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Comments on the Cartoon.



OVERLADEN.—The Dominion Cabinet has just been reconstructed. Hon. G. E. Foster becomes Finance Minister in succession to Sir Chas. Tupper; Mr. Chas. H. Tupper is made Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and ex-Lt.-Gov. Dewdney takes the portfolio of the Interior, made vacant by the death of Hon. Mr. White. In all three cases the popular opinion seems to be that the new appointees are overweighted with the duties of their Departments. Mr. Foster is entirely unknown in financial circles, and it is just possible that he possesses the requisite qualifications for the post of Finance Minister. Indeed, it would not be hard to know as much about fiscal affairs as Sir Chas. Tupper knew. But the latter possessed talent as a manager and debater which Mr. Foster lacks; he was, whether

right or wrong, an essentially strong man, whereas Mr. Foster's most striking characteristic is his weakness. The post to which he is appointed is undoubtedly the most important in the Cabinet, and at the present moment, if ever, we need a man of consummate ability, profound knowledge and commanding force of character in that position. The new Minister of Marine is a very young man—not yet thirty-three—and it would be unfair to expect of him the executive ability which mature experience alone can give. He is chosen, we suspect, more for the sake of his name than anything else, and just at present we ought to have a man of known and proved efficiency for the ministry of Marine. It is not a crime to be a young man, but it may be a very serious blunder to entrust a young man with responsibilities grave enough to tax the wisest of the middle-aged. As to Mr. Dewdney, his elevation to a place in the Cabinet is little short of a public outrage. It is condemned by Con-

servative and Liberal alike, and the Premier's own estimate of it is indicated by his intention to make a senator of the gentleman so as to avoid the certain defeat which would await him at the polls. Dewdney's name is execrated throughout the North-West Territories as that of a sordid, self-seeking adventurer, and it is humiliating to think of his being elevated to a position of honor and influence over the heads of men who possess both character and ability.

"THE physicians who have examined Mr. Bright," says the cable, "express no opinion as to the nature of his malady." There can surely be no doubt that it is Bright's disease?

THE Russian diplomats declare that the new trans-Caspian railway means the peace of India. "Yes!" cries John Bull, in some alarm, "but how big a piece?"

THE London *Economist*, commenting on the Canadian Budget says: "It will be better for them (the minters) and for Canada, if they adhere to their present resolution to keep a tighter hand upon the capital expenditure." The *Economist* will no doubt be disgusted to observe that the Government broke right through this "resolution" by appointing a soberer instead of a tighter hand as Finance Minister.

HIS grace the Duke of Argyle has had his rents reduced by the Land Commission about thirty-six per cent. When the other sixty-four per cent. goes from his purse into the public till, complete justice will be done. Meantime the tenantry have changed the old slogan into "God bless the Land Commissioners!"

SIR CHARLES TUPPER made a very fast passage across the Atlantic. And now he will settle down to an equally fast life in London.

OF course there can be no possible connection between these two paragraphs, but it's queer that they appear in print on the same day:

NEW YORK, May 28.—A dispatch from Augusta, Me., says Mr. Blaine's house was broken into some time ago while he and his family were absent, and all his political and business correspondence and private papers, involving financial operations, which were in his library, were overhauled and a portion of them abstracted.

NEW YORK, May 28.—The *World* will to-morrow say editorially in addition to a statement already published in reference to Mr. Blaine's withdrawal:—"We repeat with absolute confidence our previous announcement, and add to it this further information: Mr. Blaine has already written to one of his most intimate friends a letter positively refusing the use of his name as a Presidential candidate, and declaring that he could not under any circumstances accept the nomination."

WHAT does the *Globe* expect to gain by its continual harping on the string of Canada's military weakness, and the impossibility of Great Britain defending us in case of attack? This is poor talk at the best, and seems childish as well, if, as the *Globe* takes care to assert, the United States is the only country that could attack us, and the last one that would think of doing so. Does the organ forget Canada's past military history? and is it not aware that Hon. Wilfred Laurier has a musket which he is prepared to shoulder at a moment's warning?

REV. DR. RAINSFORD, of New York, startled his tony congregation lately by seriously proposing that the rich people who went away for the summer should