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Artist and Editor Associate Editor	•	• •		• .	•	J. W. BENGOUGH. PHILLIPS THOMPSON.
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## omments



AN UP HILL JOB .-Everything 'indicates that the session of Parliament which is just opening is going to be an unusually lively one. The Government's majority is slender enough to justify the Opposi-tion in hoping for some sort of disaster to the gentlemen on the treas-

ury benches before the House rises, and they may be trusted to bring this to pass if they can. It happens, also, that the Government has an unusually rocky and up-hill road to travel this session. The McGreevy scandal is to be ventilated at whatever cost, and the French contingent is threatening to make trouble over the failure of the Government to disallow the Manitoba Bills. In this matter, however, Sir John ought to be able to count on the support of the Liberals, unless they are prepared to stullify themselves. The tariff requires tinkering again, and this time the tinkers are going to come into collision with the sugar barons; the internecine strife of Langevin w. Chapleau is still going on in a cabinet which is already short-handed, and, in the event of any undue concessions to the French influence in connection with the school and language question, Mc-Carthy and his followers will have to be reckoned with. All in all it is a pretty gloomy prospect for the Government, but on the other hand let it be remembered that it is Sir John who holds the reins. The majority is slim compared with that of the last Parliamentary term,

but it is probably composed of the good Conservative material that never goes back on the Old Man under any circumstances,

THE WOULD-BE TRAIN WRECKER.-When Mr. Samuel Plim. soll, M.P., was out in this country recently on a mission connected with the cattle trade, somebody made a reference to our High Com. missioner in London at one of the meetings, and the visitor declared that he had never heard of Tupper in England. It looks as though this had reached the ears of the bumptious baronet, and he had determined to put it out of the power of Mr. Plimsoll or anybody else to profess such censurable ignorance hereafter. At all evens, the pidlene for the he has increased with the Cornel Ture I. But the ridiculous fight he has inaugurated with the Grand Trunk Rail. way Company is gaining him plenty of notice in the London papers, though for the most part the articles are not very flattering. Sir Charles Tupper is known so well in Canada that his version of any facts in dispute is sure to be liberally discounted. In the present case the general belief is that he *did* make overtures to the General Management of the did make overtures to the General Manager of the Grand Trunk with a view of securing the sort of help in the election which was so cheerfully volunteered by the C.P.R., and it is quite believable that he promised something good in return therefor. Apart from Mr. Sargeant's statements to this effect, Sir Charles' slashing assault on the Grand Trunk and all connected with it has all the appearance of revengeful malice, and is what might be expected from a robust practical politician who had been thwarted at expected from a robust practical politician who had been thwarded a some little game. Tupper's story is that he merely asked Mr. Sar-geant to refrain from interfering with the election. It does not appear, however, that he waited upon Mr. Van Horne with the same request. Once more we feel impelled to enquire what Sir Charles Tupper's position under our constitution really is. It is cer-tainly no part of his duty as High Commissioner to carry on out-rageous rows of this sort, to the possible injury of important Cana-dian enterprises, and to the certain discredit of the Dominion.



**IVILIZATION** is slowly but surely making headway against the accretions of Barbarism. Another regiment of the Grenadier Guards has mutinied. This is, of course, a high crime and misdemeanor, from a military point of view, but looked at otherwise it seems to indicate a revolt of human nature against

the tomfoolery of militarism. These Guardsmen have, perhaps, begun to think that after all "glory" is a humbug; and that there is no real necessity why a lot of ablebodied fellows, endowed with more or less intelligence, should resolve themselves into dumb driven cattle and devote their whole time to learning how to butcher their fellow-creatures scientifically. If every other regiment in every other standing army of the world came to the same conclusion and gave the whole thing the shake, it would be a happy day for the world.

ONLY, of course, under the present crazy system of society, such a triumph of civilization would prove a very positive evil-perhaps worse than that of militarism. Because, don't you see, it would tremendously overstock the labor market. The disbanded armies would have to go to work, and the first result of their arrival in the labor market would be a rise in land values for the exclusive benefits of the pocket of landlordism. No, under existing conditions, standing armies are a blessing, and when they come together in what we call war, and mow one another down with Gatling guns and other admirable weapons, the blessing is intensified. Scarcity of human beings is what we need, because, the world being owned by a limited number, there really isn't room for the millions whom the Creator has, for some inscrutable reason, endowed with "the inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."