



PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

BY THE

Grip Printing and Publishing Co.

26 and 28 Front Street West, Toronto, Ont.

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TERMS TO SUBSCRIBERS.

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 Customs.



"THE MUSIC OF THE FUTURE."—President Cleveland's recent message on the tariff has had the effect of opening a discussion on the principles of Political Economy, the outcome of which is likely to be much greater than any of the tariff reformers expected. Where broad principles of truth are concerned all geographical boundary lines disappear, and everything indicates that before long the people of Canada will be engaged in the debate as earnestly as their southern neighbors. What is true of the American tariff is equally true of the Canadian. If the Protective system is proved to be an evil to the majority in the Republic it is equally an evil in the Dominion. It behooves us, therefore, to study carefully the

arguments advanced *pro*, and *con*. Already some of our leading journals are entering the fray—or rather re-opening the discussion that was supposed to have been triumphantly closed by the Protectionists at the last general election. Amongst these, is the *Globe*, and *GRIP* is glad to note that the old Reform organ is giving signs of progress, although as yet they are somewhat fitful. The Conservative press, without an exception that we are aware of, favors the principle of Protection; and a number of Reform papers stand practically upon the same platform. The rank and file of the Opposition journals, however, are against Protection, as such, advocating a revenue tariff with merely incidental protection. This has, until very recently, been the attitude of the *Globe*, but now that journal and a few others of the same party in Ontario seem to be grasping the great truth that the safe, just, right policy is absolute Free Trade with all the world and direct taxation for revenue. Believing this to be the true music for the people, *GRIP* is pleased to see the *Globe* learning to play it. Blow up, loud and clear, Mr. Cameron; toot your big instrument to the full extent of your lung power. Absolute free trade would give Canada the greatest boom she has ever known and, as for direct taxation, why should people be so childish as to prefer not to know how much they are paying?

Go on with the new tune; it's the victory march (if any thing can be) for the Reform Party; but better and higher than that, it is the music to which Canada will dance into unrivalled prosperity.

HE'S BOUND TO HAVE THE BALLOT-BOX.—The Separate School electors of the city of Toronto have observed that the adoption of the ballot system in connection with the Public School Board, and the election of trustees concurrently with the regular municipal elections, have resulted in marked benefits. Greater interest has been manifested in the composition of the Board, and as a consequence a better class of Trustees has been secured. Naturally, the Separate School voters wish for similar improvements, in order that their schools may be more efficiently managed. They have accordingly expressed a desire for the ballot system, but in this they meet strong opposition from Archbishop Lynch, who declares that the "secrecy" element is contrary to the teachings of the Church (although it is pretty well known that the Pope is elected by ballot).

HOW many more times will it be necessary to tell the "authorities" of the terrible condition of affairs at the Toronto jail, before they will make the first move to do away with the disgrace and danger? "On Saturday night," says the reporter of the *Empire*, "in one of the south corridors, built for the accommodation of ten prisoners in single cells, there were no less than forty-two prisoners sleeping." Young lads, sent down for short terms for trifling offenses, are obliged to consort with hardened criminals, and, says Governor Green, "it is not very long before they are back again for offences of the gravest character." To aggravate this want of accommodation, there are at present over forty lunatics, and nearly twenty paupers housed in the jail. The state of affairs is a scandal to the city, the county and the local government, and if a few of the leading representatives of each were sent down themselves for three months, it might be possible to get them to recognize the fact, and do something to mend matters. Nothing short of this will do it, apparently.

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MR. BLAKE recently visited Rome, where he met some Canadian friends, to whom he imparted the gratifying information that his health is greatly improved, and he hopes to return home in vigorous condition not later than May. We hasten to say that there is not the slightest foundation for the report that Mr. Blake's mission to Rome was to negotiate with the Pope for the purchase of the Catholic vote.

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THE European war scare is over once more. It all arose out of a stupid misunderstanding. Bismarck, noticing that the Czar was massing his troops along the Russian frontier, jumped to the conclusion that His Imperial Majesty was entertaining ideas of a warlike nature; and the Czar, observing that Bismarck was very thick with the Emperor of Austria, and that both were actively engaged in arming their troops, hastily concluded that they had some notion of fighting. It now turns out that the Czar never for a moment dreamed of war; and Germany and Austria were simply discussing plans for the everlasting preservation of peace. It's wonderful what mistakes will arise when people judge merely by appearances.

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MR. HALL, M.P., of Sherbrooke, P.Q., is a rather cool customer. Being in London, he saw a letter in the *Times* in which the writer, a resident of Winnipeg, referred to the annexationist feeling in Manitoba. "This," Mr. Hall declared, "he could not allow to go unchallenged for a day." He accordingly wrote a