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WM. S. RITCHIE, *Proprietor.*

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CARTOON COMMENTS BY THE FOREMAN.

Quebec Local Elections.

The general elections for the local legislature are over in Quebec, and there is as yet uncertainty as to which party is in the ascendant. The organs of both contending parties claim a majority, each of course relying on the support of doubtful members in working up the results. The execution of Riel was

made the principal factor in the struggle. The issue was one fitted to arouse race and religious prejudices, and to inflame the passions of an easily excited people; and it is not surprising that in many sections inflammatory appeals did effectual work. Indeed, it is a matter of wonder to many that greater gains were not made by the fomentors of religious and race rancor. But that they have been even partially successful in stifling reason is to be deplored. Justice ceases to be even-handed when "foul and damnable" crimes are elevated, by whatever methods, into the dignity of popular virtues. The defeat of Quebec's government on its merits would have been a fair deal. Its overthrow, or even the loss of considerable support by gross rascality and reprehensible scheming, on matters for which it is not fairly responsible, is reprehensible, to say the least; and the public sentiment which will admit of such courses must indeed be in a very unhealthy state. The attempt to elevate a criminal into the dignity of a saint—and this is clearly what Mr. Mercier and some of his followers have been doing—merits condemnation by good men and law-abiding people everywhere. The reign of political rascality is seldom enduring. Mr. Mercier, whose methods to attain ascendancy have been pronounced questionable even by honest and manly journalists in his own Province, and all others who resort to dishonorable devices, should lay this fact to heart.

As yet it is difficult to predict what may be the result of the contest in Quebec. The representation is so evenly divided as to leave room for many possibilities. There is talk of the Ross government holding on till the legislature meets, and there are also predictions that it will relinquish the seals of office before that period arrives. If it feels assured of a majority, even though small, it is not unlikely that it will remain regardless of what its clamorous opponents may do or say or think, trusting to time and the restora-

tion of reason to repair the losses which it has sustained by untoward circumstances and the forcing of foreign issues into the local political arena. But the public will not have long to wait for the denouement. In the meantime they must try to cultivate as best they can the virtue of patience, hopeful always that right will triumph in the end.

The Majority for 1887, and Prospective Knighthood.

The year 1888—the jubilee year of Her Majesty's reign—is likely to stimulate aspirations in civic circles. The talk is that mayors of all cities in the British dominions next year will receive from Her Majesty the Queen the honor of knighthood. Of course this is an exceptional case, and it may be as good a method as any other of signalling an epoch in one of the most remarkable reigns in which royalty has ever figured. Queen Victoria has proved herself to be not only a wise sovereign but a pattern member of society, a model mother in the family circle, and God-fearing and God honoring in all her movements. Any honor coming from the hands of one so exemplary in every respect would of course be prized by the recipient. It is not unnatural, therefore, that there should be more than ordinary interest taken in the election of mayor for next year. Of late there has been in St. John an indifference to civic service, and elections have in consequence sometimes been allowed to go by default. But the prospective bestowal of royal favors may, and doubtless will, stimulate activity even if it be not really a healthy activity. Already there is a plentiful crop of aspirants for the coveted chair. The names of six or seven have so far been bandied about—some having experience at the council board, and some otherwise; and before next April rolls around there will in all likelihood be a goodly number in the field. Aside from the matter of royal favor, St. John requires as its chief magistrate an efficient officer—a man of character, energy and ability, with aptitudes for the work required of him. And the electors should see to it that they secure him. Men of inferior calibre, but with a plentiful supply of assurance, may present themselves, but the public should be neither coaxed nor cajoled into accepting persons of that stamp. St. John, "the Liverpool of British North America," should be conspicuous in this matter by the superiority of its judgment and the excellence of its choice. The better the type of man secured, the more worthily will the Sovereign's honor be worn.

Mr. Justin McCarthy on Home Rule.

Home Rule, as presented by Mr. Justin McCarthy, the journalist, statesman and historian, is not the kind of home rule which Mr. Parnell has demanded. Nor is it the kind of home rule embraced in the scheme presented by Mr. Gladstone to the British Parliament for acceptance. Mr. Gladstone, with Mr. Parnell's approval, endeavored to provide legislative machinery for Ireland which would disintegrate rather than unite the empire. He aimed to give Ireland control of her own affairs after a fashion peculiarly his own, and decidedly unique in many of its features, but in matters of national or general concern the Irish people were to be deprived of that influence in which is their undoubted right to be sharers. Mr. McCarthy seemed to lean to a system of home rule which could fairly be considered not out of harmony with our Canadian system. This kind of home rule should be quite unobjectionable to the Irish

people. Ireland is prepared for, and is entitled to receive, whether vested in one or in four legislatures, the control of her own local or domestic affairs; and for such a remedial measure there is not much reason to doubt that England and Scotland are equally prepared. This being the case, any scheme of local government, to be generally acceptable, should embrace all sections of the Mother Land, and be made operative in all at the same time. For the treatment of matters of national or general concern there should also be established a supreme legislature, in which Ireland, Scotland and England would each have a voice on some well understood and indisputably fair basis. Yet Mr. McCarthy's discussion of the Irish question does not appear to be much out of harmony with some such project; and if he possesses the influence with his chief and with his party which is claimed for him, there ought to be no great difficulty in bringing a well devised measure so prominently forward as to enlist the sympathy and secure the support of an overwhelming contingent from the ranks of both parties in the Imperial Parliament.

A COMMISSION is now sitting in England with a view to determine the causes of the commercial depression which has been felt during the past few years in the trade of the world. Numerous causes have been assigned, and among others to which the attention of the wise men of the civilized world has been directed are the relative effects of the growing scarcity of gold and the increasing plentitude of silver on the world's trade and commerce. The subject is attracting a good deal of interest, as careful readers of the more advanced newspapers can aver. It will be curious to note the extent to which the respective metals in their relative uses, especially as coin, are responsible for the trade troubles of the world.

"Is it true," asked the professor, "that a trombone player saved the life of Frederick the Great?"

"It is," replied the student.

"How?"

"Frederick killed him."

Mr. Wifeless—"Mike, you rascal, what are you doing there? How can you dare to wipe my goblets with my handkerchief?"

Mike—"Sure, an', sorr, it's not your hankerchief at all, at all. It's moine."

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