

"Gentlemen," replied GRIP, with profound emotion, "I am at a loss to know why——"

"Let me explain, then," said Mr. Laurier. "This little affair is not in honor of the birth of the Dominion, as you may suppose, but to celebrate a greater event—the opening of your Thirty-Third Volume, MR. GRIP, and the commencement of your Seventeenth Year."

"Ah, I had quite overlooked the interesting fact. Thanks, my countrymen."

This was all MR. GRIP could say, and the meeting dissolved.



ONCE more the kindly-disposed people of Toronto are sending in their contributions to the Children's Fresh Air Fund, and, as was the case last summer, the result will be a series of delightful excursions for the poor little prisoners of poverty, who abound even in this favored city. This is a good work, and under our present social conditions, it is a necessary work. Let every one, therefore, who can help along the movement, either with money or in any other way, do so heartily and at once. No begging is done, but voluntary subscriptions are received by the Mayor or Mr. J. J. Kelso, 103 Bay street.

WHILE the good citizen is getting out his purse, this appeal ought to set him a-thinking. Isn't it queer that in this broad and beautiful land, with its sparse population *Pure Air* should be regarded as a luxury which must be purchased by the mouthful for thousands of our fellow-creatures as an act of charity on the part of the more fortunate? Some of the pale and poorly nourished children who will be taken on the proposed excursions are, no doubt, the offspring of shiftless parents, who would, under any circumstances, fail to support them properly. Eliminate these, and the rest are dependent upon parents who would gladly maintain them in comfort by honest work, if they could but get work to do. Now, why is it not possible for every willing man to find work in this country? Is the work all done?

NO; there is any amount of work to be done, but there are so many hands bidding for it that wages have gone down almost below the living point. The bare necessities of an animal existence are all they will afford to the people in question; there is not enough surplus for any trips to the Island. If these willing men were only allowed each to work for himself (in the absence of employment that would pay him better) the wolf would scurry from the door with tail between legs. Well, what prevents the willing man from working for himself? Isn't there an abundance of unused land all about us, from which labor could draw a good living? There is; but it is all fenced off and held at a price which the poor man cannot even look at. But here we leave the good citizen to think out the rest of the problem for himself.

IT is, perhaps, only natural that the Gallic race should be characterized by gall, but to have the orators and newspapers of Quebec pluming themselves upon their magnanimity because they permit English to be spoken and taught in a British Province, is coming it a little too strong. And yet, small blame to them. Their course from the first has been steadily toward a fixed object—

the supremacy of the French language and the Roman Catholic religion, and the realization of a French nationality on this continent. If they are now well on the way to the accomplishment of this purpose, thanks are due as much to the stupidity and nervelessness of the British authorities, Imperial and colonial, as to the persistence of the French Canadians themselves. The *Globe* is quite satisfied that we can build up a great nation with two distinct and separate races, and for all who share this belief the future presents a rosy aspect. But the *Globe* has lost its old infallibility, and may be mistaken about this. We rather incline to the view of *L'Etandard* that we must be united as one people, though we are hardly prepared to agree that that oneness should be of the Quebec pattern, in *langue, lois et religion*.

BIG thing that Dominion Day celebration! Col. Denison declares that any man who doubts the nationality of Canada after that ought to be led out and shot as a traitor. He is right. We are indeed a nation. We are more; we are two of them. Pope Leo has just been giving his blessing to the French-Canadian nation, and that does not mean us. Yes, fellow-citizens, we are a double-headed nation; a very prodigy in the earth.



EXPLAINED.

UNCLE ABNER (reading)—"Once on a time there was a poor but honest man——"

JOHNNY (breaking in)—"Why don't they sometimes say 'rich but honest,' Uncle?"

UNCLE ABNER—"Cause nobody would believe them, my boy."

Is the Prisoners' Aid Association a strictly legal body?

MRS. GUPPY addresses her son's letters to "Brandon Man," but her daughter's are always sent to "Brandon, Woman."

EMPEROR WILLIAM and the Czar of Russia will meet at Kiel in August. It is not impossible their respective armies may meet to kill later on.

PREMIER GREENWAY reports the crop prospects in South-Western Manitoba to be good. It is well to remember that at present all crops are in a green-way.

IN the newly discovered land of Gilkika all the women drink and smoke, while the men deform their figures by tight lacing, and those people are said to be really no better off than the enlightened denizens of this great Dominion of Canada.