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PHILLIPS THOMPSON.



## Comments ON THE Cartoons.

THE HOME MARKET. — By way of comment on this sketch, nothing can be more to the purpose than the following extract from a recently published letter by that level-headed workingman, Mr. Alfred F. Jury :

"In discussing the effects of the McKinley Bill on the trade of this country the universal cry that has gone up from restrictionist press and platform is for new foreign markets. This must seem very strange to the farmers that can remember the rivers of ink spent and the thousands of orations delivered to prove to them that the best market for the farmers of Canada was the home market, and if they would only submit to be taxed on all their manufactured goods these home markets would spring up in every hamlet, village and town in the country. Enough of the farmers believed this kind of nonsense to put the present Government in power, and now—after eleven years of greatly increased taxation, during which time the people of Canada have paid about \$85,000,000 more custom taxes for about the same quantity of imports as came in the previous eleven years, and the farmers have borne their share of this enormous taxation

patiently in the sure and certain hope of obtaining the promised home market, and a crisis is at hand by which they are likely to lose their best and nearest foreign market—these very men who deluded them with the false hopes have the impudence to turn round and tell them not to sell their goods in the home market, but that all their attention must be turned to finding new foreign markets on the other side of the Atlantic. For cool charlatanism this is the best on record. What about Canada for the Canadians? What about our farmers being mere hewers of wood and drawers of water? Is it not enough that they are to be hewers of wood and drawers of water to the highly-paid workers of the American continent, but they are now told with all the nonchalance of the thimble-and-pea man, that they have been fooled about the home market and that they must now become mere hewers of wood and drawers of water for the 'pauper laborers of Europe.'

"If ever a party stood convicted of having deliberately deceived the largest and most important interest of a country it is the Tory party of Canada.

"They promised the farmers three things if they would submit to be taxed for a short time—high prices for their produce, cheap manufactured goods, and a home market to sell in, and now they are told that Protection for the manufacturers is to be the permanent policy of Canada, which means they will have to pay an abnormally high price for all they consume, and that they must sell their surplus in the foreign markets of Europe in competition with the lowest-priced products of the world."

BLAINE, THE FAR-SIGHTED.—For the time being Mr. James G. Blaine and his Reciprocity idea are sojourning with the equally celebrated McGinty, at the bottom of the sea. Bully Reed has come back from Maine in triumph to take the leadership of the Republican party and hasten it towards its impending doom, and the McKinley Bill has been signed by the President as the veritable death warrant of the High Protection policy. But before many months reason will return to the halls of legislation at Washington and Blaine will bob up serenely. His notion of reciprocal trade, meagre as it was, struck the whole country so favorably that a permanent regime of McKinleyism is out of the question. And it was a meagre notion, truly. All that Blaine proposed was that raw sugar should be let in free only on condition that American farm products should be permitted free entry into Cuba to the equal value. It was a mere utterance of rudimentary common-sense, and yet it won a mountain of glory for its author. This shows how deeply they appreciate the Chinese wall idea! What will they do for Blaine when he comes to talk Reciprocity in anything like an adequate way, a few months hence? He has already admitted enough to let the daylight of truth through the fraud of Protection, and he cannot resist the logical impulse which will insist that if Free Trade with Cuba would be beneficial, the same with Canada would be more so. Blaine is a politician, and he is only awaiting the will of the country before taking his plunge. That will he will soon see indicated in an unmistakable manner and it will be for freedom.



THE Premier of Quebec went off to New York the other day on one of his characteristically mysterious missions. It leaked out, however, that his purpose was to meet the Comte de Paris—the chap who is plotting to overthrow the French Republic, and inflict another royal dynasty upon la belle France, you know—and invite him to visit Quebec. No doubt Mercier sees some politics in this. The habitants are royalists to a man, and would worship at the feet of this "heir to the throne," who has been exiled from his country for his country's good. Then they could not logically withhold their votes from a statesman who was seen going about arm in arm with the Count—and this is where the shrewd Mercier secures the frying of his own little pan of fish. *Le Monde* ironically suggested that it was intended to offer the crown of the new French Canadian nation to