



PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

BY THE

GRIP PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO.

26 and 28 Front Street West, Toronto, Ont.

President	J. V. WRIGHT.
General Manager	T. G. WILSON.
Artist and Editor	J. W. BENGOUGH.
Manager Publishing Department	H. HOUGH.

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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 one-cent stamps only.

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

Comments on the Cartoons.



"POOH!! WHO'S AFRAID?"—The Hon. Oliver Mowat has been visiting his constituents in the county of Oxford, and devoting most of his time in the speeches he has delivered to the twin issues of French Language in the Public Schools and Undue Influence of the Romish Hierarchy. He conceives—and no doubt correctly—that upon the indictment involved in these two topics, he and his Government will shortly be tried. The prospect does not seem to terrify him in the least; he expresses himself as under "go." For why? He puts in a plea of not guilty upon both counts. As to the first, he carries the war into Africa by declaring that his Government is the first in Ontario to make an effort to Anglicize the French Public Schools of the Eastern section. The policy inaugurated by Mr. Ross has this as its object, and the only question is whether the people of the Province will give that policy a fair chance. On the second count, Mr. Mowat waxes as wroth as he is capable of waxing, that his Government should be charged with unduly favoring the Papacy: while, he says, the fact is that,

strictly speaking, less than justice has been meted out to the Roman Catholics, if political offices are supposed to be distributed amongst Protestants and Catholics in proportion to numbers. Then Mr. Mowat waxes sarcastic, and points out that he quite understands the situation. All this "No Popery" talk is simply a conscienceless scheme of the Tories at Ottawa and Toronto to get a good Government turned out and allow the hungry horde a chance at the comfortably-filled treasury of the Province. "These are the same fellows," quoth he, "who in the last campaign were charging me with being the worst enemy of the Catholics. Everybody sees their little game!" Meanwhile it may be noted as a fact which helps the Hon. Oliver's logic, that Mr. Meredith has openly declined Mr. Hughes' invitation to step officially on to the Equal Rights' platform.

THE WHEAT-FLOUR DUTIES.—The Canadian millers and the N.-W. farmers are still pleading and praying with the Government to make the duty on imported flour equal to that on the raw material ground in the native mills. But as yet the Government is deaf, dumb and blind to the pleading and praying. There are interests on the other side which outweigh these—the people of Quebec and the Maritime Provinces will not hear of a higher tariff on flour—which extra cost they would have to pay—and the C.P.R. does not want to lose the large business of carrying American flour which it enjoys under the present arrangement. To take the duty off altogether would be a blessing to the mass of the people, but that would of course involve the abolition of the coal duties and taxes on other necessities of life, and open the eyes of Canadians to the fact that freedom and not restriction is the law of national prosperity. As a logical result of the abolition of taxes on labor products, we would have to come down to the true plan of getting the necessary revenue by taxing privilege—the one privilege of holding for exclusive individual use any portion or portions of that which by nature belongs to all—the land. But civilization has not yet developed sufficiently in Canada for this. We are still going on the remarkably intelligent theory that the best way to assist a bird to fly is to clip its wings!

WE have laid President Harrison's message to Congress aside to be read sometime when we feel an appetite for literary curiosities. That it belongs to this class we gather from the comments of the newspapers, in which it is described as "a plain business document, well written, and for originality, grasp of public questions and sense of perspective in the statement of the condition of national affairs, comparing unfavorably with President Hayes' first message"; "its most striking characteristic is an absence of pretence, exaggeration, and rhetorical flourish"; "it records the events of the time, but throws no light upon them—refers to acknowledged evils, but suggests no remedies," and while it is "a plain, candid and entirely unpretentious review of public affairs," "it is a disclosure, and what it discloses is a President without ideas and an Administration without a policy."

THE *Globe* correspondent at Ottawa (who, of course, is in the confidence of the Government) announces that next session will see sweeping reductions in the tariff. Of course this can be nothing but a scandalous Grit libel on the Cabinet. The able statesmen composing that body are well known to believe that Canada's prosperity is due to a high tariff, and the allegation that they are about to deliberately knock a hole in our Protective wall and let in the "deluge of foreign goods" is tantamount to saying that they are cold-bloodedly plotting the ruin of the country. It is too preposterous! The *Globe* correspondent ought to be arrested.

WE also learn from the same source that Sir Charles Tupper lately visited Morocco, with the probable object of negotiating a Reciprocity treaty with the Moors. This sounds more reasonable. It preserves the unities, and does not conflict with our knowledge of the character of the Government. We would not be unprepared to

no apprehension that he will have to go. For why? He puts in a plea of not guilty upon both counts. As to the first, he carries the war into Africa by declaring that his Government is the first in Ontario to make an effort to Anglicize the French Public Schools of the Eastern section. The policy inaugurated by Mr. Ross has this as its object, and the only question is whether the people of the Province will give that policy a fair chance. On the second count, Mr. Mowat waxes as wroth as he is capable of waxing, that his Government should be charged with unduly favoring the Papacy: while, he says, the fact is that,