

GRIP

AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF HUMOR AND CARICATURE.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

BY THE

Grip Printing and Publishing Co.

26 and 28 Front Street West, Toronto, Ont.

President
Manager

J. V. WRIGHT.
T. G. WILSON.

Terms to Subscribers.

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 two-cent stamps only.
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Artist and Editor
Associate Editor

J. W. BENGOUGH.
PHILLIPS THOMPSON.

Comments ON THE Cartoons.



PULLED ASHORE BY THE FISHERMEN.—Sir John A. Macdonald's Government has survived the general election and returns to office with a majority which it owes chiefly to the three Maritime Provinces. Two members of the Cabinet, Hon. Messrs Carling and Colby are

amongst the missing, while Honorable Mr. Foster narrowly escaped defeat. The victorious party, led by the *Empire* in a strain of exuberant poesy, is celebrating the event as a magnificent, triumphant vindication of the Government's policy. This is all quite right and natural, and GRIP extends his congratulations to the happy fellows. But the candid citizen who calmly considers the whole matter in a sober and common sense fashion will be forced to admit that there are some considerations which rob the victory of a good share of its glory. Aside from the fact that the constitution was trifled with in bringing the election on prematurely, it is right to remember that the appeal was made to a still gerrymandered country and under a most unfair Franchise Act; worse still, that the voters' lists were unrevised and did not in any reasonable measure represent the present citizenship of the Dominion. If we add to these considerations the questionable methods known to have been openly resorted to in the manipulation of public works for the bribery of whole constituencies (without supposing that there was personal bribery or any bulldozing at all on the Ministerial side) the lustre of the triumph is appreciably dimmed. The *Empire* is convinced that it was the grandness of Sir John's policy that did it Our

own opinion is that if the platforms of the parties had been transposed, there would scarcely have been a Grit member returned to the House.

THE LOGIC OF THE SITUATION.—The valedictory letter of Mr. Blake, which was published on the morning after the election, fairly divided with the "returns" the attention of an excited public. This document had been the subject of much speculation during the contest. A letter had been read confidentially to the Reform Convention of West Durham in connection with Mr. Blake's declination of the nomination, and the fact that the full explanation of his position promised therein was not published at once gave rise to a report that its author was out of accord with his party on the policy of Reciprocity. The Conservatives used this assumption industriously, as signifying that Mr. Blake, of course, favored the Government policy instead. It is found, however, that he regards both policies as leading inevitably to annexation, and favors neither. Indeed, it is a little difficult to discover from the document just what Mr. Blake would propose to avert the doom which he sees awaiting the country. Reduced to a sentence or two, the manifesto appears to be to this effect: "Protection cannot continue without landing us in Annexation; Unrestricted Reciprocity cannot be secured except in the form of Commercial Union, which also means Annexation in the end; meanwhile, our state is such that we must have a very high tariff for revenue purposes, while at the same time we badly need extended markets, which we cannot get without Free Trade. Under the circumstances, my only course seems to be to retire from public life. I accordingly bid you all an affectionate farewell." The conclusion seems to us lame and impotent. If Mr. Blake is physically fit for public life, the desperate condition of the country as he sees it, calls for his re-entry instead of his retirement. We cannot spare any statesmen just now.

AFTER THE ROW.—It is to be hoped our friends the politicians on both sides will have enough Pickwickian grace about them to overlook the hard things that were said during the campaign. This will not be so very difficult to secure in the case of the victors; and we trust even the vanquished will ere long come up smiling once more. The sensible man takes a generous discount off all the bitter things uttered in the heat of a contest, knowing that in their composition there is about one ounce of dead-earnest to twenty pounds of humbug. Sir John does not really believe (and never for a moment during the campaign believed) that Sir R. Cartwright was a traitor who was conspiring to sell Canada to the Yankees, though he said so pretty often and with a deal of theatrical emotion; similarly, it may be doubted whether Sir Richard and the other Grit orators who went about denouncing the Old Man as a letter-thief, liar, etc., etc., meant that their expressions should be understood in anything but a Pickwickian sense. Now that the unpleasantness is over, GRIP hopes to see a mutual good understanding re-established.



JUDICIOUS people living in Toronto have sworn off drinking the city water, since the latest statement pertaining thereto was made by the acting medical health officer. The question is, What are we going to do about it? If the citizens are convinced that hanging Mayor Clarke will cure the difficulty, as the *Telegram* seems

to hint, then let his Worship be hanged forthwith. He is a public-spirited man, and is used to sacrificing himself for the public good, so that he will, we presume, be quite willing. The question—like the water—cannot be left in its present unsettled condition. A vague notion has crossed our mind that the medical experts ought to be equal to the construction of some sort of a big public filter, fitted up with layers of Koch lymph, through which our water supply might be passed and rendered free of microbes. It might be worth while, also, for the police authorities to find out if it is true that ice is being cut from the sewage-infected bay by some of our local ice dealers.

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A BIG dry goods house up Yonge Street has added another department — that of shoe-cobbling.