



PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

BY THE

Grip Printing and Publishing Co.

26 and 28 Front Street West, Toronto, Ont.

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Terms to Subscribers.

PAYABLE STRICTLY IN ADVANCE.

To United States and Canada. To Great Britain and Ireland.

One year, \$2.00; six months - \$1.00 | One year \$2.50

Remittances on account of subscriptions are acknowledged by change in the date of the printed address-label.

In remitting stamps, please send two-cent stamps only.

Messrs. JOHN HADDON & Co., Advertising Contractors, Fleet St. London, Eng., are the sole agents for GRIP in Great Britain.

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Comments on the Cartoons.



NEWS FROM THE SEAT OF WAR—If Toronto wins the Esplanade battle, and our future citizens find themselves in quiet enjoyment of free and safe access to the water-front, and in receipt of a comfortable income from the annual rental value of the Viaduct, they will owe thanks chiefly to organizations outside of the City Council. While saying this we are anxious to give due credit to those aldermen who are working heartily with the Citizens' Association to secure the boon we have just named, but it grieves us to say that these are very few in number. His Worship, the Mayor, and a majority of the city fathers, do not seem as yet to realize the vital importance of the battle now being waged, or else they are so overwhelmed with their sense of the greatness of the railway magnates that they have no heart to make a fight worthy of the name.

The Don agreement, which was, recently ratified by the Council, but is yet fortunately unsigned by the Mayor, is to be referred to the Joint Esplanade Committee, and the result will be, we feel confident, very greatly to the benefit of the city's interests. The unseemly haste with which this document was rushed through is a striking illustration of the spirit of surrender which afflicts the aldermanic mind. The centre of battle has for the moment been shifted to the correspondence column of the newspapers, however, and Mr. Rupert Mearse Wells has been distinguishing himself as an author of thrilling fiction on the subject of the Viaduct

Mr. Wells is the solicitor of the C.P.R., and his letters are, of course, special pleas for his client. They have been marked by some of the worst faults usually found in that description of literature, such as disregard of facts, and bold assertions incapable of proof. Mr. D. E. Thomson and Mr. Tait have had no trouble in furnishing replies which have effectually disposed of the legal gentleman, so that his efforts have failed to mislead those who have read the rejoinders. We are in hopes that before long the Council and the citizens in general will be thoroughly aroused from what Mr. Wells in one of his earlier epistles called their "disgraceful sleep." If that event happens soon, the Don matter and the whole water front question will be settled so as to secure the mutual rights of the people and the railways, which means, by the adoption of the Viaduct plan.

PARTIES ARE KNOWN BY THE COMPANY THEY KEEP.—It seems to be admitted on all hands that the "Corporate Vote" of the Roman Catholic Church in Ontario is to go in support of the Mowat Government in the forthcoming election; and whereas the Church is never known to support any Government or party which is not known to be friendly to her own policy, there is a plain inference to be drawn, which we may leave to the electors of the Province. Mr. Mowat has repeatedly declared that he has never done more than justice to the Roman Catholic Church, and that he deals with it just as he does with every other Church. This may be true if it refers to express acts for the direct benefit of the Church, but it is not true when applied negatively. The ballot was not given to Separate school electors, and this omission counted for as much to the hierarchy as the passage of a Bill giving the priests absolute control over the schools would have done. It is not for us to object to the priests exercising such control if that meets the views of the Separate school supporters, and the ballot would not have prevented them from indicating that such were their views. But, on the other hand, if there are Catholics who think otherwise, the ballot would have enabled them to say so without incurring the penalties which an open vote to the same effect might bring upon them.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

TO CONCLUDE MAY 24TH.

ELSEWHERE in this number will be found a printed ballot. It will appear in the six issues following, that is, up to May 24th. During these seven weeks we hope to have a lively voting competition on the question:

"Is the Mowat Government worthy of a Renewal of Public Confidence?"



The ballots are to be cut out and forwarded to the personal care of Mr. J. W. Bengough, who will keep them safely until the 27th of May, when they will be delivered to a committee representing both political parties to be officially counted, the result to be published in the number of GRIP for May 31st.

The date of the election having been fixed for June 5th, we have shortened this contest by one week, so that the result of the voting will be made known, as above stated, in the issue of GRIP dated May 31st.

Ballots may be sent in open envelopes under 1 cent postage.

\$50 IN CASH

will be awarded to the person who most nearly guesses the total number of ballots that will be sent in before May 24th.

THE Single Tax Association want the authorities to make provision for taking a vote of the people in connection with the next municipal election, upon the following question:—Are you in favor of abolishing taxation on any of the following items: Income, personality, buildings? We hope the authorities will comply, and can think of no reason why they should not. As the will of the people is the sole rule of government under our system, every facility ought to be provided for the free expression of that will, and such a vote as the one suggested could very conveniently be cast along with the ballots for mayor and aldermen.

IT is perhaps needless to add that in GRIP's opinion, a very emphatic affirmative reply should be given to all three items, for taxes on income, personality and