

TRADE AND LABOR ITEMS.

LOCAL.

COMPOSITORS on the morning papers say their business is picking up.

Toronto plumbers are not a dissipated class of mechanics, yet they are all slaves to the pipe.

Carpenters are not complaining; their business is bracing up a bit.

The street car men are still driving things.

Tailoring is just sew sew.

The slate-roofing business is dull; 'slate in the season.

MISCELLANEOUS.

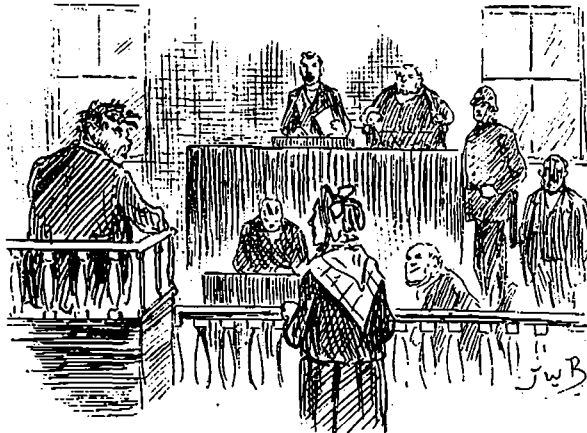
Farmers are a very secretive people. Terrible hidlers, you know, and they get into many a scrape by it.

Butchers don't always take the bull by the horns, but they get there just the same and meat him in warm quarters.

Horseshoers are continually making mistakes. Instead of hitting the nail on the head they always hit it on the foot.

The gopher bounty in Dakota has been abolished. It was found that there were too many furriers in the State to gopher the bounty.

STUBS.



THE UNFORTUNATE HUSBAND.

SCENE—Toronto Police Court. Doolan up for assaulting his wife.

The Magistrate—Doolan, your wife doesn't wish to prosecute; but the costs of the case must be paid. Which of you'll pay them?

Doolan—O, I suppose I'll have to. (*Turning to his wife*) Have you any money?

WAR PREPARATIONS.

WE see by the papers that the Government has decided to put our militia forces in good shape, fit up our coast defences, and, in the words of the despatch, "put Canada in a position to maintain her own against outside aggression." Not a moment too soon! Good on the Government. We only hope the military preparations will be completed before the invaders reach our shores. It is pretty well known, although the papers have considerably kept it quiet, that the Patagonians are bent upon capturing Canada. Ha, ha! we wonder what they will think when they hear this news! Then there are the Esquimaux of Labrador, who have notoriously been awaiting a chance to make an aggression upon us for a century past. Their fat also is in the fire! Go ahead, pat-

riot Government—it won't cost more than a few millions to put Canada on a war footing, and the people will only be too glad to pay the piper, that they may feel safe from the threats of the blood-thirsty nations which surround us with hostile intent. Push the good work for all you are worth, Sir Adolphe! And—if GRIP may be so bold as to make a suggestion to such a great military authority—be sure you have a Krupp gun mounted at Gaspé, with which the Atlantic can be swept of English paupers and eye-glassed swells. The immediate danger to Canada, in our opinion, is from "outside aggressions" of this sort.

OUR NEW CONTEM.

BROTHER *Empire*, shake! But perhaps, as you intend going in for pure English, you don't quite comprehend this greeting. We mean, tip us your flipper—not "shake" in any abject sense. You will not do that, we know, with such an editor as John Livingstone, who is as brave in the jungles of journalism as his great namesake was in the wilds of Africa. Hail, *Empire*, GRIP welcomes you to the fields of daily newspaperdom, where he hopes you may long live and flourish. You fill a want long felt by an organless Government. As you say, your "capital of \$250,000 is ample, and guarantees financial soundness"—quite true; now see to it that your moral capital in the way of truth is equally ample, so that your political soundness may be likewise guaranteed. You will always find GRIP by your side in every good cause, and in vindicating old Sir John from any unjust charges his enemies may make against him. We will back up your valiant David when he goes forth to slay the Opposition Go-liar, and will refrain from hitting you except when you happen to be astray yourself. *Vive L'Empire!*

QUITE A CATTLE-LOGUE.

THE St. John, N.B., *Sun* accuses Mr. Charlton of using "the steer argument" in favor of Commercial Union. What if he did? It is nothing new to use a stock argument.—*Globe*.

And it is a bully argument too. It is calculated to carry persuasion to many who are waiting to see how the cat'll jump, as it were. If heifer commercial union is adopted it will be by presenting practical considerations of this kind. Its advocates are not to be cowed by unreasoning bluster but must persevere until their antagonists are drove from their position. When the business of the Commission is fairly opened they will be very apt to find themselves between the horns of a dilemma. We could keep right along in this strain for a column or so, but we forbear.

We should recommend some of the Central Bank Directorate and Board of Management to apply for positions in the new Chinese American Bank. Canadians would rejoice to hear they had a larger field for their peculiar financial abilities!

"ARE you a believer in Lynch law, pa?" asked the minister's little boy, who was reading something of Bret Harte's. "No," replied the rev. gentleman, looking up absently from the letter he was writing to the *Mail*, "No; I think the law's most unjust. I don't see why the Archbishop doesn't have to pay income tax as well as any of us!"