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President	JAMES L. MORRISON.
General Manager	J. V. WRIGHT.
Artist and Editor	J. W. BRIDGEMAN.
Manager Publishing Dept.	R. T. LANCEFIELD.

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**PUBLISHERS' NOTES.**

THE next issue of GRIP will be a "Dominion Day" issue, and a beautiful souvenir portrait of Queen Victoria will be presented free with each copy. As the edition will be limited, orders should be given at once to secure copies. Price 5 cents a copy.

**Comments on the Cartoons.**



**SWEEPING AWAY THE CUSTOMS HOUSES.**—It is becoming more apparent every day that the line of customs houses which, on this continent, now marks the boundary between two nations identical in blood, language, religion, and institutions, is a scandal to nineteenth century civilization. What do these customs houses mean? Simply that the irrepressible trade relations of these neighboring peoples, each the natural complement of the other, shall be as far as possible impeded. Protective duties on both sides are levied for the purpose of stopping the commercial intercourse altogether, and if this barbarous purpose cannot in the nature of things be accomplished no thanks to the Protectionists. That the failure results in giving each country a large revenue at the expense of the other (though by no means so large as unrestricted trade would give) is a mere incident of the system, and not its essential design. With the spread of popular intelligence this state of things will certainly be done away with. The discussion now going on in Canada and the United States on the subject of Commercial Union, is a sign of the times, and we have confidence that it will result in such practical action as will realize our prophetic picture.

**THE PROSPERITY OF THE FARMER MEANS THE PROSPERITY OF ALL.**—The axiom that the whole includes all the parts, is not more true than that, in Canada, the prosperity of the farmer—in which term may be included the tillers of the sea and forests as well—involves and assures the prosperity of all the other classes of our population. This being so, it surely behooves us to conserve by every possible means the interests of our great natural producers. In this Dominion the farmers, lumbermen and fishermen, have all that their hearts could desire as gifts from nature—splendid lands, exten-

sive forests, and teeming fishing-grounds. They have also the capacity to make the best use of these advantages. It only remains to be asked, are they afforded all the advantages that could be secured to them for making the most of their resources and their skill? Is there anything that statesmanship could do to strengthen their hands, and render their labors more productive for themselves and the community which depends so largely upon them. At the present moment these all-important classes of producers in Canada are depressed and disheartened. They are crying out for a wider and more remunerative market, and here statesmanship *can* come to their relief. By wise and prompt action on the part of our government it is possible to secure at an early day the great boon of unrestricted reciprocity with the United States—a commercial union which would vastly enhance our national prosperity. Will our statesmen hasten to take advantage of the opportunity. Yes—when they become convinced that the farmers are in downright earnest upon the matter, and will prove themselves so in the ballot-box. Votes are the only things that count with statesmen like ours.

**JOHN BULL'S ATTITUDE.**—The material advantages to Canada of a commercial union with the United States are apparent—and indeed exceedingly attractive—to thousands of Canadians, who, however, hesitate to speak out boldly in favor of the project because they believe such a union would be detrimental to British connection, and that it would therefore meet with the disapproval of the British authorities. We believe, on the other hand, that when the matter is brought to the official notice of the Home Government it will receive the hearty sanction of John Bull, for at least three reasons: First, it insures British connection, by securing all the commercial advantages promised by annexation without demanding any of the political sacrifices; second, it removes at once and forever the fisheries difficulty, and all the other possible causes of ill-feeling between America and the Mother Country; thirdly, it secures to Britain greater commercial advantages than she at present enjoys upon this continent, as the Canadian-American tariff under Commercial Union would almost certainly be lower than the American tariff is at present, and probably as low as the Canadian tariff now is. GRIP goes in heart and soul for Commercial Union from a chief motive of loyalty to Canada—resting assured at the same time that it involves not the slightest disloyalty to the Great Empire, but very much the contrary.

**"SOAP-GREASE."**—It appears that for some considerable time past American butter and oleomargarine has been passed through the Canadian customs as "soap-grease," the difference in the duty being several cents per pound. In this way a double wrong has been done to the Canadian public; they have been both robbed, and (in the case of the oleomargarine) poisoned. If Minister Bowell has been in ignorance of these long continued frauds it is not much to his credit as head of an important department; if he has known about them and sanctioned the wrong-doing, it is still worse.

**LADY DEWDNEY'S OWN.**—The North-West Mounted Police requires the immediate attention of the proper authorities. It has degenerated from a fine soldierly force into a miserable squad not worth its salt. The change is apparently due to the change in its management which has led to a laxity of discipline which is simply disgraceful. Instead of being used for the purpose for which it was instituted—the protection of life and property in the Territories—its chief function under its present toady commander seems to be to dance attendance on the ladies of the "Vice-regal Court" at Regina, and this while murder and robbery is going on in the vicinity.

**THE BISHOP'S RETORT.**

(A FACT IN THE LIFE OF BISHOP WILBERFORCE.)

A ROISTERING atheist happened to meet  
A bishop one day as he walked down the street,  
And stopp'd him to ask in a bantering way,  
This question—"Please tell me, Sir Bishop, I pray,  
For I'm really a stranger where you are at home,  
And don't care in ignorance longer to roam;  
And to him that gives much, you know, much shall be given,  
So tell me, Sir Bishop, the straight road to heaven!"  
The Bishop, not slow at a witty retort,  
And not unaccustomed to fools of this sort,  
Most pleasantly smiled and most graciously said,  
"First turn to the right and then keep on ahead."

P. QUILL.

**HOSILERS** are never on good terms together. There is always a hitch among them.