# London Advertiser.

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London, Saturday, March 8.


ST. JOHN (N. B.) GLOBE: An additional tax on bread should be strenuously opposed by people of all shades of politics.

THIS is the era of municipal consolidation. East and West Saginaw, Mich., hitherto two corporations, have joined fortunes and become the City of Saginaw, with a population of between 50,000 and 60,000.

NATURAL butterflies and caterpillars are to appear upon the hats of the ladies this spring, and are also to be used, it is said, for ornaments for the hair. There is some curiosity to see who will be the first woman to appear publicly with a stuffed caterpillar prowling in her bang.

THE debt of Hamilton is now $2,765,187, and next month $275,000 will be added to it, if the taxpayers indorse the bylaw granting that amount of bonus to the Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo Railway. At present Hamilton has one railway—the G. T. R.—and the Dundas tramway.

EAST Lambton Liberals will hold a convention in Watford on May 7, to select a candidate for the Legislature. The Executive Committee might have called the meeting a trifle earlier. Organization cannot be completed in a short time, and the eve of the general election is no time for putting a candidate in the field.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER may not go on a holiday trip to Southern France after all. The Prince of Wales has abandoned his intended trip to the Riviera, and in consequence thereof quite a large number of people have suddenly changed their plans and will remain in London and Paris. Perhaps the scion of the Canadian nobility has also reconsidered his decision to sojourn at the Riviera.

THE Montreal Gazette points Quebec Legislature to the action taken by the Ontario Government in bringing in a measure for the abolition of tax exemptions. Our contemporary looks on the bill as a step in the right direction. While not going as far as many would desire, the Government, it concedes, has probably gone as far as public opinion at present will indorse it. This action of Ontario, the greatest Province in the Federation, adds the Gazette, coming simultaneously with a like resolution in Manitoba, can hardly fail to have its influence elsewhere in the Dominion, and elsewhere perhaps on the continent. And its influence will undoubtedly be for good.

SIR JOSEPH HICKSON is reported to have expressed himself on his recent visit to the St. Clair River tunnel at Sarnia as satisfied with the progress made. The work is being pushed with an equal force at each end; and by the experience gained, and the greater efficiency of the means adopted, the daily rate of progress has been of late so much increased that it is now thought the tunnel will be completed ready for use by September next. When the all-rail route is opened, the traffic by way of the tunnel will be very large. The improvement will result in an immense saving in time and money to the G. T. R. and connecting system of railways who will take advantage of it. The benefit to the traveling public will also be great.

## AN EPOCH OF CRIME.

It will be remembered that during the administration of Mr. Mackenzie a number of crimes were committed in the country which greatly aroused the ire of the Tory party. The number of murders during one or two years was unusually large, though not larger in proportion to the population of the country than had happened at intervals in former periods. It was the fact also, as was shown by the official records, that the number upon whom capital punishment was inflicted was quite as large in proportion to the number of sentences as at any former period. But this did not prevent Tory politicians and Tory journals from openly charging the Government with responsibility for the epoch of crime, nor yet from brutally accusing the Minister of Justice with favoritism or worse because he saw fit in a few cases to commute the capital sentence to imprisonment for life. No one is likely to bring the latter accusation against the present Minister of Justice, for if he errs at all it is on the other side. But if the Tories of fifteen years ago were right in holding that the frequent murders of that time were a consequence of Liberal administration, what have they to say of the carnival of crime through which the country has passed during the last ten years? Beginning with the Biddulph tragedy down to the present day, murder has followed murder in terrible succession, and perhaps in no former period of our country's history have so large a number of murderers escaped arrest and punishment. Is this because of Tory administration? Perhaps the Free Press can tell. It was one of the brutally frank journals when Mr. Blake was Minister of Justice.

## CIVIL SERVICE AND COST OF LIVING.

An inquiry recently made by direction of the Government of Hong-Kong into the cost of living there in its relation to salaries paid to officers of the civil service is not wholly without interest in our own country. The report of the commission shows that in the last ten years the cost of living in Hong-Kong has increased 20 per cent. for Europeans and 10 per cent. for Chinese, and it appears that clothing is the only article cheaper now than ten years ago. Rent has increased from 100 to 150 per cent. for Europeans and 100 per cent. for Chinese, servants' wages 10 to 15 per cent., and cost of medical attendance 100 per cent., while imported articles have risen in proportion to the fall in exchange. This decreasing purchasing power of the dollar is severely felt especially by those who have families to maintain or educate at home. It is therefore proposed by the commission that official salaries generally should be raised to an amount in current dollars equal to their original sterling value, taking the dollar at 4s 2d, and that non-European officials should receive an advance of 20 per cent. With regard to the superior English officials, the commissioners lay it down that they should reasonably expect—(1) to live in comfort; (2) to be able to go home when leave is due; (3) to marry at 30; (4) to be in a position to send their children to England and educate them there; (5) to be able to insure their lives; and (6) to save sufficient to live in comfort on their retirement, for which their pensions would in themselves be insufficient.

We do not know whether this subject has ever occurred to the Governments of Canada or Ontario, from the points of view presented by the report of the Hong-Kong commission; but it is a subject which for many public and humane, if not for charitable reasons, might be considered worthy of inquiry by them. In so far as the rich Province of Ontario is concerned, we are sure that nobody wants to see men who are capable of rendering good service kept on at low and inadequate salaries. Neither is it desirable that they should be encouraged to importune the heads of departments for reasonable increases from time to time. That practice is not only degrading to the service, but it results often in wrong-doing to officers who have too much spirit to solicit as a favor an increase in salary to which they are entitled on the ground of simple justice. Since the blessed N. P. has been imposed upon the country the cost of living has increased very noticeably, but we are not aware that this circumstance has been taken account of by the Government or Legislature of Ontario in the provision annually made for officers of the civil service. The fear of Opposition criticism ought not to weigh with the Government in dealing with this matter, seeing that the cause which largely justifies an increase is Tory in its origin; the advance in cost of living is a natural sequence of the Tory policy of high tariff.

The reasonable expectations of civil service officers as set forth by the Hong-Kong commissioners must read like irony to at least nine-tenths of the officers of our Ontario civil service. Even for the best paid of them it would be necessary to live in the style of a Guinea Coolie before he could hope to attain a state which those commissioners regard as reasonable. We venture to suggest to Mr. Mowat the example of the Hong-Kong Government as worthy of his imitation. Let him appoint a commission to make a thorough report on the question of official salaries, and then he will be able to deal with the matter as the public interest requires. And while justice is done to members of the civil service the same measure of justice should be dealt out to members of the Government. Why should the treasurer of the Province be expected to give his service for $4,000 a year when managers of building societies are paid $7,000 to $10,000 a year and the manager of a bank $16,000 a year, of which there are instances in the city of Toronto? Or why should the Attorney-General give his valuable service to the Province for $4,500 a year when the city solicitor of Toronto is paid $5,000, and when lawyers not to be named in the same day with the Attorney-General make $10,000 to $15,000 a year?

## MINOR JOTTINGS.

BRITISH modistes say that violet and mauve are undoubtedly the favorite shades for dresses just now. One of the most daring combinations of colors is that of violet with pale blue.

"MY FATHER before me was a Tory," says Sir John, "and a Tory I will die." In this respect, remarks the Globe, the Premier differs from most of his followers, who are anxious to be known as Liberal-Conservatives, with the accent on the Liberal.

A RETIRED plumber gives the Sanitary Engineer a point for the gratuitous relief of householders: "Just before retiring at night pour into the clogged pipe enough liquid soda lye to fill the 'trap' or bent part of the pipe. Be sure that no water runs into it until the next morning. During the night the lye will convert all offal into soft soap, and the first current of water in the morning will wash it away and clear the pipe clean as new."

THOSE theorists who believe the aboriginal inhabitants of this country were probably Asiatic boatmen who were driven by storms far out to sea and finally landed in America, have a fresh bit of evidence to show that their idea is plausible. A chief in one of the Pelew Islands, in the Western Pacific, set out a while ago to visit another island. The distance was short and the party did not think it necessary to provide themselves with food or water. Eighteen days later they were picked up, nearly dead, by an American ship. A storm had blown them out to sea, and they were 200 miles from any land. Two of them died and the others were landed in Japan, a very unexpected termination of the half day's voyage they had in view when they left their island.

AS A commercial venture it apparently does not pay to export American aborigines to England for show purposes, unless they possess accomplishments like those of Buffalo Bill's artists. A while ago a speculator took eight or nine Ona Indians of Terra del Fuego to England, where he proposed to get rich exhibiting them as the "lowest type of human beings." The definition doubtless fitted them very well, but the British public somehow didn't flock to see the natives devour their meat raw and gyrate in a war dance. Finally the speculator fled, and the tourists from Terra del Fuego have brought up in the workhouse at Dover, where they are making no little trouble.

OF THE 211 presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in the United States 51 have announced their votes on the overture with regard to the revison of the Westminster creed. One presbytery voted neither for nor against revision, but puts itself on record as wanting an entirely new creed. This is the Presbytery of Albany, in which there are 66 ministers and 9,755 communicants. There are 35 presbyteries anxious for revision; 15 oppose revision. It is curious that among these 15 professing to be satisfied with the various doctrines of Calvinistic belief, ten are of Pennsylvania. In fact, almost all the Pennsylvania presbyteries so far voting on the overture appear to be in favor of the present creed. The other five presbyteries oppose to a revision are those of Kansas City, Mo., Long Island N. Y., New Brunswick, N. J., Wooster, O., and San Francisco, Cal. The General Assembly will meet in May, and there will be a brief discussion on the subject.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Among the more interesting contents of the Century for March may be mentioned "The Autobiography of Joseph Jefferson," "Gloucester Cathedral," by Mrs. Schuyler Van Rensselaer; "Prehistoric Remains in the Ohio Valley," by Professor Putnam; "From Tokio to Nikko," by John La Farge; "Glasgow: A Municipal Study," by Albert Shaw—a paper that ought to be read by every alderman and all interested in the good government of municipalities; "Some Wayside Places in Palestine," by Edward L. Wilson; "The Sun Dance of the Sioux," by Frederick Schwatka, and Professor George P. Fisher's fourth paper on "The Nature and Method of Revelation." The serials and short stories are good, and among the poetical contributors to the number are the Canadian poet Agnes Maule Machar and Charles G. D. Roberts. Century Company, New York, publishers.

In the Forum for March Senator Henry L. Dawes writes a review of the first year of President Harrison's administration. Prof. A. B. Hart of Harvard considers the progress thus far made by civil service reform. Judge A. W. Tourgee reviews the post-bellum amendments to the constitution as they bear upon the right of suffrage, to determine whether or not the Southern States could, under the law as it now stands disfranchise the negro population if they chose. Gen. Henry L. Abbot of the United States army points out the changes that have been made in the manufacture of firearms since the civil war. Prof. James Willis Gleed, of the University of Kansas, writes about western mortgages. Mr. Fiske writes a protest against dogma in the Protestant Churches. Archdeacon Farrar writes of the good and of the evil done by monasticism; Frederic Harrison the distinguished English critic, makes a comparison between the condition of the French peasantry of to-day and 100 years ago.—[Published at 253 Fifth avenue, New York City.


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