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Comments on the Cartoons.



MERCIER'S DREAM.—The great demonstration at Quebec on St. Jean Baptiste's day was more than an ordinary holiday fête. It was the spectacular expression of the "great idea" which the orators at the subsequent banquet so eloquently elaborated—the idea of French-Canadian "nationality." By this term we are to understand something much grander than the preservation of French and Catholic institutions in the Province of Quebec, and the firm maintenance of cer-

tain rights and privileges claimed under treaty. The "idea" contemplates the removal of the Union Jack from the citadel flag-staff in due season, and the substitution thereof of the tricolor of France, or the Papal banner, or a new emblem combining the features of both. Nor is this all. The dream extends to the entire revision of the Dominion map, and the reorganization of all the Provinces upon the model of Quebec. When this work is accomplished the country from ocean to ocean will be just what it would have become if its original owners had not been defeated on the Plains of Abraham. There can be little doubt that this "idea" has found a lodgment in the French-Canadian breast, and is regarded as a perfectly practicable scheme which can be worked out all in good time if, in the words of M. Mercier, they

will "cease their fratricidal strifes, and be united." The British Canadian will, of course, consider it in the light of a joke—something too absurd even for a dream. At the same time he will be logical and reasonable enough to admit that the French have a perfect right to retake Canada if they are able. When they do take it, and make it over to their own liking, it will probably be a single nation with one flag and one official language. We will not hear so much talk then about the possibility of building up a stable nationality out of two distinct elements kept apart by force of law.

ANOTHER GREAT FIGHT ON.—Now that Sullivan and Kilrain have settled their little dispute as to the championship of the prize-ring, the eyes of the political sports turn to West Middlesex; where a fight to a finish is shortly to come off between Jimmy Hughes, the Orange chicken, and "Frenchy" Ross, the present holder of the Educational belt. Betting is altogether in favor of Ross, whose friends are in vain offering long odds against the Chicken. The latter has never before fought for stakes, his experience having been confined to sparring exhibitions on anti-Jesuit platforms, but he has shown himself to be good in the wind and possessed of excellent hitting power. His challenge to Ross in this case is supposed to be the result of personal feeling more than anything else, and nobody seems to consider his chances very good. Ross, on the other hand, is full of confidence, and declares himself anxious to meet the youngster and "do him up." He is not at the present moment in fighting trim, but expects before the date of the battle to get rid of the superfluous flesh he is now carrying in the shape of French schools and education law amendments.



ACINESS characterized the speeches at the Millers' Convention in this city last week. The delegates frequently used hot words, which was only natural, for they had a burning question to deal with, and besides this, the thermometer was uncomfortably high in the Board of Trade

chambers. All were agreed that the Government has for ten years acted in an outrageous and indefensible manner toward the milling industry, in persisting, contrary to the alleged spirit of the National Policy, in bonusing the American flour-makers at the expense of our own mills. This rank injustice is continued for purely political reasons—to retain certain Government seats in the Maritime Provinces. This was stated by one of the speakers to be the frank explanation he received from the lips of Mr. Tupper.

THE statistics of the case bring out the grievance in bold relief. Mr. John Brown, who had taken the trouble to secure the figures, presented the case as follows: "Ontario pays a duty of over \$600,000 on coal, while the Maritime Provinces only pay \$5,140 on breadstuffs; which shows that we pay 130 times as much to help them as they pay to help us. We pay 22 2/3 per cent. on coal, and they 14 2/3 on breadstuffs." This is the lop-sided result of the attempt to force trade out of its natural channels, but the millers have a right to demand that if the artificial system of Protection is to be continued the duties must be adjusted more fairly.

NOW, as Mr. Brown said, the only way to rectify such a wrong is through the ballot-box, and the constitutional method is to turn out Government after Govern-