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The gravest Beast is the Ass; the gravest Bird is the Owl;
The gravest Fish is the Oyster; the gravest Man is the Fool.

The Parliamentary Alphabet.

A is for ANGLIN, who lately was Speaker,
B is for BURKE, a milder and mucker.
C is for CARTWRIGHT, a fly off the wheel,
And D is the warrior, bold Major DOUVILLE.
E is for ELLIOTT, whom nobody knows,
And F is for FARNER, who caws like the crows.
G is for GILLMOR, who kicked up the touse,
And H is for HOLTON, grandma of the House.
I is for INNES, who was lately elected,
And J is for JACKSON, whom South Grey selected.
K is for KILLAM, whose name suggests fight,
And L is for LANGEVIN, who may soon be a knight.
M's for MACDONALD, MACKENZIE, McKAY,
And O is for ORTON, a maker of hay.
P is for POPP, of Compton, of Queens,
And Q is the QUERIST who doesn't know beans.
R is for ROBERTSON, friend of pool sellers,
And S is for SNOWBALL, most cheeky of fellers.
T is for TILLEY, the chief of Finances,
And V is for VALLEE, who shouts, howls and prances.
W for WALLACE the Rag Baby's nurse,
And Y is for YEO, who endeth my verse.

Grip's Historical Readings.

EMBRACING NOTICES OF GREAT EVENTS
AND CELEBRATED MEN.

III.—THE SOUTH SEA SCHEME.

In the year 1720, when GEORGE THE FIRST was King, there was a Grit ministry in power. This was, of course, a sad thing for the country; but, in addition to this, there was a great financial depression,—although we suppose that is only effect following cause, in accordance with the cast-iron laws of nature. It was just at this juncture of affairs that the great South Sea Scheme made its debut in history. This scheme achieved undisputed preeminence as the greatest fraud ever perpetrated on a civilized community, and maintained that reputation down to the date of the Steel Rail Purchase (according to the *Mail* historian) or the introduction of the N. P. (according to the *Globe*). In the present paper we purpose setting forth very briefly the facts, etc., of this S. S. S.

About 1710 a mercantile association had been incorporated for the purpose of doing business along the shores of the Pacific Ocean. Whether this business was selling clams, carrying excursion parties, or starting newspapers, we are not aware, though it was probably the latter, as we are told that during the first ten years of its labors the

Company didn't make a cent. In the year first mentioned, Sir JOHN BLOUNT, a leading director of the Co., began to see a bonanza ahead. Sir BLOUNT was a man of wonderful financial ability,—combining in himself the recklessness of a MACPHERSON, the profundity of a WYNNE, the hopefulness of a WALLACE, the unbounded credulity of a BUCHANAN, and the politeness of a HUGH ALLAN. This combined individual waited upon the Government of the day, and told the Finance Minister that he had a plan for clearing off all the national incumbrances. The Finance Minister asked him if his name was PHIPPS; to which he replied in the negative. He was then invited to sit down and explain himself. He did so. His scheme was, that the Government should grant certain commercial privileges to the Company, which would have the effect of raising the value of its stock, in return for which the Company would give the Government a *quid pro quo*. The Government, in the words of JOE RYMAI, M. P., a distinguished statesman of that day, "swallowed the bait, hook and line, bob and sinker." When the terms of the bargain leaked out, the Opposition raised a fearful row. Sir ROBERT WALPOLE, a leading Grit, though now in Opposition, made furious speeches in the House, and was ably supported by MACKENZIE and others, who denounced the Scheme as a Pacific Scandal. Nevertheless, as old BLOUNT predicted, it was a big success. The Company's stock went away up out of sight, and the good times came back with such a sudden rush that most of the people went crazy. Nothing ever equalled the S. S. Scheme for bringing back good times instantaneously, excepting the Canadian National Policy of a later date. Speculation became rife—very rife, indeed. Everybody went into it, from boot-blacks down to professional politicians. The Company's stock bore a 1,000 per cent. premium and JOHN T. RAYMOND drew splendid houses with his great play of "Millions In It." Around this Scheme hundreds of others sprang up, and shares were sold faster than the clerks could hand them out. At one time the nominal value of the schemes afloat was more than twice the worth of all the land in the Kingdom, and five times as much as the current cash of all Europe. Capt. WYNNE, Mr. WALLACE and Mr. BUCHANAN, the great inflationists, were almost wild with joy at this marvellous triumph of the rag-baby philosophy, and went swelling around the Royal Exchange with badges on their bosoms, inscribed "A Paper Currency is the Bulwark of Humanity." But before long the bubble burst. People began to hand in their paper checks and ask for specie payment, but the polite clerks informed them that they didn't want the paper currency, as they had a press in the back room and could manufacture all they needed. Then the people began to see where the joke came in, but several of them refrained from laughing. Messrs. WALLACE, WYNNE and BUCHANAN were torn limb from limb by the enraged masses, and thus became martyrs to the glorious cause of Greenbackism. Notwithstanding all which, it is said that the modern representatives of these three distinguished financiers, are following in the footsteps of their misguided ancestors, and courting the terrible doom that overtook them.

A WESTERN man is writing up fire places. He must be a grate author—Er. Up fire places must be a very uncomfortable place to write. It wouldn't suit us as we'd be afraid of catching the in-flue-enza.

Dominion Theatre, Ottawa.

GRAND GIFT ENTERTAINMENT.

The Management have unlimited pleasure in announcing the continued success of the popular and successful performances now being given at this place of amusement, and respectfully apprise their patrons that the standard programme will be presented every

Afternoon and Evening,

until further notice. All the old favorites in their attractive roles. Look at the array of talent:

PROF. JOHN A., the accomplished juggler, in his new and startling LETELIER Trick.

ALECK MACKENZIE, in his imitatively droll impersonation, entitled "The man out of Possession."

DAVE MACPHERSON, with his wonderful troupe of Educated Statistics, which will, at the word of command, assume any shape their master may wish, and prove anything he may desire.

DICK CARTWRIGHT, in his lugubrious performances on the Tariff.

TOM WHITE, in his great black face speciality, entitled "Jump Jim Crow."

SAMMY TILLEY, in his side splitting burlesque oration, "How I fooled BOYD wid de telegrams, and still dey wonder at Crime." This noted performer will also have the honor of introducing his trick pantomime entitled, "Humpty Dumpty's Drawback."

LUSH HUNTINGTON, in his new sketch, "The Copper Pirate, or Injured Innocence."

JIM DOMVILLE and WILL GILLMOR, in their great exposition of the manly art of Parliamentary Self-Defence. These famous bruisers will use hard gloves and language. The whole to conclude with the laughable performances of MACDONALD & MACKENZIE's Combined Troupe of Puppets.

The Management have further to announce that, in connection with this *recherche* programme, they have introduced the popular feature of

VALUABLE GIFTS!

to be distributed indiscriminately to their patrons. Amongst the beautiful and costly articles to be given away may be mentioned:

1. A *National Policy*; brand new, with all the modern improvements. This gift, though valuable to any possessor, is especially attractive to the working classes.

2. A *National Insurance Co.*, a most complete apparatus with which the fortunate recipient may be enabled to make any amount of money, and set at defiance the bloated bond-holding stock companies.

3. A *Rag Baby*, a most ingenious toy, well calculated to amuse the infantile mind.

4. A *Sugar Plum*, worth \$5,261,160. This gift is restricted to the occupant of the private box, and will be presented to that lucky individual in the shape of a tax on Sugar. N. B.—Mr. REDPATH, of Montreal, has secured the private box.

Besides many other attractions too numerous to mention.

In active preparation the Great Constitutional Tragedy,

"THE MURDER OF ST. JUST,"

which will be produced with stage directions, scenery and effects from England. Our agent, M. LANGEVIN is at present abroad securing the accessories for the presentation of this thrilling piece.

MEN of the Time: Watchmakers.

SOLDIERS of the Line: Fishermen.

ALMS givers are hand-some people.

The boot-black is a bright and shining light.