



PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

BY THE

*Grip Printing and Publishing Co.*

26 and 28 Front Street West, Toronto, Ont.

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General Manager  
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PAVABLE STRICTLY IN ADVANCE.

To United States and Canada.

One year, \$2.00 six months . . . . . \$1.00.

To Great Britain and Ireland.

One year . . . . . \$2.50.

Remittances on account of subscriptions are acknowledged by change in the date of the printed address-label.

In remitting stamps, please send one-cent stamps only.

#### Comments on the Cartoon.



RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED.—The grotesque misconception of the "Henry George theory" which is entertained by the editor of the *Empire*, is evidently shared by most of the members of the Ministerial Association. Like our esteemed but misinformed contemporary, these reverend gentlemen seem to believe that the Anti-Poverty Society—under which unhappily-chosen name the George men have organized in this city—are advocating some scheme of communism or anarchy not consistent with the well-being of society; something necessarily abhorrent to the minds of all staid and orderly citizens. There are a few members of the Ministerial Association, as we happen to know, who have read Henry George's

work, "Progress and Poverty," and who are consequently aware how utterly mistaken are such ideas, but these members have done nothing to enlighten their brethren. This may be due to something better than cowardice, but it looks like that. In the meantime it does not become ministers to curtly dismiss a courteous request for an interview on the ground that they need no information on the subject, when it is perfectly manifest that they have never taken the trouble to master the theory taught by Mr. George, and have not the slightest conception of its practical bearing upon Christianity.

We have presented the basis of that theory in our cartoon, and will be glad to hear from any member of the Ministerial Association who can point out wherein the argument is fallacious, or its effect antagonistic to the spirit of the Christian religion.

UNITE AS ONE MAN.—At the recent complimentary banquet to Hon. J. C. Pope, that distinguished gentleman mounted the "loyalty" horse in true ministerial style. "Commercial Union,"

he cried, "is Annexation in disguise, and the people of this country do not want Annexation. What we must do is to unite as one man in 'building up a great Canadian nation,'" etc., etc. All of which is very patriotic in sound, but it would be more appropriate in the mouth of some public man who has not taken Canadian money to "build up" a foreign nation by investing in a railway in Maine, and in land speculations or cattle ranche projects in Texas. Mr. Pope is a shining example of the class of Canadians who manage to make "loyalty" pay pretty well.

MERCIER'S "BLAZE OF GLORY."—Mr. Mercier's new clothes have arrived from Rome, and when he goes forth in full array as a Knight of St. Gregory, all the political arguments his opponents can bring against him will be withered up in a blaze of glory that will surround him. The cocked hat, bottle green coat and white breeches cannot fail to so impress the *habitants* as to secure the stability of the Mercier Cabinet for all time to come.

THAT clear-brained and right-hearted preacher, Dr. Stafford, gave his big congregation something to think about in the course of his Thanksgiving-day's sermon when he pointed his long slender finger at Canadian civilization. "We have about the best country on earth," said he in effect, "a very fertile land and a small population, and yet we find it necessary to support a good proportion of our people by charity. Why is this? And why is it that in the centres of our civilization, Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, etc., the average working man thinks himself fortunate if he can make ends meet?"

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WE hope the intelligent people who heard these questions will devote some thought to them. If they think straight they will not be long in running up against the hard fact of land monopoly, which is at the bottom of the social question in Canada as well as in Europe.

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THE accidental shooting of young Mr. Beswick on Thanksgiving day, was a very sad affair. It adds one more to the many thousands who have fallen victims to "sport," and amongst the things that will most puzzle the future and really civilized chronicler will be the fact that in the nineteenth century it was considered "sport" to go out with fire arms for the purpose of putting inoffensive creatures to a painful death. It will argue that in that day of boasted enlightenment, a good measure of the original savagery still reigned in the human bosom.

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WHAT they appear to need up in Winnipeg just now is a triangle and a cat-o-nine-tails, for the admonition of people who make vile charges against public men through their papers and then funk and sneak away when a Royal Commission is appointed to hear the evidence.

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PRINCIPAL GRANT has been doing us proud in Australia, whither he went some months ago by his doctor's orders, and where, notwithstanding the medicine-man's admonitions, he has been delivering lectures. Unable, probably, to resist the temptation, the worthy Principal has been at the Imperial Federation subject—the exact title of his lecture being "Canada, Australia and the Mother Country." The effect of his oratory may be judged from the language of Mr. Murray Smith, who, in moving the vote of thanks, said the address was "the most earnest, powerful and eloquent speech he ever heard upon the subject. It had rekindled the torch of Australian unity (applause) which had been checked and smothered during the last few years by petty rivalries and discontent."