

alleged soldier like Tisdale would be ashamed to shoot a pigeon from a trap, but this valiant warrior is about the fiercest opponent Mr. Brown has. It is very curious what ideas of "manliness" prevail in the Assembly at Ottawa. It is weak and womanish, according to some members, to support a bill against cruelty to animals; but there is nothing derogatory to manhood in voting that black is white at the crack of the party whip!

THE readers of newspapers hereabouts have "supped on murder" for the past fortnight. The terrible Benwell tragedy has afforded material for columns of absorbingly interesting matter, illustrated in some cases by cuts only a few degrees less terrible than the murder itself. The evidence points strongly against Burchell, who has been formally committed for trial at the Woodstock Assizes next fall. Meanwhile, if the tragedy results in the complete destruction of the "farm-pupil" nets, spread in every corner of England by wily scamps, great good will be done. It has been found impossible to enlighten the British mind upon the true condition of things in Canada by ordinary process; this highly dramatic presentation of the subject may be more effectual, and if so poor Benwell will have been the last English gentleman to come to Canada as a farm-partner without first having assured himself that the alleged farm had an existence.

THERE is no question that Ald. E. A. Macdonald was done out of the chairmanship of the special committee on Street Railway Franchise by sharp practise on the part of other aldermen. As the author of the motion for the appointment of the committee he was, under the then existing rule, its chairman as a matter of course, but he never got the chair. The reason given for keeping him out is that he is personally interested in a new street railway company—a statement which he has contradicted under oath. Whether he has not practically shut himself out of all claims to the chairmanship by moving a motion at a committee meeting, with Ald. Gillespie presiding, and thus formally recognizing that officer, may be open to debate, but that he has been finally excluded by the new rule requiring all chairman to be elected is beyond dispute. This rule was to have come into operation after the appointment of this committee, but by special

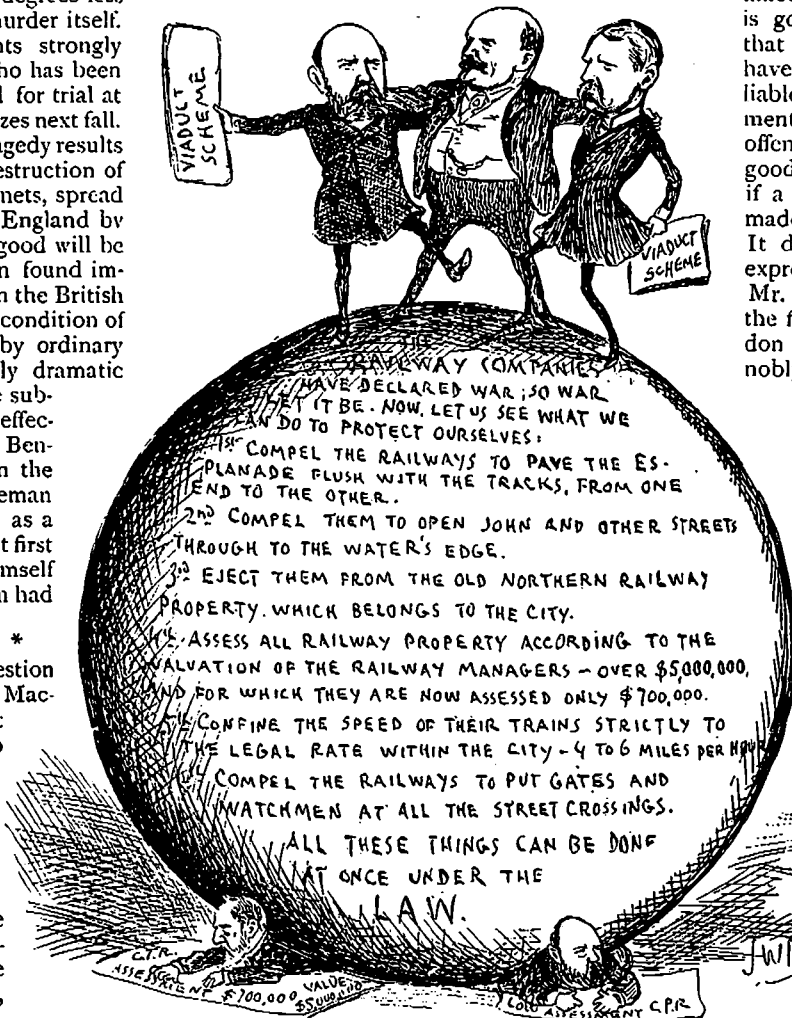
action of the council it was made retroactive so that it governs this case. Mac. alleges that this was another crooked move against his rights, and it certainly looks that way.

AT this writing the Rykert case is taking a little rest. Its resumption and final disposal will be watched with the keenest interest throughout the country. If no better defence can be made against the charges than that offered by the member for Lincoln himself, the case can have but one ending—if common sense has anything to do with deciding it. Mr. Rykert must withdraw from Parliament, either by voluntary resignation or with assistance from the rear. There

is good reason to believe that there are others who have rendered themselves liable to the same punishment by the same sort of offence, and it would be a good thing for the country if a clean sweep could be made of the whole gang. It does us good to hear expressions like those of Mr. Weldon, of Albert, in the first debate. Mr. Weldon is a gentleman who nobly illustrates the truth that Toryism and corruption are not necessarily synonymous. In this he differs from a good many members of his party who seem to feel bound to defend any rascality committed within the ranks either by leaders or followers. The eloquent words of Mr. Weldon deserve a paragraph to themselves. Here they are:

"It seems to me that it is a crime of crimes in politics for a member of this House to go to his people on the hustings as we all go, and ask for their votes and promise them his best efforts, and afterwards to take advantage of his position to make money for himself. I cannot but expect that

indignant people—and we may fairly hope an indignant House—will scathe and blast one who has so prostituted his position. I feel the more keenly this, because I hope in this young country of ours that the reputation of our public men, which is the best and most precious property they can possess, will be kept clean and pure. We know what has followed from the opening of campaigns of calumny and slander in the great Republic to the South. We know that in these latter days that Republic is not distinguished by the splendid names in the Congress which shone there thirty or forty years ago. We know that high-minded and proud men, who are careful of their good name, are unwilling to be forced into public life and be borne down by that pitiless storm of calumny and slander which assails them in that country, and in



THE ESPLANADE QUESTION.

HA! WHO'S ON TOP, NOW?