



"THESE ARE THE TIMES THAT TRY MEN'S SOLES!"

OUR protected manufacturers are rejoicing with great joy over the Washington *fiasco*. They know now that for an indefinite period reciprocity is out of the question, and it will be impossible for the Canadian people to ruin themselves with cheap American goods. It must not be supposed that these Red Parlor gentlemen have any low, selfish element in their pleasure. Not at all. Reciprocity would in fact be money in their pockets, but what is sordid boodle compared with the weal of one's beloved country?

THE *Mail*, commenting on the death of Barnum, says the world never before possessed a man like him, and probably never will again. What's the matter with our own Sir John?

A CONTEMPORARY refers to the visit of the Canadian Commissioners to Washington as a "bootless expedition." This borders closely on libel. Not only did our representatives have their boots on—with a sleeping-car polish on them—but they had each a dazzling outfit of general gents' furnishings, which, sad to relate, they never had a chance to put on!

THE new mining laws introduced by Hon. Mr. Hardy show an amount of enlightenment rarely found among "practical politicians." As the *Hamilton Times* gleefully notes, the Provincial Secretary's nose is pointed in the right direction.—

"He wants to restrain speculation in mining lands, to promote the development of the mines, to secure a revenue for the Province instead of allowing the whole value of the people's heritage to go into private pockets, to have the 'owners' of mineral lands understand that they are tenants of the Crown (the people), and that the mineral deposits, not made by man, are the property of all, and not of a few."

THE level-headed journal in question adds:

"The Single Tax on land values is the easy and only means by which to secure the ends he aims at. Let the applicants for mining properties understand that the Province will take the rental value, whether the mines are worked or not, and there will be an end to

cornering and speculation. Development will be rapid. The beauty of it is that the same law which will do so much good in its application to mineral lands will fit agricultural lands, timber lands and city building lots. Follow it up, Mr. Hardy."

This is sound advice. Mr. Hardy has probably been doing some reading in political economy, a subject which most of our statesmen know nothing about, and yet which lies at the very foundation of statesmanship.

"IT IS THE UNEXPECTED THAT HAPPENS."

HE wrote a poem on the spring,
Which to the editor he brought;
The latter praised like everything
Its melody and subtle thought.

He clomb athwart the brindle mule,
Its ribs he prodded with a stick;
It meekly yielded to his rule,
And never gave a single kick.

He mashed one day a winsome maid,
And called on her to press his suit;
Her father no objection made,
Nor ever once upraised his boot.

He went to fish in Humber's stream,
And really caught a fish or two;
And when he treated to ice cream,
His girl remarked one plate would do.

Thus luck attended him throughout,
Until on one unlucky day
He bought an ice man's business out,
Then failed—because it didn't pay.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ENQUIRER.—Yes, Dominion notes are taken at par for subscriptions to GRIP.

HARCOURT.—Since you ask our opinion we have no hesitation in saying your maiden budget speech was highly creditable and cashable. True, the Opposition were not able to *budge it*. Very good, but you really ought to become serious now that you are a minister.

W. A. DOUGLASS.—You can get an idea of what is meant by the "Single Tax" by consulting the editor of the *Christian Guardian*.

STUDENT.—The word *mafia* is Italian and signifies "to maff." This is generally done with a knife.

PARENT.—We are not certain on the point, but have an idea that infants in arms are admitted to the Kindergartens. Write to Mr. Hughes on the subject.

PUZZLED ONE.—We have endeavored to find out for you the reason of the rule prohibiting the ladies and gentlemen attending the Normal School from cultivating each others' acquaintance. The best explanation we have received is that, if social intercourse were allowed, the young men might pick up the bad habits of chewing gum and saying "awfully lovely."

POET.—You want to know our terms for spring poems? We hardly care to repeat them here, but they are exceedingly vigorous.

NIGHTMARE vs. DARK HORSE.

"SIR CHARLES DILKE is beginning to weigh like a night-mare on the Gladstonian leaders."—*Cable Dispatch*.

A night-mare is heavy to carry, no doubt,
And may seriously weaken the force
Of a party which ought to be looking about
To find in its place a *dark horse*.