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Comments on the Cartoons.



IN EXTREMIS. — If Dr. Brown-Sequard's elixir, which has proven so successful in restoring vigor to the aged and infirm, could only be tried upon the poor old Reform Party of this country, it would be a great blessing. It is because we have thrown out a hint to this effect as occasion served, that the vials of *Globe* wrath were recently poured out upon GRIP's devoted head, but the stupid fury of an organ which has itself been the chief cause of the Party's paralysis, does not count for much, nor does it alter the

acts. It is clear to every intelligent observer that, looking over the Dominion from end to end, there is nothing like a spirit of enthusiasm at present animating the Liberal ranks, and the reason plainly is that the members of the party have nothing to be united and enthusiastic about. What is wanted is, first, a popular policy, by which we do not mean a piece of catchy clap-trap, but a clear declaration of principle along some line of practical Reform. Instead of the present misty and spiritless attitude the Reform leaders occupy on the Tariff Question, for example, there ought to be a straight declaration of Free Trade, which would express the real belief of a vast majority of their followers. Next, having defined the policy clearly, there should be vigorous action. It is true that Mr. Laurier has of late made an appear-

ance before the public, and he deserves credit accordingly, but an occasional speech, even from so graceful an orator, is not enough. The leading men of the party in all sections of the country ought to be upon the platform in season and out of season, educating the people in the true doctrines of trade, and everything else; and the Press behind them ought to be, day by day, doing the same work. When men are fired with a great truth they do not need to be urged to enthusiasm, and the very fact that the Reform Party of Canada has nothing to say to the people except upon the eve of an election, is enough to raise a serious doubt as to its right to the name it has adopted. A clear, wise policy and vigorous action would prove a veritable elixir of life to it just now. Let Dr. Laurier try the experiment.

FORGETTING THE MAN AT THE WHEEL.—One of GRIP's friends down Brockville way sends along a little anecdote—the record of an actual fact—and we have taken the liberty to give a political twist to it. A couple of tourists, A and C, the other day engaged a French boatman, B, to row them twelve miles up the river. Shortly after starting, C produced a bottle of whisky, and after taking a pull at it, handed it to A over B's head. A, having duly refreshed, handed the bottle back to C, who before long returned it, etc., etc. Meanwhile the passage to and fro of the "stuff" was noted by the perspiring oarsman, whose thirst was gradually becoming unendurable. When the bottle had made its fifteenth passage, poor B could no longer suppress himself, so raising himself quickly from his work he glared at the passengers reproachfully and exclaimed—"By George, don't you 'se tink it's about time to grease de engine!" The unfortunate Frenchman was in a position very much like that at present politically occupied by the Canadian farmer, between the Government and the protected monopolies. He, too, is beginning to think it's about time for somebody to "grease the engine."



ENGLISHMEN on their travels who wish to be friendly to that rather considerable portion of mankind who were born and bred outside of their native island are apt to be offensively condescending. Here is Sir Edwin Arnold, for instance, who no doubt thinks he is paying the people of this Continent a neat compliment by saying that he "prefers to think of Americans as of trans-Atlantic Englishmen." It doesn't seem to strike him for a moment that Americans — including Canadians, who are to all intents and purposes Americans excepting in the minor matter of political organization—may have their own preferences.

Most of us on this side prefer to think of ourselves and have others think of us as Americans in the broad continental sense of the term. What would Sir Edwin think of the German professor who, on a visit to England, should try to express his friendly appreciation of English people by saying that he preferred to think of them as transplanted Germans? Wouldn't John Bull sit on him hard and heavy? While we admire and respect the British people, we have a distinct individuality of our own. We differ from them widely in feeling, habits of thought, tastes and ideas, and are not in the least ashamed of it or pre-