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### Comments on the Customs.



"ONLY WAITING."—For a long time dead silence has been reigning in the world of Canadian politics. The Government people have been doing nothing, and the leaders of the Opposition have been ably assisting them at the task. Although this stagnation is peculiarly hard on GRIP, who is expected to make a passable quality of bricks every week, whether with or without straw, we cannot reasonably complain of it so far as the Government is concerned. The gentlemen of the Cabinet are no doubt silent because, in their view, there is nothing more to be said or done. Under their able guidance, Canada has reached the condition of perfect blessedness, and nothing now remains for her rulers but to take things

easy and enjoy their salaries with grate ul hearts. It is quite another case with the Opposition leaders, however. They know very well that the country is in a miserable plight financially, and that outside of the Cabinet chamber there is depression and discontent everywhere. Nobody knows better than they that the wage-earners of Canada are being ground down with unnecessary and unjust taxation, and that the people generally have begun to see through the fraud of Protection. And yet what are these able gentlemen doing about it? So far as we can find, nothing. We begin to think that, after all, the Oppositionists are *not* anxious for office. If they were, is it likely that these golden moments would be allowed to pass away unimproved? Have they not noted the fact that in the recent United States campaign, the Democrats carried nearly all the manufacturing centres on the Tariff Reduction plat-

form, and would undoubtedly have met with equal success in the rural districts had the period of discussion been longer? We believe the workmen, and farmers, and all other classes of consumers in Canada, are equally capable of weighing the arguments against Protection, and that at this moment the public mind is in a condition most favorable for a propaganda against that system. Why, then, are not the Anti-Protectionists of the country at work with all the powers of press and platform, educating the masses? What are the leaders waiting for?

A SIGNIFICANT NOTICE.—The announcement in the *Montreal Gazette* that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company can have no claim for "compensation" in the event of the Red River Valley line being permitted to cross their track is satisfactory. The *Gazette* is one of the leading organs of the Government, and is popularly supposed to be "inspired" when it speaks on matters of importance. Its reference in this case shows that another grab was quite on the cards—as conjectured in one of our recent cartoons. The decision of the Supreme Court has been meantime given in favor of Manitoba's right to cross the C.P.R. line.

IF Rev. Mr. Wilson didn't "move on" quicker than Justice is doing in his case, we do not wonder that the considerate and gentlemanly police officer lost his patience and rang for the patrol wagon. By the failure of the jury to agree—or to be more precise—by the stubborn refusal of eleven of them to give in to the opinion of the twelfth, who wanted to acquit the constable—the last trial ended in a draw. It is to be done all over again. Before he gets through, Mr. Wilson is likely to know as much about law as he knows about Gospel.

MR. HASLAM deserves special praise for the decided manner in which he "sat upon" the *encore* fiend at the recent concert of the Vocal Society. Except in the case of M. Musin (whose violin solos were really so good that a recall was a matter of course), the persistency of the stampers and hand-clappers was ignored. As there seems to be no prospect that audiences will of themselves come to recognize that it is unmannerly to demand double the amount of performance they have paid for, it just remains for conductors to teach them the lesson. Mr. Haslam did well. *Encore*, Mr. Haslam!



"WITHOUT going into the benefits or otherwise of direct taxation," said the Master of the Dominion Grange, in his address at the annual meeting—and then he slid off into some platitudinarian talk about voting regardless of party, etc., etc. An intelligent dis-