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Comments on the Customs.



GIVING THE MISSUS NOTICE.—Mayor Howland has announced to the Council that he will not be a candidate for re-election, as his father has need of his services in connection with their business enterprises. Like the dutiful boy he has always been, Willie H. says that although he would like to remain in the mayor's chair another year, yet he feels that his first duty is to his indulgent father, who is now beginning to feel the weight of age. Under the circumstances, Toronto must reluctantly "release" the lad, who has undoubtedly been the best she has ever had in her service. If anybody knows of a boy in the least like Willie Howland, he will confer a great favor on the Queen city by bringing him forward for the place so soon to be vacant.

GLADSTONE'S NEW RECRUIT.—Mr. Blake, who is at present on a visit to the old land, made a little speech in Ireland a few days ago, a short report of which was cabled to this country. The occasion was a visit made by the ex-Leader and a few friends to an estate upon which some notorious evictions had taken place, and after learning the facts and seeing the results for himself, Mr. Blake severely denounced the action of the landlord. It is now stated that this little exploit is the first step in a great European career already marked out for the Canadian statesman. Rumor says that he is to be given an Irish constituency, and, on the accession of the Liberals to power, he will accept a portfolio in the Cabinet. We would be sorry to lose the true heart and splendid head of Edward Blake in Canada, but are willing to endure the sacrifice for the pleasure it would give us to see him in

a station really befitting his abilities. Aside from Gladstone and one or two others, Great Britain has at the present moment no peer for our own Blake, and this may confidently be stated as the universal opinion in Canada, notwithstanding that we have taken special pains by means of Gerymander and Franchise Acts to prevent him from serving us as he might have done.

THE COMMISSION.—Everything is in readiness for the commencement of the labors of the great Fishery Commission at Washington. As a preliminary Mr. Wiman has tendered a complimentary dinner to Mr. Chamberlain, just to let that gentleman see what jolly good fellows Commercial Unionists are, after all. We hope it will have the desired effect, and that, notwithstanding his imprudent utterances in advance, the Rt. Hon. Joseph may prove a distinguished success as a diplomatist. There will no doubt have to be a good deal of give and take before any decision can be arrived at by the Commission, and we can only fervently trust that all the give will not be on our part and the take on Uncle Sam's.

THE MAYORALTY.

THE question, Who is to be our next Mayor? is at present agitating the public mind in this city. Mr. Grip felt it his duty to send his special interviewer out to call on a few of the available men and learn their views and intentions. The following notes are transcribed from the young man's memorandum book:—

E. F. Clarke—Wouldn't mind being mayor, just for the fun of the thing. Yes; think it *would* be a joke. If elected would be very careful how morality business was worked; also liquor laws. Think Howland made mistake here—worked 'em too much. Made it too unpleasant for parties breaking laws, consequently made 'em break laws all the more. Would promise, if elected, to continue num as oyster about Chestnut park treaty with O'Donohue, whereby Orangemen were fooled.

H. E. Clark—Am not a candidate. No; never said would run. No "trunk mystery" about it. If citizens insist *might* reconsider decision. If elected will do best to crush out Commercial Union, which means Annexation, and increase tax on *Globe* office. Not particular about being Mayor, as may be called into Meredith's Cabinet before year expired and would have to resign.

J. B. Boustead—Am not a candidate. Did think of it, but changed mind. Yes; could have insured election; consider it good risk. But too busy. More glory than know what to do with in shape of chairmanships.

Harry Piper—Mayoralty good racket; take it if citizens say so, on condition am relieved of Zoo, which ought to be made free public institution anyway. If elected work 'long same lines as Howland, as matter of course. Cut off all saloons and put telegraph wires under ground. Yes; been big success as Chairman Reception Committee; just right sort of talents for Mayor—make fine impression on visitors. Yes; give public square weights and measures, just so, cully.

Mr. Defoe—After mayoralty like house afire. Sworn to have it; don't want to violate oath.

EPIGRAMMATA.

SHAKESPEARE VS. BACON.

THREE centuries since Shakespeare wrote for mankind,
Now Donnelly ciphers for mammon;
What cares he so long as his pockets are lined,
If the Bacon he sells is all gammon.

THE FISHERY COMMISSION.

In the great game of bluff, someone's apt to be bled
When a Yankee the play-cards does stack,
And if Canada wishes to come out ahead,
She must play the old Union Jack.