

TOPICAL SONG.

(AS SUNG BY MR FOSTER).

I'm reckoned as a decent man,
And prize the reputation;
I help to save the Cabinet from
Corrupt disintegration;
Sir John and Bowell and I, you know,
Supply the salty flavor
That counteracts the ill effects
Of our colleagues' misbehavior.

And yet, although respectable,
I cannot help but wonder
At all the fuss they're keeping up
About what Tarte calls "plunder."
I cannot understand at all
Why folks should get excited
About such things as these for which
Sir Hector is indicted.

What if, in letting costly works,
He juggled with the figures,
And in the public woodpile winked
At several little niggers?
What if he took election funds
From over-paid contractors?
The men who bring such trifles up
Are simply his detractors!

What if, as shown in evidence,
The clerks are drawing money
To which they have no legal right?—
The thing is simply funny.
And as to Dewdney's private help,
(The charge we sought to stifle),
What if they're paid with public funds
To me it seems a trifle.

Then there, again, is Haggart's case,
Which they alleged was shady,
About the pay continuing
To a long-since absent lady;
And other little odds and ends
O'er which they tear their hair,
To me, and I'm a serious man,
They're trifles light as air.

But here is something really big,
And worth investigation—
And fitted to electrify
The whole Canadian nation;
I mean the charge that Mercier
That subsidy did rifle—
Now here the boot's on t'other leg,
And this is *not* a trifle!

CROSS-EXAMINATION OF UNCLE THOMAS.

(BY GRIP'S OWN REPORTER).

MR. THOMAS MCGREEVEY, M.P., having been duly sworn, the cross-examination proceeded as follows:

MR. GEOFFRION—"Your name, I believe, Thomas McGreevey, and you are the person referred to in this case as 'Uncle Thomas?'"

A.—"It is very fine weather, but a little warm."

MR. G.—"Now, about this steamer *Admiral* business. Did you or did you not own that vessel while you were a member of Parliament?"

A.—"I never played base-ball in my life, though I was pretty good at cricket as a boy."

MR. G.—"I would like a more direct and explicit reply to my question. Were you the owner of the *Admiral* or was somebody else?"

A.—"Yes."

MR. G.—"Was not the vessel registered in your brother's name?"

A.—"My brother and I used to be good friends, but unfortunately we have quarreled."



AN APPARENT SUFFICIENCY.

CALLER—"Your train ran into my wagon at the crossing; killed my two horses, smashed the wagon, killed my wife and used me up in this manner. Now, I want damages."

URBANE OFFICIAL—"Want damages! Why, man alive, I should think you had enough damages to last you a life-time."

—Smith & Gray's Monthly.

MR. G.—"Why did you not have the vessel in your own name?"

A.—"Because I wouldn't take it."

MR. G.—"I will now pass to the Baie des Chaleurs railway matter. When did you resign as director of that Company?"

A.—"Yes, quite so."

MR. G.—"Did you ever pay any money for the stock which stood in your name?"

A.—"I am in favor of the free coinage of silver. I think it would greatly relieve the farmers to increase the circulation."

MR. G. then read a letter from C. N. Armstrong to the witness. The letter was of a compromising character. *Examination resumed.* "Do you recollect receiving that letter?"

A.—"No. I had it amongst my private papers and Robert has stolen it, but I never received it."

MR. G.—"Were you aware that your brother had an interest in the firm of Larkin, Connolly & Co.?"

A.—"The usual rate of interest is 6 per cent. on good real estate security."

MR. G.—"Will you explain what you meant by writing to your brother, advising him to arrange with Beauceage about his tender for the cross-wall?"

A.—"No; to the best of my recollection it rained in the morning and cleared up about noon, but I wouldn't be positive."

Mr. Osler then took up the witness.

MR. O.—"Do you believe I am here for the purpose of bringing out all the facts regardless of who is hurt?"

A.—"Why, certainly. Anybody can see that."

MR. O.—"Are there any questions you would prefer that I should not put to you?"