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Artist and Editor  
Associate Editor

J. W. BENGOUGH.  
PHILLIPS THOMPSON.

### COMMENTS ON THE CARTOONS.



#### THE BINDER-TWINE DIFFICULTY.—

The binder-twine question was unground in the House of Commons the other day. Mr. Mulock, the farming man from North York, moved that this prime commodity of the agriculturists be put on the free list, so that a "knock-out" might be administered to the cordage combine which is now alleged to be tying up the farmers. The Government, albeit made up of farmers' friends (*vide* campaign literature) could not countenance so rash a step. The motion was voted down on a straight party division. It was intimated, however, that if, in the course of human events, the Canadian ruralists should ever really and truly be squeezed by any wicked combinesters in the matter of

binder-twine, the Government will hasten to the rescue by reducing or abolishing the duties. Thus was an excellent "issue" fashioned and presented to the leaders of the Reform party for their next stumping tour in the country. If they are shrewd enough to use it "for all it is worth" they may literally have the Government "on a string."

HAMLET.—The past week has been one of developments at Ottawa, not only in the Privileges and Elections Committee, but in

that which reviews the public accounts, and in the Committee of Supply. The examination of witnesses in the Tarte enquiry has made the case no better for Sir Hector Langevin, while it has overwhelmed his chief engineer, Perley. That official has admitted before the Committee that Murphy's evidence convicting him of accepting a valuable present of jewelry is true. In the Public Accounts Committee irregularities in the Department of the Interior were discovered, and in the House another scandal has been discovered, involving the Public Works Department in connection with the Kingston graving dock. The general impression left on the public mind by all this is that if it were possible to get at all the facts it would be shown that our Civil Service is a mass of rottenness. If the Conservative party wishes to retain the respect and confidence of the people it will outdo the Grits in the work of exposing and kicking out the rascals who are now robbing the country.

PARNELL said he knew Carlow well, and felt confident of the election of his candidate there by a sweeping majority. Result: Hammond (McCarthyite), 3,755; Kittle (Parnellite), 1,539. The ex-leader of the Irish Party seems to have made the same mistake as a young friend of ours, who went to call on his best girl, counting on his popularity with her pa's dog. "Here, Carlow, good old Carlow; you know me, don't you, Carlow?" he said in persuasive tones as he approached the house. But Carlow didn't know him by a large majority, and the result was that after a desperate run he lost *his* seat, too.

THE temptation to make a play on the title "Order of Home Circles," by picturing a spider-web, as we did in our last issue, was a strong one and we yielded to it. In so doing, we are told we did an injustice to a benevolent institution which has for years been doing an excellent work in this country. The officials in this city, who are certainly men of character and standing, declare themselves able and ready to demonstrate the soundness of the basis upon which the Order is working, and to conclusively answer the attacks which have recently been made in the daily press. GRIP's motto being fair play to all, he refers enquirers to the office of the secretary, 44 Church Street, where full investigation into the merits of the Order may be made.

IT is fitting that we should take off our hat and greet our esteemed contemporary, *Mr. Punch*, of Fleet Street, on the auspicious occasion of his fiftieth birthday, which occurs this week. *Mr. Punch* is entitled to rank as the "Grand Old Man" of comic journalism, not only because he numbers more yearly volumes than any other publication of his class, but also because of his high character as a scholar and a gentleman. It may be true, as so often alleged, that *Punch* is not so funny as he used to be, for such men as Lemon, Jerrold, Thackeray, Leech and Doyle are not readily matched, but for real literary merit *Punch* is easily first still. He is, however, so essentially English that only an Englishman can fully enjoy him.

AND now the report is that in all probability the Bureau of Printing "will not stand investigation." This is the Department presided over by Mr. Chapleau, who is looking forward to being placed in charge of Railways and Canals, one of the great spending departments of the Government. Let the Printing Bureau be thoroughly turned over before he is appointed, and perhaps it will lead the party managers to avoid the folly of appointing him.

MR. NICHOLAS K. CONNOLLY appears to have a mo excellent forgettery.