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Comments on the Cartoon.



THE INTERESTING INFANTS.—If we may take the expressions of the Conservative press as being put forth in good faith, even so intelligent a person as Miss Canada may be excused for being puzzled to discriminate between the three interesting infants that are now occupying so great a share of public attention. It is daily asserted by editors who are speaking in sober honesty (let us suppose) that these three are triplets; that Commercial Union, Unrestricted Reciprocity and Political Annexation are really all the same. Now, because children of the same family may be strikingly alike in some features, it does not always, nor often, follow that they are counterparts of each other in disposition.

The three infants under consideration illustrate the fact that strangers often resemble one another more than relations. They are not triplets at all; and when you come to investigate you find that it is only "on the face of it" that they bear a family likeness. The one feature in which they are identical is that of proposed relationship to the United States. To drop the metaphor, the three schemes now being discussed in the interests of Canada are perfectly distinct and each is easily comprehensible. Political annexation (which is receiving a little attention at Windsor, but none at all elsewhere, so far as we know), simply means the fusion of Canada, for better or worse, with the Republic; Commercial Union, means the extinction only of the barriers to trade between this country and the United States, with a mutual arrangement of tariffs against the world outside of North America; Unrestricted Reciprocity means just free trade between us and our neighbors without any conditions or limitations as to our policy towards the world at large. To declare that these three schemes are "one and the same thing" is not becoming in an honest editor who has a regard for his own intelligence. To

insist that C. U. and U. R. would both certainly end in annexation, if either were secured, is to rashly indulge in prophecy, which is at best an uncertain business. In the case of U. R. the prophecy comes into collision also with historic experience. The annexation sentiment which existed before the former Reciprocity Treaty was secured was completely extinguished by that measure, and never revived until the Restriction policy supplanted the policy of freedom on both sides of the line. The main point of interest just now in connection with this discussion is the attitude of the Government, which, as intimated in our cartoon, is strictly non-committal. Sir John "ain't got nuffin' to do with" any of the three babies, his whole attention being devoted to the coddling of the tax-devouring "infant industry" represented by the little ring of protected monopolists.

THE TWO GRAND OLD EVERGREENS.—Sir John Macdonald reached his seventy-fourth birthday about a week ago, and only a short time after Gladstone had celebrated his eightieth. Both facts are well worthy of kindly commemoration, and the people of the respective countries whose councils these great men adorn have given due expression to the feelings appropriate to the occasion. To be in physical and mental trim for the discharge of important public duties after passing the allotted term of human life, is to be entitled to a place amongst the phenomena, in these days of fast living. But to be the main hope and motive power of a great political party, as each of these distinguished gentlemen is, adds still further to the wonder of the thing. This is not the place for anything in the way of an extended comparison of these two veterans of the arena, but as Gladstone is Earnestness incarnate, and Sir John is a man who now takes a serious view of life (however slippant he may once have been), we have "improved the occasion" to make a suggestion which seems natural in the mouth of the great Englishman, and which we hope our own Premier may deem both wise and timely.

"BEING our only paper devoted to pictures and comicalities together, it might look more like the fair thing were GRIP to play the non-partizan *role* and to hold the scales even on the much-disputed question between Protectionists and Free Traders." So thinks the *World*, and not unnaturally, for there is no such word as *Principle* in the *World's* lexicon. GRIP is not devoted to pictures and comicalities chiefly, but to *truth*; and Protectionism, being falsehood reduced to a system, necessarily comes in for the treatment it deserves at our hands. GRIP's only regret is that he cannot hope, by means of pictures and comicalities, to open the eyes of all the honest people of Canada to the cruel swindle that the selfish monopolists behind the *World* are playing upon them.

MR. O. A. HOWLAND deserves the thanks of all who care for the future of the city of Toronto for his well-written protest against the proposal to tax church edifices and land, in the *Week* of January 11th. To do this would, he says, be simply "to ask some citizens—not to pay—but to *subscribe* double taxes, not according to their means, nor according to their share in any benefits, but according to their liberality and their sense of public interest." He further hits the nail on the head when he characterizes the agitation as "a movement for the suppression of down town churches and for the extinction of public squares in the heart of the city." If the city of Toronto would collect its entire revenue from land values which now go into private pockets, it could well afford to continue the exemption of all lands used for public purposes.

IN view of the slip he lately made on the Canada question we suggested in a recent number that the member of Congress from Ohio petition to have his name changed to Butterfingers. Before the Bill goes to its final stage, we move now to amend it by providing also that the name of the senator from New Hampshire be hereafter spelled Blare!—and always written with the exclamatory point.