

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

BY THE

Grip Printing and Publishing Co.

26 and 28 Front Street West, Toronto, Ont.

President - - - - - J. V. WRIGHT.
 Manager - - - - - T. G. WILSON.

Terms to Subscribers.

PAYABLE STRICTLY IN ADVANCE.

To United States and
Canada.To Great Britain and
Ireland.

One year, \$2.00; six months - \$1.00 | One year \$2.50

Remittances on account of subscriptions are acknowledged by change in the date of the printed address-label.

In remitting stamps, please send two-cent stamps only.

Messrs. JOHN HADDON & Co., Advertising Contractors, Fleet St. London, Eng., are the sole agents for GRIP in Great Britain.

MR. NORMAN MURRAY, 118 Windsor Street, Montreal, is agent for GRIP in Montreal.

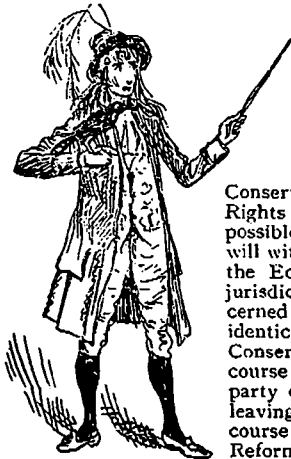
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J. W. BENGOUGH.
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VOTING CONTEST—SPECIAL NOTICE.

This issue of GRIP contains the last ballot of the series. The votes will be counted and certified by a committee representing the two political parties, and the result will be made known in our issue of the 31st. The name and address of the winner of the \$50 prize in the guessing contest will also be published. As the forms of GRIP dated 31st close on Monday 26th, ballots arriving after the noon mail on the latter date cannot be counted. If you propose sending in any ballots, do so IMMEDIATELY.

Comments on the Cartoons.



THE START.—The contest now on for the three Toronto seats in the Ontario Assembly promises to be the liveliest we have ever known. No less than seven candidates are at present before the public, to wit: Messrs. Tait and Macdougall, Reform; Clarke and Clark, Conservative; Armour and Bell, Equal Rights; and Moses, Prohibition. It is possible that the last named gentleman will withdraw from the race in favor of the Equal Righters, as so far as the jurisdiction of the Local House is concerned, their platforms are practically identical. Toronto is a pronouncedly Conservative city, and in the ordinary course of things the candidates of that party could count upon a walk over, leaving the third seat as a matter of course to the "representative of the Reform minority." But the ordinary course of things has been turned topsy-

tury for the present campaign, and the result is delightfully uncertain. Mr. Tait's rubicund countenance is beaming with the joyful hope of actually seeing the tables turned, and the city represented by two Reformers and one Conservative. It would not greatly surprise us to see this sanguine prediction realized, for both the Equal Righters are Conservatives and will be sure to split that vote, while it is anticipated that Mr. E. F. Clarke will fail to hold the Catholic vote as he has cleverly managed to do heretofore. If Mr. Moses remains in the field he will poll a vote made up pretty evenly from both the old parties; his retirement, if he should decide upon that course, will, therefore, have little effect upon the result. That the race will be hotly contested goes without saying. The Reform candidates declare their intention of holding meetings in every available hall in town, and of course their rivals will follow suit in the inebriation which comes of the exuberance of campaign verbosity. When the flag falls for the start, there will be a dust raised such as Toronto has never seen before.

BEYOND THEIR CALIBRE.—It is only right to let the public know that the delineation of Mowat's hat upon our front page is done from designs and specifications furnished in the public speeches of Messrs. Tait, Macdougall, Preston, Edgar, Jaffrey and other expert judges of headgear. Mr. Mowat himself is too modest to give us a certificate officially testifying that the capacity of his tile is precisely as represented—that, although it is a snug fit for the head of Ontario's Attorney-General, it is big enough to more than swallow up the combined brains of the Opposition; yet it is significant that he has refrained from officially forbidding the publication of the cartoon. We have reason to suspect, moreover, that Dineen the Hatter has received a hint from the Premier's Department that this is the only genuine "campaign hat," and that it is to be worn by the only man it will fit after the 5th of June. It is not unlikely that Mr. Meredith and his colleagues will see in this picture only a painful illustration of "swelled head" on the part of the Mowat Government; they will deny that the hat measurement is any more accurate than the figures involved in the financial statement of ex-Treasurer Ross, or the allegations on the subject of French schools made by the other Minister of that ilk. We have no wish to become embroiled in a quarrel between the parties. If Mr. Meredith asserts that he can fill Mowat's hat himself, let him prove it by putting it on after the election.

THE political morality of Canada is evidently improving. The enforced resignation of Rykert when the charge of boodling was brought home to him by a Committee comprising a majority of his own political friends, and the severe censure passed by Parliament on Gen. Middleton, indicate a greatly increased sensitiveness on the part of our politicians to public opinion. A few years ago both Rykert and Middleton would have been whitewashed as a matter of course. The only ground which either of these persons can fairly have for taking exception to the treatment meted out to them is that equally flagrant delinquencies have been condoned in the past. But reform must begin with somebody. The healthy change of public sentiment which has made it possible for men in public life to denounce rascalities committed by their own Party friends without being considered traitors to the cause is mainly due to the growth of the Independent Press.

MR. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN'S remarkable clarity of intellect is strongly illustrated by the dedication of his speech on the Jesuits' Estates question to Sir John Macdonald, "whose moderation and judgment, not less than his great ability, have enthroned him in the confidence of the people of Canada." If GRIP remembers right, it was only a very short time before the delivery of this speech that its gifted author, in another utterance, declared that the Dominion Premier was not a statesman, and otherwise reflected on his fitness for the position he holds. What has happened in the meantime to modify Mr. Davin's opinion of the Chief-