



The gravest beast is the Gas; the gravest bird is the Owl;  
The gravest fish is the Oyster; the gravest man is the Fool.

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TORONTO, SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 1892.

#### COMMENTS ON THE CARTOONS.



A DISTANT PROSPECT. — In the absence of any explanation from the Finance Minister as to the policy foreshadowed in his budget speech, we are obliged to turn to the *Empire* for the desired enlightenment. That dutiful organ is not in the best of tune, and does not play its runs with perfect smoothness, but the air can be tolerably well made out, notwithstanding. It is the old "Imperial Federation" air, with variations. To drop metaphor, the *Empire* appears to indicate

that the Governmental idea is to stick to the N.P. until the Imperial authorities announce their willingness to take up the Howard Vincent policy of discriminating in favor of the colonies. If this is really what the Canadian Ministry are waiting for, we may as well make up our minds to enjoy the blessings of protection for the next few centuries. Mr. MacIntosh, late of the *Ottawa Citizen*—in whose trustworthiness the Government ought to have unlimited confidence—has just returned from a visit to the old land, and reports that he could find not the slightest indication there of a public sentiment favorable to differential trade. Nor is any such folly likely to take possession of John Bull's practical mind while the memory of the Corn Laws remains.

WE HONOR THE HONORABLE.—The mortal remains of Hon. Alex. Mackenzie were followed to their last resting place at Sarnia on Thursday, 21st, by an enormous concourse of citizens, representing all political parties, and in their reverent deportment expressing the profound respect in which the departed statesman was held throughout the Dominion. The universal feeling is that Mackenzie's life was a glorious success, notwithstanding

that his career in office was brief, and that the great principles he fought for have thus far failed of triumphant vindication. It seems plain to everybody for the moment that success does not depend upon succeeding, a thing which is too apt to be forgotten. To have fought manfully for the Right as he saw it is enough. That constitutes the victory. To have gained the highest object of his ambition by wrong or questionable means,—that would have been abject failure. The departure of Mackenzie was a grateful thing for himself, poor man; and the event may be the means of bringing a blessing to the country if the lesson of his life is earnestly laid to heart by the rising generation. That lesson in brief is, that it is better to be good than great; and that notwithstanding the cynics of the day, political honesty not only exists, but is marked and prized by the people above all the brilliant gifts of mind. Mackenzie will ever be a noble pattern for our Canadian youth, but it is good to remember that he has left behind him many public men equally honest and sincere.



PRELIMINARY meeting of the Prohibition Commission was held at Montreal the other day. After duly organizing in ship-shape, it was solemnly resolved to visit the cities of the United States and the cities and towns of Canada, for the purpose of enquiring into the administration of laws pertaining to the liquor traffic. So far as we are informed, the commissioners came to this decision without undue snickering in their sleeves or otherwise. Perhaps they are not able to catch the full absurdity of the farce from the inside, but it is quite apparent from the taxpayers' standpoint, although it excites indignation as well as mirth. The commissioners are not to be blamed, of course, for accepting a pleasant outing at good pay, but no words are too strong to characterize the action of the Government in taking this dishonest and expensive method of shelving the Prohibition question for a couple of years. The commission and its contemplated labors are entirely unnecessary. All needed information is at hand, if the Government really wants it—which it doesn't. If the temperance people of Canada (who control enough votes to defeat any Government) had half as much spunk as the liquor dealers, they would resent this piece of humbug as it deserves.

ANOTHER hollow mockery of the same sort was the junketting tour so recently enjoyed by Alderman Shaw and a few of his pals under the pretence of investigating the electrical systems of street railways in the American cities. Everybody knows that these gentlemen were practically pledged in advance to the "trolley," and that the duty they were engaged in was undertaken more with a view of getting rid of some of the superabundant cash in the city treasury than anything else. Certainly nothing they could have discovered was likely to change the opinion with which they set out.

A WELL-INFORMED writer in the *Chicago Age of Labor* states that there are at present between 30,000 and 50,000 unemployed men in that city. Most of these unfortunates are not merely willing but anxious