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Comments on the Cartoon.



THE GOVERNMENT "INVESTIGATING" MONOPOLY.—Mr. Clarke Wallace, M.P., deserves credit for bringing forward a resolution in favor of a thorough investigation of the anthracite coal ring; and Mr. J. D. Edgar, M.P., ought to be thanked for having the resolution extended so as to cover all the alleged rings and combines amongst manufacturers as well. The Government, having permitted the resolution to pass, must get credit for a desire to honestly investigate and find out the truth about these "institutions," and under the terms of the resolution, that ought to be quite possible. The coal monopoly exists by virtue of the fact that the supply of anthracite coal is limited, and the mines from which it is taken are in the possession of certain people who, believing that God created that coal for their special personal benefit, very properly get all the money out of it that is possible. Unless there is a radical change in the constitution of human nature, this sort of monopoly will be likely to exist as long as society clings to "the wild and guilty fantasy that man can hold property in" land, except as a tenant of the State. The other monopolies which are now making themselves intolerable to the people are the offspring of the tariff, and no doubt this will be abundantly proven as the investigation goes on. The simple and effective cure for this sort of evil is to remove its cause. Knock off the duty on refined sugar, and away goes the Canadian sugar combine, which is at present stealing \$2,000,000 a year from the taxpayers of the Dominion. And so with all the other bands of legalized robbers. There will be no trouble about the facts; they will in due course stand out clear and stubborn; we only hope that the Government will have conscience and nerve enough when they learn the truth "officially," to apply the remedy.

THE TIDE HAS EBBED—THAT'S ALL.—The Scott Act repeal in Halton has greatly rejoiced the Rum Party, though why it should do so when they are so well aware that "there is twice as much liquor sold under the Scott Act as under license, don't you know," is a puzzler. Well, their victory—by whatever crooked means achieved—is dearly bought. It has had an effect on the country the very opposite of what the liquor men would like, and this effect will be immensely deepened day by day as soon as the old system of open groceries comes into operation. People will see the contrast between free rum and even badly executed prohibition then in a way that will be very convincing. Since the day of polling, the Canadian Third Party has sprung into being—if not as a direct result, at all events as a most striking coincidence. This step has long been talked of, and now at last it is taken. The politicians know what it means. Already they begin to talk the Republican bosh about "keeping prohibition out of politics;" "it is not a political but a moral question," etc., etc.; but like the hypocritical scallawags across the line, they will find out before long how far these platitudes will stay the rising tide of public opinion. The saloon is in politics, and that is just exactly the place to fight it. The only way the Grit and Tory parties can save their precious lives is to come out squarely for the Home—pass the law and enforce it earnestly and honestly (at which suggestion we seem to hear a tremendous burst of ironical laughter from Halifax to Vancouver). Yes, the tide has just ebbed a little on the Halton strand; before long the great curling wave will sweep along that shore and submerge poor Rummy and his barrel beyond all hope. Let him laugh while he can!

WE begin to think that after all Brother Macdonald will have to get out of Parliament before he can make a fair start in the Christian life. To leave him in his present surroundings seems very much like putting a newly-converted darkey into a well-stocked hen-coop. Every day's report of the proceedings of the House bears testimony that the old Adam is still alive in the Premier's heart. It wasn't the new Sir John but the old Adam, for instance, who told the Knights of Labor deputation the other day that the Dominion Government never disputed Mr. Mowat's right to pass a Factory Act; and that by passing the Provincial Act the Local Government had taken the question out of federal jurisdiction.

IT was likewise the old Adam, we are sure, who impudently usurped the voice and manner of the new Sir John, and alleged that the thousands appropriated for "assisted immigration" are spent in advertising the country, when it is well known that most of it goes into the pockets of political placemen. Nor could it have been the reconstructed Premier himself who was concerned in the providing of a deputy ministership for Mr. Pope, as a reward for his scandalous partizan conduct when Clerk of the Crown last session. It is sadly manifest that if Sir John remains in the House the old Adam will have the "pull" all the while.

MR. GREENWAY has taken his backbone to Ottawa to be tested. Dr. Macdonald is now engaged upon the case. He reports an abnormal rigidity of the spinal column, but hopes, by the application of soft sawder, and the process known as manipulation, to render it as pliable as Mr. Norquay's. Mr. Greenway's political life depends, however, upon keeping his backbone stiff.

IS Mr. Mowat losing his cunning? It looks very much like it, or he would never have permitted the silly and cowardly move which closed the debate on the Quebec Resolutions. It was clearly understood that after the Resolutions had been debated as a whole, the vote would be taken upon each separately, and speakers governed themselves accordingly, reserving their objections upon particular points with a view of expressing the same in amendments