



AN OBSCURE QUESTION MADE PLAIN.

like to know what else they could do as employes of the Government. (Hear, hear!) Surely, nobody would have them state the naked and disagreeable facts? (Cries of No!) The brazen side of the shield is a Grit idea, and may be left to Sir R. Cartwright. (Cheers.) Besides, where was the harm in a little lying, anyway? It is well known that the Government often lies and prevaricates and misrepresents things. (Loud and continued laughter and applause).

Mr. SOAPELY SLICKTON, of Barrow-cum-Ashton-on-Trent Workhouse, said he could hardly find words to express his admiration of the present Canadian Government and its emigration policy. (Loud cheers.) That policy he could say had the unanimous approval of Poor-law Guardians and workhouse officials throughout the United Kingdom. Although we understood the Government was Conservative, he could not imagine a more Liberal administration, for it not only opened the doors of Canada to the paupers and other useless classes of the old country—a burden which they were very glad to get rid of—(cheers) but it paid them to emigrate, and that out of the money of the working people of Canada. Before returning to England he hoped to see a Canadian working man. He had long had this desire. He could not imagine a more wonderful natural curiosity than the workingman who would vote for a Government and policy of this kind, though it was greatly to the honor of Canadian workingmen that they should thus rise superior to the feeling which actuated their class in every other part of the world.

Mr. THUMPER LYE, agent at Stoke-Newington, said he had gone into the emigration agency business not from any sordid consideration, but as a means of useful intellectual exercise. He was by profession a romantic novelist, and he had genuine pleasure in the work of painting fictitious pictures of Canada before wondering audiences of English yokels. He didn't consider it any moral harm to lie in his official any more than in his professional capacity.

Sir JOHN MACDONALD, in closing the proceedings, said he observed that the workingmen at their meeting did

not object to emigrants of the right class, but only to the expenditure of public money to bring them to Canada. One speaker had also stated that the Government had promised to do away with aided emigration, but had broken their promise. (Laughter.) Of course the Government had to make promises, but *you* know gentlemen, said he, how much promises are worth—you make 'em yourselves. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) As to the expenditure of public money, the fact was very little of it went to emigrants' passages. It was voted ostensibly for that, but most of it was expended, as everybody knew, for party purposes in bye-elections—they might even spell that prefix b-u-y. (Laughter.) Then, another portion went the emigration agents, who must be kept fat, for the sake of the country. (Renewed laughter.) He trusted the workingmen would say no more about the subject, as it was really inconvenient for the Government that it should be discussed. (Applause.) The meeting then broke up.

## EASY TO ANSWER.



HE *Montreal Gazette*, commenting on the cartoon in our issue of May 19th, says:—

GRIP presents its views on the question this week in a cartoon in which a laborer is joyfully shouting, "With the land free from the clutch of monopoly, I defy poverty." This is very fine for GRIP's laborer. What it is for the man whose industry and thrift has enabled him to become possessed of a home or a farm, we are not told.

Well, dear *Gazette*, we'll tell you now. For "the man whose industry and thrift has enabled him to become possessed of a home

or a farm," it just means that he would be required to pay annually a single tax representing the fair rental value of the land he holds. If the land happened to be situated in the centre of a large city, the tax would be pretty high, but the land needed by the average thrifty citizen for a home, and the land used by the average farmer for purposes of cultivation, is not usually so situated, and has a comparatively low rental value, and the tax would accordingly be light in proportion. Meantime, the man whose "industry and thrift" is now retarded and discouraged by taxation on land, buildings, stock, fences and improvements of all kinds, food, clothing, income, and everything else, would be relieved of all these imposts. He would simply render to the public till each year the land value created, not by the sweat of his brow, but by the natural growth of the community, instead, as he does now, a portion of the result of his labor and toil. In short, Mr. *Gazette*, the thrifty and deserving person for whom we are glad to see you so solicitous, would only have his taxes lowered under the system which GRIP favors. Do you think he would object to that?