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## Comments ON THE Cartoons.

THE MCGREEVEY CYCLONE. — A disagreement amongst the French-Canadian followers of the Conservative banner has led to the partial exposure of a scandal which appears to be of an extensive and serious character. Mr. Tarte, editor of

*Le Canadien*, is the child of Destiny to whose trenchant pen has been committed the task of emblazoning the disgraceable matter to an interested world, and he appears to be in possession of enough information of an apparently authentic sort to make a very thrilling story. So far as we can gather from what has already appeared in *Le Canadien*, the charge is that Mr. Thos. McGreevey, a member of the Dominion Parliament, has been guilty of trafficking in Cabinet secrets, with the connivance of Sir Hector Langevin, head of the Department of Public Works. To particularize, he has been permitted to obtain figures and other details from tenders sent in to the Department by public contractors, and these valuable pieces of information he has sold to a favored firm, Larkin, Connolly & Co., for good round sums, which have gone partly into his private pocket and partly into the Conservative election fund. The circumstantial statement made by Mr. Tarte, strengthened by the highly spiced correspondence which he has spread upon the docket, present a strong *prima facie* case, and unless the eminent persons implicated wish to be understood as pleading guilty, there is nothing for it but a thorough investigation by a Parliamentary Committee when the House meets. It is openly alleged in Opposition quarters that it is Sir John's exceeding anxiety to avoid the coming exposure of his col-

league and supporter—and incidentally of his Government—that has determined him to bring on the general election in January. The scandal is not a particularly new one. The cloud has in fact been above the horizon for a couple of years. It is only now that it has assumed the portentous shape of a cyclone, and seems to be bearing down with fatal sweep upon the Government.

SENSATIONAL.—There are other reasons than the one above alluded to which would make it prudent for the Government to spring the general election early in the New Year, although as yet there is no whisper of such an intention outside of the columns of Opposition papers, whose special business it is to keep the Reform party in a state of wholesome alacrity. For example, there is the great trade question. Since the passage of the McKinley Bill, and especially since the emphatic repudiation of that measure by the people of the United States, this is more of an issue than ever. The Government may well dread the consequences of delay on this question, for the campaign of education is going on here almost as briskly as across the line, which means that the settled policy of the Administration—the N.P.—is bound to grow in unpopularity. Another powerful argument in favor of an early appeal to the country is Sir John's naturally increasing infirmity. At the present moment he has vigor enough to give his party the full benefit of his ability as a leader, but there is no knowing how long that happy condition of things may last. If the sincere wishes of friend and foe alike could avail, he would never be less "fit" than now, but nature's mandate must take precedence of all else. Taking these and other considerations which might be mentioned into account, it is by no means impossible that the general election is at our door, notwithstanding the Sphinx-like silence of the *Empire* and other organs.



OR the information of those who do not know—and we have discovered that there are some of our esteemed readers who have picked up a wrong impression on the point—we wish to say distinctly that GRIP is in favor of Free Trade, otherwise called Unrestricted Reciprocity, with the United States, if that devoutly to be wished for consummation can by any honorable means be achieved. This has no reference to that form of Commercial Union which presupposes a joint committee to regulate the tariff of the two countries against the world at large, for such a plan involves a diminution of our national autonomy. It simply means free, unfettered intercourse between the two countries in all matters of trade and commerce. We frankly admit that the prospect of getting this is slight so long as Protective ideas rule the respective governments, as there would be no means of shutting out foreign imports passing through the free territory on either side.

BUT we are living in hopes of seeing the dawn of a day of better sense before long. It will not be many years before the United States is as much of a Free Trade country as England. Canada ought to be so now. It would be millions in her pocket to cease worshipping the graven image she has borrowed from Yankeeedom, and reduce her boasted loyalty to British traditions and the Old Flag to practise by adopting the trade policy which has done so much for the mother country.

WE are by no means alone in this opinion. The Montreal *Witness* puts the same idea tersely in the following sentences:

There is a tide in the affairs of men and nations which taken at the flood leads on to fortune. The present is, in view of every Englishman who looks at the question from a distance sufficient to see it in its proper perspective, the hour of Canada's opportunity. By the immediate adoption of a Free Trade policy a large proportion of the