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

Comments on the Cartoons.



ANOTHER CONTEMPLATED RAID.—The *Mail* has done a distinct service to the country in raising its voice against any further submission on the part of the Government to demands for further grants to the C. P. R. Syndicate or to the Province of Quebec. There is said to be good ground for the belief that at the approaching session of Parliament both these perennial mendicants will be at Ottawa hat in hand. It will not be surprising, moreover, to find the representatives of Nova Scotia clamoring for some of the fabulous good things so lavishly promised by Sir Charles Tupper, and it is beyond question that to accede to one demand means to admit all. The good sense of the country is opposed to any further fatuous nonsense of this kind, which simply means ruin. It has got to be stopped, and at once. In the presence of an empty exchequer, and a public debt that is appalling to every sober-minded citizen, these demands are simply piratical, and if the present Parliament isn't a degree worse than its predecessor, they will be peremptorily refused. Brother *Mail*, keep at it!

HE'S THERE TO STAY.—At last a Reform leader has come to the front who apparently is prepared to do what the average leader of that kidney has heretofore refrained from doing, viz., take a leaf boldly from the Tory book of political management. Mr. Mercier, the new Quebec Premier, is impressed with the idea that his Province needs him to stay in office for some considerable time to get through the big task that must now be faced. He has, therefore, made up his mind to stay. To this virtuous end he is fixing things after the approved John A. method—using the whole power of patronage and legislation to entrench himself securely in office. No doubt Mr. Mercier consoles himself with the doctrine that the end justifies the means, and that even a gerrymander will be excusable if it enables him to lift his Province in due time out of the bog. This is very poor morality, and we hope he will perpetrate no gerrymander,

whatever the consequences. Honor in public life pays better than cleverness in the long run, as the grand names of Baldwin, Mackenzie, and Joly testify. Let Mr. Mercier think on these things.

THE "LIBERAL TEMPERANCE" POSITION.—Mr. Goldwin Smith and his colleagues of the Liberal-Whiskey-and-Water-Temperance Combination have waited upon the Ontario Government to protest against the contemplated authorization of scientific instruction on alcohol in the public schools. We thank them for their trouble in convincing the Government of the utter weakness of the Alcoholists on this important question. Indeed, it would generally be safe for any government to do just the opposite of what Mr. Smith wants done. On every moral and social question of the time he is wrong—on this theme, ludicrously so. The idea of a man of his alleged clearness of intellect using the argument that the proposed instruction would "prejudice the minds of the rising generation" and give "them a partisan view" of the alcohol question! It was about on a par with his famous declaration in St. Catharines, that pork and tea were as dangerous to society as whiskey! The level-headed members of the Government dismissed the little coterie of cranks with the good-natured smile their twaddle evoked.

SOMETHING REQUIRING EXPLANATION.—The recent article in the *Presbyterian Review*, reviving the question of the amendments made since 1874 in the School Regulations with reference to religious exercises, has created something of a sensation. The amendments are certainly significant, and readily adjust themselves to a theory of Roman Catholic interference. In our cartoon we bring the matter to a pictorial focus, so that everybody can see it at glance. This we feel it our duty to do, as the question is a most vital one, and the undue influence of any Church is something that we will never submit to in this Province. What has the Government to say to this record? There is no election on the carpet now, and the question cannot be waved aside nor drowned down by loud and angry charges of Toryism, etc., etc.

THE POET McLACHLAN.—Canada's Old Grey Poet, McLachlan, has been on a short visit to Toronto, and many of our citizens have heartily shaken his gifted hand—the one with which he has so long wielded his pen in the interest of the Right. Mr. Alex. McNabb and Mr. Jas. L. Morrison, his especial friends, have been as kind to the good old man as their fellow-citizens could wish, and Principal Grant (whose warm words of eulogy on McLachlan will be remembered by those who heard his lecture at Wycliffe Hall) had the pleasure of shaking hands with the poet for the first time during this visit. *GRIP*, whose pages have been enriched with McLachlan's work, thinks it right to commemorate this pleasant incident.

WITH GRIP'S COMPLIMENTS.

MARRIED at St. John, N.B., Mr. Jos. S. Knowles to Miss Noble.

Here's fortune to the happy pair,
A long and prosperous life;
The lady's got a jolly hub,
Joe's got a Noble wife.

A WOMAN'S COMMENDATION.

WE women better perhaps than any other human beings, know how the demon drink has devastated families and ruined once happy homes. And therefore I, and I am sure thousands more of my sex, cannot but be grateful for the war you incessantly wage against this curse of our too-often boasted civilization. E. C. F.

SENATOR SANFORD.

(AN "AMUSING" GLOBE ARTICLE.)

MR. SANFORD, of Hamilton, has been made a Senator. This is the reward of his sneaking desertion of the Reform party. He has sold himself to the Tory corruptionists for the sake of a paltry bribe in the shape of a Senatorship—a thing which any man of sense now regards as exceedingly small pay for dirty work.

Pleasantry* aside, Mr. Sanford's appointment is one of the best Sir John has ever made, as the new Senator is a man of ability and high character.

* Pleasantry? Hokey-fly, how very pleasant!