



The gravest beast is the Ose; the gravest bird is the Owl;
The gravest fish is the Oyster; the gravest man is the Fool.

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COMMENTS ON THE CARTOONS.



SWILL FOR SWINISH CONSTITUENCIES. — The Dominion law against bribery is good enough as far as it goes, but it only deals with the retail department of the business. It has no provisions against the open and barefaced bribery of constituencies and even Provinces, a practice which has been reduced to a fine art by the present Dominion Government, and may be just as deftly worked by the Government which succeeds it, if nothing is done to prevent. If it is reprehensible for an election worker to offer a \$5 bill to some needy and not too scrupulous voter, what is to be said of such an appeal as the following, which appeared in the *Cobourg Star* during the late contest in West Northumberland:

The opportunity is again offered to the people, however, to secure the construction of the new railway, or otherwise as they may decide at the polls on Tuesday. Let them not be deceived, for upon their decision in this contest depends the fate of Cobourg for at least the present decade. We do not propose to deceive the people, nor to hold out to them false hopes. Our success just now depends upon sending to Ottawa a representative friendly to the Government, so that the charter for the new road may be extended and the additional subsidy granted, which will in all human probability secure its construction.

The Conservative candidate was elected, and it is fair to presume that this flagrant bribe was a factor in his success. This sort of thing is done in all parts of the country, with a cynical disregard of common decency. And the pity of it is the bribery is, in too many cases, successful. It is hard to find a simile for a people so besotted as to respond to such a base appeal short of that suggested by the *Montreal Witness*. Speaking of the above extract from the *Cobourg Star*, the *Witness* says:

Whenever the people of Cobourg and of the townships of Hamilton and Alnwick hear the farmers calling "Pig, pig, pig, pig," to the hogs rooting about the fields or wallowing in the mire and see the animals run grunting in response to throw themselves into the trough and greedily gorge the swill, they will, if they have any sense of analogy, remember the "free and independent electors" whom the organ of the Government thus called to their meal.

BASKING UNDER HIS FAMILY TREE.—The decision rendered by Judge Elliott, by virtue of which Hon. John

Carling holds a seat in the House of Commons to which Mr. Chas. S. Hyman was rightfully elected, cannot be justified in equity, and runs counter to the opinions of the superior court judges in law. Under the circumstances, the relationship, political or otherwise, existing between the judge and the beneficiary of his remarkable decision, is a matter of public importance.



T last the Reciprocity jig is up, so far as the present Dominion Government is concerned. Mr. Foster has formally stated what GRIP has often informally mentioned—that Uncle Sam will not accept Reciprocity on the half shell; nor, adds Mr. Foster, will he accept the unrestricted variety of Reciprocity, except upon a commercial union basis. The finance minister, on behalf of the Cabinet, heaves a sigh of relief. "I'm sorry we couldn't get it, and yet I'm glad its over," says he. Yes; it is well to have an end of the tomfoolery at last, for that is all it has been on the part of the Government. Their study all along has been how not to get Reciprocity.

AND now Mr. Foster turns with a light heart to the British market as if that great consuming institution had not been gaping wide open before us all the while. But he throws out a hint of a new policy of discrimination in favor of the mother country. This is certainly a step towards enlightenment, but what will the Red Parlor say to it? Will their exuberant loyalty stand the strain of the reduction or abolition of the duties on British goods? They are ready to die at any moment for the old flag, we know, but this thing of having to compete with "the pauper labor of England" is too lingering a death, we're afraid.

MEANWHILE, if Mr. Foster means free trade with Great Britain, he will have the satisfaction of seeing a panic in the ranks of the Opposition and if he goes on and declares for free trade with the world and direct taxation, he will book the other party for the cold shades indefinitely. But he hasn't said that he means anything more than a reduction of the tariff Britain-wards; and there are some knowing ones who say he doesn't mean anything at all.

SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT was hauled over the coals in Parliament for his letter to the *London Economist*, in which he set forth the condition and prospects of Canada from the Cartwrightian standpoint. The picture was, of course, a nocturne in blue, and was calculated to have a depressing effort on the British money-lender. The want of patriotism of this performance was duly commented upon, and Sir Richard's only defence was that his statements were true. The defence was not a sufficient one. The poet speaks of "the ill-timed truth we might have kept," and there was no compulsion upon the Opposition deputy-leader to deliver his hustings speech away from home.

PROF. DAVID SWING denounces the parenthesis as a disfigurement of good English writing, and points out that it is becoming more and more prevalent