The Advertiser

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JOHN CAMERON,
Pres't and Managing Director.

God's in His heaven,
All's right with the world.
—[BROWNING.

London, Friday, February 8.

—We have an office cat who just revels in the consumption of anonymous letters.

—Premier Bowell still asserts that he cannot tell when the general election will be held because he has a sore throat!

—The fund for the support of Lady Thompson now amounts to $20,000. So far no subscriptions to the fund have been announced from this city.

—Justice to every section of the community, favoritism to none, are the watchwords of the opponents of trade restriction and high taxation.

—The Goderich Signal says that Mr. Paterson, Minister of Militia, knows he cannot be elected in West Huron, and therefore will not run for that constituency. It is asserted that Mr. Patterson will take refuge in the Lieutenant-Governorship of Manitoba.

—The Goderich Star argues that "the pilgrimage in the desert of Opposition is a long one, but better stay there another term or two than go back on what we have contended for as the truth." But Mr. Marter holds differently. When the people of London refused to indorse the Conservative race and religious cries Mr. Marter harked back.

—Talk about hard times among the British landlords! We are informed by London Truth that the new grand staircase at Arundel Castle, which is constructed of the finest marbles, has been in process of erection for about eight months, and it has just been finished, and is said to have cost the Duke of Norfolk upwards of $90,000. And we also learn that the Duke of Devonshire is master of eight magnificent country seats and town houses, a chateau in France and a villa in the Riviera, with many thousand acres of land bringing him tribute. There is no lack of wealth in Great Britain, only it is scarcely as fairly distributed as it might be. Too much goes to the landlords, who live in idleness on their rents, and too little goes to the real toilers—the workers of the soil.

THE GENERAL ELECTION.

The "Advertiser" has been asked repeatedly for its information regarding the approaching Dominion general election. Our position has not changed for months. There will be no session of Parliament before the dissolution. The general election may be decreed any day. The shivery-shaky Ministry dare not face the investigations and the discussions of another session. It dare not face an exposure of its deficit this year, which promises to be $4,000,000 or $5,000,000. It dare not face the revelations of its Auditor-General's report.

THE HIGHER COURT JUDGES ON THE LONDON SEAT STEAL.

The London Free Press has very foolishly formulated another line of defense for the London Seat Steal, the discussion of which was re-started the other day by Mr. Hume Elliot, son of the judge-editor of our contemporary.

The Free Press argues:

(1) That the deliberate decision of Chief Justice Armour, Chief Justice Hagarty, Mr. Justice Street, Mr. Justice Falconbridge, Mr. Justice Burton and Mr. Justice Maclennan was a "snap judgment," and ought to be set aside in favor of the decision of Judge Elliot!

(2) It argues that a number of the bogus voters had valid votes, if their cases, deliberately heard and disposed by Mr. J. H. Fraser, revising officer, could have been re-heard.

A few words in regard to these contentions.

(1) Chief Justice Armour, Mr. Justice Street and Mr. Justice Falconbridge unanimously agreed that the original notice to the bogus voters was sufficient, and decreed that the revising officer should, "pursuant to the Electoral Franchise Act, forthwith proceed to hear and dispose of the objections." Mr. Fraser obeyed the law, as thus laid down by the Court of Queen's Bench. Was not this a unanimous confirmation of Judge Elliot's ruling that the notices were bad? The lists were [illegible] for days the investigation went on, [illegible] name was taken off by Mr. Fraser to retain which there was the slightest warrant. But the crafty men [illegible] wished to prevent Mr. Hyman's election did not want a purged list. They did not win on it. They appealed to the Court of Appeal against the decision of Justices Armour, Street and Falconbridge, and they united in asking a decision from the Court. They got it. The honest inquiry of all the facts of the law, unanimously upheld the Court of Queen's Bench, thereby once more showing the illegality of the decision of Judge Elliot.

Chief Justice Hagarty held "that the amendment allowed by the revising officer," as granted and acted on by him, "was within his power, and that the notices so amended sufficiently comply with the statute." The chief justice went further. He said, "I think, on the whole, that the unamended notice shall be held sufficient."

Mr. Justice Burton said: "Speaking for myself, I cannot say that I feel any doubt as to the sufficiency of the notice of objection read as a whole."

Mr. Justice Maclennan said: "We are requested to give our opinion upon the validity of the notices, and in deference to the request I have considered them, and I have no hesitation in saying that I consider the notices sufficient." This judge also severely rebuked those who have been contending that Judge Elliot's narrow, contradictory, illogical and inequitable decision is worthy of respect when he said: "The object of the proceedings of the revising officer is to purge the roll of persons not entitled by law to exercise the franchise, and the attainment of that object should not be bridled or defeated by technical objections, or by a narrow construction of the legislation, but should be promoted as far as possible without doing violence to the language of the enactment. It would be an intolerable scandal if in an ordinary action in the High Court, such an objection as we have here under consideration could be allowed to defeat the rights of any of the parties, and I do not see why it should not be equally so in a proceeding concerning the franchise." That is the verdict of the six judges of the Superior Court, and who that is fair-minded shall not agree with the one-time judgment of even our city contemporary, that it is a fair one? But Judge Elliot, after pretending that he was waiting to obey it, held differently, and, lo and behold! our city contemporary flopped with him! It was one of the sharpest curves on record. Our contemporary professes that it is in ignorance of the views of the Superior Court judges. It can profess ignorance no longer. These disinterested jurists, by their judgment, unanimously condemn the London Seat Steal.

(2) Our contemporary professes to believe that a number of the bogus voters had good votes if their cases could have been reopened. At the time the "Advertiser" published a list of the bogus voters who voted, and challenged any one of them to say over his own signature that he had a right to vote according to the law. Only one of them essayed to do so, and he proved that he had no right to vote. But even if it had been in accordance with law to reopen the case of the bogus voters at the eleventh hour, and to have proved that some who refused to attend might have remained on the lists if they had so chosen, would a rehearing of that kind have been fair, unless a rehearing of the cases of Liberal struck-offs took place? Not once was it suggested by the defenders of Judge Elliot that there should be a reopening of the cases on both sides.

We decline to be drawn into a discussion of side issues, or of false charges regarding the recent bye-election, in which the Liberal candidate was elected by 803 majority, and we repudiate in the strongest possible terms the charge of our contemporary that we have personally attacked Judge Elliot. Our action has been taken purely on public grounds. We joined in asking for a full investigation into the serious charges made against Judge Elliot and his coadjutors. These briefly were:

That Judge Elliot was political editor of the Free Press during the campaign of 1891.

That in that capacity he took a party stand against the Liberals.

That he professed to wait for the decision of the Court of Appeal in order to respect it.

That when the decision was given and it was found that Mr. Hyman had been elected by the legitimate votes of the people of London, Judge Elliot, by virtue of the power conferred on him by the Franchise Act, gave the seat to his opponent.

An investigation of those charges was refused by the partisan majority at Ottawa, and every independent journal, Conservative as well as Liberal, condemned the refusal. The Free Press knows why all investigation was suppressed.

LET'S HAVE IT.

It is a pity there is such prolonged uncertainty regarding the meeting or dissolution of Parliament. It is not good for the country's business. Why not determine and announce the choice? —Ottawa Journal.

THE TAX ON IRON.

The Globe explains why the iron duties are more objectionable now than formerly. A duty of $2 per ton in 1879 was increased in 1887 to $4 per ton. In the meantime iron had fallen in price from $20 per ton to less than half that price. Thus what was once an ad valorem duty of 10 to 20 per cent has risen to a monstrous exaction.

G. T. R. MEN ROBBED OF VOTES.

The revising officer's court now being held every evening in the court house afford many object lessons of the working of the Franchise Act. Under the law a man has to prove that he has earned $300 the past preceding year in order that he may be enrolled as a voter. This provision has disfranchised quite a number of Grand Trunk voters in this city this year. Owing to the short time which, from business depression, the company was compelled to run, many of the Grand Trunk employes did not earn $300 last year, and consequently now find themselves without a vote. The Dominion Government's policy of restriction without doubt contributed to the flattening out of the railway business and made it impossible, in many cases, for the employes to earn sufficient wages to enable them to qualify as voters. The Franchise Act should be wiped out altogether, and it will be after the next election.—Stratford Beacon.

The Prerogative of Dissolution.

To the Editor of the "Advertiser":

One of the Ministers is reported as saying that the time for the dissolution of Parliament and the holding of a general election is a matter of entire uncertainty; that it may be now, or it may be not till next spring. In the meantime the country is kept in a state of political turmoil and commercial suspense.

We glory in the popular character of our institutions, which, we are told, are more truly democratic than those of the United States. It is surely not in accordance with this boast that the duration of our Parliaments and the periods for our elections should be absolutely in the discretion of the Ministers of the Crown, and that Ministers should be allowed to use their power, not for any national object, but for the purposes of the party game.

The prerogative of dissolution is a survival from a state of things very different from the present, when Parliament was of far more importance than it is now, being not the supreme authority, but a body summoned at the King's pleasure to give information and grant supplies to the Crown.

By the present practice members who have been at great trouble and expense to gain their seats are placed to an objectionable extent at the mercy and under the influence of the Government, to say nothing of the penalty which the Government may inflict by the loss of the sessional allowance, which to some of them is a serious consideration.

Surely the duration of Parliament and the time for elections ought to be fixed by law. I should say that the time for the meeting of Parliament ought to be fixed also. Yours faithfully,
GOLDWIN SMITH.

Toronto, Feb. 6, 1895.

SARNIA.

("Advertiser" Agent, D. McMaster.)

Feb. 7.—The ice bridge connecting our town with Port Huron has been erected by Jack Frost, and large numbers are crossing on foot.

The Kickapoo Medicine Company gave a free concert in the town hall on Tuesday evening, Feb. 5, to a very large audience. They have secured the hall for a three weeks' engagement.

Quite a large number of Foresters and others attended the ball given by the local court of the A. O. F. in Petrolea tonight.

On Monday evening, Feb. 11, the Ladies' Benevolent Society will give a pound social in the school room of the Presbyterian Church. The admission will be a pound or more of provisions of any kind, which the ladies will distribute to the poor next day.

Wm. Kennedy returns thanks to the Supreme Tent, L. O. T. M., for the prompt payment of the $1,000 carried on the life of his deceased wife.

One of the most prosperous missions in the south ward is that in connection with the Baptist Church.

The Sons of Scotland have secured Mr. and Mrs. Durward Lely, the great Scottish vocalists, to give an entertainment in the Boys' Brigade Hall on the evening of Wednesday, Feb. 20.

The Chicago and Grand Trunk are going to lay a double track from Port Huron to Chicago in the spring.

A new Presbyterian Church is to be erected in Port Huron this spring on the corner of Wall and Eighth streets, and will be one of the finest in the city.

Rev. H. C. Speller arrived here on Friday, and preached two very eloquent sermons in the Baptist Church last Sabbath to large congregations. On Wednesday night a welcome social was held in the church. Tea was served, and afterwards a choice programme of music was given by the choir, assisted by some of the best talent from other churches. The resident ministers were also present and gave able addresses, welcoming the new pastor to our city, and wishing him God-speed in his work. The Baptists are very fortunate in securing such an able divine.

The Port Huron Ministerial Union, at their last regular meeting, voted against Sunday funerals.

Rev. Dr. Thompson, of St. Andrew's Church, will lecture in Petrolea on Monday, Feb. 11, on "How the Worlds were Made and Furnished."

The palace steamers Northwest and North Land, run between Buffalo and Duluth next summer, and are expected to call at Port Huron.

The fire and water commissioners are going to make a thorough inspection of our town, and are going to stop the unnecessary waste of water by watertakers, who let their hydrants run continually.

The report of Prof. Ellis, of Toronto, official analyst for the Ontario Government, in connection with the Glass inquest, has been received. The professor says that he found no traces of poison in the stomach.

John Buckley, proprietor of the Belchamber House, was fined $20 and costs by R. C. Palmer, license inspector, for keeping his bar-room open after prohibited hours.

Mr. Thomas Le Gallie, of Windsor, took charge of the telephone exchange on Thursday, Feb. 8.

Miss Beatty has left for a two months' visit to San Diego, California.

The immigrant buildings at Point Edward are to be disposed of by auction on Friday, Feb. 15. E. P. Watson will be auctioneer.

The contracts for the Barr-Copeland block have been let, and work will be commenced as soon as the weather permits.

CENTRAL FARMERS' INSTITUTE OFFICERS.

TORONTO, Feb. 6.—The Central Farmers' Institute this morning elected the following officers: T. E. Raynor, Rosehall, Prince Edward county, president; D. McCrae, Guelph, vice-president; A. H. Pettit, Grimsby, secretary-treasurer.

The French army costs every year 675,000,000 francs; the navy, 209,000,000.