

GRIP

AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF HUMOR AND CARICATURE.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

BY THE

Grip Printing and Publishing Co.

26 and 28 Front Street West, Toronto, Ont.

President
Manager

J. V. WRIGHT.
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.
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Comments

ON THE

Cartoons.



THE CONVENIENT WAITING-ROOM.—The Senate chamber, which was designed by the Fathers of Confederation as the exalted abode of Wisdom, has been turned into a sort of paddock for played-out political war-horses. Its atmosphere is as highly charged with the electric

tricity of partyism as that of the Commons, and in no respect is it superior to the "lower" chamber. Even the respect commonly due to gray hairs is not always vouchsafed to our Senators, for too many of them are like the ancients alluded to by Pitt, whose "errors do not cease with their youth, but who remain in ignorance in spite of age and experience." This deterioration from the high ideal of the constitution makers has been brought about by the appointive system. The Premier of the day—who has, as a general thing, been Sir John Macdonald—has had little or no regard to considerations of fitness in making Senators. Men have frequently been deposited there because they could not possibly be elected. Sir John has now discovered a new use for the Senate—that of a waiting-room. Hon. John Carling is the latest addition to the Senatorial ranks, and it is openly stated that he is to occupy a seat in the red chamber only until a constituency can be found for him in the House.

THE MINE-GRABBERS DON'T LIKE IT.—The mining speculators are up in arms against Mr. Hardy's proposed royalty legislation. They declare that the imposition by the Government of a toll of two per cent. upon the value of the ore taken from the nickel mines of this Province will have the effect of driving away the capital which is now seeking investment in the Sudbury and Lake Superior regions, as it is in contrast with the more liberal policy of Michigan and other States. This outcry is perhaps natural enough, human nature being what it is, but Mr. Hardy's ideas are sound, just the same. If the capitalists can find nickel in Michigan in paying quantities, and if the people of that State are silly enough to give their natural resources over wholly to the possession of private speculators, Michigan is the very place for them. Ontario's proposed policy is based on a truth as solid and unshakable as the Sudbury rocks themselves, viz., that the natural opportunities of a country belong to the people of that country and not to individuals. Heretofore the interests of the people have been parted with far too cheaply. The Kingston *Whig* mentions one case in which three American gentlemen secured a few hundreds of acres of nickel lands near Sudbury from the Government for \$1,200, for which lands they were afterwards offered, and refused to accept, \$50,000,000. As there were at least 650,000,000 tons of nickel ore "in sight" on this section, the *Whig* thinks these Yanks showed the proverbial shrewdness of their race in declining. The editor goes on to remark: "On the one hand an amount barely enough to pay a year's salary to a good head master, and on the other a sum sufficient, by its interest-earning power alone, to furnish school books free to the children of Ontario for all time. Under the proposed system of leasing or conditional sale, subject to use and royalty, such an example of the misappropriation of the public estate will be impossible. It is a system admittedly and intentionally hard on mine grabbers, but under which both the prospector and the operating capitalist will have no just cause for complaint." All of which is rock-ribbed sense, and secures our distinguished endorsement.



THE Legislative Committee made short work of Ald. McDougall's scheme for civic reform—which was not Ald. McDougall's after all. It didn't seem to have a friend amongst all the municipal and provincial statesmen present on the mournful occasion, excepting possibly Mayor Clarke.

Mr. McDougall himself, who appeared in the role of foster father, "dam'd it with faint praise." If, in the multitude of counsellors there is wisdom, the conclusion must be that the proposed scheme was really a pretty poor one. But what is to be done now? We can't possibly let things go on drifting. Some reorganization of the civic system must be effected and that soon. How would it do to act on the precedent established by the Athenian Republic, and relegate the whole question to some Solon with absolute authority to formulate a plan and put it into operation, the rest of us promising unconditional obedience until it has had a fair trial? Mayor Clarke would, no doubt, take the job for a reasonable consideration.

BEFORE it is too late GRIP wishes to extend his congratulations to the Harmony Club on the emphatic success of their performances of *Iolanthe*. These were so good that crowded houses are assured for the next appearance, on which occasion it is not unlikely, we hear, that additional local interest will be given by the selection of a comic opera written and composed by Torontonians.