



and with chorus not too tuneful settle down to a grand complimentary banquet of new-sown grain, greatly to the disgust of the tariff-burdened farmer. Hence it is fitting that GRIP, the king of all ravens, should make some extra effort to signalize the coming of Spring. This he does by giving his readers a double number, which he hopes they will one and all enjoy.

Comments on the Cartoons.



MR. BLAKE'S BRILLIANT IDEA. The debate on Mr. McCarthy's bill to abolish official French in the North-West Territories will be memorable as the occasion of several remarkably able speeches, if it does not indeed go down to history as the event from which is to be dated an internecine strife whereof no living man can see the end. If it is not to have the latter evil eminence, thanks will be due in no small measure to Mr. Laurier, who once more proved himself "the noblest Roman of them all." Although speaking in an acquired language the Liberal leader outshone every English Member for

fervid eloquence, and his speech was as distinguished for its sound common sense as for its rhetorical finish. The Canadian nation—if we ever reach the dignity to which every Canadian patriot aspires—must be at least for a few centuries to come composed of two races, different in their characteristics and dissimilar in their genius, but not necessarily antagonistic. Unless history witnesses the miracle of Quebec voluntarily abandoning its French traditions and suddenly becoming Anglo-Saxon, time alone can bring about such a unity as some are talking of as possible. Mr. Laurier demonstrated in a most convincing manner that such a unity can never be brought about by force, whether that force be exercised in the shape of encroachments by the majority upon the cherished and heretofore guaranteed rights of the minority, or in the more violent form of armed assault. Now if unity is desirable—and nobody questions this—the part of wisdom surely is to find out how it can be attained. Mr. Laurier answers—by cordially respecting each other's rights, and by cultivating a fraternal spirit between the Provinces. He points to Gladstone's policy in Ireland as an apt illustration of the power of kindness to win the heart of a race, even of one which has been embittered by centuries of injustice, and he says a display of similar large-heartedness on the part of English Canada will make a true and loving compatriot of the French-Canadian. This is the voice of truth and soberness, and once more GRIP gives Wilfred Laurier the assurance of his profound respect. It is with another point in the debate that our cartoon deals, however. The question before the House was, strictly speaking, as to the advisability of abolishing the official use of French in the N.-W. Territories, and upon this the Liberal leaders differed. Mr. Laurier expressed himself as in favor of the Bill, if it meant that and nothing more; Mr. Blake was, on the contrary, opposed to the proposition. He clung to official French for the rather far-fetched reason that to remove it would "lessen the chances of French-Canadian immigration" to the North-West. But he was positively amusing in his further suggestion, that the grievance should not be remedied at present because it is not yet a big enough grievance! In the words of his resolution he advised Parliament to defer any decision as to the ultimate settlement of the question until time shall have further developed the conditions of North-West settlement.

THE PEOPLE WOULD APPROVE IT, TOO.—It will require at least half a million dollars to replace the University and set it once more on its high career, and even then it will be in a comparatively crippled condition. The endowment upon which the grand old institution depends is not large enough to justify any expenditure whatever for rebuilding or re-equipment, and the sources from which help may be looked for are just three—the insurance companies, private donations and the Ontario treasury. The insurance money, which will, no doubt, be promptly paid over, is unfortunately not great in amount—some \$90,000 only, it is said. An appeal to the public, which is to be made for the library fund, may possibly realise \$100,000, and the Ontario

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SPRING.



EAUTEOUS Spring is here. You would hardly suppose so if you took note simply of the frost in the atmosphere and the universal popularity of fur caps, boas and ulsters; but if you will consult any reliable almanac you will find that it is even so. Spring, gentle Spring—ethereal mildness, and so forth, is here—at least theoretically. The graceful nymph comes into the ring on her handsome charger and will proceed with her performance regardless of the weather. In honor of her coming it is the immemorial custom of the bird creation to make a demonstration, and the

season is in a special sense sacred to the raven tribe. It is to greet this fair goddess of spring that the ebony denizens of the field and forest come fluttering forth from the balmy climes,