



AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF
HUMOR AND CARICATURE.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

BY THE

Grip Printing and Publishing Co.

26 and 28 Front Street West, Toronto, Ont.

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General Manager J. V. WRIGHT.
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TERMS TO SUBSCRIBERS.

PAYABLE STRICTLY IN ADVANCE.

To United States and Canada.

One year, \$3.00; six months \$1.00.

To Great Britain and Ireland.

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.

Comments on the Cartoon.



A PARADOX.—The present phase of the Continental question presents us with an amusing paradox. We find Senator Sherman, and Mr. Boodle, the distinguished Canadian patriot, both denouncing Commercial Union, the one because that scheme would head off Annexation, and the other because it would assuredly bring about Annexation. Mr. Sherman appeals to history in support of his contention, declaring that not a single instance can be found in which free trade relations between countries ever led to their political union; Mr. Boodle scorns all history, preferring to rely upon the intuitions of a truly loyal heart. It is for the people at large to decide this dispute, and in order to do so it will be necessary to consider the motives

which animate the disputants. There can be no reason to doubt that Senator Sherman is perfectly sincere in his advocacy of political union; Annexation is what he really wants. His attack upon Commercial Union as something which would kill Annexation, is therefore worthy of consideration. Mr. Goldwin Smith, who is a good authority, says that Sherman is right in his historical references: political union must precede or accompany trade union, if it is ever to be effected. In the present case, so far as Canada is concerned, at least, commercial benefits are all that are sought; even pronounced Annexationists do not dwell upon the gain we would make politically by joining the States; the commercial advantages once granted, therefore, there would be nothing left for the Annexationist sentiment to work upon. So much for Senator Sherman. And now, how about Mr. Boodle? Beneath all his frothing and fuming

over the terrors of Annexation, which he is so sure Commercial Union would bring upon us, what are his real motives? Mr. Boodle, you understand, is the representative of that small minority of our manufacturers who are protected effectively by the present tariff—that is to say, who are enabled, under forms of law, to rob the Canadian consumer whom the tariff places at their mercy. This "privileged" class, some practical politicians and newspapers for whom they "fry out fat" from time to time, and a number of people so stupid as to believe that high taxation makes cheap living, and that the protected tariff-robber is really the "friend of labor"—these constitute the Anti-Commercial Union party. What Mr. Boodle really wants is the continuation *ad infinitum* of the glorious monopolies he is now enjoying. His vapors about "loyalty," "the old flag," and all the rest of it, really deceive nobody, excepting perhaps those workingmen who are so dull and blind as to vote for a protective policy which keeps out cheap goods while it lets in cheap labor.

A POSER FOR OUR GREATEST STATESMAN.—Our Sir John is a pretty clever fellow, but we fancy it will puzzle him a good deal to frame a plain, fair answer to the question propounded in this little sketch—especially as he is not particularly given to making plain answers. Trade is as essential to human life as breathing; civilization could not possibly exist without it. To trade freely (in a legitimate way) ought to be and is one of the inalienable rights of man with which governments have in the abstract no right to interfere. If it were true that public revenue must necessarily be obtained by means of a tariff, it would be right, of course, to levy taxes upon trade to the extent of the national requirements, but no more right than it would be to levy that taxation on breathing, worshipping, or any of the other absolute rights of man. But it is not true that revenue must necessarily be obtained by taxation upon any right. *Privilege*, not right, is the suitable subject of taxation, and there is one privilege which we all in varying degree enjoy, and which each might fairly and justly be proportionately taxed for—namely, the appropriation to private use of the earth's surface. The raw materials of this planet are common property, if anything at all comes under that description, and from common property ought to come the common revenue. Let there be but one tax, and that equivalent in each case to the annual rental value of the *land* held by the individual, and the public till will be amply provided for without the cruel injustice of filching from industry a portion of its products, as is now done. We reassert that to trade is as much a right and necessity of man as to breathe; to trade *freely*, without restriction of any kind, is as much his right as to breathe *freely*. That tariffs on commerce are unnecessary as well as essentially unjust, only aggravates the case. But if this is sound reasoning, what becomes of the Protective doctrine? The great N.P. stands revealed for what it is—a villainous scheme of robbery. Will Sir John admit it? If not, he must deny man's natural *right* to trade freely. Will he do this? We pause for reply.

OUR brother of the Government organ is not likely to die of modesty. Speaking of the American Republic he says, "It must respect our allegiance to the grandest Empire on earth, an Empire which has been far too tolerant of American insolence." Now we do not for a moment deny that the Empire is the grandest paper of that name on earth, but to say that it has seriously compromised itself in the past by tolerance toward our southern neighbors, is going too far. Indeed we have long suspected that if there is a paper dear to the heart of any of our fire-eating colonels, it must be this very same Empire.

THE investigation into the alleged contract swindle before the County Judge, was suddenly stopped by the judgment of Mr. Justice Robertson, who demanded that the charges be made specific. The request has been acceded to, and now the accused parties have more specifications than they know what to do with. The case as amended has been submitted to the City Council by Ald. Gillespie, and duly referred to the proper committee, and yet Ald. Baxter isn't happy.

AN interested party calls our attention to the fact that the sign on the Central Bank window is out of repair, and looks disreputable, the letter N having dis-