

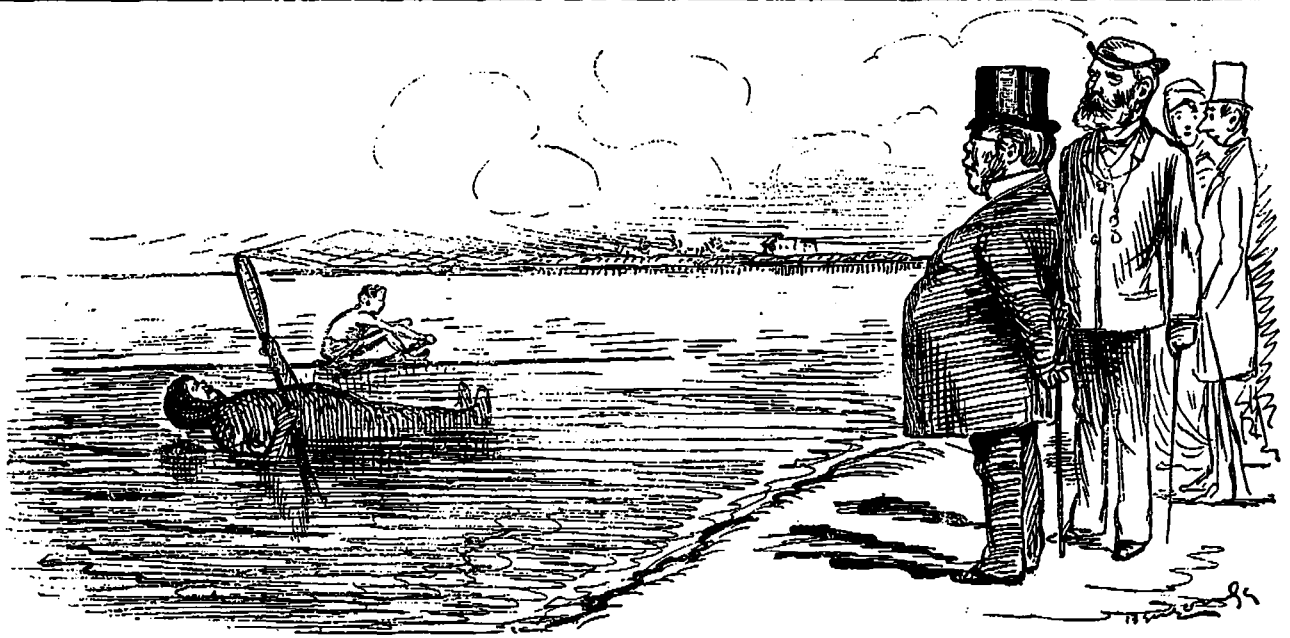
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THE LIFE SAVING-SUIT.—A HAPPY THOUGHT.

MR. MOWAT.—(Says Mowat) WOULD'NT IT BE A CAPITAL IDEA TO GET SOMETHING LIKE THAT FOR OUR CABINET BEFORE GOING TO THE COUNTRY?

two stores in the place—mine an' Sniggles— an' as Dicker wouldn't move in one of 'em would git the job. Howsomdever, I got up a petition, an' went roun' a-gittin' the folks ter sign it, an' all seemed e'rect till I cum acrost Sniggle a-whoopin' aroun' with another. This kinder riled me, fur if anyone wuz entitled ter the office I wuz. Yer see I allers had taken a prom'ent part in the 'lections. I wuz right on the groun' in a case of that kin' an' everybody knowed it. Why, the way we used to make things hum 'fore this infernal ballot cum out wuz magnifercent. Bless yer 'art, I've seed us keep the Grits from gittin' in a vote till nigh onto three o'clock. Ah, them wuz the good old days: none of your sneakin' votin' then; everyone hed ter march right up and vote as men ought ter vote. Well, as I wuz sayin', I wuz allers on time an' gen'rally made things buzz, but old Sniggle never cum out as he ought ter hev. We felt kinder surc of his vote, but we couldn't git him to howl round worth a cent. I s'pose he kep' quiet so's ter git the Grit custom, but, bless yer boots, I got more'n he did, so if that wuz his idee he cum out behin' outer it. Considerin' these circumstances I kinder thought the old beggar wuz purty cheeky ter try an' git the position, an' I told him so. I couldn't git no satisfaction out of him, so I told him ter fire away. When I got the petition filled up I kinder thought I'd send it in by mail, but arter considerin' the matter over I made up my mind ter go down and see John A. himself—kinder personal, yer know. I s'pect we wuz more'n two hours under way, an' feelin' sort o' drowsy, I got up ter go fur a draw ter the smokin' car, when who d'yer think I seed, a-settin' there as comfortable as yer please, but Sniggle! 'Blast yer picter!' says I, 'do yer think yer goin' ter git ahead of Joe Perkins? Not if I knows it!' So when I cum back arter gittin' my smoke, I kep' my eye on the old sucker, an' set near the door so's ter be ready to scoot when the train stopped. I hed been ter Ottawa afore on a depertation, and knowed where the old man hung out, an' when the ingin' slowed up I jumped off an' got a good head on fur the parl'ment buildin's. I didn't look roun' fur I s'pect nigh on five minutes, when, hearin' a kinder noise behin', I turned, an' sure's you're born there wuz old Sniggle a-whoopin' it up fur dear life arter me, an' about a dozen dogs

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an' boys a-follerin' him, an' makin' more noise nor a lot of Kermanche Engins. Holy small-pox! I never seed such a race in my life. If we didn't more'n scoot 'long them streets I'm a grasshopper! But Sniggle hed no show from the first. Yer see I used ter practise runnin' when I wuz goin' ter school, an' it sorter stuck ter me, so when I got ter John A.'s office Sniggle wuz 'bout distanced. Yer should hev seed his physerog when he arrived an' foun' the old man an' me a-talkin' as quiet an' circumferential as yer please. Mad? Well, I s'pect so! He wuz that mad that he couldn't speak, nohow, though John A. wuz very perlithe an' offered him a chair. It wuz too much fur the old beggar, an' ever sence he's been one of the howlingest Grits yer ever seed."

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