



The greatest beast is the Ass; the greatest bird is the Owl;
The greatest fish is the Oyster; the greatest man is the Fool.

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EVIDENCES of widespread dissatisfaction with the N.P. are multiplying. The Central Farmers' Institute has passed a resolution in favor of Free Trade with Britain and reciprocity with other nations. This is all well enough in its way, but the farmers should remember that it is only votes at the polls that count. Free Trade, like many another good cause, has any number of friends and supporters every day in the year except election day.

Until farmers learn to put their own interests before those of either party and vote the way they talk, they can "resoloot till the cows come home" without any practical result.

MRS. SHEPHERD and Sir John Thompson have introduced into Canada the Protestant Protective Association, a body which may be briefly described as Orangism with the party politics left out, which is said to have had a wide influence in the States in checking the designs of the Romish hierarchy. Its spread in Canada is due fully as much to the repulsion inspired by the Premier as the "awful example" as to the efforts of anti-Romanist propagandists. There is a good deal that looks like intolerance in its principle of remorselessly knifing at the polls every Roman Catholic or politician supported by the Catholic 'vote—but if this feeling gains ground the Roman Catholics are themselves to blame for permitting themselves to be herded together like cattle and traded off to the politicians for special favors to their Church.

MR. MEREDITH is said to have resigned the leadership of the alleged Opposition in the Ontario Legislature. Now if what is left of that farcical body would follow his example and quit the nonsensical work of dividing on party lines an assembly that ought to be run on purely business principles, they will for once earn the gratitude of the country. Party politics are a curse and a nuisance anywhere, but they are entirely without a reason for existence in a Provincial Legislature. Their only effect is to increase immensely the expense of government and to boost small-potato politicians into places many sizes too big for them. It is much to be regretted

that Sandfield Macdonald's statesmanlike attempt to dispense with partyism in the first Ontario Legislature was defeated by the fanaticism of the Grits.

NOTHING more touching than the solicitude of the *Empire* for the safety of Prof. Goldwin Smith from attack by over zealous loyalists has been experienced since the Irish orator cried out to his friends who were suppressing an interrupter, "Don't nail his ears to the pump."

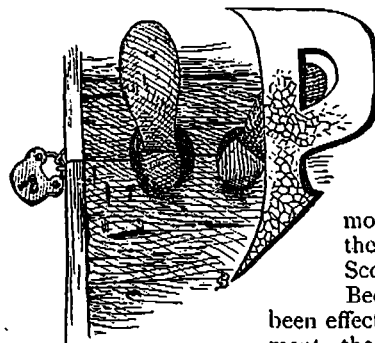
IT'S a mighty slack day at Ottawa when some hitherto docile Tory member doesn't rise up on his hind legs and take a whack at the tariff. But the Government majority doesn't seem to diminish perceptibly. Talk is cheap—and farmers, workingmen and fools seem to think it is also filling.



UMILITY rather than self-glorification over the vaunted power of the press should possess the soul of the Canadian editor when he reflects that the united influence of the journalistic profession has not been able to mitigate the rank injustice of the law of libel. Party hacks are more anxious to enable one-horse politicians to pose as statesmen than to secure fair play for themselves.

THE following friendly notice of GRIP appears in the February number of the *Presbyterian College Journal* of Montreal:

There is none of our exchanges more welcome than GRIP, more eagerly sought after. Although it deals with political and social questions it is non-partisan, its morality is pure and healthy, and its influence cannot but be for good. Its cartoons are volumes in themselves. GRIP is a paper which should be found in every Canadian household.



POLITICAL exigencies have been responsible for some queer developments and rapid changes of base, but their results have seldom been more remarkable than in the case of the Nova Scotia coal monopoly.

Because the deal has been effected by a Grit Government, the *Empire*—the special friend of monopolies in general—feels bound to assail it, and the *Globe*, which has built up a reputation in attacking Tory monopolies, comes forward to champion it. Yet some people would try to make us believe that there are differences of principle between Grits and Tories.

SOME of the newspapers are publishing lists of the surviving "Fathers of Confederation." There ought to be a moral statute of limitations to prevent malicious people from bringing up from the memories of the past the sins and follies of one's younger days. It's a mean thing to throw up at a man, who has settled down into decorous ways, the mistakes of his earlier years.