

M. Maurice Barrès entered literature with the birth of Boulangism, and is to-day the foremost of the young *litterateurs* of France. In six months he will complete his great novel, based on the political and social history of the last ten years, and its chief corner stones will be Boulangism, Panama, and Anarchy. But the novelty will lie in all the characters bearing their real names and acting the rôles they cut out for themselves. No "key" will thus be necessary. It will be a collection of extraordinary human documents backed up by letters and original papers. Won't there be wigs on the green. Rochefort will be the central hero. The opportunists are to be impaled all alive, all alive, O! The rôle of political women will be exposed.

With the thermometer in the nineties many inexplicable things are explained. People are not contented; now the complaint is that it is impossible to obtain money for business, yet the rate of interest is only two per cent., and bankers with coffers filled with current coin assert that life is not worth living when interest is so low and no loans demanded. Perhaps it is to meet this state of things that so much activity prevails in copper coin or bronze money—a trimetallism. France is really inundated with pence and half-pence from Italy, Chili, England, etc. In Tonkin and Cochinchina, nothing is more profitable than the importation of foreign copper coinage. One pound weight of coppers represents a nominal, or circulating medium, value of 4½ fr.; if sold as old metal, the intrinsic price would be 6 sous. No country can be compelled to take back its copper coinage. France has her own copper coinage to the value of 200 fr. millions in circulation, and it is calculated that there are 60 fr. millions of foreign coppers in circulation, which, if called in, would represent no small dead loss. But that could only be a flea bite for a nation like France, with a budget, annually, of 4 fr. milliards, to say nothing of the totals of the occult budgets. Z

Montreal Affairs.

TROUBLE FOR THE DOMINION GOVERNMENT—THE VACANCY ON THE SUPERIOR COURT BENCH—HON. MR. OUMET WANTS A FRENCH-CANADIAN APPOINTED—HIS PERSISTENT DEMANDS—THE PLUMS RESERVED FOR THE FRENCH—ENGLISH MEMBERS OF THE BAR AND BUSINESS MEN ANNOYED AT A PROSPECTIVE APPOINTMENT—MR. DONALD MACMASTER, Q.C., AND MR. R. D. MCGIBBON GIVE THEIR VIEWS—THE VACANCY IN THE DOMINION CABINET—WILL HON. L. P. PELLETIER BE APPOINTED? THE GOSSIP ABOUT HON. MR. CHAPLEAU. HE IS SAID TO BE WANTED AT OTTAWA—CHAPLEAU VS. LAURIER—THE CENTRE MONTREAL ELECTION FIXED FOR OCTOBER 15TH—MR. McDONNELL THE GOVERNMENT CANDIDATE—HIS DIFFICULTIES.

THERE promises to be trouble for the Dominion Government over the filling of the position on the Superior Court bench made vacant by the death, last year, of Sir Francis Johnson. An appointment should have been made a year ago, for business in the Superior Court is in a contested state, and the absence of one judge is a serious matter for litigants; but the difficulties in the way seem to have appalled the Government. Whenever a position in the gift of the Government becomes vacant in this district there is a demand on the part of the French Minister, representing Montreal and the adjacent counties, vigorously backed up by the French press, that it be filled by a French-Canadian, regardless of the nationality of the previous incumbent. Mr. Ouimet, who is at present the French Minister for this district, has been a most persistent advocate of the claims of his compatriots; he wants everything within sight, and while he does not get all he asks, the English-speaking section of the population feel that he is getting more than his share. A few examples will show that this is so. A year or so ago the position of Post Office Inspector, for a postal district near Montreal, became vacant; and though it had been filled previously by an Englishman, it was claimed by Mr. Ouimet. He had to give way, but to console him the position of Montreal Inspector, now held by a member of the English minority, and certain to be vacant shortly, was promised to his candidate, who is a member of Parliament for a near-by constituency. The two richest plums in the Montreal Civil Service are the Postmastership and the Collectorship of customs; and they have for many years been divided between

the two nationalities. But though Mr. Dansereau is Postmaster, the Collectorship of Customs was not vacant a week before Fabien Vanasse, ex-M.P., was after it hot foot; and so much influence did he bring to bear that the Government found it necessary to do something for him. They accordingly appointed him to a good position in the harbour, dismissing an English-speaking man in order to make a berth for him.

The same plan of campaign has been followed with respect to judicial positions. Judge Barry, of the Circuit Court, died suddenly a few months ago; and the Government at the solicitation of Mr. Ouimet, decided to appoint, as his successor, a lawyer who is regarded as French, though his name is English. The intention of the Government was announced prematurely by a newspaper; and there was such an outbreak of wrath among the Irish that the Government was obliged to retreat and make an altogether different appointment. But the Superior Court vacancy seems to be virtually in Mr. Ouimet's hands, and all the signs of the times indicate that it will be filled by Mr. Beaudin, a lawyer of good standing. There is a great deal of feeling about this among the English members of the Bar, and among English business men generally, for the Superior Court deals entirely with civil and commercial cases. In the district of Montreal there are twenty-eight judges engaged in the administration of justice; six in the Court of Appeal, nine in the Superior Court, two in the Circuit Court, two judges of Sessions, and one Recorder. Of these, there is but one English-speaking Protestant judge in the Court of Appeals, and in the Superior Court there are at present three English Protestants and that is all the representation that the English Protestant community has upon the Bench of the district. Adding the Irish Catholic's judges, it yet leaves the English-speaking members of the Bench in a great minority. Many English lawyers have, in interviews in the public press, expressed themselves very plainly. Mr. Donald Macmaster, Q.C., who is a good Conservative, in an interview said:—"The English in Quebec should not take up a position of hostility to their countrymen of French origin. But they should courageously and temperately present their just claims and ask for their recognition, relying upon a sense of justice in their fellow-countrymen. I fear this has been too much neglected in the past, and the result is that the English have been steadily losing, one by one, the high positions they held in the past, until they have come to be regarded as of very little account—save when the hat goes round in election times." The most out-spoken man has been Mr. R. D. McGibbon, who has notified Sir Mackenzie Bowell that if other than an English lawyer is appointed he will contest Jacques Cartier as an independent Conservative candidate on this issue. Jacques Cartier is vacant just at present, owing to the appointment of Mr. D. Girouard, Q.C., to the Supreme Court; and if another session of the Dominion Parliament be held, a by-election there will be necessary. As is well known the county has always been represented, at both Quebec and Ottawa, by French-Canadians, but the number of English-speaking electors has been growing steadily of late years until they are now over one-third of the whole. Many of these are Montrealers, who have summer cottages along Lake St. Louis; and it is well known that it has been this vote that has kept the county Conservative, the French residents of the constituency being largely Liberal. A revolt of the nature indicated by Mr. McGibbon's threat might, therefore, easily cause the loss of the constituency to the Government; and that is not a very pleasant prospect at the present time.

There is a good deal of interest felt here in the filling of the vacancy in the Dominion Cabinet due to Mr. Angers' retirement. Mr. Girouard was spoken of as likely to get the position; but his appointment to the Supreme Court has taken him out of politics. The other names mentioned are those of Deputy Speaker Bergeron, M. P. for Beauharnois, L. Z. Joncas, M.P. for Gaspé, and Hon. L. P. Pelletier, at present a member of the Quebec Government. Mr. Pelletier is much the strongest man of the three, for he is as great a Castor as is Mr. Angers himself; and his acceptance of office would largely nullify the evil effects which followed Mr. Angers' resignation. But Mr. Pelletier, though ambitious, is shrewd; and is not likely to join the Government unless satisfied that its course on the Manitoba situation will be thorough enough to bring him, as a member of it, glory in this province. The