



THE ROBBERY DISCOVERED AT LAST.

SIR JOHN—"I'm afraid the game is up, Boodle; the Farmer is getting his eye uncovered!"

[See the resolutions against "Protection" lately passed by the Central Farmers' Union.]

JABBERJAW ON THE SITUATION.

MR. CHAIRMAN—LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—We have reached a crisis in our—um—that is—our national—er—national career, and it behooves us to stop, sir, and—er—consider the situation.

Sir, I ask, are we, as a nation, to—to—to—I mean, are we Canadians prepared for—for—for—. That is to say, does this Dominion intend any—any—any—. By George! utterance positively fails me for the moment; I'm hanged if it doesn't!

But when I look around me and see the—the—the signs of—of—of—; that is, when I read the papers and note how—how—how—; or, more properly, while I pause and consider what is—is—is—! I tell you, ladies and gentlemen, this whole thing is no laughing matter. It involves the—the—the—it means that—that—that—it points to a—a—a—a—a! Why, sir, how can we, who call ourselves Canadians and patriots, submit passively to what is manifestly so—so—so—! I say, how comes it that we stand idly by while—while—while—!

Let me repeat and emphasize this: How in —, or, rather, why should —, or, in other words, what the —! No, sir, I tell you, candidly, this must not be! We are all too sensible to—to—to—! I maintain that in this fair land no one is—is—is—! Let me once more affirm, in the most clear and unmistakable way, that there can be no—no possible, or feasible, or—or—or—!

Now, sir, I beg of you to look this question squarely in the face. Let us assume that this unrestricted Reciprocity movement—no, I mean, Imperial Federation—is! But stay! I shall endeavor to be more plain and concise:

Supposing we had an American Zollverein to-morrow—! Imagine that Independence was declared! Let us consider that we were annexed to the States! Take and smash Confederation, say! Give us Newfoundland to complete the Union. Have us go to work and start Free Trade with Great Britain! Just fancy we have declared war with the adjoining Republic! Now, then, having stated the premises thus calmly and succinctly, what about it? Who is responsible for this new aspect of affairs? Can it be reasonably contemplated in its entirety and with dispassionate regard for the future consequences which time will evolve, so that none of us may regret that we have taken such a step in the full light of past experience, and guided by those higher dictates of conscience which prompt us to nobler deeds than otherwise, or more so?

Sir, I again inquire, why is this thus? When, how, by whom and for what reason is this critical situation at present before us? Why should we do such a thing? Is there no alternative to the "manifest destiny" here imperfectly foreshadowed? I wot not! But, I trust, having at length explained my position, you, as Canadian patriots, will deal with this matter in a just and fearless style.