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President	JAMES L. MORRISON.
General Manager	J. V. WRIGHT.
Artist and Editor	J. W. BENGOUGH.
Manager Publishing Dept.	R. T. LANCFIELD.

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⚠ For Publisher's Notes see last column on page 10.

Comments on the Cartoons.



THE GREAT BRITISH NORTH AMERICA "ACT."

—When the Fathers of Confederation had completed their labours they congratulated one another on the creation of a great and united Dominion—the makings of a solid nation. We have had twenty years experience under the Union, and we find ourselves to-day pretty much what we were before 1867—a collection of Provinces with but little mutual sympathy, and a spirit of "every man for himself" animating all. It begins to look as though the experiment of building a nation with the materials, and under the geographical circumstances of Canada, is doomed to ultimate failure. The result of present stock-taking is not highly satisfactory to Ontario, which has all along been the dignified but good-natured milch cow of the combination; and, so far as we can gather from expressions of local opinion, none of the other Provinces seem willing to admit that the union has benefited them. It will be a vast pity if, after all, we have to abandon the scheme, for the idea of a great British power on the American continent is one which is dear to every Canadian. It *must* be accomplished if it is within human power to accomplish it. As a means to this end we hail with pleasure the proposed convention at which the revision of the B. N. A. Act is to be discussed. Under present conditions there is too much of a strain on the Dominion Treasury, and the continuance of the wholesale subsidizing and bribing which now seems to be absolutely necessary, means certain ruin to the country.

SALISBURY'S PLAN.—If Lord Salisbury and his colleagues correctly represent British feeling (which we greatly doubt), then Britain rather enjoys the "Irish question," for the noble Lord is taking the very best means to perpetuate it, by still further aggravating the admitted trouble. The peace and quietness which is the result of a gag forcibly tied over the mouth of a community has no

value, and can only be regarded with complacency by those who prefer living over a volcano to dwelling on solid ground. "Coercion" is no cure for the Irish complaint—it is prescribing a mustard-plaster where a tonic is demanded, or, in this case, literally giving a stone instead of bread. It is tolerably clear, moreover, that the "facts" urged in justification of resort to this policy by the Salisbury Government are not facts at all.

"IT WILL NOT DOWN."—The Ministerial Association of Toronto, after full discussion, having decided that there is "something in" the cry of R.C. aggression in connection with the public schools, appointed a committee to interview Hon. Mr. Ross, and urge upon him the desirability of making the necessary alterations in the regulations of the Education Department.

THE FEDERATION CONVENTION.—We are not aware of having cast our vote for or against Sir Alexander Campbell as a candidate to represent Canada at the Colonial Hen Party now sitting in London. We have no recollection, in fact, that he was ever elected at all, and yet we are informed that he is abroad as our "representative." The forms of popular government appear to be set aside in this glorious country, where they would be inconvenient, as in this case; for we have no idea that the people would have approved this senseless mission if the question had been submitted to them. They will be called upon to pay the expenses of his pleasant holiday, however, of course.

FROM OUR MONTREAL MAN.

At the Windsor Hotel, famed for its good management and its literary manager, is an association known to the general public as the Chair Brigade, which meets nightly in the rotunda. The object of the association has not as yet been disclosed—whether it be political, social or dramatic. They are to a pretty general degree *dram*-atic in their tastes, but are not fired with action or feeling. They *ought* to be fired, however.

* * *

Two ladies walking on St. James Street. A howling swell passes.

"Who is he?"

"I do not know, but he belongs to the Metropolitan Club."

"Well, I should have thought the club belonged to him."

* * *

THE news comes over the wires that Chicago has fifty boodlers in quod. Our Montreal boodlers are not in quod, they are still in *statu quo*.

* * *

THE financial market here is often in a very chaotic state. Money is quoted scarce and tight; and when money is tight the banks are very full, as might be expected.

* * *

A NEW order has been issued in the C. P. R. offices here. It is that the secretary Drinkwater, and that no one take even "Van" Horn.

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FOR some time past engineers have been blowing up the ice for some distance down the river with dualin. This is expected to aid in removing the chances for an inundation the coming spring. It has been suggested that the winter be blown up in order to get rid of it.

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In the Fraser Institute meets the Astro-Metereological Society which is studying astronomy. Across the way is the St. James' Club, the members of which are studying gastronomy.