

London Advertiser.

(Established by JOHN CAMERON, in 1863.)

LEADING DAILY IN WESTERN ONTARIO.

Advertising and subscription rates furnished on application.

THE LONDON ADVERTISER COMPANY Limited.

LONDON, ONTARIO

London, Saturday, Dec. 21.

Make Them Toe the Mark.

Conservatism must either disavow the tactics of F. D. Monk, M. P., in Quebec, or else drop its line of attack on Sir Wilfrid Laurier in the other provinces. Imperialism does not constitute a danger to the rights or privileges of any Canadian, French or English. The speeches of Mr. Monk can be explained. So can the speeches of Mr. Bourassa. The clear intent of Mr. Monk is to inflame French-Canadian prejudices into a tribunal which will try and condemn Wilfrid Laurier for the crime of imperialism. If the Conservatives believe that Sir Wilfrid Laurier is an imperialist, and should be condemned as such, they have a right to move on the line of Mr. Monk's argument. They have no right to prosecute Sir Wilfrid Laurier as an anti-imperialist in Ontario, while they are prosecuting the same Wilfrid Laurier as a pro-imperialist in Quebec.—Toronto Telegram.

Better late than never. Our Toronto contemporary supported the Opposition at the last general election with all its might, though there was evidence on the surface that the double-faced game which it now condemns was played for all that it was worth. It is true that in Quebec men like Mr. Monk were less bold in their condemnation of the Dominion Premier because of his earnest adherence to the principles that have gone to build up the British Empire; but in Ontario, and nowhere more persistently than in Toronto—if we except Hamilton—a steady campaign of detraction was carried on against Liberal candidates, because they supported Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who was represented as being an enemy of the Empire, and all who followed him deserving of condemnation as a consequence. There is, as the Telegram now confesses, much need for the Conservative party choosing one line of policy for the whole Dominion and sticking to it. They cannot hope for public confidence while they pursue the tactics adopted by their Quebec leaders on the one hand, and by those in Ontario on the other.

The Heroics of an Ex-Minister.

The first of the Dominion bye-elections takes place in York, New Brunswick, on the 28th inst. There has been some talk as to the propriety of holding the election in the neighborhood of Christmas, but it is expected that the date has been chosen to the convenience of a large number of electors of the constituency who are employed in the lumber trade, and who will come out to spend Christmas, and thus be enabled to vote without loss of time. The candidates are the same as at the general election—Mr. Gibson, the Liberal candidate, a large employer of labor; and Mr. McLeod, the Conservative, a preacher, with a turn for the extreme end of Conservatism.

This constituency was formerly a stronghold of Hon. George E. Foster, and he was elected in it at the general election in 1896 by a majority of 1,542. But a short time prior to the general election last year, the ex-minister saw that there was so marked a change in the feeling towards him in the constituency that he cleared out of it, and sought refuge in the city of St. John, which, as the vote showed, was no more enamored of him and his works than was York.

Wonder has been expressed why Mr. Foster should seek for opportunities to talk in Ontario, and to preach that he and his friends did not practice when in power—the higher type of political morality—while refusing every invitation to appear in New Brunswick, where he is best known. Why, it has been asked, should Mr. Foster have such an affection for the electors of West Durham, as he recently evinced in the bye-election now pending, while he is studious to keep out of the constituency which formerly gave him such a large majority? In West Durham, the ex-minister pitched into the Liberals because, he said, they had taken advantage of a wrong act by the returning officer to deprive Mr. Cochrane of seat to which he had been elected. It was a most misleading contention. It is true that the returning officer considered that there had been election fraud, because Mr. Cochrane had observed all the formalities called by the law. But Mr. Cochrane did have the seat taken from him on a ground. The case was taken into court, and the seat was not claimed by Mr. Cochrane. Instead of that, the Opposition candidate contended that he had not been fairly elected—that he owed his majority to illegal practices of his agents, and court was not called upon to inquire into the matter of the returning officer's conduct at all.

Mr. Foster had given the subject investigation, he must have known these were the facts. Why, then, he go out of his way to assail his real opponents by asserting that he had been parties to taking away it from his friend Mr. Cochrane, who he confessed he had not been able to fill? Even though the facts were as Mr. Foster represented—and they were not ought to have been about the last to have attacked any one on the seat pilfering. Is it not on that that he was one of the chief

defenders of the outrage whereby the Conservative majority in the House of Commons gave to Mr. Baird, who was the minority candidate in Queen's, N. B., the seat to which King, the Liberal candidate, had been elected? It would be most interesting to see Mr. Foster go down to York, and repeat the speech he recently gave in West Durham, omitting none of his mock heroics in condemning seat-stealing, and then to have him heckled, in real old-world fashion, on the reasons that impelled him to condemn the West Durham transaction, where the minority candidate got no advantage, and sought no advantage that the law did not give him, while upholding the handing over of a seat to his party friend, who had not received the majority of the votes cast. But Mr. Foster is a very wary politician, and no one expects to see him meet the public issues in his old constituency, much less to face the dilemma that would confront him if he were compelled to face his record on the point which he so unfairly raised against the candidature of Mr. Beith in West Durham.

Inter-Imperial Postal Rates on Newspapers Both Ways.

In a recent paper, written by John A. Cooper, editor of the Canadian Magazine, are set forth some convincing arguments in favor of inter-imperial postal rates on newspapers and magazines. The writer shows that there is much more involved in the question of cheap postage than at first appears; it is more than a money saving scheme for publishers.

Penny postage for letters has proved to be a great forward movement. But anomalies still exist which must sooner or later be dealt with. The cost of delivering a Canadian weekly newspaper to an English subscriber is one dollar a year. It costs about 50 cents a year to deliver British magazines, such as The Strand or Pall Mall, to a Canadian or an Australian subscriber.

Regarding a cheap system of news and book postage, the following resolution was passed last March at the meeting of the Canadian Press Association.

"Believing that a cheap system of news, book and letter postage is of the highest necessity in bringing about the full interchange of thought and knowledge by which the people of the empire can be brought into a mutual understanding of each other, into common ground of action, and into closer commercial relations, this association warmly commends the efforts already made by our postmaster-general to this end, and as a first step to such a system, the Canadian Government offer to the British Government free exchange of all our mail matter at the present domestic rate of each country."

Canada is crowded with United States magazines and periodicals, owing in some measure at least to the cheap postage on such matter. Efforts have been made to surmount the difficulty by the issuing of Americanized editions of British publications. For instance, we have an American Illustrated London News and London Graphic. Mr. Cooper, in his article, looks upon the situation as it exists between Canada and the motherland as unpatriotic. It is said that trade follows the flag; it might be said with equal truth that trade follows the press. There is scarcely any instrument to be compared with printer's ink as a means for creating trade. Trade follows the newspaper. The authorities of the United States have recognized this, and have accordingly framed their postal policy, not with the object of making revenue, but merely to cover the cost of the service. United States magazines and periodicals, trade and technical publications, have been for years flooding Canada, and gaining ground in Australia and in South Africa. Wherever they go, United States manufactures are following in their wake. A number of first-class Canadian magazines and periodicals circulating in Great Britain, Mr. Cooper thinks, would have a similar effect on Canadian prestige and industry. They would be a valuable means of enlightening Britain as to the possibilities of her auxiliary kingdom. In the words of Rev. Dr. Withrow, "Nothing would do more to foster a community of sentiment and interest between Canada and the mother country, to diffuse information in each country about the other, and to divert emigration from the British Islands to the Dominion, than the greater freedom for the interchange of printed literature between the two countries. The better class of English periodicals would thus circulate far more largely in Canada, and the Canadian papers sent by successful emigrants to their friends in the old country would be among the very best emigration agencies that could be conceived."

Cheaper reciprocal newspaper postage throughout the Empire would undoubtedly to some extent promote the interchange of various British and colonial publications; a quickened ocean service would also help, as the value of any publication increases with the promptitude of its reception. But has Mr. Cooper, as a Canadian, taken into account the enormous and permanent advantages of time, and continuity, and intermingling of the peoples in social and business intercourse, of which the United States, as compared with Europe, cannot be deprived?

The Land of Open Doors and Personal Honesty.

Though the Central American people are represented as a turbulent crowd, and by their frequent revolutions give some countenance to this view, the residents of Nicaragua, through which it is likely the long-talked-of interoceanic waterway is soon to be constructed, appear, ordinarily, to be one of the best behaved peoples on the American continent. Mr. Simmons, in his recently published book, describes, in an interesting manner, his tour through the country. He was told that robberies are of the rarest occurrence, and the manner in which the people live affords abundant confirmation of the statement. Locks and keys, bolts and bars, are but little used. It is a common thing for shopkeepers to let customers wait on themselves. While in the town of Rivas, Mr. Simmons stayed at the house of a widow who sold tobacco and cigarettes. The cigarettes were kept in a jar upon a table in one corner of the sala, and upon the same table was a cup, in which the money received for the cigarettes was left during the day. The door of the sala was always open, and there was seldom anyone in the room to look after the sales. Passers-by who wanted cigarettes helped themselves, put the price of their purchase in the cup, making change when necessary, and went their way. The old lady, who was a stately dame and almost a full-blooded Indian, had not the slightest fear of robbery, even by the beggars that came to her door. Concerning beggars, by the way, there is a queer custom in the country. On one or two specified days in the week, they are permitted to go from house to house soliciting alms, but they are liable to arrest for begging on other days. Mr. Simmons, however, saw very few beggars anywhere, and he found the people light-hearted, happy and well-behaved, with but one open and well-developed vice—cock-fighting on the streets on Sunday afternoon and evening.

One wonders whether the condition and behavior of the people will be improved when their country becomes the scene of a great international waterway, with the Yankees as policemen and censors of morals.

The British Officer.

The London Spectator, in a recent issue, defends the British officer against the accusations of incompetency that are so frequently heard. During the course of the war in South Africa the men, the private soldiers, have vindicated their right to the title of "splendid." Perhaps no instance recorded in history have the soldiers shown higher qualities in the matter of courage and endurance than have the British soldiers in South Africa. The private soldier has established his reputation beyond question. The officers, however, whatever may be their actual intrinsic worth, have not so established a reputation for competency. A great many stupid things have been done during the war, which have been attributed to the British officer, and he has been subjected to such epithets as "a stupid idiot." The Spectator comes to his rescue and refuses to admit that the British officer is at all stupid. It even goes so far as to declare him above the average of his class in mental acquirements. The reason, claims the Spectator, why stupid things have been done through and by him, and stupid things on a large scale and with such tremendous consequences, must be sought in defective organization of the army and not in the mental characteristics of the officers. The Spectator advances the excellent standard of work attained by British officers in other fields as proof of their high mental qualities. It calls attention to the good administrative work done in India by army officers, to the railway work done in South Africa during the present war, and to the organization and leadership of the irregular corps. If the British officer does not do stupid things when taken out of his regular environment, it is quite clear that it is the environment and not the man that is at fault. The system of rigid obedience which pervades a well-disciplined army, is accountable in a large degree for the blunders that have been committed. Some effort should be made in the direction of freedom of judgment in the army. In the navy an opportunity is given an officer to exercise independent and responsible command early in life. This is absolutely essential owing to the vicissitudes of the sea. Seamanship is too difficult an art for men to get dull at. Nearly all the operations, such as drill, tend to produce in the soldier a kind of hypnotic condition which fits him to carry out the commands of his superior instantly and without thinking. In fact, rifle practice is about the only part of the soldiers' routine which does not become mechanical. The London Spectator concludes by saying:

"The British officer is not a stupid person. The ablest officers are among our ablest men, and in the rank-and-file of officers the mental average is distinctly high. But though the British officer is not stupid, he has, at any rate as far as the ordinary regimental officer is concerned, a peculiarly stupid profession. Hence the problem is not how to get clever officers—we have got them already—but how to render the effects of military life less stupefying. Whether the British military system can be rendered less stupefying, and if so, how, it is not for us to decide. We cannot attempt anything beyond the humbler task of declaring, and that we do with strong conviction, that the greatest army reformer will be the man who will alter our military system in such a way as to prevent it being a mental anodyne, and render it instead a mental stimulant. That accomplished we shall have clever officers in a clever army, and not, as now, clever officers in a stupid army."

WHERE LEARNED DOCTORS DIFFER

How Hospitals Are Managed Elsewhere.

The Interests and Well-Being of Patients First Consideration.

Something Also From the Nurses' Standpoint—Important Considerations.

[By a Disinterested Onlooker.]
A very decided difference of opinion has arisen among medical men of this city over what might at first sight be thought a matter of no importance.

We know, nevertheless, that a great fire a small matter kindled; and the subject of dispute has now assumed proportions which The Advertiser has thought worthy of investigation. Both sides of the case will be set down, and the reader may judge for himself, where justice lies in the dispute as to whether the public patients in the hospital have each his own physician, or whether there should be a regular staff, as in other hospitals, who would be responsible to the Trust for the proper care and attendance of the patients.

For various reasons, which we shall not go into, the medical profession of London today is divided against itself; and these divisions are the result of personal differences of opinion.

The parties at variance with one another are the Medical School men and the anti-school men (or those inimical to the Medical School), and a few who are neutral. Just why there should be professional men who set their faces against the school, does not at first appear; but we have convinced ourselves that there are such.

These gentlemen are loud in their assertions that each public patient should have his own physician; that the poor man has as good a right to choose his physician as the rich; and insinuate that the school men want to control the whole hospital.

In replying the Medical School men say that public patients are generally willing to accept the services of the regular staff; and that in the rare cases where the patient has requested the services of his own physician, his request has been readily granted. To the charge that they want to monopolize the hospital, they reply that they represent nearly two-thirds of the profession in the city, and that all they ask is that the Trust will select from them a suitable staff for the winter months, when the school is open, and let the rest of the year be given to those physicians not connected with the school.

This sounds not unreasonable, and the school men say further that it is always and everywhere in the interest of any hospital to have a medical school in connection.

We might add, that there must be some reason why, in other hospitals, public patients are cared for by a staff of selected physicians, and there should be some good reason for throwing for any departure from the general rule. Many of the arguments put forward by the Medical School men are so lucid and clearly sound, as to call for honest investigation on the part of those who are responsible for the welfare of the sick.

We take it as significant that the Medical School men, who represent more than half the profession, more nearly two-thirds, are all agreed on one point, namely, that the public patient, fares better at the hands of a staff selected by the Trust, than the single patient at the hands of the individual physician. The reasons given by the school men in support of this theory are as follows: They claim that the professor who is to deliver a lecture on a certain case before a class of bright young men, must study that case with great care, and that every day the case is studied in the most thorough manner. Indeed, one well-known physician not working in the school asserts that public patients during the school months receive more thorough attention than private patients. If this is true it has an important bearing on the case.

It is also asserted that a busy doctor will not go down to the hospital to see one non-paying patient every day, but is inclined to leave him to the care of the young doctor at the hospital. Of this no satisfactory proof could be obtained; but as human nature is constituted, it seems very probable.

Another point on which it is as well the public should be fully enlightened, is that in no instance is a public patient compelled to have his case discussed before the students. We are assured that never has a clinic been given on an unwilling patient; that if he ob-

jects his feelings on the subject are respected.

As a matter of fact, the patient who objects is an anomaly; rare in hospital life. Most of us, we think, are not unlike the old Irish woman, who asked what her disease was, and when told that she had cerebro-spinal meningitis, exclaimed in delight, "Oh, doctor, you flatter me!"

To many a poor, uncared-for soul, it is a proud moment to be singled out by "the professor" and made an object of importance. Equally true it is that they take an interest in hearing their cases discussed; and feel they are being looked into with great minuteness and care.

One little fellow in a large city hospital exclaimed to his companions: "See here, you fellows—the big professor with the bald head says I'm the most interesting case on record, and the rest of you ain't in it with me!" Surely, when one thinks of the immense benefits received, any fair-minded patient would be willing to do what lay in his power to render assistance to his doctor, if in so doing no injury was wrought to his health.

A side of the case not yet presented is that of the nurse. On her falls all the burden of this terrible influx of doctors. If complaints have at any time been lodged against the nurses of the London Hospital, we have only to ask the nurses in the best hospitals and unheard-of system of a doctor to every patient, the wonder is not that our nurses do not do better, but that they are alive to tell the tale.

A nurse is as necessary to a doctor on his rounds through a hospital as a comet to the sun; but it is unreasonable to expect that she shall drop her work every few minutes during the day and accompany him. But on the principle of twenty doctors to twenty patients, that is what occurs. Certain it is that the nurses in the best hospitals in the United States would go out on strike, if asked to submit to such a public nuisance.

Let any housekeeper picture herself making headway with her work if twenty callers dropped in through the course of the day! And supposing some stormy day, only ten should make calls, even then that is eight too many. Let it also be taken into consideration that the best results in nursing are obtained where the nurse is not confused by having to serve too many masters—just as too many cooks spoil the broth, so a superfluity of doctors will upset any ward.

Peace, quiet and order should reign in the realm of the sick. New faces are disturbing; doors opening and closing are distracting; a nervous, worried, harassed nurse is not soothing to the sick. But what will you have? A garden cannot thrive on the principle of twenty gardeners to twenty plants! How much better that they should be watered and tended alike; pruned and upheld by the same hand.

A nurse will not like his patients dressed with boric; or that the next one never sponges for less than 102 degrees. By she is very liable to forget what it is the tenth one prefers!

How pleasant and peaceful that ward must be, where the familiar face of the fatherly, gray-haired professor shows itself every day at the accustomed hour. The patients all expect him and are on their good behavior, while the nurses have so planned their work that they are ready to accompany him on his rounds, calmly and quietly—perfectly self-assessed, and writing all change of orders in a treatment book carefully and conscientiously. So perfectly accurate have nurses become, under the one chief of a ward system, that the slightest error in taking or carrying out a doctor's orders is considered a very serious offense, and is not infrequently punished by dismissal, carelessness in a nurse being a fault so grave that it cannot be overlooked. But with a dozen doctors to work and remember for, the most infallible nurse might well tremble.

Canadian women wishing to receive a training in nursing second to none, flock to the other side of the water, to the famous hospitals where for their efficiency and excellent management. And what do they find there? Not only is the public patient prohibited from having anyone but the regular staff, but the private patient, paying \$5 or \$10 a week, cannot have his own physician in attendance, but must make his choice from a large and carefully-selected staff of physicians. The doctor is thus held doubly responsible, both to himself and to the board of managers, for the well-being of the patient; and the managers themselves become responsible for the character and conduct of every physician entering their gates.

As naturally as cream rises to the top, the finest minds in the profession come to be selected as members of the staff in any hospital of standing. The forty immovables contend no less eagerly for the membership of the French Academy than distinguished men court the prestige of being medical or surgical chiefs of a ward in some noted hospital.

To the bedside of each poor, often friendless patient, come day after day lights of the medical profession; and every case is carefully considered and conscientiously inquired into. How infinitely superior must such a system be to that of a motley crowd of doctors, good and bad and indifferent—tracking mud into and out of a hospital all day long!

For the sake of the patient, the long-suffering, non-paying patient, the Trust should look carefully into this matter; and regardless of doctors, or of medical schools, so adjust the matter that the privilege, nay, honor, of attending our sick poor, in the public wards of the hospital, shall fall on those who, by long years of service and distinguished skill, deserve the laurel.

The Runians Carson McKee Co.

RECORD BREAKER!

THREE DAYS' SALE

Today, Monday and Tuesday.

Liberal discounts just at the time you want to buy is the way we are building up our business. The remaining three shopping days before Christmas will be record breakers.

Read This List of Discounts and Come and Make Your Choice. 10, 20 and 50 Per Cent off.

- 20 per cent off Ladies' Mantles and Furs
- 20 per cent off Fancy Dress and Waist Silks
- 20 per cent off Fownes' Kid Gloves
- 20 per cent off Men's Suits and Overcoats
- 50 per cent off all Trimmed Millinery
- 50 per cent off sample lot Christmas Novelties
- 10 per cent off all Black Dress Goods
- 10 per cent off all Colored Dress Goods
- 10 per cent off all Black Dress Silks
- 10 per cent off all Colored Dress Silks
- 10 per cent off all French Flannels
- 10 per cent off all Linens
- 10 per cent off all Boots and Shoes
- 10 per cent off all Carpets and Curtains
- 10 per cent off all Down Quilts and Rugs
- 10 per cent off all Corsets and Underwear
- 10 per cent off all Blouses and Underskirts

Special Saturday Night Sale Tonight.

The Runians Carson McKee Co.

208, 210, 210½ and 212 Dundas Street.

| Men's Purses | Bill Folds |
|--------------|------------|
| 50c | 50c |
| 75c | 75c |
| \$1.00 | \$1.00 |
| \$1.50 | \$1.50 |
| \$2.00 | \$1.75 |
| \$2.50 | |

CHAS. D. JOHNSTON,
198 DUNDAS STREET

Marriage License Issued,
PHONE 1429.