



PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

BY THE

*Grip Printing and Publishing Co.*

26 and 28 Front Street West, Toronto, Ont.

|                          |                    |
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SPECIAL NOTICE.

With the next issue we present No. 3 of Grip's Gallery of Men of To-Day—a portrait of the Hon. John Macdonald, of Toronto, who has recently been called to a seat in the Dominion Senate. Every purchaser of that issue will be entitled to this Supplement without extra charge.

Comments on the Customs.



ONE of the resolutions of the Provincial Conference—perhaps the most important one—proposes that the Provincial subsidies be readjusted, and that the readjustment be final. To ensure this finality it is suggested that an Imperial Act be passed expressly removing the subsidies and everything pertaining to them from the control of the Federal Government. This would at once destroy the most useful bribery fund which Sir John has ever had, and we find a good many of his acknowledged organs joining a section of the Liberal press in declaring for the abolition of the subsidy system altogether in preference to the arrangement proposed. It is pointed out by the Montreal *Herald* that the abolition of the subsidies would probably have the effect of forwarding Sir John's dream of a legislative union "because the provinces are not in a condition to stand any increase of direct taxation in addition to the enormous burden of Federal taxation they now bear, and if the subsidies were withdrawn, would, as a matter of necessity rather than of choice, be forced to abandon Provincial autonomy and their Provincial legislative institutions." We may well believe that if the subsidies are to be placed beyond his control Sir John has "no

further use for them," and would be anxious, as his organs intimate, to abolish them, in the hope that direct taxation in the Provinces would work to his advantage.

THE PLANK AT A PREMIUM.—The whiskey power as an element in our civic politics appears to be happily done for. The friends of Rum have apparently learned a lesson from the drubbing they received in the two former contests, and probably Toronto will never see a candidate for the mayoralty brought out by them openly. This year the question between the candidates is as to which is the better temperance man. They are both clinging to the anti-saloon plank, and looking to the temperance voters for their chief support. Mr. Clarke and Mr. Rogers are both good men. Their records as to temperance and all other public matters, and their characters as men, are pretty well known to our citizens. GRIP hopes the fight will be open, fair and manly, and that the one who gets most votes will win.

THE HALDIMAND ELECTION.

THE *Globe* sometimes when it opens its mouth puts its foot into it. If it does not take care it will be, one of these days, found choked to death. Its last false step (joke here) was in its explanation of Dr. Montague's defeat at Haldimand. "The bulk of the electorate," it says, "are deplorably susceptible to the influence this Government employs to win men from devotion to high political principle and sound public morality." We suppose it means that a number of voters who ought to have voted for Colter—good Grits, that is—were bribed—no, "won" is the *Globe's* word—to vote contrary to "high political principle and sound political morality." We do not think the Liberal Haldimand electorate will quite relish this way of explaining their defeat.

LITERARY NOTE.

THE Henry Irving edition of Shakespeare, which has just been issued by a leading English house, and is said to be in all respects worthy of the great dramatist, is to be handled in Canada by the new book firm, Messrs. John E. Bryant & Co., Toronto. As perhaps some of our readers may not know Mr. Bryant, we may just mention that he was the individual who stood for Shakespeare's portrait of a high-toned gentleman, given in *Hamlet*—"See what a grace was seated on his brow," etc. This is another tribute, by the way, to Shakespeare's wonderful prescience, as Mr. Bryant has no recollection of ever having met the poet.

THOSE CAST-OFF SHOES.

THE Empire thitherward now works its way  
And claims the cast-off shoes the *Mail* once wore—  
The pea-filled shoes that hurt its corns one day  
Till it in pain just pitched them out the door.

Then David, passing by, bethought him that,  
As his were old and sported laughing toes,  
He'd wear these warmer ones; so down he sat  
And pulled them on, but kept his own old hose.

And thus he walks to-day; he hasn't yet  
Found how the peas will hurt, the fun be spoiled.  
We fear he will some day, for you can bet  
The peas the *Mail* wore have not yet been boiled.

W. H. T.

A NEWS item says that the St. Louis woman who threw the pancake at Mrs. Cleveland is to be exhibited in a dime museum. The show will not be complete without the companion freak, Foraker, Governor of Ohio, and his "unshaken hand."