

CARICATURE AND THE DAILY PRESS

S. HUNTER.



MR. S. HUNTER.

A FEW years ago, before the inimitable Grip transferred his attention to the daily press, a marked tendency began to show itself in Toronto toward caricature illustration. For a time the evening edition alone cultivated it. Now we find the morning press equally assiduous. Of the men who thus popularized the daily cartoon S. Hunter easily deserves the chief place, not merely on account of artistic talent, but by reason of the real-

ity of his humor and his breadth of comprehension.

When The Toronto World, in 1893, boldly grasped the truth that a newspaper reader is just as ready for a humorous view of public questions on the way down to business as he is when the day's work is done, the task of proving the proposition might readily have been conferred upon the wrong individual. But in this, as in other branches of progressive journalism, W. F. Maclean exhibited the true instinct by selecting Sam Hunter. Mr. Hunter had already made a reputation, but his connection with The World has vastly enhanced it. The store of reserve strength required to stand a daily tax upon his resources has proved ample. But this is a record, not a eulogy,

or mention might be made of the appreciation which The World caricatures have secured all over Canada. They have created for their author an assured place in the illustrated journalism of our day, and have shown a steady development of talent which calls, in bare justice, for



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cordial recognition. Mr. Hunter, those who know him say, early gave evidence of a decided taste for caricature illustration. When he was a lad at school in Milbrook, Ont., he seems to have been as incorrigible with his pen as Traddles at Salem House. He drew caricatures of odd characters in the district who, themselves, saw nothing of budding genius in the attempts. In fact, one victim delivered a withering denunciation of an idle lad who "daured to mak' fules o' respectable people." (The objector was Scotch, it is said.) For years young Hunter and caricature were on friendly terms, nothing more. He went to Ottawa to be educated for a business career; saw and heard the parliamentary worthies of the early Seventies, and must have taken more than a passing note of the lively campaign of caricature with which Grip pursued the ill-fated Ministries of that time at Toronto and Ottawa. The youthful artist, however, embarked in commercial life, went to Buffalo, then for a time drew for The Toronto News, under Edmund Sheppard, went to the Canadian Northwest, where he drew pastels of the Indian types that struck the eye, and then came back to Toronto and to The News. Here were begun the chalk plate sketches, which soon became the talk of the town. Not less remarkable were the large colored pencil sketches that used to be shown in The News' window, on Yonge street, and attracted grinning groups from day to day. The decaying fortunes of the Conservative party,



LOOKING BEFORE HE LEAPS.

OLIVER THE FROG.—"That fly may look like a snap all right enough, but I don't admire the looks of that there hook."