



The greatest beast is the Gas; the greatest bird is the Owl;  
The greatest fish is the Oyster; the greatest man is the Fool.

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TORONTO, SATURDAY, MAY 21, 1892.

#### COMMENTS ON THE CARTOONS.



"JUSTICE"—A FARCE. — Accepting in good faith Sir John Thompson's announcement that a prompt and fair investigation would be made into any charges of boodling brought against any member of the House or Government, Mr. Edgar, M.P., from his place in Parliament presented an indictment against Sir Adolphe P. Caron, as follows:—

1. That since 1882 the Lake St. John Railway Company has received more than \$1,000,000 in bonuses from the Dominion.
2. That these bonuses were handed over to a construction company, which built the road.
3. That Sir Adolphe Caron was a member of that construction company.
4. That Sir Adolphe Caron corruptly received large sums of money out of the subsidies.
5. That large sums were paid out of the subsidies for election purposes with the knowledge of Sir Adolphe Caron and other members of the Government.
6. That the Temiscouata Railway Company has, since 1885, received Dominion subsidies to the extent of \$649,200.
7. That Sir Adolphe Caron corruptly received large sums of money out of those subsidies.
8. That large sums were paid out of those subsidies for election expenses with the knowledge of Sir Adolphe Caron and of other Ministers.
9. That the sums so contributed amounted to more than \$100,000, and were expended in twenty-two counties and ridings in Quebec, which are named.

Instead of redeeming his pledge, Sir John Thompson first tried to have these charges ignored altogether, on the ground that they were "not sufficiently specific." Pressure having been brought to bear upon him, however, he subsequently consented to an investigation, but only after the accomplishment of certain preliminaries. The charges as laid were "revised," so as to make them "specific," by the colleagues of the accused—or practically by the accused himself, and, as a result of the revision,

charges two and three were entirely omitted, and the others so modified, contorted and manipulated that Edgar says he does not recognize the charges as his at all, and that the evidence in his possession does not apply to them. Not satisfied with this outrage—which is probably without a parallel in parliamentary history—Thompson went further, and insisted that the investigation should be before a "royal commission"—consisting in effect of himself and Sir A. P. Caron, no doubt—instead of before a Parliamentary Committee, though Laurier offered to accept a committee of nine Tories and one Grit. These are the plain and undisputed facts of the case, and we have endeavored to set them forth in pictorial form. The scene in court is one which suggests the topsy turvy imagination of W. S. Gilbert, and yet it is nothing more than a literal representation of the facts. It is only necessary to add, as a culminating humiliation, that the Conservative members of the House, without a dissenting voice, voted in favor of the carrying out of this piece of low cunning.

THE INITIAL DIFFICULTY. — The speech recently delivered by the Marquis of Salisbury before the "Grand Habitation of Primrose Dames," seems to have produced a remarkable sensation throughout Great Britain. He said in effect that Ulster would be justified in offering armed resistance to the granting of Home Rule for Ireland, because Home Rule unquestionably means Rome Rule. This is no new argument, but in view of the approach of the general election and the probable accession to power of Gladstone, it has suddenly acquired new life and force. Manifestly there is trouble ahead. The Home Rulers, after generations of effort, see the prize within their grasp, and they are not likely to submit to its being snatched away at the last moment; but, on the other hand, there can be no doubt that the Ulster men and their sympathisers (about 40 per cent. of the population of Ireland) are prepared to fight in defence of their liberties. We should say everything depends upon the nature of Gladstone's bill. If it grants the Irish Parliament jurisdiction only over local domestic affairs, without fiscal or military powers, we scarcely see why it should so greatly disturb the Protestant element. But Ulster is a tough customer to argue with.

THE difference between extreme poverty and great wealth is becoming more and more marked every day, said Senator Boulton, in a debate in the Upper Chamber. "The happiest and best state that a country can attain," he went on, "is where the wealth of the community is as equitably and evenly distributed as possible, and that is accomplished by not permitting individuals to extract by legislation more than a legitimate share of the earnings of the public."

SENATOR BOULTON is making good progress toward the full day-light of political economy, having got quite out of the bogs and fogs of Protectionism. But he will have to think this sentence over again. Why should individuals be permitted under any circumstances to extract by legislation any portion of the earnings of the public? Isn't this legalized robbery? And if so, how can there be such a thing as a legitimate share of the plunder?

IF the people of Canada have not lost all the virtues of their British lineage they will let this precious Government at Ottawa hear from them pretty soon.