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Comments on the Cartoon.



THE MANITOBA VIGILANTS.—It has dawned upon the Federal Government that, in all human probability, their game is up in Manitoba. There is no longer a John Norquay to fool with. The new fellows in charge there appear to be of the rugged, red-shirted, western sort—men who have a clear idea of right and justice and are determined to have their full measure of both. *Finesse* and bamboozlement are no longer of any avail. Sir John has to deal now with straight-out opponents and not with pliable friends. So, down he comes with a proposed “compromise.” “Dear Mr. Greenway,” he says, if “you’ll only keep quiet I’ll stop disallowing after 1891!” “No, sir!” replies Greenway,

“You’ll stop right now—or you can go on, just as you like. We are going to run this Province according to the Constitution, not according to the C.P.R., and what you may do or not do doesn’t signify a straw!” This is not polished diplomacy, but it is sound statesmanship, and it is the sort of talk the people of Manitoba, without distinction of party, like to hear. Its spirit is well illustrated in the following dispatch in the *Mail* of the 3rd. ;—

Happening into Attorney-General Martin’s office to-day, *The Mail* correspondent, in discussing the Red River Valley railway question, asked Mr. Martin if the new Government would assuredly build the road. He replied in positive terms that not the slightest apprehension need be felt on that score; as the Government would build that road or die in the attempt. “But, how are you going to get over the legal difficulties?” “We are simply going to build the road.” “How about crossing Dominion lands?” “We are going to cross them.” “How about the C.P.R. track in your western extension?” “We are going to

cross the C.P.R.” “But did not Mr. Norquay fail in these things?” Mr. Martin laughed, and said, “People may talk about Mr. Norquay having tried to build the road, but I am as firmly convinced as I am of anything that Norquay did not try to build the road. I do not think there is any difficulty if people try. The difficulty was that no genuine effort was made.” “And the money?” “Don’t fret about the money. It will be forthcoming when wanted.” “But your Acts will be disallowed?” “I suppose so, but that won’t affect us. We intend to build the Red River Valley railway.”

UNRESTRICTED RECIPROCITY.—Mr. Butterworth’s bill has not yet passed the the House and Senate at Washington and been duly ratified by the Commons and Senate of Canada, so that, in the meantime, the lines of custom houses still stand along our frontier for the due discouragement of mutual exchange in goods. We enjoy full and unrestricted reciprocity, however, in the other thing—to wit, delinquent bank officials. Toronto has, especially, been doing a brisk export trade in this line of late. A great gap has been made in our choice society by the sudden departure of persons whose health demanded a climate free from all germs of liquidators, masters-in-ordinary and other fatal indisposers. And meantime Uncle Sam has been keeping the account balanced by sending us similar products. This is civilization. Barbarism would probably suggest a high tariff on defaulters and free trade in goods, but who would dream of going back to barbarism?

IT is to be hoped that the *Globe’s* long and lacrymose article on Sir John Macdonald’s attempt to “bribe” Ald. Hallam, will help to keep the Premier in memory of the tax on books. As was pointed out to him at the Public Library, the duty is a direct impost on knowledge, and serves no good end whatever. Of course, Sir John said he would “lay the matter before his colleagues,” but everybody knows this means much less than Mr. Mowat’s “consideration” chestnut. After reading the *Globe* article referred to, Sir John ought, at all events, to remove the duty on elementary books of humor, so that our esteemed contemporary may not hereafter make itself ridiculous by mistaking a transparent joke for a gross attempt at bribery.

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THE new Provincial Minister of Agriculture will, we presume, be placed in charge of matters pertaining to Agricula. Or is it the intention of Mr. Mowat to model the new department on the Federal portfolio? In that case Hon. Mr. Drury (or whoever the new minister may be) ought to have the general superintendency of Sunday schools, the oversight of toboggan slides, and control of ferry boats placed under his care. These matters are surely as cognate to farming as is the subject of copyright, which, as everybody knows, is embraced in the portfolio of the Minister of Agriculture at Ottawa.

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RIDDLEBERGER ought to be adopted as the patron saint of the dealers in fraudulent deposit receipts and other Canadians of similar banking proclivities now resident across the lines. Riddleberger is the Yankee statesman who is doing his “level best” to beat the amendment to the extradition treaty which proposes to make defaulters amenable to the law. It is generally supposed that his determined opposition to the amendment arises from Anglophobia, but this is probably a mistake. Mr. Riddleberger is a humane person, and he naturally fears the result of suddenly sending back so many interesting invalids to this inhospitable climate.

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LIBERTY of the Press is a splendid thing, of course, but liberty of the news-boy is open to argument. What we refer to is the liberty this lively street merchant enjoys to bawl out his own version of the contents of the journals under his arm. He is obliged to condense the substance of a sensation into a brief sentence, and in so doing he is very likely to do a cruel injustice to some of his fellow citizens. People on the street on