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Comments on the Cartoons.



A TICKLISH MOUNT. — The *Mail* congratulates itself that in his speech at London a few days ago Mr. Meredith accepted the Equal Rights programme in its entirety. Our contemporary is a little too sanguine. Mr. Meredith squinted in that direction, but he really said nothing that cannot be taken back or explained away if occasion should demand it. Meanwhile we are not aware that he has uttered any rebuke to the Conservative convention which recently rejected Mr. Hughes as candidate be-

cause he insisted that the Equal Rights platform should be officially accepted. The fact seems to be that Mr. Meredith is turning over in his mind the *pros* and *cons* of the matter, but has not as yet committed himself to any positive course. He is booted and spurred, and is giving the Equal Rights horse careful examination, but he is not yet in the saddle, nor does he propose to put himself there until he is convinced that it will not endanger his political neck to do so.

THE CIVIC PUDDING.—Mr. Clarke has made an excellent mayor, and no doubt Ald. John McMillan would fill the position with equal ability. The only question which really comes up in

connection with the contest is as to the judiciousness of giving to any mayor a third term. When the late President Grant was spoken of as a candidate for the third time, the cry of Caesarism was raised against him, and the arguments by which it was effectively supported might be used in the present case. There are, of course, good arguments in favor of a third term in the case of a public officer who has done good service and promises to be still more useful in the future; and these will be stronger in favor of a fourth, fifth and sixth term. It really comes to a personal question as between Messrs. Clark and McMillan. John has long had his eye on the chair, awaiting the opportunity to round off his civic career with a term on the dais; Edward has already enjoyed two years of the chief magistracy, while at the same time he holds a seat in the Legislature. This is a little juggling, as between man and man, but of course the selection must be made as between man and city.



REMARKABLY devious are the ways of politicians. A gentleman learned in the law (a well known Conservative) recently made a terrific attack upon the Government at an anti-Jesuit meeting in one of the eastern counties of Ontario. As it was generally supposed that he was aspiring to a county judgeship or something of that sort, much surprise was expressed at his impolitic conduct. An acquaintance, whom he believed to be a good John A. man (but who was really a Grit), hinted this to him. "Don't trouble yourself about that, my boy," was his cheerful rejoinder, "*I was sent there by the Government to make that speech!*" The fact that his appointment was duly gazetted a few days ago lends confirmation to this rather astounding statement.

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GRIP is highly gratified to note that the notion of taking over the street railway franchise as city property at the expiration of Senator Smith's lease seems to find universal support among the alderman at present in the Council. It is to be hoped the new men will be of the same mind. The day is fast coming when the foolishness of giving up valuable public rights to the hands of private monopolies will be apparent to all, and Henry George's common sense maxim that all businesses which are in the nature of things monopolies, should be controlled by and for the whole community, will be accepted and acted upon. It will be easy to decide as to the best method of dealing with the street railway when it comes into the city's possession. The great thing at present is to make sure we will get it. Our new council will have to be wide-awake on the question.

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IT is enough to raise a superior smile on the Canadian countenance to notice the desperate struggle now being carried on by reformers in the United States to secure the balloting system which we have long enjoyed as an accomplished fact. And it is enough to change that smile into an expression of amazement to contemplate for a moment the mockery of a system which our Yankee friends have so long put up with—a veritable invention of the Bribery Bosses. Now that public opinion is directed to the question, the ballot-peddling, machine-made scheme will not last much longer.

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NORTH Dakota doesn't propose to have any foolery with the whiskey business. The new law, to come into effect in July next, punishes the first offence with a fine of from \$200 to \$1,000 and imprisonment for at least ninety days; second offence, State's prison, without the option of a fine. Rum shops are proclaimed as public