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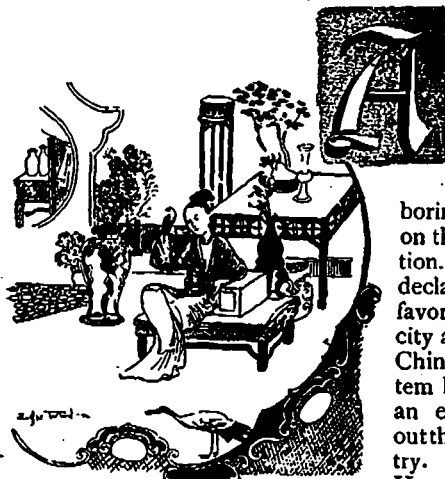
## Comments ON THE Cartoons.

THE FIERY UNTAMED STEED.—Mr. Laurier is a broad-minded Canadian. Time and again he has shown his superiority to the sectionalism which controls the minds of smaller men in Quebec and other Pro-

vinces. He is, in a true sense, a Nationalist. But for this very reason he is unfitted for the leadership of the French section of the Liberal party, if we may take the demonstration at the recent Mercier banquet to be a characteristic display of the spirit of French Liberalism. On that occasion Laurier's mild and temperate expressions were lost in the uproar of applause which greeted the speakers who talked wildly about the Tricolor being the national flag, and similar buncombe. As the leader of the Dominion Liberal party, Mr. Laurier is supposed to be in command of the French contingent, but evidently he is not a man after their own hearts. To change the figure and quote the words of *Bystander*, "If he leads French Liberalism, it is as a man leads a wild horse, by clinging desperately to its tail." Is it the case, however, that Mercierism is identical with Liberalism

in Quebec? We are often told by those who profess to make a special study of that Province that the Premier of the day is at the head of a combination which is quite distinct from the Liberal party, and in fact antagonistic to it in some respects. But if so, what was Mr. Laurier doing at the banquet?

AND IT WASN'T THE UNION JACK, EITHER.—At the banquet to which we have just referred, Mr. Mercier made a speech which was replete with Boulangerisms. His apostrophe to the Tricolor as the national flag, to his Government as the National Government and to his party as the National party, "brought down the House." But what does it mean? Are we to conclude with some usually sober-minded journalists that it seriously signifies the establishment of a New France in the midst of the Dominion? We know that Mr. Laurier has time and again laughed the idea to scorn, and yet these words were uttered and applauded in his presence. It is hard to suppose that they can be intended for anything more than oratorical fireworks. For what could a veritable French nation in Quebec add to the liberties now enjoyed there? The Tricolor? It is already floating everywhere. The Church? There does not seem to be anything left for the Church to secure. Lighter taxation? Ha! it's a wonder the "Nationalists" do not give a moment's thought to this little item. With their dream realized, what becomes of the public till at Ottawa, which is, under present circumstances, so very convenient? No; we can't imagine what Nationality would add to our French friends, unless it be glory—in a Boulanger sense.



REFRESHING wave of common sense seems to be sweeping over the neighboring Republic

on the Tariff question. Mr. Blaine's declaration in favor of Reciprocity as against the Chinese wall system has awakened an echo throughout the whole country. The New Haven *Palladium*, a prominent Re-

publican paper, hails the dawn of new light in these words:

That Mr. Blaine, the world-celebrated champion and embodiment of the old protective idea, should moderate his views and publicly declare for a more reciprocal policy with the other nations of the world, is a signal to his former followers that the new times demand new ideas.

THE moment is opportune for the return home of Mr. Henry George, who may see in this awakening of public intelligence the first fruits of many years toil of himself and other earnest Free Traders. Mr. George recently completed a remarkable tour of the Australian colonies, undertaken at the request of the Free Trade and Single Tax men of that great land. He enjoyed a triumphal progress which could have been accorded to no other living man, excepting perhaps Mr. Gladstone, and his speeches made a profound impression everywhere.

THESE eloquent words, from a prominent member of Parliament, at Henry George's closing meeting of his Australian tour, at Sydney, do the great economist no more than justice:

"The teachings of his wonderful books have already created a host of enthusiastic disciples to welcome him to these shores