



The greatest beast is the Gas; the greatest bird is the Owl;
The greatest fish is the Oyster; the greatest man is the Fool.

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COMMENTS ON THE CARTOONS.



DISCORD IN THE PARTY.—Whatever Mr. Laurier's personal opinion of Mr. Dalton McCarthy's bill may be—and we are inclined to think he would instinctively favor it—he cannot afford, as leader of the Liberal Party, to openly do so, because this would turn the French vote over to the Government bodily. The bill finds a pronounced friend in the *Globe*, however, and as the *Globe*, notwithstanding its frequent disclaimers, is regarded as the organ of the Liberals, there is trouble in

the camp. The bill in question proposes to abolish French as an official language, and the Separate Schools as State institutions in Manitoba, agreeably with the wishes of the people of that Province, as expressed through the Legislature; and if the doctrine of Provincial Rights, so vociferously set forth these many years by the Liberal Party means anything, we do not understand the ground upon which they refuse to support Mr. McCarthy. The *Globe* is at least consistent. And for all the good they get from it, the Party might just as well be without the French vote, and enjoy the luxury of being consistent, too.

A WORK OF SUPEREROGATION.—*Native* industries require protection from competition no more than ducks need protection from the rain. Freedom is their natural element. Only those industries which are not *native* require the artificial support of a tariff. The matter is perfectly plain. What we want is not work but the wealth—the good things—which work will secure. It is not necessary that Canada should be a great manufacturing country, but it is necessary that all her people should have abundance of the good things of life. Now, as international trade is in the form of goods for goods, common sense admonishes us to turn our energies in those directions in which we can most easily produce tradeable things, in other words, to get the things we

want most cheaply. Canada is well adapted naturally for some lines of manufactures. That fact will be sufficient to call forth the factories, and they will grow in a healthy manner. The concerns which are not native, but tariff-born, are doomed to live on pap. They never become more than “infants.” And meanwhile, the feeding of them makes living dearer all round, and does not even benefit the few workmen who are employed in them. The tariff does not pretend to protect wage-workers.



T puzzled some of our citizens to account for Mr. Sam. Blake's extraordinary action in putting a clause in the street railway agreement prohibiting the running of Sunday cars, without, as it was alleged, authority to do so. Some were inclined to refer it to an aberration of religious zeal on Mr. Blake's part. To us it seemed easy to account for the irregularity on the hypothesis that the hon. gentleman had been of late giving too much attention to the vagaries of Emperor William of Germany. He had unconsciously absorbed something of that young man's enthusiasm, and perhaps came to believe in the divine right of Blake.

THE explanation is now forthcoming from Mr. Blake himself. He acted on what he considered plain instructions from the Council Committee, and the only difficulty has been the cowardly refusal of these gentlemen to stand by him. Mr. Blake is mad about it, as he has a perfect right to be, and has thrown up his brief, and sent in his bill.

THERE is some thinking being done on the subject of Direct Taxation in this country. The question is now in practical politics, and we may hope soon to reach the stage at which the people will get bold enough to mention the term without a superstitious shudder. Nothing but discussion will be required to bring them to the point of recognizing that direct taxation is simply honest taxation, and that in the words of the famous Prime Minister of France, the indirect scheme was invented to enable statesmen to pluck the largest amount of feathers from the geese with the least amount of squawking.

IT is too early yet to go into details, perhaps, but the following suggestion by an intelligent correspondent, is thrown out to anticipate the objection that under direct Taxation the advantage of paying taxes in instalments would be absent.

MY plan is that the Government issue and sell tax receipts; that these be drawn to bearer and issued at regular stated periods, those of one period to be worth more than those of the preceding period by the amount of a reasonable interest, and sold either before the first of the period for which they bear interest, at a fair discount when purchased in quantities, or after the first and until the close of such period at their full value. They shall begin to bear interest from the first of the fiscal year when the tax is due, and may continue to do so if desired until the end of the year, or, in other words, may be purchased at any time during the year, the land being held as security in the meantime. When presented to the collector in lieu of cash, they shall have a paying capacity of their face value. By selling receipts in advance of their period at a discount, merchants could be induced to keep them on sale for profit to themselves and for the accommodation of their customers. With