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J. W. BENGOUGH.
PHILLIPS THOMPSON.



Comments

ON THE

Cartoons.

A LOP-SIDED CAST.

—As it is understood that a complete reorganization of the Abbott Cabinet is to be effected during recess, it may be hardly worth while to comment upon its present shape. We are confidently anticipating a more decent show for Ontario in the new

deal, however. In the existing "distribution of characters" the Premier Province is most shabbily treated. Ontario has nothing but third-rate offices, if we except the Minister of Customs, but of course, on the other hand, Ontario has given Parliament nothing but third-rate actors in the persons of Bowell, Carling and Haggart. A stage manager must cast his piece according to the material at his disposal, and it isn't Premier Abbott's fault if, meanwhile, Quebec

and the Maritime Provinces have secured all the star parts. In the coming reorganization we are glad to hear that these Ontario "hams" are to be released from their engagements altogether, and more talented people taken in. If a coalition is quite out of the question, the next best thing will be to get together the best and cleanest men of the Conservative party. We are glad to learn that Mr. Meredith may be induced to take a portfolio. The presence of Meredith and Thompson would give assurance of decent and honorable politics, and the party to which they belong has many men worthy to sit beside them.

DAVIN, THE LEARNED TADPOLOGIST.—Mr. Nicholas Flood Davin does much to supply the picturesque element to our rather prosy House of Commons. He is a scholar, a wit and an orator, and if he had, in addition, the stamina and self-control of Alexander Mackenzie, nothing could prevent him from being the greatest figure in his party. His recent speech in defence of Sir Charles Tupper was a good specimen of his forensic ability. The argument, to be sure, was somewhat sophistical, but this was not Davin's fault so much as that of the facts he had to deal with. His characterization of Commercial Unionists as "tadpole traitors" was a palpable hit, worthy of Disraeli, and worthy also of enduring record in these pages.



THERE seems to be a general consent among the managers of the Conservative Party to the proposition that either Chapeau or Langevin must be in the Cabinet, and must hold one of the great spending portfolios. The present understanding is that after the Session, Sir Hector is to be retired, and the Railways and Canals Department is then to be handed to his "hated rival." Now, it may be necessary to fairness that the Province of Quebec should be represented in the Government by a Minister presiding over one of the leading departments; but we deny—and it would be well for the Conservative party in their new departure to deny—the divine rights of the Langevins and Chapeaus to anything at all.

SIR HECTOR LANGEVIN may be reckoned a dead duck. Enough has already come out in the Tarte investigation to make him a political impossibility henceforth. Chapeau, however, has a future before him, and it is now in order to enquire what manner of man he is. Sir John Macdonald knew the gentleman pretty well and he took extraordinary care to keep him out of the great "spending departments." The fact is, Chapeau is a man of no administrative ability, and will be overweighted with the Railway Department as much as Dewdney is with that of the Interior. Furthermore he has made something of a name as a corruptionist. If he is superior to Langevin in cleanliness of method his record in the Provincial House must greatly libel him.

A CAPITAL suggestion has been made re the Fresh Air Fund. It is this: that instead of merely sending the bevy of poor children out for an occasional afternoon, the friends of the movement should organize them into a camp under proper supervision, and send them for a week or fortnight up to the Georgian Bay shore to pick blueberries. This luscious fruit grows there in perfection and in vast quantities, and is, season after season, left to rot, while the citizens of Toronto and other cities are hankering for supplies. The work would be really fun, and enough money could be made by the youngsters to form a neat little fund for the winter.