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Comments on the Cartoons.



THE QUEEN CITY JOURNALISTIC ORCHESTRA.—The newspapers of Toronto are one and all honestly and earnestly devoted to the city's interests. Not one of them has ever been charged with selling out its influence against those interests. This is more than can be said for the Press of many large cities, and is one reason why our citizens are so proud of their journalists. Now, in the great Esplanade question that is up for settlement, there is no doubt at all that the Viaduct scheme is the solution most in the interests of the city, and of the railways as well. For selfish reasons it is being opposed by the corporations

in question, and other projects, utterly wild and ridiculous, suggested in its stead. It is important at this juncture that the Press should stand firmly by the city, and play the tune of the Viaduct without any discords. With perhaps the exception of the *World*, which has given some encouragement to the bridge idea, the

papers are all in favor of the Viaduct, but occasionally expressions not calculated to keep up the public enthusiasm creep in. This has been the case particularly since the conference with the railway managers, as a result, not of any weighty arguments made by Messrs. Hickson and Van Horne, but of an error of judgment in excluding reporters on the occasion. That error was unfortunate, but the Viaduct scheme must not be allowed to suffer on account of it, or any other side issue, however important in itself. With the latest report of the eminent engineer, Mr. Wellington, in hand, we may redouble our confidence in the perfect practicability and comparative cheapness of the Viaduct, together with the vast advantages it possesses over the bridge scheme in enhancing instead of destroying the value of property on the water front, and the Press of Toronto ought to be more earnest and persistent than ever in pressing its claims upon the public.

JOHN A.'S BLESSING.—The farmer has John A.'s blessing in lieu of free corn. He may find some difficulty in feeding his cattle on it, as cattle are not quite so gullible as some of their owners. Sir John seems to have gone a step out of his way this session to convey to the horny-handed son of agricultural toil a realization that the N.P. election is over, and that there is no immediate necessity for cultivating the farming vote. First it was the peremptory refusal of the rebate of duty on corn exported in the shape of fat cattle, and now it is an equally decisive negative to the request for the removal of the duty itself. After a while it will be impressed upon the rural mind that the farmer has no show under the N.P. whenever the interests of the protected monopolist come in, for the latter is the fellow who contributes to the election fund. When this idea is once grasped, we hope and trust that the farmers of Canada will also begin to realize that they constitute a majority, and that they will use their ballots to rid the country of the childish delusion of protectionism, a system of sneaking robbery of the masses for the benefit of the classes, under which the farmer must invariably be plundered, and that without the opportunity of doing any plundering himself by way of compensation.

MR. MOWAT'S PORTRAIT.—The classic features of the Attorney-General of Ontario, deftly placed on canvas by the brush of Mr. John Forbes, are to adorn the walls of the local Parliament buildings. The portrait was presented to Mr. Mowat a few days ago as a testimonial of the attachment of his followers and friends. The Provincial Premier is highly popular with everybody, for there is no question that he is a nice little man, both able and good. Indeed, GRIP thinks so much of him that he comes forward to present him with still another portrait of himself. It is the intention of this life-like portrait to enable Mr. Mowat to see himself as he is seen by Mr. John Hallam and other tax reformers—as a statesman who is at present adding the weight of his influence to the already heavy load borne by the poor man in this fair Province, inasmuch as he is not coming to the poor man's relief as he might. The Exemption Bill just brought in by the Government is altogether too mild, and cannot be regarded as worthy of a really Liberal administration. In order to be so, it ought to abolish all exemptions straight, for there is not a reasonable argument to be found in support of the present system. Of course some of the most unrighteous features of that system—such as the exemption on incomes of Judges and Dominion officials are beyond Mr. Mowat's control, but he can do far more than he has yet attempted.



IT is a disgrace to humanity that Mr. Adam Brown should have so much difficulty in getting his Bird Bill through Parliament. The object of the measure is to prevent practices in connection with pigeon shooting which are enough to sicken the heart of any real man, and are worthy only of debased savages. And yet we find a majority of the members against it. Why? Because some of them are such weaklings that they are afraid of the jeers of the "sports"; and because others belong to the class so called, whose barbarous instincts enable them to take delight in the shedding of the innocent blood of the lower creatures. One would think that an