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Comments on the Cartoons.



GONE UP SALT RIVER.—What was once the powerful Conservative party of Manitoba is now represented in the Legislature of that Province by five members, who saved themselves in the late general election by "the skin of their teeth." In other words, the Conservative party was simply annihilated on that occasion, and not without cause. Mr. Norquay never, of course, enjoyed the full confidence of the Grits, but it must be said that he received all reasonable support from them in his efforts in the direction of Provincial Rights so long as there was an appearance of sincerity in those efforts. This was not for long. Mr. Norquay seemed utterly unable to break away from his bondage to Ottawa, and his pusillanimity at length turned his own partisans against him. The pitiable "show" made of the final deputation to the capital by the man for whom Norquay had jeopardized everything, and the subsequent surrender to

Greenway of all that had been formerly refused, sealed the doom of the subservient leader. The people of the Province concluded that their interests would be safer in the hands of an opponent of the Ottawa Government, since it was evident that "friendship" meant nothing so far as the well-being of the Province was concerned—but was, on the other hand, a positive disadvantage. There still remained a solid body of Ottawa sympathizers, to whom the offices were of more account than any patriotic consideration, and these worthies practically constituted the party which faced the Green-

way Government at the polls. The result was, as has already been stated, that they were, to all intents and purposes, wiped out of existence. The victory for the constitutional rights of the Province was complete and emphatic, and it is one in which all Canadians can rejoice. It will perhaps help to impress upon the encroachers of the central Government the fact that arbitrary interference with the guaranteed liberties of the people in the interests of monopolists will not longer be tolerated. It will also, we hope, teach the useful lesson that the introduction of Dominion issues into Provincial politics is a costly folly, to be hereafter avoided. Mr. Greenway promises to use his great strength with moderation, and we trust he will have the good sense to do so, but an efficient Opposition is desirable all the same. It remains now only to reorganize the Conservative party of the Province on new lines, and whatever else is omitted from its platform, this plank *must* be nailed down:—"Manitoba first; and no entangling alliances outside."

CAUGHT NAPPING.—In a late issue of the *Empire* the editor, commenting on the Tariff reduction bill now before the American Congress, wrote to the following effect:—"Mills proposes to make tin-plates free. Canada has long had free tin, and the benefit has been felt by all consumers of tinware. He also proposes to place wool on the free list. This we also enjoy, and the benefit is felt by every consumer of woollen goods—that is, by everybody." Here we have the doctrine plainly taught that the consumer is benefited by the absence of protective duties, and it would seem reasonable to suppose that, conversely, he must be injured by the imposition of such duties. But the *Empire* was established for the express purpose of teaching that Protection is a good thing for the country, which is chiefly inhabited by consumers. We would recommend cold coffee to our esteemed confrere of the Chop-house Lane, as it will never do to be caught napping on "duty" in this way.

"THIS cool weather," said the scientific *savant*, "is owing to the enlargement of the sun-spots." "That so?" responded the summer-resort proprietor; "then I wish to thunder they'd git smaller!"

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THE Chinese question continues to agitate Anglo-Saxon communities in all parts of the world. It is hard to decide just what should be done about the almond-eyed strangers of the East. To drive John forcibly from Christian lands doesn't seem the best way of recommending the religion of "the brotherhood of man" to his acceptance, and yet unrestricted Chinese emigration means misery to our own working classes, at least so long as land-monopoly is permitted by law. We will postpone the settlement of this vexed question until after the summer vacation.

In the meantime, there can be no doubt that the Chinese are a source of much political Confucion.

* * *

IT seems certain that at long last the wretched man Brooks, *alias* Maxwell, will suffer the death penalty for the murder of Preller. It is now three years since the crime was committed, and no legal stone has been left unturned to secure the prisoner's escape from the dread consequences of his act. American justice goes slow, but it generally gets there ultimately. This is why we believe that citizens of the Republic will finally get permission to manage their own business affairs without the "protective" intervention of the Government.

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AN artist in the vicinity of Kingston sends us a striking composite cartoon for insertion in these columns. Not having full command of the pencil, this esteemed contributor has made his cartoon with a pair of shears. It is on this wise:—A portrait of a dignitary of the Catholic Church—no name is attached, but there is