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#### Comments on the Cartoons.



"DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS LOADED."—Mr. Mercier protests that he had no thought of injuring the Federal Government when he summoned the Inter-Provincial delegates to discuss the British North America Act. He invited Sir John to be present and take part in the Conference, which, he thinks, is conclusive evidence that there was no intention of censuring that great statesman. The fact that Sir John declined the invitation with more or less vehemence is neither here nor there. Of course Mr. Mercier had no idea that the delegates would be likely to vote against the abuse of the veto power, or pass any other resolutions directly or indirectly censuring the Federal Cabinet. Certainly not. Now that Sir John and his colleagues feel hurt it is a clear case of accident. When Mercier pointed the Conference blunderbuss in their direction and pulled the trigger, he "didn't know it was loaded," but it is not on record that the victim of this sort of accident ever felt better on account of the explanation.

THE TUPPER QUARTETTE.—Perhaps before these lines reach the public, this remarkable organization will have been dissolved, but it deserves pictorial record as one of the unique things of Canadian political history. It is stated that Sir Charles Tupper is on the point of resigning his position as M. P. for Cumberland and Finance Minister, so that the quartette will be resolved into a duo. And there will always be a marked discord in the singing of the two, for the office of High Commissioner is not, in our opinion, a whit more compatible with that of C. P. R. trustee, than the position of member of Parliament would be. Sir Charles is not troubled with any qualms on that point, however, as he deemed it quite decent to become the paid servant of the Syndicate even while he was in the ministry.

GOOD boy, *Globe!* . . . Excuse this sudden outburst, reader, but we can't help it. Did you see the leading article in the big Grit journal on May 23rd? Wasn't it refreshing to hear it tell the Oppositionists at Ottawa that they were equally guilty with the Government in rushing through the estimates without proper examination just to accommodate the Governor-General by closing the session before his departure? The castigation was well merited, and it would be a good thing for Canada if papers on both sides were in the habit of attacking their own so-called friends when the public interests demand it.

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IT is suggested, in view of this coal contract scandal in the Council, that a Citizens' Association ought to be formed, to guard the public interests in cases where the aldermen, from motives best known to themselves, are bent upon sacrificing them. This is a valuable proposition, and we would like to see it acted upon at once. But what we need and will have to come before long is Civic Government by Commission, the system in vogue in some of the large English cities. A board composed of half-a-dozen able men, liberally paid, and held personally responsible for all expenditures, would secure for this city the same careful financial management that most private companies now enjoy. It is unquestionable, also, that under such a plan the various departments of the city government would be administered with much higher ability and efficiency than under the present system.

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THE Government acted sensibly in reducing the grant to the late Hon. Mr. White's family from a fancy figure to an amount representing the salary that would have been due from the time of his death to the end of the year. Mr. White himself would, we are sure, have been opposed to the precedent of lump sum grants to the families of deceased ministers. The arrangement as it is is a bad precedent, in our opinion, but not so utterly objectionable as the original proposal.

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IN other countries the leading political personages sustain more or less of a character for literary ability. Are we to suppose that our Canadian statesmen know nothing beyond politics? We don't observe that any of them belong to or take part in the Royal Society. This should be remedied. If they are all quite ignorant of polite literature and science, let them deal with Politics, of which they *do* profess to know something. Why, for instance, could not Sir John read a paper on "Statesmanship; What is It, and wherein does it Differ from Small Potatoes?" And Sir Richard—couldn't he give us an essay on "Vinegar, as a Political Weapon"? Nicholas Flood Davin has a fine literary style, as everybody knows, and he could, if he felt disposed, enrich the proceedings of the Royal Society with an elegant dissertation on "Political Trimmers and why They Never Get There." GRIP would really like to see our great men branch out a little.

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FROM the *Globe's* Parliamentary report we clip this:

"Before the doors of the Commons were thrown open to others than members this morning, Mr. Perley (Assiniboia) called the attention of the Government to the fact that the habit of drinking in the restaurant by others than those connected with the House was becoming a nuisance. It was said that when the city hotels were closed in accordance with the requirements of the laws, outsiders had nothing to do but go to the Parliament buildings and get a drink. Sir John Macdonald promised to inquire into the matter. Mr. Mitchell said that the proper thing to do was to admit no one