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OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.



ELSEWHERE in this number will be found a printed ballot. It will appear in the seven issues following, that is, up to May 31st. During these eight weeks we hope to have a lively voting competition on the question:

"Is the Mowat Government worthy of a Renewal of Public Confidence?"

The ballots are to be cut out and forwarded to the personal care of Mr. J. W. Bengough, who will keep them safely until the fourth day of June, when they will be delivered to a committee representing both political parties to be officially counted, the result to be published in the number of GRIP for June 7th.

Ballots may be sent in open envelopes under 1 cent postage.

\$50 IN CASH

will be awarded to the person who most nearly guesses the total number of ballots that will be sent in before June 4th.

Comments on the Cartoons.



interests of the people generally. The people, as a whole, are a mass of stupidity that can be worked into any shape like a lump

GETTING INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE BOSS.—The advantages to Canada of Reciprocity with the United States are, no doubt, as clear to Sir John Macdonald as they are to Sir Richard Cartwright, and the Tory party in general is as much convinced of the desirability of Continental Free Trade as the Grit party can be. Quotations could be made *ad lib.* from old speeches of the Conservative leader in which the benefits of the former Treaty are commented upon in glowing periods, and none of the natural conditions have in the meantime altered. What has changed is, not the needs and desires of the people of Canada, but the policy of the Conservative party. Sir John has convinced himself that it is "better politics"—that is more certain assurance of office—to play into the hands of monopolists than to devote himself to the well-understood

of dough. Enough of them can be relied upon to vote for the Old Man anyhow, so what is the use of going out of the way to do them a favor? The monopolists are a spry lot of fellows, with their eyes wide open to their own interests, and liable to make trouble if not carefully looked after. Accordingly they have, in the language of Tammany, the "pull" on the Government. They don't want Reciprocity; they naturally prefer the lovely arrangement under which the Canadian market is reserved for their own exclusive benefit. Hence the Government doesn't take any notice of the offer already made and likely to be repeated by Congress. The Boss has indicated his will, and that settles it.

"HELPING" THE FARMER. The Canadian farmer, standing in the slough of despond, loaded down with debt and taxes, listens to the mellifluous warblings of Mr. Finance Minister Foster about the prosperity of the country, and awaits in some anxiety the practical help which the tariff changes will bring him. The help is forthcoming, of course. It is not in the vulgar shape of a wider market or a diminution of the cost of living; no, it is unique. It is the imposition of more taxation. The farmer will, perhaps, not appreciate this, but that is because he is not a philosopher or a logician. To others it must be perfectly clear that if taxation has made the country prosperous (and the Toronto *World* is prepared to prove this any time) then more taxation must make it *more* prosperous. The whole Protective philosophy is as clear as mud.



N English Viscount has been scandalizing the aristocracy by grinding an organ in the public streets of London "accompanying" his wife, who went around with the hat. Every effort has been made to get the erratic nobleman to desist, but in vain. One

gentleman offered to get him a clerkship on the Stock Exchange, but "the offer was loudly declined in the presence of five hundred people." His Lordship is anxious, no doubt, to prove that the aristocracy are good for something, and that at least some of them are particular as to the sort of business they engage in.

IF Humanity in general has felt a pleasurable uprising of hope and joy within the last few days—an indescribable exaltation of spirits which has given a new impulse to life—let it not be attributed to the coming of Spring. We can account for it precisely. It is the immediate and direct result of a *toast* offered by M. Simon at the Labor Conference Banquet at Berlin, and drunk with honors by the distinguished company assembled. The health of M. Simon having been proposed, that eminent Frenchman "thanked the people of Berlin for his cordial reception to their city, and offered a toast to *Suffering Humanity*." That's why Suffering Humanity has been feeling so good lately.

THE Dominion Parliament, the Local Legislature and the City Council have been or are being petitioned in favor of the establishment of Public Weighing Scales in connection with all public markets throughout the Province. We may surely look with confidence to the prayer of these petitions being granted, as nothing more