

The gravest beast is the Gaa; the gravest bird is the Owl;
The gravest fish is the Oyater; the gravest man is the Goo.

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THE election campaign for the Toronto vacancy in the Local Legislature is now fairly opened, all the candidates being in the field. Dr. Ryerson, the Tory candidate, had an eminent uncle and possesses a good-sized bank account and a fund of unimpeachable loyalty. Dr. Ogden is a hard-shell Grit, with a record of twenty-two years' service on the School Board, and Phillips Thompson, the nominee of the Progressive party, is an advocate of several social and industrial reforms which usually do

not get much of a hearing at election times. The Grits made a serious mistake in not nominating Mr. George G. S. Lindsey, who had a strong support in the party convention, and would have made a much better run than Dr. Ogden is likely to do.

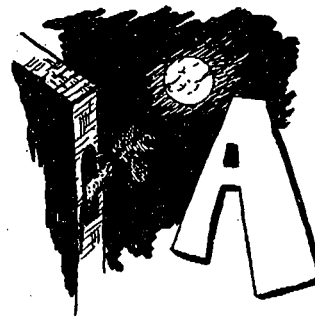
DOCTORS RYERSON and Ogden can both claim the much-appreciated Labor vote, which ought always to be spelled with a capital "L" at election times, on the ground that they are staunch Trade Unionists. There is no closer trade organization anywhere than the Medical Association, nor one that pursues "scabs" more relentlessly. They have the advantage, indeed, over the ordinary trade unionist in this respect, that the officers of the law act as their walking delegates, and repress the non-union practitioner by means of fine and imprisonment, instead of incurring these penalties themselves, as the members of less favored organizations sometimes do when they attempt to coerce and intimidate outsiders. Year by year the law has been made more stringent in the interests of the orthodox school of practitioners. It might be well to consider how far those interests coincide with those of the public before strengthening the numbers of the medical profession in the House.

THE Dominion Parliament was opened at Ottawa on the 26th ult. The speech read by the Governor-General contained about seven hundred words. That was all it did contain.

THE *Empire* for once has scored a telling point against the Grits, in connection with the contemplated deal by which the Cape Breton coal mines are to be handed over to an American syndicate with extensive franchise privileges. As it is a Grit Government which contemplates this shameful surrender of the rights of the public, the *Empire* is warm in its denunciation of the scheme. Its condemnation of the monopoly would be more effective if it had not championed every similar project contemplated or effected by its own political friends.

PETITIONS are being largely signed for presentation to the Ontario Legislature for the adoption of the Initiative and Referendum, by which important measures can be adopted by direct popular vote. The great benefit of this system is that it enables questions to be decided on their intrinsic merits instead of being regarded with an eye to their effect upon the fortunes of political leaders and parties. It will, therefore, take a very strong effort on the part of its advocates to get it beyond the serious consideration stage which so generally proves fatal to radical reforms.

GRIP can appreciate a good thing, whether it agrees with his own views or not, so we print in this issue a poem from a valued Montreal contributor on the mayoralty contest in that city, though entirely contrary to our ideas of the merits of the struggle. It is no doubt desirable that a mayor should speak good English, but after all, that is a secondary matter as compared with courage and determination in standing up for popular rights against powerful and sinister influences. Some very brave champions of liberty have been but poor grammarians. Thoreau never said a finer thing than in allusion to Capt. John Brown's educational deficiencies, "He would have left a Greek accent slanting the wrong way and righted up a falling man." A plucky resistance to a grasping corporation ought to cover much worse sins than Jimmy McShane's verbal eccentricities.



TOGETHER too much importance is being attached to Dalton McCarthy's Stayner speech, probably because in these days the Opposition is disposed to be thankful for small mercies. It is a good sign, of course, to see any par-

tizan adopt a tone of independent criticism rather than servile submission, but one, two or even half-a-dozen such deliverances do not indicate a coming political landslide or general overturn. Much of the effect of the Stayner speech is spoiled by the admission that it is the outcome of pique because he was overlooked in the reconstruction of the Cabinet and slated in the Government organ, rather than the prompting of principle. The country hardly holds McCarthy at his own valuation. The people have very little to expect in the way of a genuine advance movement from any corporation lawyer, accustomed all his life to plead for special privileges to big monopolies and override the rights of plain citizens.

A STAUNCH Home Ruler—A mother-in-law.