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Comments on the Grafting.



A TERRIBLE STENCH.—The recent speech by Hon. Mr. Jones, Manitoba's new Finance Minister, was perhaps the most sensational deliverance that has ever been made in connection with the bringing down of a budget. The usual dry details of balance sheet and estimated receipts and expenses, were enlivened by a series of charges, all backed up by apparently conclusive evidence, against the members of the late Norquay Government and many of the chief officials of the Departments holding office under them. Mr. Jones, in short, stated that, upon coming into office, the Greenway Government discovered that every cent of the Provincial money had been stolen, and that fraud, forgery and robbery had been systematically carried on for years under the previous administration. The reason for the sudden departure across the line of Messrs. Hamilton and Wilson a few months ago was made manifest—those worthies had been boodling and were afraid of the law. Direct charges were made against other members of the late Cabinet, and it was announced that some of them will be prosecuted criminally. Mr. Norquay, who was the only representative of the accused present in the House, made an attempt to reply to Mr. Jones, but beyond protesting his personal innocence, and declaring that he had no knowledge of the wrong-doing of his colleagues and officials, he could do nothing to break the force of the tremendous revelation. It is reassuring to observe that the Conservative party of the Province does not undertake the championship of its implicated leaders—which would go to show that Toryism does not necessarily mean crookedness. The sentiment of decent men of all parties is

with the new Government in its determination to give the accused persons a fair trial, and punish them, if declared guilty, to the full extent of the law. It is time that the outside world should understand that, in Canada stealing the public money is not considered a mere error of politics. We have too long allowed the line between statescraft and criminality to be blurred, and we have suffered for it in the estimation of our neighbors.

RESTRICTION vs. FREEDOM.—It does seem very queer that it should be necessary to make pictures and write articles in this enlightened day to enforce what looks like a self-evident truth—that Freedom is preferable to Imprisonment. Outside of the all-important realm of trade, the man who would deny such a proposition would be watched with concern by his anxious friends. The reasonable conviction would be that he was *non compos*. If his mental soundness were beyond question, his earnest arguments in favor of chains and slavery as against freedom would entitle him to the kingship of the cranks, and he would be looked upon as an amusing curiosity. But when that which most seriously affects the well-being of society, that upon which the comfort of every individual absolutely depends—business, trade, commerce—is up for discussion, we find the advocate of fetters as an aid to prosperity regarded, not as a lunatic or crank, but as a wise statesman! He is so numerous and influential, in fact, that he has been able to have his own theory practically applied for years both in Canada and the United States. He "points with pride" to the high tariff wall which separates these two nations of alleged intelligence, and openly descants on the benefits both have derived from the system of clogging, burdening and restricting their mutual trade! GRIP doesn't care how much other people may bow down to the Philosopher of Restriction; in GRIP's opinion he is an illogical and absurd Ass, whose teachings wouldn't be tolerated for a moment amongst sane people, if they concerned anything but business.

THE gentleman who introduced the Bill at Ottawa for the Suppression of Frauds on Farmers strangely omitted all mention of two of the most notorious frauds from which the noble yeoman suffers, to wit: (1.) The hired man who has a habit of murdering the farmer and running away with his wife; and (2.) The Nobody from town who goes to the farm house as a summer boarder and poses as a person of distinction.

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THE Session of the Dominion Parliament is over, and it is now in order to review the good work done by our legislators—the acts introduced and passed in a spirit of pure patriotism and statesmanship. Well, let's see, first of all there was that Bill respecting—er—um—we refer of course to that measure introduced by—queer isn't it what freaks one's memory *will* play at times. We'll have to postpone this duty until we can get time to think of something useful they've done this session.

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THERE'S something the matter with the editor of the *Dominion Churchman*. This has been known to a good many people for a long time, but nobody has thought it worth while to investigate the matter. Having a little leisure the other day we read one of his articles and gave a few moments to a diagnosis of his case. We had no difficulty in discovering what is wrong with the unfortunate man. He was born without brains, and nature, abhorring a vacuum, filled the cavity with sacerdotalism. This eminently fits him to be an exponent of Christianity—by which term we mean of course high-church sectarianism.

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LORD LANSDOWNE'S speech at the Ottawa banquet was his valedictory to the Canadian people, and in it he took occasion to tell the Imperial Federationists that their scheme will not work. They have been told this before by commoners, but to no purpose. The truth from the lips of a real live nobleman is different, how-