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Artist and Editor J. W. BENGOUGH.
 Associate Editor PHILLIPS THOMPSON.

COMMENTS ON THE CARTOONS.



THE CHICKS IN DANGER.—There is nothing more pathetic in the annals of the barnyard than the spectacle of an agitated hen cooped up in a barrel, while her young and inexperienced chicks are being hungrily inspected by a couple of vagrant cats. This touching scene is somewhat analogous to that now "on" at Ottawa. The Premier, being in the Senate, presents the same appearance of helplessness, while his interesting brood of ministers are in equally imminent danger. Some of them, in fact, are as good as captured by the felines. To drop the metaphor, and come down to the plain facts: the Scandal Committees are still at work, and every day adds to their damaging discoveries. The case against Sir

Hector Langevin is conclusive, and from outcroppings in the Public Accounts Committee the case of the Postmaster General is in its own way, equally hopeless. There has been a disposition of late on the part of the ministers who sit on the committees to shield their colleagues by choking off damaging evidence. The inference to be drawn from this is plain, and will be as effective with the country as anything the witnesses could say, if permitted to answer the questions objected to. There is no knowing where the revelations will lead to. A committee of the Senate has discovered evidence implicating the Mercier Govern-

ment in alleged boodling with the Baie des Chaleurs Railway subsidy, and explanations from Count Mercier are anxiously awaited. This charge, if it is sustained as fully as those brought by M. Tarte, will relieve the feelings of the Conservatives, but we trust the truism that two blacks do not make a white will be borne in mind. "Turn the rascals out" whether they are Grit or Tory, and turn them all out, from ministers down to messengers. Premier Abbott deserves sympathy under the circumstances, as the prospect seems to be that several of his chickens will fall into the clutches of the committees.

IF THE FARMER KEEPS ON HE'LL GET IT.—The Budget debate contained a lot of the same old talk about the great things the National Policy has done and is doing for the farmer. The amount of assurance it requires to thus revive the campaign literature of 1878 in the face of the stubborn facts of to-day is great enough to excite admiration. The farmer was promised a home market and good prices for all he could produce, and in the hope and expectation thereof he voted for the protective policy. He is now told authoritatively that these promises have been fulfilled, and that he is in a prosperous and happy condition. He finds it hard to believe this—indeed the facts, so far as he is able to grasp them, seem to point quite the other way—but who is the farmer that he should reply against the heaven-born statesmen of the Red Parlor? If he doesn't see that the villages around him have grown into big towns and that these towns are murky with the smoke from tall chimneys and vocal with the clanging of busy hammers, it must be because he is blind. At all events, if he hasn't yet grasped the glorious reality of good times, don't let him grow pessimistic and think of voting for freer trade relations; no, let him keep right on as he has been going and he will get there bye and by.



HE Kingston *News*, one of the leading Conservative journals of the country, confesses that what it is after is Free Trade. It declares, with pardonable pride, that it is a better free trader than either Laurier or Cartwright. This will be *News* i deed to the public generally, for in the meantime our Kingston contemporary is an ardent upholder of Protectionism. The explanation of this apparent paradox is, that, in the view of the *News*, the N.P. is the road that leads to free trade. It seems to

have confidence that after "a nati nal system of industries" has been strengthened for a few years longer, the tariff may safely and easily be reduced to the free trade level.

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THIS childlike confidence is really very touching, but the *News* would do well to put in some of its spare time studying natural history. Let it pay particular attention to the habits and customs of that interesting animal known as the protected manufacturer. It will find that by some peculiar law of its being, that critter develops a capacity for higher and higher protection, but is never known to voluntarily agree to the slightest reduction of any duties which are to its advantage. When the *News* has satisfied itself on that point, it will no doubt be ready to join with GRIP in advocating the abolition of the tariff without reference to the private interests of a few monopolists.

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THERE is a popular impression that the undertaker is a sad person, clad in the habiliments of woe, and always talking of "graves and worms and epitaphs." This description may not be so very far astray during office hours, but it would appear that occasionally the undertaker, like his neighbor the butcher or baker, takes a holiday, and on such occasions he can be in his disposition as in his person—far from grave. Such an