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Comments on the Cartoons.



THE FIRST SOD TURNED.—On Saturday, July 2nd, the first sod of the Red River Valley Railway was formally turned by Hon. John Norquay, Premier of Manitoba, in the presence of a large multitude and amid great enthusiasm. Speeches were made upon the occasion by several prominent Conservatives, all expressive of the determination of the people of Manitoba to free themselves at whatever cost from the railway monopoly under which they have so long suffered. Perhaps the *Montreal Gazette* is not aware of the political complexion of Mr Norquay and his friends, as we observe it continues to assert that the whole trouble in the North-west is the malicious work of Grits, the sole purpose in view being the embarrassment of the Dominion Government. If the Cabinet shares this comforting delusion, it can easily convince itself of its mistake by forcibly interfering with the

work on the new railway.

THE KINCHIN LAY.—A correspondent of the *Globe* aptly quotes the passage from *Oliver Twist* describing the "kinchin lay"—the highway robbery of little children as designed by the notorious Fagin—and applies it in connection with the duties on school books which Sir Charles Tupper has increased. Taxes upon knowledge are always evil, and should not be imposed except as a matter of absolute necessity. For this reason we earnestly deprecate, also, the increase of duties upon second-hand books, which is a feature of the revised tariff.

LEADING THE LEADERS.—The recognized heads of the political parties have as yet said nothing on the subject of Commercial Union (unless Sir John Macdonald's not very forcible expression against it in an interview may be regarded as official). This is, no doubt, fortunate for the cause, as it is extremely important that it should be kept free from "politics" until a chance has been given

for a full and fair discussion. It has, at all events, taken front rank as an issue amongst the people, and it may be laid down as certain that the direction taken by the farmers, lumbermen and fishermen of the country will be the one which the party leaders will find it most convenient to take when the time comes. Political leaders as a rule do everything but lead.

Ye Men of Manitoba.

O! LIBERTY's a glorious thing;
 Were ye beneath her sheltering wing,
 How gladly would we shout and sing
 All hail to Manitoba!

Round freedom hangs a sacred spell,
 And with her joy can only dwell,
 Then rally round and guard her well,
 Ye men of Manitoba!

Let not the babe that's yet unborn,
 Be of its dearest birthright shorn,
 Or it may live to hold in scorn
 The men of Manitoba.

For freedom ne'er by God is given
 To any people under heaven,
 Till from the tyrant's grasp 'tis riven,
 Bear witness Manitoba!

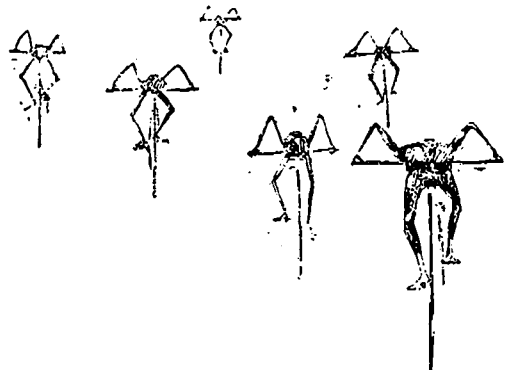
But tho' Monopoly still reigns,
 Your manhood's roused to break her chains;
 But not through blood ensanguined plains,
 Of your dear Manitoba.

Earth's tyrannies begin to cover
 Before man's spiritual power,—
 Then prize it as your sacred dower,
 Ye men of Manitoba.

And never, never, rest till ye,
 Erect in moral manhood free,
 Stand forth as God meant you to be,
 Heroes of Manitoba!

Right over Wrong shall sure prevail,
 Justice eternal, cannot fail,
 Nor Freedom from her throne to hail
 Thy heroes, Manitoba!

ALEXANDER McLACHLAN.



THE WANDERERS' CLUB.

(SKETCHED ON THE FLY BY OUR OWN IMPRESSIONIST.)

PROFESSOR (to promising pupil)—What is bigamy?
Promising Pupil—Having two wives at the same time.
Professor—Correct; now what is the name of the crime when a man has three wives?
Promising Pupil—Trigonometry.—*Minneapolis Tribune.*