

London Advertiser.

Founded in 1863.
NOON AND EVENING DAILY.
WESTERN ADVERTISER CO.,
THE LONDON ADVERTISER CO.,
Limited, Publishers,
191-193 Dundas Street, London, Ont.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS:
3670—Private Branch Exchange, con-
necting all Departments.
3671—Business Department.
3672—Editorial Department.
3673—Job Printing Department.

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Readers of The Advertiser are re-
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Daily, by mail, outside city.
One year \$6.00
One month 50c
[Entered as matter of the second
class.]

LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 16.

BILINGUAL SCHOOLS AND THE
REMEDIES.

Dr. Merchant holds that the bi-
lingual schools are a necessity, espe-
cially in those parts of the province
where there are almost no English-
speaking pupils in attendance. It may
be possible enough to instruct the
French children from the beginning in
the English language, but the schools
have to be made attractive to the
French. Dr. Merchant states that at
the Imperial Conference on Education
the delegates "were all agreed that the
child on entrance to school should re-
ceive his instruction through the ver-
nacular."

However, there must be great dif-
ference of opinion among experts as to
the length of time that should elapse
before the transition to the English
medium of instruction is completed.
This is a pedagogical question, and as
in other specialties the doctors dis-
agree. While the Merchant report is
not explicit on the point, just allow-
ance being made for varying condi-
tions, a paragraph like the following
is rather unfortunate in giving the
impression that Dr. Merchant might
allow even five years to pass before
the child is instructed regularly
through the English medium:

"The organization which gives, on
the whole, the most satisfactory re-
sults requires the pupil to remain
three years in Form I, and two years
in Form II, during which time Eng-
lish is made gradually to replace
French as the medium of instruc-
tion. This organization, which takes
year to the time commonly taken in
English schools to complete the pub-
lic school course."

Five years is a long time. There are
many intelligent people who think that
no child should take more than five or
six years to cover the whole public
school course. Dr. Merchant seems to
acquiesce in a period of seven or eight
years during which a large proportion
of the children in bilingual schools
would have left school to go to work
without an adequate knowledge of English.

It is very plain that the Government
has not been doing its duty by these
English-French schools. It should
shake itself up and try to make some
tardy amends to the French-Canadians
of Ontario, who have been grow-
ing up imperfectly equipped for life's
work. It should take good counsel on
this crucial matter of the medium of
instruction. Steps must be taken to
make the time of French instruction
everywhere as short as possible; the
Government must not be as easy-going
on this point as Dr. Merchant seems
willing to allow. Not that there is any
desire to extirpate the French lan-
guage—far from it. Two languages
are better than one, a great asset to
anybody. It is a matter of regret that
more Canadians of British descent do
not acquire the beautiful French lan-
guage, or at least a reading knowl-
edge of French. But Dr. Merchant
himself argues vigorously that the
only way to enable the French chil-
dren to speak and write English ade-
quately to their needs is to make Eng-
lish the language of instruction. He
says:

"When English is regarded simply
as one subject among others, as are
French and the other languages in the
schools, the attention given to it is
necessarily inadequate. Moreover,
motive has very much to do with
learning."

"There is a marked difference be-
tween the attitude of the teacher
when he is passively following a lea-
son and when he has a conscious
purpose in his efforts. In the former
language lesson, the pupil is simply
taking part in an exercise, but when
English is being made use of as a
means of communication, he is com-
pelled to be constantly on the alert
to understand what is said and to
express his own ideas in the lan-
guage. Again, skill in the use of a
language comes only through varied
and constant practice. As French is
the language spoken almost exclu-
sively in his home and among his
companions, the school offers the
pupil his only opportunity of gaining
a mastery of English. A good be-
ginning is made through formal lan-
guage lessons in Form I, but the or-
ganic teacher has neither the time
nor the skill to provide in such les-
sons a sufficiently wide range of
practice in the upper grades."

"Doubtless teachers with excep-
tional training and with special gifts
for teaching languages can, by an
extended use of the direct method
of teaching, when time is at their
disposal, lead pupils through the
course in English which will in the
end give them a sufficiently compre-
hensive training in conversation,
composition and reading. This work
is not being done in any of the Eng-
lish-French schools. Teachers with
the requisite qualifications are not
available, nor is it likely, consider-
ing all the conditions that it will
ever be possible to secure them for
this service. But when English is
used as a means of communication
between pupil and teacher and used
as the medium of instruction, op-
portunities are offered naturally for
a very wide and varied use of the
language. Pupils do acquire in this
indirect way in many schools pro-
ficiency in English."

longed instruction by means of French
in the schools of this province. A
young child very quickly learns an-
other language; his wits and senses
are sharp and his faculties flexible. In
the west, Slavonic or Roumanian chil-
dren have to learn from English-
speaking teachers even from the start;
and they learn. But the longer the ex-
clusive use of the English medium is
postponed, even though it be gradually
introduced in the way approved by Dr.
Merchant, the harder it will be for the
children to think in English. Inven-
tives must be furnished by the Govern-
ment to the quick use of English.

If the inspectors are, as Dr. Merchant
hints, unable or unwilling to enforce
the law, there must be changes. Better
facilities in the way of summer train-
ing schools for the teachers, better
text-books, a closer connection of the
English-French schools with the
high school system are all excellent
proposals of Dr. Merchant. But some
system of direct incentive seems also
required of the Government. If the
children in the bilingual schools are to
grow up truly bilingual and good citi-
zens of an English-speaking province.

CANADA THREATENED AGAIN.

The United States House of Repre-
sentatives has aimed another blow at
Canadian independence by voting to
put sugar on the free list.

Our local contemporary says the
sugar industry of Western Ontario will
be "greatly stimulated" if the bill
becomes law. Not only will there be
more work for the factories at Wal-
laceburg and Berlin, but farmers who
grow beets will have a new source of
profit.

Here is another inducement to "Stay
in Ontario"—The Advertiser's slogan.
—But loyal Conservatives will be
sorry to see these sordid considerations
dangled before the eyes of the farm-
ers of the province. Every pound of
sugar exported to the United States
must sap the loyalty of the Canadian
grower. If not, there was no logic in
the anti-reciprocity campaign.

There is another disquieting circum-
stance. The Canadian people had the
reciprocity agreement in their own
hands, but they have no control over
Congress. If these wily Yankees at
Washington wish to knock down the
whole tariff wall on their side of the
boundary they will do it in spite of
the tears and entreaties of Canadians.
The only method of checking this
insidious process of annexation would
be an embargo on Canadian products
which Americans wished to buy. The
sugar bill has not yet passed the
United States Senate, and may not
succeed in running the gauntlet there,
but if it does the crisis will call for
emergency legislation at Ottawa.
Washington may as well be told at
once that Canada will have no truck
or trade with the United States that
can possibly be prevented. The prohi-
bition of the export of Canadian
sugar to the Republic could be made
a starting point in the new national
policy. If an unpatriotic parliament
fails to rise to the occasion, we must
as a last resort, appeal to the sugar
belt growers and manufacturers of
Western Ontario to refuse to sell their
country by selling their commodities to
a designing and insatiable neighbor.

St. Patrick's Day, 1912, finds the last
serpent in Ireland—the serpent of dis-
cord—about to be scotched by home
rule.

Mr. Monk says he is "tired, bolted,
and padlocked" to his portfolio. As
Job said long ago: "Both the wild ass
bray when he hath grass, or loweth
the ox over his fodder?"

Allen Studholme, M. P. P., has been
waiting for his revenge ever since
Premier Whitney went to Hamilton to
speak against him. He got it Thurs-
day night when he spoke four hours.

"Such a man, then, is Bourassa,
brilliant, cool, courageous, attacking
evil wherever he sees it."—London
Free Press, Aug. 20, 1911.

Just now he is attacking Monk, Nan-
tel and Pelletier.

Mr. Bennett, of Calgary, the favor-
ite son of the Conservatives of Alberta,
says the west will soon be boycotting
Eastern Canadian manufacturers. The
west will do no such thing. It will
adopt the constitutional method of
boycotting politicians who refuse to
give it a square deal.

The woolen manufacturers of Law-
rence, Mass., have made concessions,
and the strikers are returning to work
with a rush. The affair has thrown a
fiery light on the most highly-protec-
ted industry in the United States, and
assured the passage of the bill to rad-
ically reduce the woolen duties. The
trouble was making votes for the
Democrats every day.

The editors who accepted Mr.
Rowell's invitation to dine with him
at the parliament buildings must be
amused by the highly-imaginative pic-
tures of that function in some Conser-
vative newspapers. Our local con-
temporary excels itself when it says
Mr. Rowell summoned the editors to
convey to them Sir Wilfrid Laurier's
orders. The secret may as well be
revealed. Mr. Rowell did not convey
Sir Wilfrid's orders, or disclose Sir
Wilfrid's mind on anything. Further-
more, Mr. Rowell conveyed no orders
of his own, and asked no favor except
the enjoyment of his excellent dinner.

of which he was supposed to be the
leader, had not pronounced against
the traffic."

It would have been more temperate
on Mr. Keenleyside's part to give Mr.
Rowell an opportunity to frame his
temperance policy. He has not asked
much time. He has promised to put
himself on record during the present
session of the Legislature, which ends
in a few weeks. The attitude of tem-
perance men like Mr. Keenleyside does
not make it easier for any public man
to serve the temperance cause.

TWO ORANGE WINGS.

[Toronto Star.]
With Grand Master Lovelock, De-
puty Grand Master Fred Dane, and
Associate Grand Master Dr. Williams
all employees of the Whitney Govern-
ment, the Grand Orange Lodge of On-
tario West presents the unfounded
charge of the London Advertiser that
the Orange Lodge is but a wing of the
Conservative party. And it is a reflec-
tion on the order to speak of it as but
a wing, when it is both wings.

HANDING BROTHER HOCKEN ONE

[Hamilton Times.]
Controller Hocken, of Toronto, may
tear a passion into matters, as he did
in London, but he will try in vain to
prevent the people from believing that
he is not doing his utmost to use the
Orange Order as a donkey engine for
the Tory party. Why he should choose
to try to hide that fact is a matter for
wonder, and indicates that he is
ashamed of his conduct.

LONDON'S BRIGHT FUTURE.

[Hamilton Herald.]
J. Grant Henderson, London's new
publicity commissioner, predicts a
great industrial future for London—
and that great future, he says, is not
far away, either. Grant is beginning
right now to earn that \$2,500 a year,
with a prospect of another \$500 next
year.

THE EASTER HAT.

[Grand Rapids Press.]
Oh, Easter hat,
Of their I sing,
Thou art a most deceiving thing.
A 10-cent frame,
Five yards of lace
A rooster's tail,
In for the most place.
The total cost
Is ninety cents;
That is to say,
The first expense.
They place it in
The window and
The women say
It's "simply grand."
The price they charge,
Sad to relate,
We've got to pay—
\$1.25.

BOY'S PRESENCE OF MIND.

[London Daily News.]
Gordon Cook, the 6-year-old son of
Mr. T. W. Cook, head gardener at
Sandringham, to the King and Queen
Alexandra, has been presented with a
handsome gold watch for a particularly
smart deed. The boy was asleep a few
evenings ago when an alarm of fire
was raised in his father's house, which
is one of the most picturesque resi-
dences on the Royal estate. The little
fellow immediately jumped out of bed,
ran to the telephone and called for
assistance. Help was forthcoming and
the fire was quickly extinguished.

TRUST THE PEOPLE.

[Augustine Birrell, M.P.]
The majority of the nation are more
likely to come to a rational conclusion
upon anything put before them than
any aristocracy, bureaucracy, pluto-
cracy or procracy.

THE PUDDLER.

[Puck.]
I've walked the tropics' burning sands,
Aye, faith, and called it hot!
I've done my share of the foundry floor
And share the stoker's lot.
I've drawn the white-hot charge of coke
From gas-plant oven grates;
Great ingots white, in blinding light,
I've beat to armor-plates.
But now I know what heat is like—
It's very look and feel,
I tend the white-hot crucible
Where boils the liquid steel.

The belching gas-flames roar and shriek,
The heat is fierce and hot,
In dazzling light the heat-waves blight
And sear and sear and blast.
In stifling, seething, burning air
We're eyed puddlers toll
And dripping wet with scalding sweat,
We watch the metals boil.

With faces scorched and seared with
burns
'Tis thus we earn our wage;
Each gas-filled breath's a fight with
death
Where mighty heat-storms rage.

What though men toll and grill and broil,
Where death has set its seal;
Though poor souls fry and brave men die,
Mankind must have its steel!

HAS NO BANK ACCOUNT.

[Chicago Record-Herald.]
The world owes every man a living,
but it doesn't send out checks.

MR. BENNETT'S DISCRETION.

[Montreal Herald.]
Mr. Bennett says that the manufac-
turers of Canada are exacting from
the consumer of Western Canada the
last cent that the tariff will allow
them—that their price exactly equals
the price plus duty for goods pur-
chased in the States. Absurd, Mr. Bennett; you are a member
of a protectionist party, and know per-
fectly well that it is the foreigner who
pays the duty.

SCOTLAND.

[Burns.]
I mind it weel, in early date,
When I was beardless, young and
late
And first could thresh the barn;
Or haul a yokin' at the plow;
An' though forfoughten fear enough,
Yet unco proud to learn!

Even then, a wish (I mind its power),
A wish that to my latest hour
I should heave my breast—
That I for poor old Scotland's sake,
Some useful plan or job could make,
Or sing a sang at least.

The rough burr-thistle spreading wide
Among the bearded bear,
I turned the weedin'-hook aside,
An' spared the symbol dear.

should not be cavilled at because he
drops \$1,500 a year to accept \$2,500,
with a prospect of more next year.
Moreover, his department is carried
on here with an appropriation of \$3-
000, while he tells us London is about
to put \$100,000 into it. Perhaps it will
pay it to do so. If Mr. Henderson, en-
listing in London's service, should yield
Hamilton, and uproot and carry off a
score or so of our important indus-
tries by his persuasive eloquence, per-
haps the mayor and controllers might
repent too late that by their close
pervision of the expenditures of the
publicity man's department they turned
our growing manufacturing distric-
tack back to primal unproductiveness.
\$2,500,000 for London's industrial
commissioner's spending? Is it enough,
Mayor Lees?

FATE.

[Omaha Khayyam.]
The Moving Finger writes; and, hav-
ing writ,
Moves on: nor all your Piety nor Wit
Shall lure it back to cancel half a
Line.
Nor all your Tears wash out a Word
of it.

A Few Lines of
Most Anything

OUR PRECISE ARTIST.

THESE OLD TIES OF
JOHN'S WILL MAKE A FINE
CRAZY QUILT

"Good folks are scarce; take care of
me," is the plea of Ontario editor.

A Ministerial Misfit.

How sadly sag the vestments of Sir
The trowsers' tops are rolled 'way up.
Upon the form of Borden—a king for
just a day—
The shoulders droop forlornly; there's
a fullness in the back,
The trousers' tops are rolled 'way up,
but there's still a lot of slack.

How sadly fit the shoes that graced the
feet of Laurier.

Upon the feet of Borden—he has
stuffed them with wadding—
The toes are long by inches, and the
heels cause many a frown;
The soles are curling up for lack of
weight to hold them down.

How sadly sits the hat that crowned
the brow of Laurier.

Upon the dome of Borden, where it has
a time to stay,
Though the clothes and hat are roomy,
the hat is sizes small,
And in fact it needs a chin-strap to
keep company with his poll.

Joke.

"Why do you call Smith's place a
basement garage?"
"Because it's always a case of three
out all out."

Consider the Poor Editor.

His life was long;
His coat was poor,
And as he came in through the door,
I knew he was not very strong.

Yet in his hand I read a sign.

And in his face he held a roll;
I bolted, for I knew the scroll
Was "Poem to Spring, by Penn A.
Line."

Miss the Anvil's Song.

[Simcoe Reformer.]
Boston is without a blacksmith. This
is a good stand, and we hope soon to
see one here.—Boston Correspondence.

Some Good Guess.

[Simcoe Reformer.]
At present we believe we will have
a backward spring.—Kelvin Corre-
spondence.

Cut Out the Bumps.

[Goderich Signal.]
We venture to say that to a
stranger after dark the road through
our village is as dangerous a bit of
travelling as any stretch of Antarctic
travel encountered by Capt. Amundsen
on his recent expedition to the
South Pole.—Dungannon Correspondence.

He Was a Leap Year Baby.

[Goderich Signal.]
D. Sprout, of Belgrave, who is sev-
enty-six years old, on the 29th of
February, celebrated his eighteenth
birthday. The neighbors gathered at
his place and presented him with a
gold-headed cane.

Reflections.

[Watford Guide-Advocate.]
A Wingham woman had her arms
badly burned while emptying ashes the
other day. She will let the old man do
the chores in future.

Great Minds, Etc.

[Wheatley Journal.]
Moving seems to be the order of the
day.—Lakeshore correspondence. Moving
seems to be the order of the day.—
Maple Grove Correspondence.

Where They Merely Hesitate.

[Tarn Leader.]
They don't give passengers proper
time to either get on board the train
or get off.—Dobbin's Correspondence.

An Editor's Sacrifice.

[Wallaceburg Herald-Record.]
24 volumes of the best literature,
costing \$45.00, recently bought for
\$25.00! Apply at this office.

Some Adjectives.

[Charlotte, Ky., Chronicle.]
The average and elegant home of that
crown prince and hostess, the
hearted and noble-souled Ab. Weaver,
was a radiant scene of enchanting
loveliness, for Cupid had brought one
of his finest offerings to the court of
Hymen, for the lovely Miss Maude,
the beautiful daughter of Mr. Weaver,
and his refined and most excellent wife,
who is a lady of rarest charms and
sweetest graces, dedicated her life
ministry in Dr. James E. Hobgood,
the brilliant and gifted and talented son
of that ripe scholar and renowned edu-
cator, the learned Prof. Hobgood, the
very able and successful president of
the Oxford Female College.

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utes from postoffice. Queen's avenue,
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mick Manufacturing Company. 49c

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mick Manufacturing Company. 50c

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avenue, modern and unfurnished; all
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Very reasonable to right party. Owner
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ABLE brick house on the Pipe Line
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2 acres of raspberries. Street car
pass the property. Suitable for market
garden. Apply Bayly & Bayly, barrie-
rie, London. 49c-ty

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place, ten miles from London, 12 acres
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Strathroy. 59c-xt

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