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Comments on the Cartoons.



VERY "LIBERAL" PRUNING.

—The quarrel we have with the Liberal Party of this country is that it has no true liberality about it. Like the Republican Party in the United States it trades entirely on the record of the past. The grand historical names of Baldwin, Lafontaine, Brown, etc. are conjured with on the hustings and credit for the splendid performance of these genuine Liberals is taken for their alleged descendants of to-day. It is confidently presumed that this doctrine of apostolic succession will pass unquestioned amongst the people, but there is at least one point of essential difference between the old

and the new Liberals. The great men whom we have named, and others of their time, were men to whom Principle was everything. Having once firmly grasped a principle they were ready to fight and suffer for it, and, if necessary, to forego the sweets of office until the day of complete triumph came. How is it with the so-called Liberals of to-day? They believe in the principle of Free Trade, of Prohibition, of Equal Rights, of Just and Fair Taxation, not to mention other matters of the first magnitude. Do they sacrifice anything for these principles? Do they act as though they really believed in them at all? No. They juggle with them on the low platform of political expediency. The foremost thought in the minds of the leaders is to get or keep office, and hence the halting, compromising, man-afraid-of-his-horses policy which now distinguishes these wearers of the

Brown and Baldwin mantles. The latest illustration of these remarks is furnished by Mr. Mowat in his Bill on the Tax-Exemption question. The true liberal doctrine on this subject is that taxation should be borne in exact and fair proportion by all men and institutions in the community. This sound principle has long been violated in the law by a series of exemptions which cannot be justified by any sort of reasoning. Some of these fall within the scope of Local legislation, and it would be reasonable to expect a Liberal Government, backed by a large majority, to make a clean sweep of them if it undertook to deal with the matter at all. What has Mr. Mowat done with this exemption tree which cumpers the ground? Instead of tearing it up by the roots he has pruned off a few, to wit three, of its smaller branches. Mr. Mowat is "a Liberal of Liberals,"—but we would just like to enquire how much less "a Tory of Tories" could have done in this case?

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE.—The Rykert case was, as per decision in caucus, referred to the Parliamentary Committee on Privileges and Elections, a distinct promise being given by the Government that a verdict would be rendered before the adjournment of the House. This Committee is, of course, decidedly ministerial in complexion whichever party happens to be in power, and it has heretofore shown a not unnatural tenderness toward ministerial suitors who have appealed to it. In the present case it may be trusted to take the most charitable view of the Rykert case. The production of new correspondence, promised by Mr. Rykert, may possibly afford the Committee some ground upon which to base a merciful deliverance, if not an acquittal, but we confess we cannot imagine what this correspondence could be. The letters and other documents already spread upon the records of the House tell the tale with fatal completeness. In the absence of some new element equal to a retranslation of the epistles the only question would seem to be—Is Mr. Rykert as a witness against himself credible?



R. CHAPLEAU'S Printing Bureau has turned out to be just what every student of Governmental methods foresaw—an institution which will do the public printing less satisfactorily and at greater cost than was the case under private contractors. It has also involved the Government in difficulties with the labor

organizations which threaten to affect votes—a consideration which appeals more powerfully to our statesman than any other could. Moreover, it is more than whispered that the Bureau has already become a hotbed of corruption; that, in fact, although established to do only straight Departmental work, it is in reality a "general job" office.

EVIDENTLY old Blood-and-Iron Bizzy has gone permanently out of the Chancellor business. The young Emperor, with tears (we rather suspect of the crocodile sort) in his eyes, has made the Prince a Duke and Field-marshal, and bidden him good evening. And now it remains to be seen whether Germany can be "run" without Bismarck as "chief engineer." We are often told that no mortal man is really essential to any country, and the saying is no doubt true. Bismarck was unquestionably a very great man, but surely the nation of scholars and thinkers has within its boundaries another equally great, now that the hour has come to reveal him. When he steps to the front we hope he will prove to be a statesman whose methods will be a little less detestable than those of Bismarck, which have so long afflicted Germany and amazed the world.

CANADA'S New Party held its second annual convention in this city last week, and got through its resolving and speech-making in a creditable manner. The leaders of the old—and soon to be defunct—Parties have