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Comments on the Cartoons.



PRETTY PROTECTION.—The grievances of the Canadian millers have been ventilated for a considerable time through the press, and by deputations at Ottawa, but it may be doubted whether the average citizen has a clear understanding of the case, for the average citizen pays little attention to matters outside of his own immediate business. It has become the habit of that excellent but busy individual to look to GRIP for his instruction on public affairs, as he says he can gather more knowledge from a cartoon in two minutes than he could from a prosy article in half an hour. We therefore deem it our duty to picture the facts in the case of the Canadian millers, in a manner to make clear the rank

injustice under which they are suffering, and that at the hands of a Government which is never weary of indulging in drivel about "Canada for the Canadians," "loyalty to the old flag," and all the rest of it. The case is very simple—as are also those millers who continue to support a policy which makes it possible. It so happens that, on account of occasional short crops in Canada, our millers find it necessary to import wheat from the States for the manufacture of flour. It takes something over four bushels of wheat to make a barrel of the latter article, and upon each bushel our paternal Government has placed a tax of fifteen cents—equivalent to a duty of 7½ cents upon the barrel of Canadian flour. This wheat tax is intended to protect the Canadian farmer (who hasn't any wheat to sell, or the foreign grain would not be imported), and it makes up to him for the

taxes he has to pay on other things. No doubt the farmer sees through this and appreciates it—nobody else can. But to return to the miller. He pays 7½ cents per barrel duty on all the flour he makes, and then he is expected to enthuse because the great N.P. has given him the home market, in which he can get back his duty and a good profit besides from the Canadian consumer. But what does he find when he goes into the home market? He finds it filled up with Yankee flour, on which the duty is only fifty cents per barrel at our custom house! Further than this, the home miller has to pay high taxes on his machinery, belting, oil, coal, and everything else he uses in his mill—from all of which imposes his American competitor is free. Taken altogether, this is as able-bodied a grievance as has yet arisen under that grievance-breeder, the N.P. The millers ask for relief—they plead and pray for it. Sir John has piously admonished them to keep calm and trust in Providence.

THE WAY IT LOOKS.—The casual observer is frequently astray in his conclusions, and it is just possible he may be wrong in thinking that the late session of Parliament marked a decided triumph for political Romanism in this country, and that at this moment the Government, Opposition and Governor-General are practically "in the hands" of the Jesuits. For the sake of votes, or the preservation of "peace at any price," guardians of the public interests have given themselves away, leaving the future consequences out of the question. The real truth may be, of course, that the idea of votes never entered into the matter at all, but that a stern resolve to accord justice to all, and to stand by the sacred rights of the Provinces, was the sole motive of both parties. But it doesn't look this way to the casual observer.

THE President of the C.P.R. treated the Grand Trunk people to some very plain talk on the subject of Minding One's Own Business, in his speech at the meeting of shareholders the other day. His remarks were addressed particularly to Sir Henry Tyler, who, it would appear, has fallen into the bad habit of saying nasty things about the Canadian Pacific at regular semi-annual periods. Of course this sort of thing couldn't be endured for ever. The C.P.R. is a patient ox, but Sir Henry has carried the teasing process too far, and has only himself to blame that he has at last been impaled on the Van Horne. Notwithstanding all this, however, the opinion is gaining ground that the rival corporations will shortly come together in a more pleasant manner.

WE begin to lose hope for our country. Patriotism, loyalty—those sentiments which are the very essence of national life—seem to be ebbing away in Canada. Even the Restrictionist Press is manifestly losing its snap, and is no longer distinguished for that species of patriotism which is the last refuge of a man without arguments. We are led to these sad reflections by the fact that Mr. Wiman has been and gone and made several more Commercial Union speeches in Ontario within the past fortnight, and not a solitary editor has personally abused him. Are we to understand that these journalistic bruisers have deserted their country's sacred cause, and that hereafter this unspcakable renegade, traitor, rascal, etc., etc., is to be permitted to come over and talk common sense without a word of patriotic protest on their part? Surely not!

ACCORDING to the bulletin issued by the Statistical Bureau of Ontario, the crop prospects are most gratifying. Should nothing happen to blight the fair promise, the unhappy millers of the country will be saved from the ruin which now stares them in the face. It is to be hoped that in the exuberance of the moment they will not forget that they owe their salvation to the great N.P., which has brought about the plentiful harvest, and thus relieved them from the necessity of importing wheat and paying more taxes on it than is imposed on flour.