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J. W. BENGOUGH,  
PHILLIPS THOMPSON.



## Comments

ON THE

## Cartoons.

SIR JOHN ON HAND AGAIN.—It is now tolerably clear that Sir John owed his late victory very largely to the C.P.R. Company. Not only did President Van Horne issue a manifesto, which practically instructed the thousands of employees of the road to vote for the Govern-

ment, but great things were done in the way of carrying Conservative non-resident voters free to the polling places outside Toronto and other cities. Now, it is just possible that all this extraordinary work was done free gratis and for nothing, and without any hope or expectation of reward. But, if the Montreal correspondent of the New York Herald is to be believed, it was all a matter of pure business on the part of the shrewd Van. The correspondent in question sends to his paper a detailed account of a deal which has been made, and which Parliament will shortly be called upon to ratify. This involves, as usual, a few trifling millions, to be handed over in connection with the North Shore road, the Onderdonk section, and a readjustment of the guarantee already granted on C.P.R. bonds. We will not be surprised to find the statement true, as it is not in the nature of big railway companies to indulge in purely platonic friendship even for those who have shown them great favors. Sir John is certainly on hand once more, but whose hand is it?

WHEN THE HOUSE MEETS.—The House is to meet at Ottawa on April 29th, and the session is likely to be a warm one, not merely because it will extend into the hot weather, but also on account of certain matters which are to come up. Chief of these sensational

tid-bits will be the McGreevy scandal investigation. The redoubtable Tarte has secured a seat in Parliament, and will have an opportunity of "getting in his work" on Sir Hector Langevin in the shape of a Parliamentary enquiry. Let us hope that Sir Hector will justify the confidence expressed by Hon. John Carling in his innocence, and be able to overwhelm his accusers when they meet him face to face.

THE difficulty with respect to the taking over of the Toronto Street Railway by the originally appointed date, the 14th inst., has been satisfactorily adjusted by an agreement between the city and the monopoly by which the latter agree to run the road until May 16th. It is to be regretted that the line remains in its present hands a single day longer than the time specified in the charter, but under the circumstances it was probably unavoidable the award not having been made. However, perhaps, the delay of a couple of months is all for the best as the feeling in favor of the city operating the road by means of a commission is growing stronger every day—and the longer a final settlement is postponed, the greater is the likelihood of its being on the lines of civic management.

THE antagonism of some of the members of the Board of Trade to the proposal to operate the road by a civic commission ought not to count for much until the public are assured of the disinterestedness of those who are actively engaged in endeavoring to influence that body against it. Some of them, under the mask of public spirit, are simply working for their private interests as promoters or stockholders of projected companies for which they hope to obtain this immensely profitable franchise. Their assumed solicitude for the public welfare and the over-burdened taxpayer is very transparent.

THE cable, as usual, when an opportunity offers, is hard at work endeavoring to kill off Parnell. If we could believe the stories which are sent over the Irish leader has completely lost his influence over his compatriots and must henceforth cease to count as an appreciable factor in British politics. But in spite of such disparaging reports Parnell always seems to have the whip hand of his opponents and to remain master of the situation whenever the matter comes to a practical test. The unreliability of cable despatches, dealing with the Irish question, is notorious and all predictions of Parnell's overthrow coming from this source ought to be received with considerably more than the usual saline qualification. In the words of the old song—

"This fine ould Irish gentleman  
Was mighty hard to kill."

MR. WHITNEY, M.P.P., intends introducing a bill into the legislature increasing the penalty for bribery at elections. He proposes to give the judge power to send any man convicted of the offense to jail for three months, in addition to a fine. This is all very well as a penalty for the crude, ordinary, common-place form of bribery by which a vote is bought for so much cash in hand. But what does Mr. Whitney propose to do with the Minister who holds out to a constituency the implied promise of a liberal expenditure of government money in case the candidate of the party in power is returned? Or with the gentleman possessing real or imaginary "influence" who lets it be understood that he can deliver this or that "vote" to whichever party will adequately recognize his services? Or to the fortunate possessor of a