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Artist and Editor
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J. W. BENGOUGH.
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Comments

ON THE

Cartoons.

NO "IFS" ABOUT IT.—The eminent "men of metal" who recently visited the Sudbury region by invitation of the Dominion and Provincial Governments expressed themselves astonished at the mineral wealth of the country,

and have been vieing with one another in the use of complimentary adjectives on the subject. Prof. Snelus, one of the highest authorities in the world, declares that our nickel deposits are the greatest he knows of, and he adds, "they are certain to be developed if no unwise legislation interferes." We scarcely see where he finds room for the "if." No legislation could be more unwise than that which is at present in force, to wit, a "National Policy" which imposes heavy taxation on the machinery necessary for the development of mines, and artificially restricts commerce in so many directions that capitalists are frightened off notwithstanding the temptations held out in both hands by bounteous nature. Prof. Snelus, as a visitor, was perhaps too courteous to tell us that we are a parcel of chumps, who know no better than to deliberately deprive ourselves of the riches which lie at our very doors. He knows, as every sensible man among us knows, that the removal of the "Protective" ligaments imposed for the benefit of a few favored monopolists, is all that is needed to transmute Sudbury nickel into gold.

THE UNSOPHISTICATED CLERGYMAN.—Rev. Principal Grant has conceived a truly happy thought, and what is more, has told it to the world. The good doctor is, as everybody knows, dis-

tinguished for his patriotic fervor. This noble emotion has hitherto found vent in eloquent speeches in advocacy of Imperial Federation, which shadowy cause still commands his earnest support. But the new idea which the Principal has hit upon is one of immediate practical feasibility, and may be called a first step in the magnificent programme of a confederation of the Empire. It is that Canada ought to declare for Free Trade with Great Britain. By doing so we would be giving rational voice to a loyalty which finds very inadequate expression in a High Tariff against the goods of the mother country. And furthermore we would be aiding in the proper punishment of McKinley and his coadjutors, while at the same time greatly benefitting the overburdened Canadian consumer. The idea is not absolutely new; something very like it has been set forth in GRIP, for example, from time to time, but it is one which surely ought to commend itself to Canadians who entertain loyal feelings towards the Old Land. Especially, therefore, should it be welcomed by the members of the Manufacturers' Association, whose single aim in life is the honor and glory of the Old Flag. But—hem! but—well, just let Rev. Principal Grant lay his suggestion before that body of super-eminent loyalists, and the result will, we venture to predict, be something to astonish his unsophisticated mind.



EVIDENTLY the time has come for a thorough discussion and settlement of the question of capital punishment. It is a noteworthy fact that a very great majority of those who have signed the petitions for the commutation of Birchall's sentence have done so because they are against the death penalty on principle. It may be that persons of this way of thinking form a majority

of our whole population, in which case the law ought to be changed.

* * *

WE had looked forward with a lively interest to the debate on the Single Tax by the members of the Ministerial Association, which was the promised programme for the last meeting of that body. We had anticipated something really valuable as the result of a discussion of the problem by a lot of educated and intelligent men whose bias of mind might have been presumed to be in favor of justice and righteousness. To our dismay the whole thing practically amounted to a fizzle. True, Rev. Dr. Hunter, of Carlton Street church, read a masterly paper on the defects of the present system, but his namesake of Erskine church, who was to have spoken on the remedy proposed by Henry George, devoted himself to the demolition of a man of straw which he had put up and labelled with the name of that distinguished political economist. Then on a plea of want of time, or something of that kind, the question was shelved. As the programme for the year is already fixed, it looks as though the ministerial brethren intended to leave the Single Tax subject on the shelf, while subjects of comparatively trifling importance are debated. Against which we protest, if that will do any good.

* * *

BY the way, what has become of the conclusive and final refutation which Principal Grant was to have made of Georgeism? It is now some months since the announcement was made that the able head of Queen's College intended to cure the growing multitudes of Single Taxers of their folly by showing plainly wherein George was defective in his logic. We have been straining our eyes and ears ever since to detect the appearance of this remarkable production. We call it remarkable in advance, because if Principal Grant succeeds in refuting Henry George's argument he will be the only man in the world who has been able to do so. It will cover Canada