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J. W. BENGOUGH.  
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COMMENTS ON THE CARTOONS.



THE GROVELMENT AT PERTH.—What ever may have been the popular opinion of the Hon. John Haggart at the close of the late session, after his name had been bandied about pretty freely in connection with a departmental scandal and the Tay Canal job, and after the ministerial majority had voted down Lister's motion for a committee to enquire into his dealing with Section B, everybody knows now just what to think of the Postmaster-General. When eight of his colleagues in the Government, including the respected Sir John Thompson and the irreproachable George E. Foster and Mackenzie Bowell, goupon the public platform at Perth and take part in an ovation to the Hon. John, there is only one thing to be said, viz.,

that the allegations made against him must be a tissue of vindictive lies. Would these gentlemen tolerate as a colleague a man who was not perfectly straight and square, much less go out of their way to bow down before him? Certainly not. Then let the hasty judgment of the country be forthwith reversed, and let us all acclaim Mr. Haggart a statesman whom Canada delights to honor.

STRANGERS.—A similar error seems to have been made by public opinion in the matter of the relationship existing between Count Mercier and Mr. Pacaud. The idea has been wide-spread that these gentlemen were political cronies, or that the latter was a sort of extra-official valet to the former. We now learn from the Count himself that this is all a mistake; that he does not know Mr. Pacaud at all in his official capacity. People can't be too careful these days about coming to rash conclusions.



HE party led by Mr. Sol. White appears to be going right on with its propoganda. Well, this is a free country, and these gentlemen have a right to convince us, if they can, that Political Union with the States would be a good thing for Canada. We see nothing as yet in their arguments, but perhaps they haven't got thoroughly warmed up to the subject. The subtle change in the name they give themselves is worth nothing. They are no longer Annexationists but Political Unionists. The difference, we are told, is important. It is somewhat degrading to be annexed to a greater country, but if you are merely united thereto the degradation is absent. In either case, however, you give up your independent autonomy, and that after all is the main point. It will take some fine flights of oratory to reconcile many Canadians to that.

MR. MOWAT, for one, will have none of it, and he is right in supposing that he speaks for the vast mass of both Liberals and Conservatives in his vigorous letter to Mr. McKay, of Woodstock. Mr. White's meeting at that place was a large and orderly gathering, and the vote taken at its close was against the new doctrine, though not overwhelmingly so.

WHILE the prospects of "political union" are of the slimmest, the sentiment in favor of free trade with the States is steadily growing, and the efforts of certain hypocritical soreheads to confuse these two distinct things and to cry down the latter in the name of "loyalty" are foredoomed to failure. It may do such people good to read the following sentences from the last number of the *Westminster Review*, one of the leading organs of British opinion, in an article dealing with the career of the late Premier:

"IT may be observed that though loyalty to British interests has been one of his trump cards in playing his political game, it was he who originated the idea of a Canadian 'national policy' as distinct from a British one, and who did not scruple, in carrying it out, to levy duties on British as well as on American manufactures. Yet the Conservative party, led by Sir John, has based its most violent opposition to the unrestricted reciprocity which both Canada and the United States require for their full and natural development on the score of protection against British goods, which that party itself initiated, and has never proposed to abandon!"

REV. DR. McGLYNN is entitled to a place among the heroes who have honored the present generation. As everybody knows, this pious and devoted priest was some time ago excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church, ostensibly because he took an active part in teaching the doctrines of political economy which are identified with the name of Henry George—albeit these doctrines have never been formally placed under the ban by the Church. He has just been offered reinstatement, on condition that he recant. But he can't recant, and he says so promptly and firmly. Much as he would prize the ordinances of the Church, and the high office of the priesthood, he is not prepared to pay such a price as to declare that to be false which he knows to be true. Dr.