



PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

BY THE

GRIP PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO.

26 and 28 Front Street West, Toronto, Ont.

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PAYABLE STRICTLY IN ADVANCE.

To United States and Canada.	To Great Britain and Ireland.
One year, \$2.00; six months - \$1.00	One year \$2.50

Remittances on account of subscriptions are acknowledged by change in the date of the printed address-label.

In remitting stamps, please send one-cent stamps only.

MESSRS. JOHN HADDON & CO., Advertising Contractors, Fleet St. London, Eng., are the sole agents for GRIP in Great Britain.

Comments on the Cartoons.



**THE ABSURDITY OF IT.** — Sir Charles Tupper has been on another visit to Spain, "partly for pleasure," as he explains, and partly with a view of negotiating that long-talked-of commercial arrangement between that effete monarchy and Canada. If Sir Charles is so constituted as to be able to enjoy a snub, Spain seems to be a very nice place for him to go for an occasional holiday. The Spanish authorities are by no means consumed with anxiety to open up business relations with the Dominion, and even if

they were, the trade between the two countries would be worth comparatively little to either. The spectacle of our High Commissioner wearing out his shoe-leather on a ridiculous wild goose chase like this, while the offers of the great American Republic, with its sixty millions of inhabitants at our very door, to trade freely with us, are not merely ignored but apparently contemned, is, to our view, a very climax of absurdity. Such a spectacle is only possible in politics. Neither Sir John Macdonald, Sir Charles Tupper, nor any of their colleagues, are ever caught at

anything so idiotic outside of their official positions, because as private individuals they are guided presumably by common-sense and not by "party exigencies." Why doesn't the present Canadian Government calmly and earnestly consider the proposal of Reciprocity with the United States? Because—oh, because, don't you know, it would be so awfully disloyal to deal with those horrid Yankees! Such is the childish drivel the poor slave of the Empire is made to utter in reply to the question, and the answer is thought to be a sufficient one, because it is too silly to be replied to. Of course, it is strictly loyal to trade with Spain, or any other country too poor or too far away to be of any service to us! The fact is, as everybody must see clearly enough, that the incompetents at Ottawa are under the thumb of a Protected ring, in whose interest the present tariff was arranged and is kept up, and they dare not make a move in the interests of the people. These monopolists are perfectly willing that Sir Charles Tupper should go fiddling around the lobby of the Spanish Parliament, as no possible harm can come to them (and no possible good to the Canadian people) from such foolishness. But Free Trade with the United States is a very different thing. That would mean a tumble in monopoly prices and a rise in wages throughout the Dominion, and such a double calamity must be averted at all hazards. It cannot be averted for long, however!

REVISED VERSION.—Elsewhere in this number reference is made to the late election in West Lambton. While each of the contending parties—there were three of them—claims a "glorious victory," the practical political fact is that Lambton has proven faithful to Mowat, and has sent him a supporter in the person of Mr. Charles Mackenzie.

THE result of the West Lambton election seems to have brought the long-smouldering disaffection in the camp of the Provincial Opposition to a head. As all efforts to make Mowat "go" have so far proved futile, a large section of the party insist that Meredith must go—and it is asserted by those who claim to be in the know that the genial leader of the Opposition has for some time been willing and even anxious to retire from the position. But who is to fill his place? Ay, there's the rub! If Meredith is to be deposed GRIP's candidate for the succession is James L. Hughes. There would be more fun to be got out of a party headed by James than we have been able to extract from Canadian politics in a long time.

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BUT, anyway, what is the sense of keeping up this farce of "Government" and "Opposition" in Provincial affairs any longer? The present time, when the Opposition appears utterly demoralized, offers an excellent opportunity to put an end to it. The common-sense way—if such a thing as common sense could get a hearing in politics—would be for the Opposition to formally dissolve and the individual members to support or oppose specific measures on their own merits without regard to partyism—and for future vacancies in the Ministry to be filled by the best men, irrespective of whether they were Grit or Tory in Ottawa politics. That was Sandfield Macdonald's idea, and the people of this Province never made a greater mistake than when they allowed the rabid partizanship of the *Globe* to introduce the cries of the Ottawa factions into Provincial affairs.

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THERE is talk in Tory circles of an alliance between the Local Opposition and the Equal Righters in Provincial matters only. Such a move, could it be carried out, would be utterly fatal to the cause of Equal Rights. The members of that organization are hardly weaned from their former party predilections, and just as soon as such a scheme were mooted the cry of "To your tents, O Israel," would be raised, followed by a stampede of