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OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.



ELSEWHERE in this number will be found a printed ballot. It will appear in the seven issues following, that is, up to May 31st. During these eight weeks we hope to have a lively voting competition on the question:

"Is the Mowat Government worthy of a Renewal of Public Confidence?"

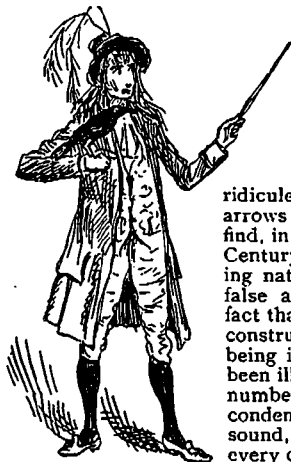
The ballots are to be cut out and forwarded to the personal care of Mr. J. W. Bengough, who will keep them safely until the fourth day of June, when they will be delivered to a committee representing both political parties to be officially counted, the result to be published in the number of GRIP for June 7th.

Ballots may be sent in open envelopes under 1 cent postage.

\$50 IN CASH

will be awarded to the person who most nearly guesses the total number of ballots that will be sent in before June 4th.

Comments on the Cartoons.



COOKING DONE TO ORDER.—The House of Commons is still wrestling with the Tariff, a circumstance which makes it pardonable in us to pay our respects once more to the system represented by the Government of the day. "Protection" is a tempting target for

ridicule and invective, and too many arrows cannot be shot at it when we find, in the broad light of this Nineteenth Century, the polity of some of the leading nations of the world guided by its false and barbarous principles. The fact that it is beyond human power to construct a perfectly fair Tariff is now being illustrated at Ottawa, as it has been illustrated elsewhere times without number. This, of itself, is enough to condemn the system as radically unsound, because the first principle of every civilized Government is that the public burdens shall be distributed fairly amongst the individual citizens. As well might our statesmen attempt to emkathe beam of a scale lie level while loading one

side with a pound of lead and the other with a feather, as to attempt to so arrange a Tariff as to benefit specific industries without injuring consumers. This truth is, perhaps, quite clear now to Mr. Foster, Major McKinley and all the other Tariff tinkers of the day. They make very little, if any, pretense of trying to perform the impossible. What they now aim at doing is perfectly practicable—the building up of native manufacturers by bonuses extracted from the pockets of their fellow citizens; or, to use the allegorical language suggested by our cartoon, the idea is to feed up the favored industry on fat fried out of the farmer, the artizan and the general consumer. There is no doubt this can be done. It has been done in Canada, for we can "point with pride" to quite a number of sleek and happy-looking members of the Manufacturers' Association who even at this moment weigh a round million or close to it on the mercantile agency scales. It is not a pleasant process, meanwhile, for the fellows in the frying-pan, and the efforts of Protectionist philosophers are devoted chiefly to reconciling them to the situation. They are told that they will get all their fat back again with good interest in the shape of home markets, high prices and big wages. Some years ago these consoling observations were accepted and believed in by a majority of the Canadian electorate, but we very much doubt that they obtain credence now anywhere. Experience has shown them to be false, and the strike even at this moment going on is emphatic testimony to their falsity.

MEREDITH STARTS ON THE CAMPAIGN.—Mr. Meredith is entering upon the Provincial campaign with a good deal of spirit, and will, no doubt, make what is called a gallant fight for the overthrow of the Mowat stronghold. He is handicapped, however, by his past record on the question which is to be used as the *pièce de résistance* of the canvass. It is remembered that only a few years ago Mr. Meredith appealed to the same electorate as the special friend of the Catholics, and produced "Facts for Irish Electors," in which it was proved that the Mowat Government did far less than justice to the Church of Rome. Now evidence is being produced which is intended to prove that the same Government has habitually truckled to the Romish hierarchy. We deliver no opinion, just now, as to the merits of the present charge, but Mr. Meredith's face-about is something which his opponents can play upon with great effect on the hustings. A statesman who has indulged in a somersault of this kind must conduct himself in a circumspect manner. It would be a great misfortune, for instance, if by any mischance he happened to go to the country with the wrong grip-sack in hand! Notwithstanding all this it is, of course, the duty of the Ontario electors to give due consideration to the case as it will be presented to them in the campaign now on. Mr. Meredith's record has nothing to do with the truth or falsity of the charges now made against the Government. The matter will be argued very fully pro and con, and we trust a fair judgment will be given in accordance with the facts.

THE ballots are coming in with every mail in connection with the voting contest fully explained on this page. Both parties are taking a lively interest in the campaign, and the result, to be announced in our issue of June 7th will, we think, fairly indicate the state of public opinion in Ontario. We wish to say here that there is no limit to the number of ballots that may be sent in by any one person, and with each ballot a guess may be given. The only condition is that all ballots must be cut from some issue of GRIP.

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WE do not wish to unduly influence the electors of the Province, but if they turn the Mowat Government out of office on account of that disgraceful fence around the Educational buildings, they will not be going too far. The structure in question—if a thing that is falling to pieces may be called a structure—is a perfect eyesore, a thing that any decent private citizen would be ashamed to own. The Government could afford to build a new one with the money they have made by scraping down the honest accounts of local tradesmen.

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NEWS has just been received from the East which has given rise to much just indignation throughout Canada and the United States. It appears that by an