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Comments on the Cartoons.



THE WRONG KIND OF BOYCOTT.—The passage of boycotting resolutions in regard to Exhibitions opened by Sir John Macdonald even if any appreciable portion of the public were foolish enough to carry them out, is the merest child's play. How would it injure Sir John politically if the shows, which purely as a matter of form and ceremony he is asked to open, proved failures owing to the people remaining away? It would only hurt the local managers. If the Orangemen who pass such absurd resolutions really

wish to show their disapproval of such measures as the Jesuit Bill and to effectually put a stop to party truckling to any creed or nationality, they have a far more effective weapon within their reach in the ballot. Why do they not pledge themselves not to vote for any candidate who will not pledge himself squarely to support the cause of Equal Rights? Sir John and his colleagues can very well afford to smile at all boycotting resolutions which ignore the only really telling and effectual method of applying the boycott, viz., at the nominating conventions and the polls. This shilly-shallying business of staying away from exhibitions, and the like, indicates lukewarmness rather than earnestness. If those who seek to make a great show of their indignation over the allowance of the Jesuit Bill, are now afraid to say clearly and

unhesitatingly that they will vote against all who are responsible for that iniquity, we may be certain that when the time for action comes and the country is convulsed with political excitement, they will be found wanting. But, fortunately for the success of the cause of Equal Rights, it does not depend on the exhibition boycotters and men of that stamp. There are enough who have proclaimed that in this matter they will cast Party affiliations to the winds to carry the country—if they only do as they say they will.

NEARLY PUMPED DRY.—The Tories are apt to "point with pride" to the large surpluses which the Government are able to show under the N.P. They wish to persuade the people that such accumulations are an evidence of the general prosperity, quite ignoring the fact that unnecessary taxation upon articles of general consumption simply means taking so much money out of the people's pockets. Every Canadian workingman is poorer by reason of the surplus which the Protectionists contemplate with so much satisfaction. If the people really understood their own interests, the Government would find it to their advantage to say just as little as possible about the amount of money realized by taxes on imports instead of making a parade of it. Owing to our unsound system of taxation, a large revenue implies that so much money has been wrung unnecessarily from the class least able to pay it. The burden falls mainly on the poor, while the rich, who do not as a rule consume in proportion to their wealth, escape paying their fair quota. It would be widely different were the taxes based, as they ought to be, upon land values. Then, indeed, we could look upon a large surplus with gratification, as a proof that the value of land was increasing, owing to the greater demand for it and the growing prosperity of the country.

FOR a long time past the Tories and Grits have been saying that the Equal Rights movement is dead. The success of the grand rally in the Granite rink, in this city, on the 10th inst., and the way in which smaller but no less enthusiastic gatherings are being held all over the country, shows that it is a remarkably lively corpse. Oh, no, the Equal Rights movement is neither dead nor dying. But people are very apt to believe what they earnestly wish to be true, so GRIP is not at all surprised that Grit and Tory partisans should have this impression. It will probably take an election to undeceive them. The Equal Rights movement is in far more danger of degenerating into a "No Popery" crusade than it is of dying, but while so moderate and just a man as Principal Caven remains at its head, we have assurance that the more fanatical and hot-headed elements will not be permitted to divert it from its true object.



THE tendency of English capital to seek investment in America continues. Every day we read of some new purchase of a factory, brewery or other business concern on this side the Atlantic by an English syndicate. If these speculations turn out well the labor of this continent will very soon be paying an exceedingly heavy tribute in the shape of dividends to the British plutocracy. Now, what practical return will the producer on this side get for this tax paid to foreign capitalism? Of what real advantage to the afore-said producer has the process been? Has it given him any facilities for creating wealth that did not before exist—land, buildings, machinery, material, food—anything at all, in short, essential to production? And if not, where is the justice of the English investor growing richer by reason of the toil of American workers? Think it over, and, perhaps, the conclusion may throw some light not only on the international aspect of the subject, but also on the broad general question as between Capitalism and Labor.