredations,—and reached for the preserved peaches. That was the way he took more pains.

It is not so very extraordinary that the most learned men of the day seem to believe in the Darwinian theory; æons ago their primæval ancestors, the monkeys, were educated in the higher branches themselves.