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Comments on the Grafting.



HIS TENDER REGARD.—What a tender regard the Traffic has for the dear little party leaders! "Come along my precious pets, and don't be tempted to touch that nasty Prohibition question; it is not ripe, and would give you a terrible political colic!" And although each of these leaders is aware that the drink system is the chief source of wretchedness and crimes, and that in Canada it is destroying thousands of lives and millions of money, both are glad to accept the precedential view that public opinion will not at present sustain definite measures for its overthrow. That this opinion as to the "unripeness" of the question is so earnestly expressed by the traffic itself is enough to throw suspicion upon its soundness; but it is quite certain

that it never will be ripe if the same authority is to be the judge. In the mouths of political leaders, this cant phrase simply means that they believe a majority of the people of Canada are in favor of the Saloon as opposed to the Home: and that the Party which would declare for the immediate suppression of the rum business would be sure of defeat at the polls. This is a libel on our population. The same thing was no doubt often bawled from public platforms in Kansas by politicians who had the fear of the saloon vote before their eyes, but when the matter was brought to the test what was the result? It was a sweeping victory for the Home. To-day the great State of Kansas is free from the clutch of this modern monster, and presents a picture in most instructive contrast to the neighbouring states in all that goes to make up the well-being of a commonwealth. Not only is Kansas richer in comfort and peace, but very much richer in money than ever she was under

the saloon system. It would pay Canada well to send a joint-commission of Grit and Tory leaders down to investigate the present condition of Kansas. We would hear no more of this "not ripe enough" talk.

"RATS!"—Experience keeps a dear school, but she is a capital teacher and has a knack of impressing her lessons upon the pupil's mind in a most effective manner. The working men of Canada have been attending the political economy class in this school ever since 1878, and it would be interesting now to hear what they have to say as to a high tariff protecting labor, or the consumer not paying the duties. The orator who should stand up before an audience here now, and repeat this economic nonsense of the N. P. propaganda, would find that he had fewer dunces before him than in his first appearance. The practical education of the past ten years would enable the dullest of his hearers to see through his fallacies, and instead of the approving cheers of the other days he would be greeted with the sententious cry of "Rats!"

THE Provincial Treasurer of Quebec appears to have gone into evangelistic work. He has just laid before the House a scheme for the "redemption" of the debentures and the "conversion" of the debt of the Province.

THE Government seems quite determined to "sit down" on hypercriticism. A great fuss was kicked up over the proposed appointment of Major-General Cameron to the chief position in the Military College, —the Government organ at Ottawa joining in the protest. The only ground alleged for this was that Major-General Cameron was in all respects incompetent for the position. The reply of the authorities was conclusive—the gallant warrior was promptly placed in the position. "He may not know anything of military matters" say the Government; "what has that to do with it? Isn't he a relative of the Tupper family?"

A PLEASANT party, with free pass and champagne accompaniment, starts shortly for the Pacific coast for a holiday outing. By way of a joke on the tax payers of the country, the party will be under the title of "Military Commission to Examine the Defences of Canada."

THE Orangemen have had their parade, their speeches and their soda-water, and the Protestant religion is safe for another twelve months. It is distressing to think how few of us realize that but for this regular Twelfth of July demonstration, our civil and religious liberty would not be worth a day's purchase!

"PUBLIC business must be the first consideration with me," wrote Sir John, to the Manager of Grimsby Park, in gently breaking his engagement to speak at the opening services. And then he hastened away to some Maritime watering-place to look after the affairs of the Dominion.

THEY say this is a practical age, and yet nobody has ever pointed out what useful purpose is served by this shooting business at Wimbledon every year. If anybody happens to know what sense there is in it, or what good it does anybody, he will oblige by addressing this office, enclosing a stamp.