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



Comments

ON THE

Cartoons.

CAN'T STAND THE FACE—Before this number of GRIP is in the hands of our readers it is likely that they will be in possession of an authoritative statement from Mr. Blake himself as to the reasons for his retirement from Parliament. This is written on the 16th, and the

only information at present before the public pertaining to this important public event is that which appeared a few days ago in the *Mail*, in the following terms:

"It was reported yesterday that Mr. Blake had decided not to run again in West Durham, and that it was his purpose to abandon public life for the present, if not forever. Three years ago, owing to ill-health, Mr. Blake resigned the Liberal leadership into other hands. Since that time he has been a sort of honorary member of the party. He has not spoken for it on the platform, nor has he taken in Parliament an active interest in its concerns. Last session he spoke twice on questions which had been raised by some of his former followers. On one occasion he rose to rebuke Mr. Charlton for bringing the sectarian riots at Hull before the notice of the House. On the other occasion he dissented from the policy of the Liberals with reference to the case of Mr. Rykert. Mr. Laurier and Sir Richard Cartwright had made vigorous speeches in opposition to the carrying of the timber limit matter before the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections; but Mr. Blake held that to that court of enquiry the case should certainly be referred. The reported determination with

regard to the future is important. Mr. Blake, by reason of his eminence and influence, of the many years he has been before the public, and of the regard with which his view of the situation would be accepted by the Liberals, and indeed by the country at large, might naturally be expected to have something to say at this juncture. Possibly he will make known before many days his reason for remaining out of the contest."

The *World* alleges (on what authority we do not know) that Mr. Blake himself gave this announcement to the *Mail*, passing by the *Globe*, because he is not in accord with Sir Richard Cartwright's policy of Unrestricted Reciprocity, believing that such a policy will involve direct taxation, a thing for which the Canadian people are not prepared. If this is true it does Mr. Blake small credit. Direct taxation is more honest and fair than indirect taxation, and the sooner we come to it in this country the better. Mr. Blake can, however, speak for himself, and his explanation may be more satisfactory when it comes. One thing is certain, however, he has jumped out of the Liberal rig just at a critical moment.

A CRUEL, UNJUST SUSPICION.—The fact that, a few weeks ago, that fly political Darkey, Sir John, was seen loitering about the Liberal hen-coop, was a *prima facie* ground for suspicion, but the sequel proved once more the unreliability of circumstantial evidence. It is true that the Darkey was 'round, and that he had a bag in his hand well adapted for the accommodation of a pullet. It is also true that when subsequently the policeman met him he had a pullet in the bag. But, all the same, the suspicion proved to be a cruel and unjust one. The pullet was not the Liberal pullet at all, but a bird of another breed altogether. Sir John had *not* stolen the Unrestricted Reciprocity policy. He will have nothing to do with such a scheme, because it pre-supposes the abolition of the tariff on manufactured articles, and this is something which his friends of the Red Parlor will not stand. Reciprocity in natural products is what he declares for—that is, the abolition of the portion of the tariff which is supposed to "protect" the farmer. Sir John appears to think this will benefit our agriculturists. We think he will find it an unusually hard job to convince them of the correctness of this view. But, besides, it is just as well to remember that neither party in the United States will consent even to discuss this sort of Reciprocity. This is a fact which we are sorry to see Sir John Thompson and other Conservative orators ignoring in their addresses. But it is one which should settle the question. To discuss "Reciprocity in Natural Products" in this campaign is just to waste time and trifle with the people's intelligence.

MR. GOLDWIN SMITH'S lecture on "Loyalty" was one of the best things he has ever given to the public. Nothing short of the Professor's mastery of sarcasm is equal to an adequate treatment of the sickening cant which is now the stock in trade of our spurious loyalists, whose hypocrisy and self-interest are so apparent that none but simpletons are likely to be carried away with their mouthings.

MR. E. W. THOMSON has achieved immortality, not by the pen which he wields with such skill, but at the hands of that popular adjunct of modern civilization, the newspaper interviewer. The *World's* young man waited upon the ex-young man of the *Globe*, and got a statement of his views on the present situation. This was to the effect that Sir John's platform was likely to catch a lot of Liberal votes because the Grit policy of Unrestricted Reciprocity, if carried out, will lead to direct taxation, which, says Mr. T., "is a thing Canadians won't stand." Sir John snatches this pearly utterance and puts it into his "last call" address, a document which is bound to be historical. We congratulate Mr. Thomson in thus getting himself booked for posterity in a cheap and easy manner. It may console him in the midst of the storm of Grit wrath which will rage around his devoted head.

OF course, Mr. Thomson, being a man of brains and sense, takes care to tell the interviewer that he sees nothing terrible about direct taxation, and Sir John takes equal care to leave this out of his address. But, having eased his mind by stating his opinion of the probable