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President	JAMES L. MORRISON.
General Manager	J. V. WRIGHT.
Artist and Editor	J. W. BENGOUGH.
Manager Publishing Dept.	R. T. LANCEFIELD.

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Comments on the Customs.



THEY'VE OUT-GROWN THEIR CLOTHES.—There are signs that at last the public intelligence is aroused against the system of indirect taxation—the cloak under which the people have been mercilessly robbed for generations. In Canada the question has been precipitated by the resolution of the Inter-Provincial conference in favor of an increase of the subsidies, a suggestion which is received with very general opposition, especially in Ontario. The *Hamilton Times*, one of the leading journals of the Reform party, publishes an open letter to Hon. Oliver Mowat, in which, after expressing surprise that a Reformer of Mr. Mowat's standing should have put his name to such a resolution, the writer goes on to show that direct taxation is not only the better system economically, but the only one which is sustained by the great legal authorities of Britain. Simultaneously with the appearance of this significant article, the question is up for discussion in the associations both of Young Liberals and Junior Conservatives. In the latter club Mr. T. S. Wood has placed a motion in favor of the Henry George scheme of a single tax on land values squarely before his conferees for discussion. GRIP is glad to note these signs of the times, for they indicate the early demolition of the present system of taxation, which is the source of nearly every evil with which society is afflicted. The young men of both parties have manifestly out-grown the old party garments, and it behooves their political pa's to note the fact.

TABLEAU.—The newspaper correspondents at Ottawa may not be the most voracious persons in the world, but we are hardly prepared to believe that the tales about the Langevin-Chapleau unpleasantness, which have been their stock in trade for the last few sessions, are all pure inventions; and yet, if the solemn assertions of the Ministers just named are worth anything, it is even so. Sir Hector and his esteemed colleague gave an interesting theatrical exhibition of Love, Peace, and Unity at Montreal a few days ago for the express purpose of reassuring the Conservative party, and giving the *quietus* to the fabricators at the capital. We trust the wicked quill-drivers will stand corrected, and hereafter make a note of the billing and cooing.

QUEBEC'S "DOG OF WAR."—Major Dugas, of Montreal, is reported as complaining that GRIP caricatured Cardinal Taschereau on the occasion of that dignitary's visit to Toronto. This is not the case; our caricature was leveled against our own co-religionist, Lt.-Gov. Campbell. But the Cardinal has now invited a stricture by declining to speak a mollifying word to the misguided people of Quebec who were bent on mobbing the Salvation Army. The mayor, himself a good Catholic, knowing that the civic forces were unable to cope with the rioters, and also knowing that one word from the Cardinal would do the business, made the reasonable request for His Eminence's influence to restrain the rioters until the rights of the Army could be decided in a court of law. We cannot see how the Cardinal can be excused for his refusal, which was in fact tantamount to an official encouragement to the law breakers.



A SNOWY DAY.

AFTER LONGFELLOW—WITH BOTH FEET.

The day is cold, and blustering wildly;
We walk along the sidewalks mildly,
And often slip as we wend our way
O'er the glistening planks where children play—
But some sidewalks must be icy.

Be still, sad heart, and cease your sorrow,
But grimly pray it may thaw to-morrow.
Thy fate is the coming fate of all;
Each winter scores of us have to fall—
For some sidewalks must be icy.

CURRENT EVENTS.

THE Mormon Brethren have applied to the Porte for permission to establish a colony in Turkey. Their action in this case is not harem-scary 'em.

An affray between moonlighters and police has occurred at Castle Island, and two constables were shot. The loss of two coppers is not much to a secret society receiving American subsidies.

A DEAD HEAD.—Deploring the death of President Nelles, *The Varsity* says:—"It will be no easy task to replace at the head of Victoria College a man of his broad views." Now, who ever proposed such a very resurrection proceeding? Or, does *The Varsity* say something it doesn't mean?