

# 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.

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

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## Comments

ON THE

## Cartoons.

"I'LL RANT AS WELL AS THOU."—This number of GRIP goes to press before Thursday although dated for Saturday, and hence before the result of the general election can be known. We will venture upon no predictions as to what that result will be, but a few

philosophical reflections on the campaign may be both safe and salutary. That it has been a great fight—one of the grandest recorded in our annals—is admitted on all hands. For a change we have had a battle royal on a big principle, instead of a campaign of mere mud slinging. The speeches, in so far as they have dealt with the real issue, have been decidedly educative. One party has sought to convince the people that it will be to their best interests in every way to secure Free Trade with the neighboring republic; the other party has denied this, and insisted upon it that Canada is more prosperous under present conditions than she could hope to be under such an arrangement. Further, the Conservative orators have declared that Free Trade with the States would not only injure us commercially, but, worse still, would infallibly destroy us politically—would land us in Annexation. So overwhelming has this latter consideration seemed, that it has practically monopolized the whole attention of the Government speakers, and the issue has been changed to Reciprocity vs. Old Flag. No fault can be found with any honest attempt to demonstrate the necessary connection between Free Trade and Annexation, but it may be fairly questioned whether such honest demonstration has been attempted. The argument has been that the

Grit leaders are engaged in a treasonable plot with certain Yankee conspirators, and great stress has been placed upon the pamphlet written by Mr. Edward Farrer, to prove this charge. But no connection has been discovered between Mr. Farrer's pamphlet and any recognized Grit leader, and the charge has consequently failed. For the orators who have opposed Reciprocity as *per se* a bad policy for Canada we have every respect, and we can believe that their arguments have been inspired by genuine patriotism. But we have no such respect for those who have dealt in the conscious claptrap of charging the opposite party with deliberate treason. Sir John's wacry, "A British subject I was born and a British subject I will die," was conclusively answered by Mr. Mowat when at the Pavilion meeting he simply re-echoed the words for himself. It was a piece of unnecessary rant.

CLINGING TO THE SPOON.—The campaign has been notable for the revolt of many leading representatives of the manufacturing interests against the protective policy. Many of the men who in '78 and '83 were amongst the most earnest devotees of the N.P. have discovered that the true interests of legitimate manufacturers are identical with those of the country in general, and that the things necessary to real and permanent success are cheap raw materials and an extended market. The "infant industry" still clings to the spoon, however, and will continue to do so for half a century yet, if permitted—getting more infantile all the while. This tenacious youngster is represented by the men who are engaged in manufactures which are more or less exotic in their character, and depend chiefly on the tariff for support, together with a few of more legitimate standing who are not as yet sufficiently enlightened to recognize the facts which have become so plain to their brethren.

MILITIA-COL. G. T. DENISON, who, by the way, has gone over to the Tory party, to which by sympathy and instinct he naturally belongs, delivered a stump speech on the evening of the 27th ult. under the title of a lecture before the Teachers' Association at the Normal School. The alleged "lecture" was simply a tirade of venomous and blackguardly abuse directed at Prof. Goldwin Smith and "traitors" generally, in his usual style of after-dinner oratory. The evident purpose of the discourse was to make election capital for the Tory party. Now Militia-Col. Denison is a public official appointed by Premier Mowat, and here he is working might and main to defeat the party to which he owes his easy job and heavy salary—a party which he only joined in a temporary pique at Sir John because the Tories had never thought it worth while to recognize in his person the Denisonian divine right to be supported out of the public funds. If Mr. Mowat had a grain of pluck he would without further delay fire Police Magistrate Denison from the position he abuses, so quickly it would make his head swim. Would Sir John Macdonald tolerate for an instant such conduct on the part of a Dominion official?

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A CIVIC grant by Toronto of \$2,000 to the widows and orphans left destitute by the Springhill coal mine catastrophe, in which 123 miners perished, has been asked for and will doubtless be made. No ratepayer possessing the ordinary instincts of humanity will object, even if, as contended, the Council do exceed the strict letter of the law in making such an appropriation. But cases of this sort ought not to be left to the uncertain, temporary and inadequate relief of municipal and individual subscriptions. Governments should regard it as part of their business to make satisfactory provision for the families of all workers killed or disabled in the discharge of their perilous duties. It is a monstrous thing that men should be engaged in occupations such as sailing, railroading, mining, etc., absolutely necessary to our civilization, for a mere subsistence out of which nothing can be saved, and that when they are killed or maimed society takes no care for their families beyond extending a little temporary "charity." Widows and orphans of