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COMMENTS ON THE CARTOONS.

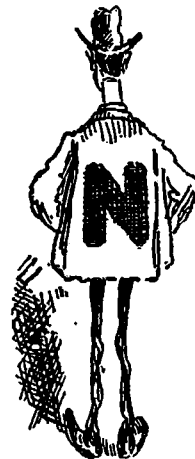


"NO FALSE ALARM."—Premier Abbott would appear to be striking out into startlingly original lines as leader of the Conservative Party. Here he has been and taken the *Globe's* editor into his confidence, and entrusted him with a profound Cabinet secret, and that, too, without marking the same "private." What else are we to conclude from the following double-leaded announcement made a few days ago in the chief column of that newspaper: "The agents and heelsers of the Conservative party are flocking to the capital, there to plan for a redistribution of the constituencies and to perfect preparations for an early appeal to the people. This is no false alarm. We speak with knowledge

of the plans and movements of the Conservative forces. A redistribution measure will be introduced during the present Parliamentary session, and the Abbott Government will go to the country just as soon as the voters' lists are completed and their plans are ripe for the appeal. It is probable that the election will come on during the latter part of December or early in January."

CAUSE AND EFFECT.—As was noted in our last number, the census just taken reveals the humiliating fact that for the ten years just ended the Dominion of Canada has not grown in population by half a million, whereas the natural increase should have amounted

to more than that figure. Those who really believed that the trade policy inaugurated in 1878 would transform farming villages into manufacturing towns, and draw capital and labor from the ends of the earth, find themselves at last rudely disillusioned by cold official facts. This revelation does not come in the form of blue-ruin speeches by Grit orators, but from the lips of the N.P. Government itself. And notwithstanding the frantic efforts of Protectionists to explain the situation by declaring that there must be a mistake in the count, or that the census of 1881 was monstrously exaggerated, the effect which we all deplore is plainly traceable to an adequate cause—the "National Policy" itself. It is said that the use of intoxicants will stunt the growth of a child, and it is beyond all question that the stimulant put into the hands of Miss Canada in '78 has had this effect. Protection has been a good thing—and will continue to be a good thing—for a certain number of gentlemen engaged in certain industries, but it makes the country a cheap one to work in and a dear one to live in for artisans, while it imposes the heaviest burdens upon the farmer, lumberman and fisherman, who, if common sense ruled our councils, ought in Canada to be the most lightly taxed of our citizens. The fact is, this stimulant is a rank poison, and if we don't give it up right away, and take steps to get the baleful effects of it out of our system, we are doomed. Fools and booblers may continue to shout for the great N.P., but natural law will vindicate itself and overwhelm the puny forces that seek to set it at naught.



NOTHING gives GRIP greater pleasure than to extend the hand of brotherly help to a clergyman groping in the dark. Such appears to be the pathetic condition of Rev. Dr. Stafford at present. He is calling for light on the Single Tax. "The original founders of a city," he says, "have rights in the future of that city which a gospel of justice is bound to respect." This notwithstanding that land values increase only because population increases. "How

far their rights extend, I am seeking help to understand," he touchingly exclaims.

WE reply that these rights extend to the full enjoyment of the use of the land they are in possession of, on the simple condition of paying its annual rental value to the public till; and the full enjoyment of all the results of their labor in whatever form, without any diminution by taxation, direct or indirect. But the Doctor's account of the origin of a city is comical. "How did that centre come to be a desirable place?" he asks. "Because," he replies, "some men risked their time and strength and money in founding factories, building wharves, and establishing lines of steamboats and railways." If the rev. gentleman will make some further enquiries he will discover that these enterprising pioneers didn't "risk" anything until there were enough people there to make it pretty safe.

IN his speech on the census the other day, Sir Richard Cartwright had a great deal to say about this decade and the last decade, and the coming decade and the other decade. With the melancholy figures of the census before us, we would suggest that whenever this word is used in connection with the subject of Canadian population it be spelled *decayed*.

BUT the great question is, what are we going to do about this state of things revealed by the census? Not many of us, we fear, will be able to console ourselves as the *World* does, by steadfastly regarding the fact that the Japan and China mails are now successfully carried