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

NOTICE.

Readers of GRIP will be pleased at the announcement that this paper is hereafter to have the benefit of Mr. Phillips Thompson's services as Associate Editor. Mr. Thompson's reputation as a humorous writer is established throughout the Dominion and beyond its borders, and nothing further need be said here in his praise.

Comments on the Cartoons.



**BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION.**—Mr. Meredith, who has himself repudiated the Ottawa connection—though in a manner too mild to suit the *Mail*—declares that he has the solid support of the Ontario Opposition in the position he has taken in the present campaign, viz., a bold stand upon the platform of "Equal Rights." His first lieutenant, however, is Mr. Creighton, of the *Empire*, a gentleman who, no doubt, clings with the fondest affection and loyalty to his local leader, but whose nether limb is at the same time unquestionably shackled to the Chieftain, and the Chieftain has taken his stand squarely upon the policy of "unequal privileges." The *Empire* is, in fact, plainly attempting to serve two antagonistic masters without loving the one and hating the other, or clinging to the one and despising the other,

and we have it on the highest authority that this cannot be successfully done. It is with Mr. Creighton rather than with Mr.

Meredith that the fate of the Conservative Party in Ontario will be decided, and the outlook for those candidates whose dependence is upon the *Empire* is far from reassuring. The Government's position cannot be said to be much more certain. The Attorney-General is figuratively walking a wobbling wire between the two flags, with a balancing pole that has lost the power of balancing. Meanwhile, the appearance the Equal Rights Association's manifesto—a document in which the movement is sharply dissevered from the interests of both parties—increases the prospect that, as an outcome of the contest, a body of independent members, numerous enough to hold the balance of power, will be found in the next Legislative Assembly of this Province.

PLAIN ENGLISH.—The letters signed "Gracchus," which have of late been appearing in the *Mail*, are excellently written, and well worthy of a wide reading. Our first page cartoon contains a somewhat lengthy extract from one of them, which Sir John Macdonald and Mr. Edward Blake will hardly be able to read without a feeling of self-condemnation. Both these leaders, and many of their respective followers, have characterized the Equal Rights movement as something inimical to the French Canadian people and to the Roman Catholic faith, and have indulged in specious depreciation of the raising of "religious animosities," "racial wars," etc. These appeals in favor of mutual forbearance and national unity have an appearance of statesmanship about them, but when it is discovered (as these eminent individuals no doubt knew quite well all along) that there is neither race hatred nor religious prejudice in the Equal Rights programme, what looked like statesmanship is seen to be nothing but the mouthing of pettifogging politicians.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

TO CONCLUDE MAY 24TH.



ELSEWHERE in this number will be found a printed ballot. It will appear in the six issues following, that is, up to May 24th. During these seven 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 27th of May, 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 May 31st.

The date of the election having been fixed for June 5th, we have shortened this contest by one week, so that the result of the voting will be made known, as above stated, in the issue of GRIP dated May 31st.

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 May 24th.



CABLEGRAM announces that the British Government intends to disallow the Copyright Act recently passed at Ottawa. No doubt there will be the usual whining complaints about injustice to Canada from some of our contemporaries. But what else can we expect as long as we remain a British colony? Of course the British Government are acting in this matter, as in everything else in which they intermeddle, in the interest of England and against those of Canada. Well, and why not? Do you expect England to have all the trouble and responsibility arising from Canada's connection with her for nothing?

The Canadian people by a large majority say they do not want to sever the colonial tie. Then they ought to bear its disadvantages patiently. To boast our "loyalty"