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Comments on the Cartoons.



THE PREMIER VENTRILQUIST.—Some of the Government organs are impudent or stupid enough to tell the public that when the Governor-General responded to the address of the Equal Rights deputation at Quebec the other day, he did so in his capacity of the "personal representative of the Queen," and not as the constitutional head of the Canadian Government. We suspect that the impudence of this altogether outweighs its stupidity, for the editors in question

are not quite so ignorant of the rudiments of our system as they evidently suppose the people to be. Surely no schoolboy in Canada needs to be told that the Governor-General as such can have no opinions of his own apart from his responsible advisers. He is to all intents and purposes a mere lay figure, and when, as on this occasion, he delivers an opinion on a question of State policy, he is no more responsible for his utterance than is the "property" figure which the ventriloquist manipulates. The paper which Lord Stanley read to the deputation was no doubt written for him by the Minister of Justice on behalf of the Cabinet; there is no reason to suppose that any departure was made from the ordinary usage. But even if there had been—if the Governor-General had taken it upon himself to write and read the document without consulting his advisers—they, and not he, are the responsible parties, and they can only relieve themselves

of this responsibility by resigning their positions. Perhaps we ought to apologize for seriously arguing in favor of so obvious a position, but we remember that this is not the first occasion on which Sir John Macdonald has allowed his organs to meanly attempt to shift responsibility on to the shoulders of the Queen's representative, and there may possibly be Canadians who are open to deception on the point referred to. At the same time we would be sorry to suppose that we have any such dullards among our regular readers.

"HATCHED!"—The eighth day of August, 1889, completed the year in which it was competent for the Dominion Government to disallow the Jesuits' Estates Act. The fateful day passed without registering any decree to that effect, and now the Act stands for good or ill beyond the reach of any power at present known to our system of government. We believe it will be for ill—that on the 9th of August a serpent was hatched out in Quebec which will soon prove a formidable foe to the welfare of that Province. The Bill is a precedent fraught with dangers to the whole Dominion. Any Provincial Government may now with impunity incorporate any possible society, and may vote public funds—set aside with whatever sanctions to beneficent uses—to the support of sectarian institutions, contrary to the manifest spirit of our constitution, and may, without fear of rebuke from Ottawa, trample upon the dignity of the Imperial Crown. The Central Government has played the traitor to the best interests of the country, and deliberately cast away safeguards which statesmen everywhere regard as precious. And for what? For the Quebec vote, by which these incompetents hope to inflict upon us for another Parliamentary term the expensive honor of their services, and to continue in the enjoyment of the salaries which are so much beyond their honest deserts.

EXCRESCENCES!—Mr. Greenway, Premier of Manitoba, has announced his intention of taking action to abolish the French language and Separate Schools as institutions of that Province; and his Attorney-General, Mr. Martin, declares that unless a move is made in this direction during the next session of the Local House, he will resign his position in the Cabinet. Mr. D'Alton McCarthy has also declared that at the next session of the Dominion House he will introduce a motion to have the same excrescences removed from the North-West Territories Act. A majority of the people of Canada will greet these announcements with pleasure, and anxiously await the day—now near at hand—when the monstrosity of a double official language and dual schools may be done away with throughout the whole country. Our real national life will date from that day.

THE first movement in the great work entitled "Equal Rights" closed with the *diminuendo* passages at Quebec. The public may well be congratulated that it is over and done with, for notwithstanding the importance of the theme, and the excellence of the performance throughout, it must be confessed that the discussion of the Jesuit Estates Bill had become a trifle wearisome. The next movement will be broader and livelier, and better suited to the popular taste—being a discussion of the changes that are required in our Constitutional Act. While the orchestra are tuning up, we may casually remark that it is believed in well informed circles here that Premier Mercier was bitterly disappointed that his Bill was not disallowed. It was part of his little game to entrap Sir John into using the veto, and to this end he dragged the Pope's name into the measure in as aggravating a manner as possible.

REV. DR. McGLYNN gave the good people of Toronto another magnificent exposition of gospel truth at the Pavilion on the 7th. While the earnest attention and all most continuous applause of the audience testified that in their opinion he was giving utterance to "rock-ribbed Truth," it is sad to reflect that in not a single point does our Dominion correspond to the "Model Commonwealth" he so eloquently portrayed. Here there is nothing like