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Comments on the Cartoons.



THE POLITICAL HORSE-RING.—The great Industrial Fair, which is now accepted as a public festival by at least the people of Ontario, marks the close of the holiday season. Before settling down to serious fall and winter business, the average citizen feels it incumbent upon him to put in a few days at the Industrial, and if you want to locate him on the ground at any given moment of any given afternoon (weather permitting), you are most likely to find him in company with a few thousands of other average

citizens, doing his best to see what is going on in the horse-ring. Why it is that the shrewd managers have not put up an additional grand stand to accommodate those who are willing to pay for seats, we need not stop just now to enquire. If they are quite willing to let hundreds of dollars slip by in this way, season after season, it is none of our funeral. We presume the directors, in their facetious way, will reply that the people now have a grand "stand" for hours at a stretch around the enclosure. All right—but there would be heaps of money in a few more yards of seating accommodation. Now, since the Fair's the thing, why should not the politicians big and little "do it" as well as the other classes of the community? And why not have them present as a body, as an additional attraction in the pro-

gramme. If Mr. Hill could only realize some such scene as that presented in our sketch, he would find it a paying attraction.

THE GREATEST WONDER OF THE FAIR.—Although there will as usual be many remarkable things for our visitors to see and admire at the Exhibition, nothing, we are sure, will be a source of more universal wonder than the strides Toronto has made since this time last year. To those who only visit us at annual periods, we commend a general inspection of the city, something which can be managed both cheaply and pleasantly by means of the street cars. If this hint is acted upon year by year, they will find that the real "exhibition" is not confined to the Industrial Park, but is bounded only by the city limits.

THE great strike among the London dock laborers has afforded the Smart Alicks of the Protectionist press the opportunity to indulge in the usual chatter which generally takes the place of argument, to the effect that England is a Free Trade country. As though strikes and labor troubles were unknown in Protectionist countries! All such talk, from whichever side it comes, is worthy only of children or idiots. There are a hundred other conditions affecting labor than those arising out of tariffs or the absence of tariffs. So long as natural opportunities are monopolized by the few, there will always be poverty and oppression, irrespective of tariff laws. But what makes the protective nonsense rather sillier than usual in this particular case, is that the only possible effect of Protection on English trade would be to decrease the volume of imports, and consequently to lessen considerably the work of dock laborers.



HE theatres are again open for the season, and the customary succession of stars will twinkle for a brief space before the lovers of the drama. Manager Sheppard begun well by showing us an actor who can really act, in the person of Mr. Nat Goodwin. It is something of a relapse from this to the Hanlons, with their circus-nonsense, but this temporary aberration will be compensated for later on, it is to be hoped. Speaking of the stage, when are we going to see a play by a Canadian author in these parts? This is a question worthy of some discussion in connection with the much-written-upon subject of native literature. We happen to know that one such production is at this moment sweetly and securely resting in the desk of the manager of the theatre just named, but will it ever be transferred to the footlights? The manager says it is a first-rate piece, too.

AS many a true word is said in jest, a figure of speech may sometimes convey a literal truth. The Hamilton Spectator says in explanation of its course on the Jesuit Bill, that "while condemning the measure because of its inherent badness and because of its incendiary character, the Spectator was compelled to take the ground that it was a matter which concerned only