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HUMOR AND CARICATURE.

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OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.



ELSEWHERE in this number will be found a printed ballot. It will appear in the seven issues following, that is, up to May 31st. During these eight weeks we hope to have a lively voting competition on the question:

"Is the Mowat Government worthy of a Renewal of Public Confidence?"

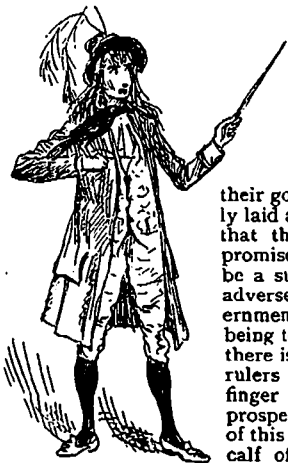
The ballots are to be cut out and forwarded to the personal care of Mr. J. W. Bengough, who will keep them safely until the fourth day of June, when they will be delivered to a committee representing both political parties to be officially counted, the result to be published in the number of GRIP for June 7th.

Ballots may be sent in open envelopes under 1 cent postage.

\$50 IN CASH

will be awarded to the person who most nearly guesses the total number of ballots that will be sent in before June 4th.

Comments on the Cartoons.



BUILDING UP CANADIAN INDUSTRY.—The debate on the Tariff, which occupied the House of Commons for more than a week, has made it clear that the Government has determined to sink or swim with the N.P. When the people of Canada regain full possession of their good sense—which they deliberately laid aside a few years ago in the hope that there might be something in the promises of the Protectionists—it will be a sure case of sink. Owing to the adverse attitude of the American Government, Reciprocity seems for the time being to be out of the question, though there is no reason to suppose that our rulers at Ottawa would have moved a finger to secure it, however bright the prospect might have been. The secret of this redoubled devotion to the golden calf of Protection on the part of the Government is not, we may hope, the

accelerated decay of such mental powers as the Cabinet possesses; it is more likely to be accounted for along the line hinted

at in our cartoon last week—the Boss of the Government Monopoly, has dictated it as his will. The pretence that the N.P. is simply a weapon with which we may win Reciprocity from our southern neighbors is now openly abandoned. Members of the Cabinet now plainly declare that it is not a means but an end, that with it they propose to "build up Canadian industry." This cant phrase has long had a catching sound on the hustings, but it has been understood always by the people in a wrong sense. No phrase could more exactly describe the results of Protection than this, when properly apprehended. We have endeavored to convey its correct meaning in the accompanying sketch. The work of "building up" Canadian industry has been going on for some years, and when it is completed Canadian industry will perish from want of fresh air. To surround a country with a high tariff wall and to put all manner of restrictions and impediments in the way of natural trade, is to "build up" a nation after the manner in which barbarian tyrants have sometimes built up individuals in air-tight cells. What our farmers, artisans and producers generally vitally need is more freedom; what the great N.P. gives them is more restraint.

No "ARBITRARY MEASURES."—Mr. Mowat is a most considerate statesman, as is shown in his action on the school ballot question. He might have made a law requiring that all school trustees, like all members of the Legislature, should be elected by the secret ballot process. This could have done no harm even in cases where voters would just as lief record their votes openly, whereas it would have been a decided boon in other cases in which voters would prefer the ballot, but might not care to offend others—the clergy, for example—by saying so. But Mr. Mowat does not make it his business to force good things upon people against their will, and when he was assured that the Separate school electors did not want the ballot, and had not asked for it, he refrained from giving it to them. Whether this assurance came from the voters themselves or from their spiritual advisers, we are not informed, but we have some faint recollection of some proceedings in the Separate School Board of Toronto in which one Mr. Cahill and a few others seemed to indicate that their objections to the ballot were not particularly strong.



BROTHER WIGGINS, of Ottawa, claims that he foretold the Louisville cyclone. Perhaps he did, but he forgot to mention that it would strike somewhere in the vicinity of Louisville. This is the trouble with our eminent Canadian weatherologist. He can foretell storms with wonderful exactitude, except in the matter of time and place.

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SENATOR SANFORD, Hon. J. M. Gibson and Mr. Adam Brown, M.P., have been elected honorary members of the Hamilton Minstrel Company. This has raised something of a laugh in ribald circles, but the honor is at least as great as knighthood. Some curiosity is also expressed to know what the function of honorary minstrels may be. We have no exclusive information on the point, but in this case we should suppose that the three distinguished statesmen will be expected to occupy seats in the burnt-cork semicircle as interlocutor and end-men respectively. Or, if honorary minstrels are excused from the use of burnt cork, their duty will probably be to pay for a box apiece at each performance.

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ANOTHER great strike is on. It is the bricklayers and stonemasons this time, and the customary homilies are being read on the irreconcilable conflict between Capital and Labor. The workingmen's organizations are beginning to understand that strikes and boycotts are not radical cures for the disease they are suffering from, though meanwhile they are the only available palliatives. If you fasten a donkey up in a box-stall and then prod him with a pitchfork he will kick; and in similar circumstances human nature will "strike."