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Comments on the Customs.



PROVINCIAL GENEROSITY ON DOMINION CASH. — The *Empire*, which is "established and endowed" as the special pleader of the Government, deprecates the popular clamor against the Jesuit Estates Bill. "It is an exhibition of impertinence," says the organ, "seeing that the legislation was quite within the powers of the Quebec Government. It is no outsider's business how they see fit to squander their own money down there, whether by voting half a million to the Jesuits or to the man in the moon." This is about as forcible as anything a journalist in such a tight place could be expected to scrape up for the occasion. But of course it really amounts to nothing. In the first place, the incorporation and subsidization of the Jesuits is far more than a mere local act. It is a matter which touches the interests of the whole Dominion most vitally. And in the next place, it is assuming far too much to talk of the proposed subsidy as something to be paid out of Quebec's "own money." Everybody knows that the treasury of the French Province is all but empty, and that the deliberate intention of the managers of this political deal is to make the payment in question out of the proceeds of a fresh raid upon the Dominion funds. Before the present session at Ottawa is over some more or less plausible appeal will be made in behalf of Quebec, and in response to it an unconsidered trifle will be sure to find its way into the supplementary estimates under the head of "railway subsidy," or something equally elastic. This being so, the people of the Dominion at large have every right to protest against the Act and to demand its disallowance. They are going to do so, too.

When it becomes generally understood that the Act has *not* yet passed beyond the control of the Federal Government—as is now popularly supposed—but that it is subject to the veto for several months to come, we have confidence that the public sentiment will be revived, and the agitation will take such a form that the pottering politicians will find their offices in danger, and do from fear what statesmen would have done from principle.

THE NEW LUTHER.—A cry has gone up for a leader to step forward to deliver the Canadian people from the dangers which beset them. He has come! Observe his noble presence on our first page. Like Luther of old, the new Deliverer has nailed his thesis to the church door, but the controversy he has with Rome is not, like Luther's, concerning religious doctrine—it is purely a question of civil politics. To the Roman Catholic worshipper absolute liberty is heartily granted—the same measure of liberty we ask for ourselves. Between man and God let no earthly power dare to interfere. In the civil realm we also demand equality of rights. The pretensions of any Church or sect to control the political acts of citizens we repudiate and reject, and if any Church claims special authorization from the Almighty to govern the people outside of their spiritual affairs, we denounce the claim as a lying fraud. We propose that these doctrines shall be enforced in Canada, and to that end have proclaimed a new Declaration of Independence, whose propositions we commend to the consideration of all.



R. ALEXANDER MACKENZIE, on his accession to power, offered Mr. Carruthers a Senatorship, but he declined it. His common sense was of the most uncommon quality. Thus it is written in the obituary notice of a prominent citizen of Kingston. The sequence of the sentences is perfect.

CONGRESSMAN BAKER has introduced a Bill to provide for retaliation on the part of the United States "in case of any unfriendly measures being carried at Ottawa, as is now threatened." "Evil for evil" is good Protectionist Christianity, and Mr. Baker ought to be admired for trying to live up to it. It is humiliating to every respectable Canadian, however, to know that the Government of his country acts in such a way as to impress outsiders with the view that we are a sneaking, unprincipled lot of creatures.

IN showy gold letters upon some of the ground floor windows of the fine new building of the Ontario Medical Association, are the words: "Toronto General Burying-grounds Trust." It is suggested that the doctors ought to keep a man stationed at the door to explain to a puzzled public that there is no professional connection between the Association and its tenants.

THE N.P. imposes a duty upon corn for the benefit of Canadian agriculture, but, lest this should injure the highly moral and beneficial industry of manufacturing drunkards, a "drawback" to the amount of the duty is allowed to distillers upon all liquor exported. Dr. Landerkin—innocent man!—thought the principle ought to be extended to the farmers who pay duty upon corn which is afterwards exported in the form of beef, and he introduced a motion in Parliament last week to that effect. After a sharp debate the resolution was defeated, 112 to 70. There was nothing the matter with the doctor's logic; where he made the mistake was in supposing that there is any principle about the N.P.