

London Advertiser.

(ESTABLISHED BY JOHN CAMERON IN 1883.)

Managing Director John Cameron
and Editor.

London, Saturday, Dec. 2.

Protecting the Public.

We are glad to see the Ontario Government taking steps to conserve public rights in the matter of street railway franchises. The question has been brought sharply to the Government's attention by the present situation in Toronto, where the Metropolitan Street Railway Company attempted to lay tracks on a public thoroughfare in defiance of the will of the municipality. Only a display of force prevented the company from carrying out the design, for which they had the authority of the railway committee of the Dominion Privy Council. The railway committee were merely acting on a Dominion law, but it is claimed by the Ontario Government that as the question affects municipal rights, it comes within provincial jurisdiction. The Government are framing legislation designed to meet the new conditions arising out of the spread of electric traction. Under the present state of affairs, corporate interests are too apt to come into violent collision with municipal rights, and the latter must be safeguarded at all hazards. We trust the Government will not overlook the lesson furnished by this city, and that the new regulations will prevent a recurrence of such troubles by providing for compulsory arbitration of labor disputes.

The Manitoba Elections.

The Manitoba elections take place on Thursday next. The campaign is being waged with vigor, and neither party has allowed a seat to go by default. The Opposition was represented in the late Legislature by a mere handful of members, and while it may, and probably will, do better on this occasion, it cannot hope to overcome Mr. Greenway's big majority. At the last election the Greenway Administration owed some portion of its triumph to its school policy and its sturdy defense of provincial rights. The school question is now settled—the Opposition dare not touch it—and the Government now appeal to the country on the strength of their general record, independent of any exciting and immediate issue. A novel feature of the campaign is the presence of the leaders of the Dominion Opposition—Sir Charles Tupper, Mr. Foster, Mr. Wallace and the lesser lights—who are stumping the province with great energy, but with what success remains to be seen. The Greenwayites, on the other hand, are fighting their battle single-handed. We do not think the people of Manitoba will take kindly to the interference of outsiders, especially the interference of men who have never thrust a hand into Manitoba affairs, save in an attempt to frustrate the will of the province.

The mainstay of the Opposition is the personal popularity of Hugh John Macdonald, who flourishes on the tradition, not on the inherited genius, of his father. Mr. Macdonald is a very estimable young man, but he frankly confesses that he has no taste for public life. That he has no aptitude for it, he has already proven by his parliamentary career. He has refused politics at the express wish of Sir Charles Tupper, to whom he yields obedience in all things. Outside of Hugh John the Opposition has no real existence. There is a vague and shadowy thing his supporters call a platform, but no one takes it seriously. One alleged plank is "Government ownership of railways wherever practicable." "Wherever practicable," of course, leaves a very wide margin for the nimble politician. Sir Charles Tupper is immovably opposed to the principle of state ownership, and is even averse to state control of private railway corporations, but he has managed to find standing room on the "wherever practicable" end of the plank. It is a very entertaining comedy.

It is well for Methuen's men that there are no more rivers to cross.

The River Modder means literally "the river of mud." The English after this will know it better as the river of blood.

Mr. Chamberlain has been rebuked by Lord Rosebery for his Leicester speech. No one could do it better. His lordship knows how to be polite and forcible at the same time. It is an art that Mr. Chamberlain should cultivate.

American wool manufacturers are buying Canadian wool and paying an enormous duty. The duty is imposed as a protection to American wool growers, but operates as a tax on American wool manufacturers. A truly scientific schedule, isn't it?

Great Britain has just notified the powers that a state of war exists in South Africa. The powers probably suspected there was trouble down there, but this official bit will render them legally bound to keep their subjects neutral. The Boer corps being raised in Paris will have to be content to stay there and fight Albion through the newspapers.

Canada's total trade with Great Britain has increased enormously since 1895 and now surpasses that with the United States for the first time in some years. The figures are:

Great Britain.	United States.
1895.....\$ 92,988,727	\$ 95,932,197
1896.....99,670,030	93,622,434
1897.....108,639,990	111,022,512
1898.....157,499,785	124,410,926

Trade with the moaner country in the fiscal year 1899 showed a still further increase.

A Splendid Gathering Gathers

Greets the Premier, Hon. Geo. W. Ross, at St. Thomas.

And Hon. F. R. Latchford, Minister of Public Works.

Clear and Concise Statements of the Government's Vigorous Policy.

Proposed Development of the New and Old Ontario.

What Has Been Done for the Artisan and the Farmer.

Technical Schools, Storage Stations and Colonization Roads—Impetus to Mining and Manufactures.

Premier Ross and Hon. F. R. Latchford, minister of public works, addressed a splendid gathering in Duncombe Opera House, St. Thomas, last night. The meeting was held in the interest of the Liberal candidate in West Elgin, Mr. Donald Macnish, and enthusiastic evidences of the hearty and general approval of the candidate were not lacking. It was a splendid meeting, and it augured well for the success of Mr. Macnish in the coming election.

When the premier arrived at the station he was met by a deputation of prominent Elgin Liberals, and as he left the train the band of the 25th Battalion played welcoming music, and headed the procession to the opera house. Throngs of people had already filled the building, and greeted Mr. Ross and Mr. Latchford upon their arrival with long-continued and hearty cheering.

ON THE PLATFORM.

The chair was occupied by Mr. Peter Stewart, and there were also present on the platform: Mr. G. E. Casey, M.P., R. W. McKay (secretary), Dr. Wilson, Messrs. John Campbell, Dr. McLarty, Edwin Cameron, Dr. Duncombe, J. Farley, J. Coyne, A. J. Black, A. J. Graham, E. Stubbs, R. R. Kieck, C. L. Burke, F. Cowley, J. E. Smith, J. M. Glenn, D. O'Shea, A. Leche, D. Doyle, P. M. Fraser, A. McGrimmon, A. McLarty, A. H. Montgomery, J. Farrell, Charles Egan, P. Sutherland, F. McCormick, M. Williamson, Frank Brinkman, Norman Munroe, E. Moyle, John Norman, P. Lowry, D. Graham, James Taylor, W. Forbes, W. B. Jennings, W. McElroy, J. W. Peart, W. W. Olmstead, D. McCallum, John Lyle, H. D. Pembroke, E. Moore, W. H. May, P. Markham, J. H. Eilman, R. Fulton, Thomas Coffey, E. Thompson, Dr. Burnet, Dr. Linton, L. Ferguson, Charles Maltravers, F. Bennett, John Hill, Ed. Horton, Dr. Leach, Alex. McArthur, W. H. Morrison, A. Muncey, B. Allen, F. Arnum, G. H. Pennington, Daniel Botwin, Archie Brown, W. F. Forbes, James Taylor, W. H. May, J. Carie, James Harris, F. Hunt, W. O. Pollock, and others.

The chairman opened the meeting sharp on time. He heartily endorsed the policy of the Ontario Government under Premier Ross, and made complimentary references to the Liberal candidates in Elgin.

Donald Macnish.

Donald Macnish, the candidate of the Liberal party in West Elgin, was then called upon. Through his action in disclaiming the seat to which he was elected in the last contest, Mr. Macnish has been widely discussed, and the ovation which he received on stepping forward to address the immense gathering showed that he was not without honor where he was best known. Before the applause subsided, Miss Bertha Vale, a winsome tot, presented Mr. Macnish with a large bouquet of roses, in response to which he saluted the donor. After a happy reference to the number of ladies present, the speaker extolled the leaders of the Liberal party in Ontario. Mr. Macnish had a noble record, and his successor, Mr. Ross, was another giant among the public men of Ontario. The speaker predicted that the government under the next premier would conduct the affairs of the public, not only with credit to themselves, but with credit to the country they represented. Mr. Macnish ridiculed the opposition workers for calling their meeting that evening. Were they afraid to have their followers hear the distinguished speakers brought by the Liberals? The conduct of his opponents in other respects was suspicious. The city of St. Thomas and the outlying districts were filled with strangers, working in their interests. It was time for the leader of the Conservatives to carry out his threat to use his Gatling gun and fire out all strangers. (Laughter and applause.)

Mr. George E. Casey, M.P.

for the riding, was enthusiastically received. The Conservatives, he said, were making a great cry for purity of elections. They allege that West Elgin had been corrupted. But wrong acts by some irresponsible persons did not mean the corruption of the riding. The Liberals of West Elgin, as well as of the province, did not endorse any wrong-doing at elections. Mr. Macnish, when he became aware of the alleged acts of workers in his interest, entered a disclaimer to the seat, and the government appointed a commission to punish the wrong-doers. The speaker was more proud than ever to support such a candidate and such a government. Mr. Macnish was too much of a stickler for fair play to take advantage of the wrong actions of men ostensibly supporting him. (Applause.) The Liberals had been in power for 28 years. No fool of a government could have held office that long. The Conservatives called it "played out," but it was just as good now as when Sir Oliver Mowat or Hon. A. S. Hardy was at the head of it. (Cheers.) Turning again to the corruption cry of the Conservatives, Mr. Casey characterized their talk about purity of elections as hypocrisy. If ever a time the old

stagers needed watching it was now. A number of them were in the city, and there was a suspicious bulkiness about their waistcoat pockets. (Laughter.) The Conservative leaders, Crothers and Price, had raised about \$4,500 on the strength of the protest. That was quite a fund. The speaker concluded by asking the electors to clear the fair name of the riding by casting their ballots for Mr. Macnish. (Loud cheers.)

Hon. F. R. Latchford.

Hon. F. R. Latchford, minister of public works was received with great heartiness. Little Liola Vale presented him with a bouquet of roses, and was saluted by the recipient. Mr. Latchford said he had just come from the field of battle in South Renfrew, and he came as a victor. (Cheers.) The Mail and Empire was not sure that he had won. His majority should be convincing. It was true his majority was not as great as that given in the last contest, but then the circumstances were different. Nineteen hundred more votes were polled in 1898 than in the bye-election. The majorities for Liberal candidates previous to that given Mr. Campbell were much smaller than the speaker's. The majority for the Conservative member in the House of Commons was over 500. So it was clear that although the speaker went to South Renfrew as a stranger, the electors took advantage of the first opportunity to express their support of the new premier and his advisers. The Conservatives were having much to say about the charges of corruption in West Elgin. Yet there never was a public work carried on by the Dominion Government in the old days that did not smell to heaven of corruption, and they do not now, nor never did, say anything about that. Now they go out and cry in holy horror about the wrongs of some election workers. When they had an opportunity then to expose corruption, they were silent. When it was exposed they never said a word in condemnation of the wrongdoers. The record of the Ontario government with regard to public works was above suspicion.

IN THE INTEREST OF LABOR.

Speaking of the manner in which the interests of the laboring class had been guarded by the Ontario government, Mr. Latchford referred to the mechanics' lien act. The difficulties in the working of that act had been removed. The laborer was not only worthy of his hire, but the government saw that he got it. By another act railway employees were given redress in case of accidents, even though they voluntarily incurred danger from defective construction. Sub-contractors and workmen on railways were given the power to have a lien on sub-factories. The factory act was amended. Formerly the employee bringing action for damages was compelled to show the manner in which the machinery was defective. This for poor people was sometimes an impossibility. Now if it is alleged the machinery was not in good condition, the onus of proving the contrary is thrown upon the employer.

Provision has been made for the prompt payment of claimants for wages by assignees. When an assignment took place, wage-earners were often kept out of their money for a long time—sometimes years. Now wages had to be paid within a month. Thus it was all along the line. These were but a few illustrations of the acts passed for the benefit of the laboring element in the community.

The speaker asked his hearers not to be led away by erroneous comparisons. Expenditure on public institutions today compared with the expenditure on them twenty years ago. That was unfair. The conditions were changed. A fair basis was to compare the cost of public institutions in Ontario with other provinces. For instance, the average cost per inmate per year in the Ontario asylums for insane is \$134; in Buffalo, \$183; in Rochester, N. Y., \$223, and in Utica, N. Y., \$199. In 1896 the cost per prisoner in the Central Prison, a provincial institution, was \$165, while at the same time the cost

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The most effective skin purifying and beautifying soap in the world, as well as purest and sweetest for toilet, bath, and nursery. It is the only preventive of pimples, blackheads, red, rough, and oily skin, red, rough hands with shapeless nails, dry, thin, and falling hair, and simple baby blemishes. It is so because it strikes at the cause of most complexional disfigurements, viz., THE CLOGGED, IRRITATED, INFLAMED, OVERWORKED, OR SLUGGISH PORES.

My face was covered with a pimply, ruptured, and itching skin, as well as the chin and forehead. I tried several home remedies, but as they proved to be of no value, I decided to use CUTICURA SOAP, and in six weeks I was entirely rid of them.

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My face was covered with pimples and blackheads, some would heal red, and others would be full of white matter. The blackheads would be all over my face. I spent about ten dollars for soaps, medicines, etc., but they never did me any good. I tried CUTICURA SOAP, and it only took three cakes to cure my face.

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The following specials for Saturday and Monday selling will interest close buyers:

Boys' 2-piece Suits.

Dark, neat patterns and good weight, regular \$2 50 and \$2 75, Saturday and Monday \$1 75

Boys' 3-Piece Suits.

Heavy all-wool serge, good trimmings, regular \$3 and \$3 25, Saturday and Monday \$2 48

Youths' Tweed Suits.

Full weight, heavy Italian linings, sizes 28 to 35, long pants, regular \$5 and \$6, Saturday and Monday \$3 75

Boys' Blue Kersey Reefers.

Heavy weight, tweed linings, sizes for boys from 5 to 10 years, regular \$1 75 and \$2, Saturday and Monday \$1 25

Men's Tweed Suits.

Dark gray check, heavy weight, double-breasted, regular \$7, Saturday and Monday \$5 98

Men's Dress Overcoats

Fine all-wool beaver, double and single breasted, heavy satin linings, regular \$10, Saturday and Monday \$9 75

Special.

100 pairs Men's Tweed Pants, heavy weight, regular \$1 25 to \$1 45, Saturday and Monday, special \$1 19

FURNISHINGS IN OUR SHOE Department.

15 dozen Men's All-Wool Shirts and Drawers, assorted lot, regular 50c to 75c each, Saturday and Monday, 39c each, or suit for 75c

Extra Special.

25 dozen Silk and Satin Ties, Puffs, Flowing Ends, Four-in-Hands, Stripes, Knots, stylish, up-to-date Neckwear, regular 25c and 50c, extra special, Saturday only 19c

ONE-QUARTER OFF

all Men's and Boys' Soft or Stiff Hats, Saturday and Monday. QUARTER OFF.

FURNISHINGS IN OUR SHOE Department.

100 pairs Women's Felt Toilet Slippers, leather soles and felt soles, regular 45c, Saturday and Monday 29c

60 pairs Women's Dongola Laced and Button Boots, extension soles, round toes, special \$1 23

60 pairs Women's Dongola Button Boots, patent toe-caps, turn and welt soles, regular \$2 50 and \$2 60, Saturday and Monday \$1 89

30 pairs Misses' Laced Boots, oil, pebble and glove grain, strong, serviceable schools boots, regular \$1, \$1 25, Saturday and Monday 89c

Men's Dongola Laced Boots, bulldog toe and cordovan laced Boots, \$1 75

Men's Box Calf Laced Boots, heavy welt soles, newest shapes, perfect fit and wear \$3 00

Granby Rubbers, for men, women and children.

The Runians, Gray, Carrie Co.

208, 210, 210½ and 212 DUNDAS STREET.

per prisoner in the Kingston Penitentiary, managed by the Dominion Government, was \$215. The Conservative authorities at Ottawa, appointed 97 officials at Kingston, and only half that number was required at Toronto, although the number of prisoners in each institution was about equal. The Ontario Government had conducted its business honestly and economically, and was worthy of the admiration of every man and woman in the province. (Applause.) The speaker hoped to see Mr. Macnish returned. The Conservatives had endeavored to blacken Mr. Macnish's character by assailing him in every way possible, but his worth was known, and the contemptible policy of his opponents would be of no avail. (Hearty applause.)

The Premier.

Mr. Ross was received with great cheering. On behalf of the West Elgin Reform Association, Joseph Montgomery presented him with an address beautifully engrossed, and highly eulogistic. Miss Pearl Eggelson then presented him with a large bouquet of chrysanthemums. Round after round of applause followed. The premier graciously saluted the little girl, and acknowledged his appreciation of the kind words contained in the address. Hon. Mr. Ross said he had a difficult task before him. He had to follow in the footsteps of men of exceptional talent and character, but he hoped the Liberal party would be found continuing to uphold the honor of the country with the same earnestness and zeal under his leadership as it had done under the leadership of his predecessors. After commenting on a reference in the address to his early associations with "the log-cabin schoolhouse," Mr. Ross said that if all his duties as premier were as pleasing as receiving addresses and kissing pretty girls, he would wish to be premier forever. (Laughter.) But the premier's path was not always strewed with roses.

Continuing in a light vein, Mr. Ross spoke of Mr. Macnish's experience. Mr. Macnish had come through without a stain on his character. (Hearty cheer.) The leader of the opposition and the judge on the bench had said there was nothing to compromise Mr. Macnish. The Liberals, knowing him as they did, knew that there was nothing to compromise him. (Cheers.) He was an honest man, and an honest man's the noblest work of God. (Applause.) The speaker was glad to meet Mr. Casey again. He and Mr. Casey entered the war against the "Boers" about the same time. (Laughter.) Mr. Casey had been carrying his flag for 27 years, and the speaker had done the same. After more pleasantries Mr. Ross said it was a serious meeting. There was an attempt being made to create the impression that the Liberal party was bad. This was not new. They had been painted as bad as they could be painted for twenty years. Irregularities all deplored. But it must be remembered when this attempt was made to discredit the whole party, that one swallow did not make a summer. He denied the allegation that the party was corrupt, and called attention to its traditional integrity. It was the Liberal party which contended for elections on one day, for simultaneous elections; for the trial of controverted elections before the judges of the country; for election by ballot. The Liberal party was historically and at the present day the party of purity in elections. (Hearty cheer.) His religion couldn't be far wrong whose heart was right. That was their heart. (Applause.) The premier went on to speak of his new ministers, and policy.

Continuing, the premier made reference to the following:

Continued on page 7.



There is no gum or rubber or anything in Corticelli Skirt Protector that will chafe your shoes. It is made of specially grown specially spun and specially woven wool. It is better than any other skirt protector because it is made of different and better wool—it has an elastic, porous weave that dries out quickly when wet and sheds dust easily. Sewed on flat—no turned over—one or two rows of stitching—every dress goods shade. Sold everywhere 4 cts. a yard. Labeled thus

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