

London Advertiser.
FOUNDED IN 1863.
NOON AND EVENING DAILY.
WESTERN ADVERTISER WEEKLY.
THE LONDON ADVERTISER CO.,
Limited, Publishers,
121-123 Dundas Street, London, Ont.

PHONE NUMBERS:
Business Department..... 101
Editorial Rooms..... 134 and 135
Job Printing Department..... 112

TO SUBSCRIBERS.
Readers of The Advertiser are requested to favor the management by reporting any irregularities in delivery.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
Daily, delivered by Carrier in City: 5c
Daily, delivered by Carrier Outside City: 10c
Daily, delivered by Mail Outside City: 15c
One month, delivered by Mail Outside City: \$1.50
One year, delivered by Mail Outside City: \$15.00

The Advertiser is on sale regularly at the following news stands, where subscriptions may be left:
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LONDON, TUESDAY, FEB. 1.
BACK TO THE LAND IN THE BRITISH ISLES.

Both the great British parties are pledged to grapple with the land problem. In Ireland, the solution is well advanced. In England a substantial beginning was made in the small holdings act of 1907. In Scotland, the boon was deferred by the House of Lords, when it rejected Lord Pentlands bill two years ago.

The Government went into the present election with both a record and a prospectus on the land question. The Unionist party had to its credit the Wyndham act, which has facilitated the rapid transfer of the soil of Ireland to the Irish people, but it had nothing to offer England or Scotland, the small holdings act of 1907 having proved abortive.

The land reform movement, however, has become too powerful to be withheld even by the landlords' party. On the very eve of the election, after Lord Lansdowne had solemnly declared that the Unionist party would never consent to the use of public money to place the landless man on the land, Mr. Balfour committed himself to a scheme of land purchase similar to that applied to Ireland. The principle is the loan of public funds to persons desirous of purchasing small holdings, and the compulsion upon great landlords to sell much of their estates for the purpose. "We will do for England and Scotland," says the Unionist land reformers, "what is being done for Ireland, where 200,000 cultivators have become the owners of the land of which they were tenants before the state gave them a helping hand."

The Liberals admit that the disintegration of the great estates is desirable and necessary, but contend that a policy of land purchase on so gigantic a scale is financially impossible. The Wyndham act broke down in Ireland, and could only be made effective at great cost to the British taxpayers. The credit of the state, say the Liberals, would be unequal to the additional strain of buying out the landowners of England and Scotland. The Government's plan is simpler and more practicable. The man desirous of cultivating a small holding may either purchase it outright, if he has the necessary money, or be given fixity of tenure at a rental regulated by an impartial commission. In the latter case there is no purchase; consequently, no capital is advanced upon which he must pay interest and sinking fund. If he has capital, he may employ it in purchasing implements or live stock, and in improving his land. If he parts with his holding he may recover the amount he has spent in permanent improvements. He has every incentive that the owner of the soil would have. His tenure is as secure as though he were a freeholder, so long as he pays his rent. He may sell, lease, or bequeath his holding, but he may not mortgage it. In Prussia the landholders are indebted on the average to the extent of 26.4 per cent of the value of their land and capital. It is feared that in a few years a considerable proportion of the holdings created in Ireland will be encumbered, and will gradually be absorbed into large estates, which it has been the aim to break up.

Under the act of 1907, 64,000 acres have been acquired in eighteen months. The county councils are required to "provide small holdings for persons who desire to buy or lease and will themselves cultivate the holdings," and these works include others besides laborers. By far the larger number of applications under the act have been to rent and not to purchase. In 1908 the proportion for England of those wishing to purchase was just over 1 1/2 per cent. The fact that nearly 24,000 applications were made in 1908 alone is evidence that the act meets a real need, and that the conditions are satisfactory. The working of the act has been hampered through the obstruction of some county councils, which are under landlord influence, but the Government has promised to remedy the defect.

The lingering feudalism which has given Great Britain the only landless peasantry in Europe, is doomed to a rapid extinction. No political party dare stand longer between the land monopoly and the land hunger of the British people. The land reformers have had a long, up-hill fight, but they have nearly reached the summit, and victory is assured.

RACE-TRACK GAMBLING.

The pretence that race-track gambling has an important relation to the improvement of the breed of horses has been pretty well exploded. The horsemen who advanced the theory before the committee at Ottawa were interested in horse-racing. Against their evidence is the weighty opinion of the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Sydney Fisher. The Farmer's Advocate, which also speaks for the agricultural community with great authority, describes the arguments for race-track betting as "absurd fallacies." Says the Advocate:

"In the first place, it is not true that racing is necessary to improve the breed of horses. On the contrary, it has probably done more to injure two breeds than it has done to improve them. It has converted the standard-bred, or the stock from which it has sprung, into an attenuated racing machine, not nearly so valuable for utility purposes as though it had been bred with more regard to conformation and scale. Undoubtedly, racing focussed early attention upon the breeding of the blood horse, and perhaps helped to develop it by selection of the fittest, but here, again, it is to be noted that it produced a race of weedy, hot-tempered and dubiously useful stock. What has racing done to improve the breed of Clydesdales, Shires, Hackneys, or, in fact, any of our most useful breeds? In short, racing is necessary only to improve the breed of race-horses—not to improve our utility stock at all. The candidly examined by anyone with his eye fixed upon the general good, and not upon a selfish privilege, or a sordid, selfish gain, the whole miserable argument falls to pieces like a house of cards. Race-track gambling is a problem that must be grappled with in Canada. It was bad enough before; it is worse now, since the radical legislation in many neighboring states has driven the dissolute army of race-track followers over to Canada. It is scarcely conducive to our national pride to preserve, under the aegis of British majesty and law, resorts at Windsor and Fort Erie, serving as rendezvous for the debauched and sporting element of such cities as Buffalo and Detroit."

Neither moral nor common sense is on the side of those who want to maintain legalized race-track gambling. It is hypocrisy for them to profess that they wish to secure any other interest than that of the money-making end of horse-racing.

HOW BRITISHERS LOSE CANADIAN TRADE.

There are many important British manufacturing firms fully alive to the opportunities in Canada and employing up-to-date methods for securing a share of the trade of this country. There are many others, particularly in the machinery and allied trades, apparently indifferent to the Canadian market.

The Dominion Deputy Minister of Trade, Mr. O'Hara, in a letter to the London Times, gives a striking example of this neglect on the part of British exporters, which it is to be feared is far too common. Some time ago, Mr. O'Hara received from the superintendent of the Ottawa Electric Company, one of the capital's leading business concerns, a letter informing him that the company had sent an order to an English house for a sample of goods to the value of \$7, and the latter held the order back for three weeks until they received the money, meanwhile writing the Ottawa company to the effect that they were unable to ship because arrangements had not been made for payment against bill of lading in London. The English firm as a result lost the large order that in all probability would have followed the prompt receipt of the sample. Thus, as the deputy minister puts it, for a trifling order of \$7—and this a sample order—a rebuff is administered to one of the most enterprising of Canada's electric companies—one enjoying a high financial reputation. Such blind adherence to an unintelligent traditional custom naturally causes a great loss of trade to British exporters—trade that finds its way to the United States, whose two hundred consular agents in this country are always on the alert for business. The result is seen in the trade returns, which show that in the fiscal year ended March 31 last our imports of electrical apparatus from the United States amounted in value to \$1,937,351, as against \$91,092 from Great Britain. Equally striking is the comparison of imports of engineering machinery, including locomotives, steam and portable engines, automobiles, coal mining machinery, etc., of which we imported last year over five and a quarter million dollars' worth from the United States, and scarcely \$300,000 worth from the United Kingdom.

British textile machinery manufacturers are far more alive to the importance of the Canadian market, and more enterprising in their methods, as they sell double the amount of such machinery that their United States competitors do.

Paris has experienced a new rain of terror.

Hon. Mr. Graham will make the annual statement on the Intercolonial today. It is said he will report progress in no merely conventional sense.

The Liberals and Laborites secured a majority of 55, excluding Ireland. But perhaps the "Unionists" think that Wales and Scotland are of no account.

The debate on the naval bill will be resumed at Ottawa on Thursday. It is to be hoped the Opposition has seen new light since the Ottawa by-election.

Winston Churchill and David Lloyd George are holding together in France. There is a sort of David and Jonathan friendship between them. Opponents derisively call them "the heavenly twins," but there can be no doubt that they have supplied the Liberal party with most of its motive power during the past few years. Asquith and the others may be useful

as rudder and ballast, but Churchill and Lloyd George keep up the steam. They are a wonderful team.

The danger to the empire is likely to come to a head within the next three or four years. By that time, probably, the crisis will have passed and the Anglo-German struggle for supremacy at sea will have been decided either in a great naval war by one or other of the two powers, or by a defeat in the competition of construction. But by that time the Canadian shipbuilding plant would hardly have got fairly started. It would not be a factor in the great struggle for supremacy.—Hamilton Herald.

This view is absolutely opposed by every scrap of official evidence. The ship-building programmes of Germany and Great Britain are known and fixed. Germany will have 13 Dreadnoughts in 1912, and Great Britain 20, in addition to an overwhelming superiority in pre-Dreadnought ships. No one pretends to dispute these facts. If Germany nurses the ambition of rivaling British sea power she could not realize it for many years, even if Great Britain ceased building Dreadnoughts after 1912. The danger might become real through the greater growth of population and the larger natural resources of Germany, if Germany were intent on challenging Britain on the ocean; but in such an event the danger would not be in the near future—certainly not within three or four years. In the meantime the Canadian navy would be established and would be growing in proportion as Germany forced the race. There is not a single valid argument for such an emergency measure as the gift of a Dreadnought to Great Britain by this country at the present time, when the money can be applied to building a Canadian squadron and to developing in Canada a new centre of strength for the empire.

CHARITY.
[Chicago Record-Herald.]
Every man thinks he knows how he could make a lot of people happy with some other man's money.

WANTS LAND VALUES TAXED.
[President Southern, Hamilton Board of Trade.]

It must be admitted that land differs from all other forms of property, in that it is limited in quantity, and that it is a necessity of our existence. In its natural condition it is a source of superior space whereon man may live and labor. In extent it can neither be increased nor diminished by anything that man may do. It is the gift of the Creator, and owes nothing to man's industry. Why, then, should it not be treated in an exceptional manner in our system of taxation. The disregard of this difference has led to social injustice and commercial oppression.

WE HAD ALMOST FORGOTTEN THIS!
[Toronto Star.]

The best cure for exaggerated ego that we know of is to meditate for the space of a few moments upon that winter a few years ago, when we were all perfectly sure that we had succeeded in burning ashes by soaking them with salt water.

THRIFT.
[Chicago Record-Herald.]

"Wait," said the groom. "Let us stand here on the porch while they are throwing the rice."

"Why?" asked the trembling bride. "If they spill it here we can sweep it up. At the present price of living it will be worth saving."

A REBUKE TO LORD LANSDOWNE.
[London Churchill at Birmingham.]

The rejection of the budget of the insolent thing, indeed, the whole attitude of Lord Lansdowne was one of aristocratic insolence. The other night he said: "Twenty years ago who would ever have thought a Lloyd-George likely?" He (Mr. Churchill) replied: "Twenty years hence who would ever think a Lansdowne possible?" (Laughter and cheers.) What was Mr. Lloyd-George's representative of? The democratic freedom of the British constitution, which enabled a man of merit and parts to rise from a village school to a position of the highest consequence under the crown. (Cheers.) It was an example of that glory of the British constitution which had made it possible for every son of our soil to enjoy, with the consent and by the authority of his fellow-citizens, great honor, power and distinction in the land. (Cheers.) That was what Mr. Lloyd-George's career represented. What did Lord Lansdowne's career represent? It represented privilege, the favor from beginning to end. It represented consistent and unbroken spoon-feeding from stars to finish. (Laughter.)

WHERE'S THE ROBINS.
[Ottawa Journal.]

Now that the first hand organ of the season has appeared, it needs but a sight of the first robin to assure us that spring is well on the way.

THE LIMIT FOR HIM.
[Catholic Standard and Times.]

"The huckster who used to cheat us so," said Mrs. Byers, "has been arrested."

"Yes," replied Mrs. Naylor. "I hear he's in a peck of trouble now."

"Well, I do hope that peck isn't short measure, at any rate."

THE BUTCHER'S SIDE OF IT.
[Waterbury Republican.]

Steaks, steaks, steaks! All cut and ready to sell. But never a soul comes into my shop. O Beef Trust! Is this well?

Pigs' feet, sausage and pork! Chickens and veal and tripe! My counters are loaded with these, And some of them getting ripe!

But ever the hungry throngs Go surging past my door, And no one ventures to step inside And stand on my sawdust floor.

For thousands and thousands have sworn They'll sooner starve than eat A morsel of flesh or fowl 'Till dawn goes the price of meat.

Beef, beef, beef! It's hard to collect the bill; But oh, for the touch of a vanished trade And the sound of a phone that still!

MOHR'S PRECIOUS SECRET.
[Kincardine Review.]

Charles Mohr, of Fitzroy Township, Carleton County, Ontario, has established a unique municipal record. He has just been re-elected reeve of Fitzroy for the first consecutive time. There are lots of men in Western Ontario who would like to know how he works it.

THE BIG THREE.
[Winston Churchill.]

The reforming instrument if not broken is weakened. Its power to carry out social

For Coughs, Colds, BRONCHITIS, SORE THROAT, HOARSENESS, CROUP, ASTHMA, PAIN or TIGHTNESS IN THE CHEST and all BRONCHIAL or LUNG TROUBLES there is nothing to equal
Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup.

It contains all the virtues of the world famous Norway pine tree, combined with Wild Cherry Bark and the soothing, healing and expectorant properties of other excellent herbs and barks.

Mrs. John Pelch, Windsor, Ont., writes: "I was troubled with a nasty hacking cough for the past six months and used a lot of different remedies but they did me no good. At last I was advised by a friend to try Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup and with the first few doses I found great relief and to-day my hacking cough has entirely disappeared and I am never without Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup in the house."

The price of Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup is 25 cents per bottle. It is put up in a yellow wrapper, three pine trees the trade mark, so be sure and accept none of the many substitutes of the original "Norway Pine Syrup."

Manufactured only by The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

Reforms, to administer social justice, is diminished. The measure of success achieved by the Unionists is due to the working of reactionary forces. A government inspired by reforming zeal and enthusiasm for humanity flung itself upon the strongholds of unjust privilege, tradition and prejudices. It had arrayed against it a powerful aristocracy, a dominant church, a gigantic brewing and distilling interest.

ONCE ENOUGH.
[Yonkers Statesman.]
She—History repeats itself, you know. He—Not always. You never heard of a man eloping more than once, did you?

ONE HOPE LEFT.
[S. E. Kiser.]

We may live without poetry, music and art. We may live without conscience and live without heart. But what we would like to find out is some way to live without being held up day by day.

We may live without meat—but that's mighty poor living. We may live without eggs at the price we are giving. We may live without cream—but what's coffee without it? Yet prunes are still cheap, so why kick about it?

ANXIOUS.
[Lippincott's.]

"Mamma," asked the little boy who had been allowed to stay up and take dinner with company, "Mamma, is this dessert bad for me, or is there enough to go round?"

HABIT.
[Exchange.]

"Wilkins is the most absent-minded cuss I ever met." "How so?" "Why, the last time he got into the barber's chair he plumed the newspaper around his neck and began to read the towel."

MIXED.
[London Sketch.]

Long Jim—Wal, yes, I experimented and fed that fowl on sawdust. The Tenderfoot—Why, great Scott! Didn't it affect the eggs?

Long Jim—No, it didn't hurt the eggs any, but there was something wrong with the chicks—the first eleven as hatched out had wooden legs, and the last one was a woodpecker.

BE THANKFUL.
[Baltimore Intelligence.]

Come to think of it, where will you find a country more blessed than Canada, even if it does rain in winter time and the home team loses?

SACKVILLE ROMANCE

Ernest Asks Courts To Declare Him Legitimate Son.

London, Feb. 1.—A crowded court-room testified today to the public interest in the Sackville romance, another chapter of which opened before Sir John Bigham, president of the probate court.

The petitioner in the suit is Ernest Henry Sackville-West, who asks the court to declare him the legitimate son of late Lord Lionel Sackville Sackville-West. If he is successful he will acquire the title to the estates now held by Lionel E. Sackville-West, a nephew of the former British minister at Washington. The present Lord Sackville, who married his cousin, a sister of the petitioner, denies that his uncle legally married Josefa Duran, the petitioner's mother. The court disallowed a similar claim in 1903.

Ernest is the son of a Spanish dancer, who married Lord Sackville at Madrid. Subsequently Sackville claimed that the woman had a husband living when she formed an alliance with him, and the one son and three daughters born from their union have never been recognized by the courts as having any rights to the Sackville title and estates.

Lord Sackville died in September, 1908. He was British minister to the United States from 1881 to 1888.

Major Sylvester, Washington's chief of police, has made "a wise and timely action as to their fitness and be suggestion," that the horde of guides pelted to pay a license fee.

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CHAPMAN'S Stock-Taking Sale

Green Tickets Point Out the Lines We Are Clearing in the Stock-Taking Sale

February in this store is to be one continuous round of bargains, brought out by the Stock-Taking Sale, which starts today.

Black Taffeta Silk Chapman's Silk Specials are always worthy of note. This one in stock-taking sale is no exception. French-Dyed Black Taffeta Silk, of a good heavy weight, for waists, dresses and underskirts, 20 1/2 inches wide. On sale Wednesday at the reduced price, per yard 59c

DRESS GOODS

Stock-Taking Sale of Broken Lines and Odd Pieces

\$1.25 Striped Suitings at, a yard 48c
\$1.00 Tailored Suitings at, a yard 48c
\$1.00 Coating Cloth at, a yard 48c
65c Sedan Suitings at, a yard 48c
50c Striped Serge at, a yard 29c
50c Amazon Suitings at, a yard 29c
50c Bradford Serge at, a yard 29c
50c French Flannels at, a yard 29c

Big Men's Overcoats

The men who get these big Overcoats, perfectly made, newest cut, of thoroughly reliable high-grade materials and linings, will have established a new record for the purchasing power of \$3.95

For one never heard of nor saw such good Overcoats sacrificed for such a little price. But we had and still have too many big men's sizes, and so we make the price \$3.95 for actual \$8.50 to \$10.00 values, and every coat is desirable in style and quality. Price \$3.95

Other great savings in Men's Overcoats and Suits from the lowest to the highest grades.

J. H. Chapman & Co., 126, 128, 128 1/2 Dundas St.

The Most Astonishing Sale of the 20th Century KEENE BROS. FEBRUARY FURNITURE SALE

Having purchased a very large consignment of very High-Grade Furniture from the assignees of a manufacturer who went bankrupt we now offer you many of the goods at 55c OFF EVERY DOLLAR.

This is no fake sale, because we only paid 45c on the dollar for the consignment; thus the prices seem so ridiculously low. The goods are all high-grade, quarter-cut oak and mahogany.

21 Solid Oak Rockers of This Class

Three different styles, regular \$3.50 \$5 and \$7, for \$1.95, \$2.95 and \$3.65.

Also 7-Reed Rockers, regular \$4.00 for \$2.75

These Bedroom Suites Are the Greatest Bargains Ever Offered

Bed, iron or wooden; slats, as many as you want; castors, 12. Dresser, 3 drawers, mirror bevelled British plate; stand full size; finish, quarter-cut oak or mahogany. All complete, for \$11.95

CALL IN AND SEE THE OTHER GREAT SNAPS AT KEENE BROS. 125 and 127 KING ST. Just Opposite Market House

EDDY'S BREAD WRAPPERS

To prevent danger of impurities in delivery from the oven to the home, insist on your baker wrapping his bread in our wrappers.

We are the originators of bread wrappers. Now used by leading bakers of Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto and other cities.

THE E. B. EDDY CO., Hull, Can.

Donald McLean, Agent, 426 Richmond street, London.

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