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SPECIAL NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

AN error in the numbering of GRIP occurred toward the end of Vol. XXIX, and continued up to the issue for Feb. 18th. We have prepared a printed slip of corrections which we will be pleased to furnish on application to all subscribers who bind their numbers.

Comments on the Costings.



A GIANT FOR JACK TO KILL.—The Canadian newspapers have had a good deal to say of late about the doings of "trusts" and "combines" in the land of Uncle Sam. Scathing paragraphs on these "bloated grabbers" find their way even into the columns of the *Empire*. This kindly interest in the well-being of our neighbors is commendable, but the adage of the mote and the beam might very aptly be quoted to us. We hear comparatively little about the same form of evil which flourishes in Canada. There is at least one "combine"—that which controls the sugar business—which deserves immediate attention, not merely of the press, but of the Government. The fact is pretty generally known

that consumers of sugar in this Dominion are being regularly robbed of at least 1¼ cents per pound on a prime necessary of life, by virtue of a combination of the few refineries, made possible by the tariff on this commodity. Although employing fewer men and paying less wages, in proportion to capital invested, than any other form of industry in the country, excepting, perhaps, whisky making, the monopolistic sugar-refiners are piling up profits far in advance of any other manufacturers. They are, in fact, stealing about \$2,000,000 per year from the people; and it is high time the process was stopped. There is no reason why Protectionists should not join with low-tariff men in bring about this result, as the Protective theory does

not necessarily contemplate the abetting of pocket-picking. We trust Sir John will take vigorous action to abate this evil at the coming session.

WHO'LL GET IT?—Our local statesmen are still exercised over the new portfolio of Agriculture, and the selection of a fit and proper person to take charge thereof. It is expected that the appointment will be made before the end of the session, but as yet a fascinating uncertainty hangs over the question. Who's the lucky man? The available candidates are generally understood to be Messrs. Dryden, Drury, Awry and Ballantyne, the last named gentleman occupying the interesting position of "dark horse." Well, the Government cannot make a serious mistake in selecting any one of the quartette, though, if GRIP were in the Hon. Oliver's shoes, he would not hesitate a moment in giving it to Mr. What's-his-name.

MRS. LANGTRY has struck a silver bonanza. Every paper you pick up tells how a rich vein was discovered on her land at Carson, Nebraska. This may not be so; Mrs. Langtry doesn't care a bit. She will get the silver all the same, through the box-office, as the result of the widespread free advertising.

AN anxious—and, we may add, very impertinent—member of the Reform party wants to know whether Mr. Cameron of the *Globe* writes the "Absolu'te Free Trade" articles of that journal with the same pen he uses on the "Revenue Tariff" articles of the *London Advertiser*. We do not make a habit of answering flippant and irrelevant queries in these columns, so we maintain a withering silence. Let the seeker for information apply to the *Woodstock Sentinel-Review*.

BLAINE of Maine says he'll refrain, and not be candidate again. His letter, stating positively that he will not be the candidate of the Republican party in November, is the finest exhibition of statesmanship Mr. Blaine has ever given. It is the essence of wisdom—if he sticks to it. During his retirement in Europe the Plumed Knight has evidently given himself up to profound cogitation, and we congratulate him on having made the discovery that it is unhealthy for an inadequate force to attempt to resist the irresistible. Mr. Cleveland thinks so, too.

L.T.-GOV. DEWDNEY on his retirement from the throne at Regina—his term having expired—was presented with a flattering address by the residents. No doubt Sir John can find another Dewd. for the position.

THE wide-awake citizens of Orillia have asked the Local Government to carve out a new county up north and make their handsome town the capital. They propose to name the new county "Mowat." The Attorney-General doesn't seem to take kindly to the proposed name, as he says he doesn't care for the policy of naming counties after lawyers who don't know anything about Constitutional Law. All parties interested might, perhaps, compromise on "Takeitintoconsideration" as a name. That has a fine Indian sound to it, and ought to suit Orillia.

A PLUMBER writes to the papers to state his own theory to account for the waste of water now going on in this city. He says Toronto has the worst system of stop-cock boxes in America, and then he goes on to show that this is what chiefly causes the mischief. The Plumber may be right, but has he considered the enormous quantity of water it is taking to liquidate the Central Bank?