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Artist and Editor
Associate Editor

J. W. BENGOUGH.
PHILLIPS THOMPSON.



Comments

ON THE

Cartoons.

BECOMING TWEED SUITS.—Just what M. Côté means by this, GRIP's commentator would prefer to leave to the perspicacity of the individual reader. The parties in the picture bear a certain amount of resemblance to the Honorable Thomas McGreevey and the Hon-

orable Sir Hector Langevin. The fact that they are arm-in-arm, thus indicating a degree of affectionate intimacy, increases the probability that the figures are intended for the honorable gentlemen named. When, however, M. Côté refers to the clothing of the two honorable gentlemen as "Becoming Tweed Suits," we must beg to differ with him. The pattern strikes us as being exceedingly loud. We very much doubt whether either of the honorable gentlemen

named (if we are right as to their identity) ever wore anything so pronounced, even when disporting themselves at the seaside in summer "blazers." Indeed, to our notion, the pattern is even suggestive of prison garb, an idea which cannot possibly have been in the artist's mind. To be sure, Messrs. McGreevey and Langevin happen at present to be mixed up in a case similar to some which have been tried in other countries, and which have led the way to penitentiary—such as the Tweed case. Can it be that M. Côté has any sly reference to that historical precedent when he refers to the suits being of "Tweed?" Probably not; but the coincidence seems rather suggestive. Of course he must know that whatever the outcome of the enquiry may be—and, after the evidence given by Mr. Owen Murphy a verdict against the accused seems a certainty—there will be no talk of anything so vulgar and matter-of-fact as prison. It is only in the United States, where political morality is at a very low ebb, that they put boodlers and bank defaulters behind the bars, and dress them in costumes of such fantastic pattern. As before stated, we must really leave each intelligent reader to interpret this mysterious cartoon for himself.

"DICTATION FROM WASHINGTON."—It has been the fatuous policy of the Conservative party to maintain the absurd proposition that Canada can "hoe her own row" without reference to the doings of the United States. In so far as this refers to the maintaining of our own political institutions it is true enough, but much more than this is meant. Men who refer to the influence which the great and powerful nation on our border necessarily exerts over the policy of the Canadian Government have been cried down as traitors, and the existence of such an influence flatly denied. All this nonsense has been talked in the name of "loyalty," which has been the convenient refuge of red-parlorism. Well, the demonstration of the existence of such an influence in the matter of the Canadian sugar duties has been striking enough to convince the most stupid of the deniers. We have abolished those duties *volens volens* because the Americans abolished theirs. The fact is well pointed out by the New York *Commercial Bulletin* as follows:—"The announcement that the Canadian Government will repeal the import duty on raw sugar is a striking reminder of the obvious but unrecognized fact of the natural intimacy of our relations with the country adjoining our borders. There is little reason to suppose that Canada would have made sugar free at this time if we had not done so. Our action in taking the duty off an article of general necessity led to an immediate agitation for such action in Canada, enforced by the practical impossibility of preventing smuggling if the Canadian duty were maintained. The authorities have taken the only course that was open to them, and in so doing have illustrated the absurdity of a public policy based on a denial of the harmony of interests on the two sides of the border, and pursued with an apparent intent to resist as far as possible the natural tendency toward closer relations. Every illustration and reminder of the natural closeness of our ties and identity of interest is to be welcomed at a time when they are so strangely and persistently ignored by our legislators, and when both Canada and Mexico seem more inclined than ourselves to recognize the mutual advantages to be attained by more intimate relations."



THE Hon. Richard Harcourt is an able man and the makings of a most useful Minister, but it wouldn't do him any harm to put in his spare time reading Political Economy. The Single Tax Society can give him some valuable advice as to the books he ought to get for this purpose. At the Commencement exercises of the Ontario Agricultural College the other day, the Hon. Richard made a very fine speech. It was neatly worded, and ornamented with apt poetical quotations, but there was one sentiment in it which must have struck the orator himself and his audience as somewhat horrible.

THE passage we refer to was that in which Mr. Harcourt predicted "good times" for the agriculturists of Canada in the not remote future as the result of the United States becoming a grain-importing instead of a