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Comments on the Cartoons.



THEIR LITTLE GAME.—The latter portion of Mr. Laurier's speech—we may truly say his great speech, for a more eloquent and manly utterance never came from the lips of any Canadian leader—was devoted to the question of continental Free Trade. On this important matter, we are pleased to note, the honorable gentleman was clear and emphatic in the expression of sound Free Trade doctrine. He appealed powerfully to the common-sense of his hearers, which tells them that the present policy

of trunk-searching, lying, spying and imposing of fines, between two friendly and kindred nations, is contrary alike to the laws of God and geography. If we are to understand that Mr. Laurier speaks officially for the Reform Party—and on this occasion, if ever, he certainly spoke *ex cathedra*—then we may reckon that Party solid for Free Trade with the United States. And if so, why not with all the world? Surely it would be no difficult task, after ten years of experience under the N. P., for that Party to demolish the beggarly sophistries by which a majority of our voters were gulled in 1878—and to make them see clearly that what is needed in the interests of Canada is the utter abolition of that barbarous and cruel fraud, the "Protective" tariff.

There is no real necessity for making two bites at a cherry. If the Reform Party now means Free Trade at all, let it be Free Trade with all mankind in the interests of our consumers, and, if necessary, liberal bounties to our dear little infant industries, to keep them from howling themselves to death. Financially, it would pay us well to grant them a free annual gift equal to the amount they now collect in taxes. But it is satisfactory to know that at least one of the parties is straight out for Free Trade, even in a limited degree. Mr. Laurier broadly hinted that both parties are really "on that lay." He expressed his conviction that the Tory leaders are only awaiting a favorable opportunity to steal the Reciprocity clothes of the Grits, and he was generous enough to add that, in case the larceny was accomplished, he would be quite content to go naked for the general good of the people.

CANADIAN PATRIOTS BOTH.—No reader of GRIP need be told that this journal has done its share in the fight against the Jesuit Estates' Bill, and the dangerous principle which we conceived to underly that measure. Our dissent from the Parliamentary majority all along, and our inability to see the logical force of the defence made in behalf of the vote against disallowance, shall not prevent us, however, from acknowledging the masterly character of the address delivered by Mr. Laurier on this subject at Toronto. Its wit and eloquence, which were alone enough to give it a place among the great orations of the day, acquired a higher value, in that they constituted the mere ornamentation of a deliverance which was essentially earnest, honest, high-minded and brave. Even those who went to the Pavilion to scoff, must have remained to admire, if they possessed any appreciation of true manliness, and the universal feeling must have been, that if Laurier may be taken as a fair type of our Quebec fellow-citizens, we have nothing to fear even from Jesuitism. He is manifestly a Christian gentleman, permeated through and through with the best sort of British Liberalism. One of the most effective touches in his speech was the graceful allusion to Principal Caven, whom he instinctively recognized as the worthy and transparently true man we all know him to be. This recognition came easy to Laurier, for he is himself a French Caven, and we are sure we do not go astray in picturing these two noble Canadians joining hands in mutual good will. The sentiment with which the Quebec orator closed his address, and which we have transferred as an embellishment to the simple cartoon, is one which touches the heart of genuine patriotism. We count on Laurier, and all his compatriots of like mind, to help us fight Jesuitism, should it ever come to open hostilities, and we will not count in vain.



CHARGE of plagiarism is brought against Henry George. It appears that early in the fifties a Mr.

Dove wrote a book in which he set forth the fundamental doctrine that the land belongs to the people. And therefore, says a Smart Aleck writing in the *Twentieth Century*, George is a fraud, and has built up a reputation at the expense of another. What bosh! Of course, Henry George didn't originate the idea of a common right to the soil any more than Wilberforce or Garrison originated the idea of human freedom. It is as old as the eternal hills. Mr. George's merit is that he expounded it in a telling and popular way, and showed how it could be put into practice. The charge of plagiarism need not trouble him much. The same accusation has been brought against Shakespeare, Milton, Bunyan, and a long list of literary worthies down to Rider Haggard. In fact, it is always brought against any writer who rises above mediocrity. Why, first thing we know somebody will be charging GRIP with plagiarism. And it won't bother us a bit.