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Comments on the Cartoons.



THE WOMEN-FOLKS ALARMED!
Our last issue, in which we made some reference to the probable effect of Mr. McCarthy's introduction of his proposed resolution in favor of abolishing official French in the North-West Territories, was hardly off the press before the honorable gentlemen in question was on his feet in the Commons fulfilling his promise to the country. It becomes our first duty, therefore, to acknowledge that our anticipations of his possible failure to do so through considerations of party expediency, have been pleasantly

disappointed. If—as is quite likely—Mr. McCarthy was subjected to all manner of cajoleries, threats and pleadings to refrain from the performance of this duty, it is all the more to his credit that he has withstood the pressure. At all events he has submitted his resolution, and, in doing so, has given good reasons why it ought to pass the house. To judge by the remarks interjected by members during the delivery of the speech, we have correctly (as usual, of course,) indicated the sentiments of both parties on the question in the accompanying cartoon. This "live question" has thrown the old ladies of the House into a state of terror. Most of them know (and probably feel) as well as Mr. McCarthy that the North-West Territories have no use

for two official languages; that the imposition of this malign institution upon them without the consent of the people directly interested was a serious blunder of a former Parliament; and that it would be the part of sound statesmanship to correct the error at the earliest possible moment. Indeed, we have enough respect for the present House of Commons to believe that a majority of its members are secretly of opinion that Canada would be a great deal better off if its entire population spoke the English language and that alone. But Parliament is no place in which to express one's real beliefs about anything. It is an institution for the furtherance of party ends, which are often something entirely apart from the interests of the country. Whatever may be the actual views of the Grits and Tories at Ottawa on the abolition of official French in the North-West, they are going to oppose and defeat Mr. McCarthy's motion. To pass it would relieve the people up there of a heavy and unnecessary debt, and tend materially to the social advancement of the Territories; true. To defeat it will be to perpetuate the present unsatisfactory and dangerous condition of affairs; true again. But what have Sir John Macdonald, Mackenzie Brwell, Wilfred Laurier, David Mills, and the rest of our Statesmen (printer, a capital S here, please,) got to do with considerations of this sort? The great question with them is, what will the French vote in Quebec say to this? And everybody knows the answer. The French vote will go in a solid and unreasoning chunk for the party that stands by official French, and against the party that opposes it. Hence the only possible position for our Statesmen (another capital here. Mr. Printer.) of both parties is to stand by the anachronism, in which case the Vote will remain in its present nicely balanced position. The sooner Mr. McCarthy walks into the House at the head of a Third Party, united in the bonds of intelligent patriotism, and determined upon the extermination of the manifest evils now afflicting the country, the better it will be for the Dominion.

HOLY BRIBERY.—It appears that Mr. Mercier, the Macdonaldian leader of the Quebec Government, has for some time been practising a new and highly effective scheme of bribery of his own invention. He has found that "Benedictions" from the Pope are just as good as hundred-dollar bills for "persuading" the rural voters of our intelligent sister-province, and so, whenever an election contest is "on," he sends for a "Benediction," which, somehow, he always gets, and, armed with this, he invariably routs his opponents, whose piety is so manifestly inferior to his own. This scheme, we need hardly say, excited the jealousy of the rival party for a long time. Some very bold and adventurous Catholic, urged to the sacrilegious deed by hope of office, went so far as to investigate the matter, and, no doubt to the extreme disgust of Monsieur Mercier, discovered that these "Benedictions" were the result of a pious fraud. Anybody could get them who made application on a blank-form provided for the purpose, and the Pope knew nothing about their issue! As a consequence Mercier's game is up—at least he will no longer have a monopoly of the "sacred" documents, and perhaps after a while, when the facts become known throughout the Province, the *habitants* themselves may refuse to regard them with fear and trembling.



OUR contemporary, the *Mail*, has at last taken hold of the annexation conspiracy charges in a business-like manner. On Thursday last it published a telegram from Senator Dolph, of Washington, which scored a knock-down against the *Empire's* "commissioner." That paper had published an interview with the Senator, in which he left it to be easily inferred that the charges against Mr. Farrer were true. The Senator now asserts that he was never interviewed at all, and made no statement whatever.

Under the circumstances the *Mail* feels justified in intimating that the *Empire's* commissioner is an "unmitigated liar." There are some other points yet to be cleared up; Mr. Wiman's very positive statement to the