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Comments on the Nations.



PICNIC PRACTICE.—It is with the highest satisfaction that GRIP hails the advent of the political picnic. Something was needed to break the weary monotony that has been reigning since the close of the session, and the series of outings at which the party leaders are to mix speeches with sandwiches will effect the purpose very well. It shows an amount of sympathy and consideration on the part of these gentlemen greater than they usually get the credit for, that they should go into active work of this kind in the dog-days just for the benefit of perspiring editors and cartoonists who are sitting around in their shirt sleeves and struggling after subjects for pen and pencil. To be sure, as yet, the Liberals have the field to themselves, and Messrs. Laurier and Cartwright have made only a couple of appointments, but we have confidence that the ruction, having once begun, will go on long enough to serve every purpose. Presently, Sir John

will leave his cool retreat by the seaside and betake himself, with his lieutenants, to the picnic stump to answer as best they can the indictments made against them. Meantime, as our picture indicates, the Grit leaders have an excellent opportunity of developing their muscle on the well-known lay figure, greatly to the diversion of their followers. This figure passes amongst Liberal picnickers as a truthful embodiment of the Government, and every blow it receives is regarded as a stinger for corruption, or monopoly, or

extravagance, or incompetency, and applauded accordingly. It is for Sir John to show that all this is a delusion, that the figure is in all respects a libel on his administration. In order to do so he will of course have to prove that the N.P. is a direct and positive benefit to the farmers, that the public business is being ably, honestly and economically transacted at Ottawa, and that a change from the Tory to the Grit policy would be a dreadful calamity for the country. The sooner Sir John gets to work on this contract the better it will be for his chances, as the arguments now being addressed to the farmers by the Liberal stumbers are mighty plausible, to say the least of them.

IT LOOKS LIKE BACKSLIDING.—The new Lieut.-Governor of the North-West Territories, Royal, is evidently determined to outdewd Dewdney in the matter of removing restrictions from the liquor traffic. The Territories have always been under Prohibition, but a discretionary power to grant "permits" is lodged with the Lieut.-Governor, and this power Dewdney abused to such an extent as to practically annul the constitutional law. It was not supposed that any Lieut.-Governor could possibly do more mischief in this line than the gentleman who has been rewarded for his ill-deeds by being made Minister of the Interior, but Royal has shown that this supposition was premature. About his first act in office was to grant a "beer license" (under which, of course, all kinds of drunk-producing concoctions will be sold), to the Banff hotel—the property of the C.P.R. The liquor was imported and stored in the vaults, and then the license was issued—which would seem to indicate that there was a pretty clear understanding between the C.P.R. and the representative of Royal-ty. It is now stated by the Regina Leader that "beer-licenses" are to be issued to all the hotels in the N.-W. Territories, and thus the law is to be practically repealed, very much against the wishes of all the decent settlers in the country. The Dominion Government must bear the direct responsibility for all this, as the Lieut.-Governor of the Territories carries out his nefarious schemes through orders-in-uncil passed at Ottawa. It would seem highly fitting that Sir John should be interviewed just now by Mr. Hunter, the evangelist, under whose ministrations he recently professed a change of heart. Mr. Hunter sincerely believes in the genuineness of the Premier's conversion, and loses no opportunity of expressing himself to that effect. We would all like to share that belief, but every tree must be judged by its fruits—and beer-licenses do not grow on any Christian tree. If it is replied that this matter is in the domain of politics, and must not be regarded as having a bearing on Sir John's private character as a Christian, we have only to reply once more that the religion which fails to make a man clean throughout—politically as well as personally—is a fraud and a sham.



TO THE "ARIZONA KICKER" MAN.

DEAR BRO.—

The above portrait has been painted especially to let you and the general public see the kind of hairpin who is running this paper during these holidays. Our editor-in-chief, accompanied by the cartoonist and the man who explains the jokes, are off for their holidays, and I'm boss while they're away. Your trials and sufferings have been a holy affliction to my mind, but I didn't see how it was in my power to do anything for you till I got into office. But now, old boy, here's your chance! You come right on here and I'll guarantee you five dollars a week and pickings. You say you are "neither a bigamist, an eeloper, embezzler, horse-thief, jail-bird or gambler." Moreover, you state that "we have reduced tony