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Comments on the Cartoons.



THE GREAT ONTARIO FOX-HUNT.—In casting about for something whereunto to liken the eagerness with which the Conservative leaders are going into the Provincial campaign, the fox-hunt, as practised at home, you know, presented itself as a reasonable parallel; though we doubt if the most enthusiastic 'cross-country riders ever reached quite the pitch of earnestness which is felt by the politicians who are now endeavoring to run down the cute and speedy Reynard of the Local Cabinet. Will they catch him, and cut off his official brush? That is the question which is being hotly discussed wherever you go. It is too early yet to answer it, but there is no doubt that the prize is worth a long and rough run. It means easy billets and high pay for a small army of the faithful, who are in a proper mood to enjoy such a bit of

fortune, besides a vast amount of glory not computable in dollars and cents. We may be sure there will be no "let up" on the race until five o'clock in the afternoon of June 5th. Meanwhile the friends of the "chase" are expressing calm confidence in the goodness of his legs, which have more than once got him safely away from the same riders. While, as already stated, it would be hazardous to predict the result of the election at this moment, we have no hesitation in endorsing the dictum of the *World* that on the date above named Mowat's "hour is come." It seems tolerably safe to bet on that.

HANDICAPPED.—The efforts of the Government orators will be chiefly directed to combatting the charge that there has been a culpable want of vigilance on the part of the Cabinet in respect of the designs of the Romish hierarchy in educational matters. The defence offered, in so far as the school law amendments are concerned is, that these amendments were one and all concurred in by the Opposition without a dissenting voice. No such defence can be made in the matter of the refusal to grant the Separate school ballot, however. And over and above all particular questions, there is the manifest and aggressive support of Archbishop Cleary, which must be very embarrassing at this juncture. The philippics of that prelate against Mr. Meredith, who is falsely charged with endeavoring to curtail the just rights of Catholics, are sure to tell powerfully in that gentleman's favor. The surprising vote polled by Mr. Hay in the recent contest in Ottawa city also indicates that the Equal Righters form an element that will heighten the uncertainty of the result in the calculations of both parties. Whatever the outcome may be, so far as the Ministry is concerned, we earnestly hope that there will be enough independent Equal Righters elected to hold the balance of power in the House. And, by the way, we cannot understand why the Equal Rights platform should not secure the support of Catholics as much as Protestants. We observe that the phrase "Equal Rights" is always used in Catholic journals in a way betokening hostility on the part of the writers. Are we to understand that our fellow-citizens of the Romish faith demand more than equality of civil rights? If not, why do they object?

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

TO CONCLUDE MAY 24TH.



ELSEWHERE in this number will be found a printed ballot. It will appear in the six issues following, that is, up to May 24th. During these seven weeks we hope to have a lively voting competition on the question:

"Is the Mowat Government worthy of a Renewal of Public Confidence?"

The ballots are to be cut out and forwarded to the personal care of Mr. J. W. Bengough, who will keep them safely until the 27th of May, when they will be delivered to a committee representing both political parties to be officially counted, the result to be published in the number of *GRIP* for May 31st.

The date of the election having been fixed for June 5th, we have shortened this contest by one week, so that the result of the voting will be made known, as above stated, in the issue of *GRIP* dated May 31st.

Ballots may be sent in open envelopes under 1 cent postage.

\$50 IN CASH

will be awarded to the person who most nearly guesses the total number of ballots that will be sent in before May 24th.



FINALLY, brethren, Mr. John Charles Rykert has handed in his resignation and walked out of the House. Thus endeth the Cypress Hills Timber Limit transaction. In his valedictory address, which was pitched in a minor key, the ex-Member expressed the hope that his constituency would be fortunate enough to secure a Member who would represent it as well as he has done for the past thirty years. We can only say, if it doesn't it will be a very unfortunate constituency. Mr. Rykert says a final farewell to the dream of a Senatorship or a Deputy-Speakership, and to all the other dignities which were once

within his possible reach, but he has the satisfaction of knowing that he has made provision for his old age by what he regards as a legitimate use of his legal talents.