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**Comments**

ON THE

**Cartoons.**

**IN SIR JOHN'S BOOTS.**—The Government continues to hang together nobly, and everything indicates that it will weather the gale safely until the end of the session. Mr. Laurier formally challenged the policy of the Administration on Monday of last week, and

after a debate lasting from three o'clock until after midnight, in which many able speeches were made on both sides, the vote was called and showed a majority of twenty, with four or five ministerial absentees. This division was notable for the defection of three Conservatives—Tarte, Savard and Vallaircourt—who voted with the Opposition. Messrs. Tarte and Savard and Mr. Joncas (who was on this occasion paired with Mr. Chapleau) have formally left the

Conservative party. Much was made by the Liberals of Mr. Abbott's statement in the Senate, that he was a Compromise Premier, appointed not because of special ability, but because he was inoffensive and had made no enemies. This was taken to mean the existence of factious divisions in the party ranks, but the Minister of Justice repudiated that explanation, and attributed the awkward expressions to Mr. Abbott's excessive modesty. The gravest objection urged against the new Premier was his friendship for the C.P.R., which it was insisted he could not get rid of by selling out his stock and resigning his seat on the directorate. This point was parried by one of the Government speakers by the statement that Mr. Abbott's past eminence in connection with this great railway was a testimony to his ability as a man of affairs. He certainly is an able man, and though he doesn't quite fill Sir John Macdonald's boots, he will probably be able to keep them afloat as the ark of the party as long as anybody else could.

**THE DESERTED CHEILD.**—Mr. Dalton McCarthy's sudden departure for England at the present juncture is much commented upon. He appealed to his constituents in the late election upon a little platform of his own, the chief plank of which was the immediate introduction of a bill to abolish Separate schools and Official French in the North-West Territories. This bill he bound himself to prepare and bring before the House, though on matters of general policy he proposed to support the Government. Well, he was elected, and although several opportunities have been presented, he has not brought forward the measure. And now, he goes away for the remainder of the session. Col. O'Brien says it's all right, but this cannot mean anything will be done before the House rises. The Opposition explanation is that Mr. McCarthy's love for his party is much stronger than his Equal Rights sentiments, and he has taken himself off so as to avoid embarrassing the Government at this critical time. This is probably the true explanation, and if so, is Mr. McCarthy very much to be blamed, after all? In his opinion, nothing would be gained for his pet project by the defeat of the Government.



**CANADIANS** ought to feel thankful that in 1849 Mr. J. J. C. Abbott signed the Annexation Manifesto. His presence at the head of the Conservative party stops the mouths of those silly and dishonest Conservatives (*vide Montreal Gazette*) who for some time back have been injuring the country by denouncing the members of the other party as "disloyal," not because they believed the charge, but for the purpose of "practical politics."

**THE Hamilton Times** enters a vigorous protest against those injudicious panegyrists of the late Sir John A. Macdonald who emphasize the fact that in all his long career in office that notable statesman was personally honest in his dealings with the public funds. The protest is called for. As the *Times* says, Sir John deserves no praise for this, because he was not addicted to larceny. It is really doing an injustice to his memory to dwell upon such a point, and furthermore, it is calculated to convey the impression to outsiders that as a rule our public men are thieves. This is running down the country with a vengeance, though it be done unintentionally.

**THE** evidence in the Tarte investigation, however, seems to indicate that there are some exceptions to the rule of the uniform honesty of Canadian public men. Should the verdict be given against the persons implicated after their defence has been heard, it is due to the good name of Parliament and the country that they be fittingly punished. In addition to being expelled from the House