

## London Advertiser.

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 Managing Director and Editor, John Cameron  
 London, Tuesday, Oct. 25, 1898.

## England and France.

In Canada, especially, the relations of these two countries should be discussed with care, because we have as co-partners in this great Dominion a large French-speaking population, who naturally have great sympathy with their "old motherland." We believe that there is among all parties and nationalities a spirit of loyalty to Canada, and to the great empire of which it forms an important part; but while the French-Canadian will cheerfully acknowledge that he owes his liberties to Britain, his sentiment is French, and the history and literature of old France have a special charm for him. With regard to international affairs, some of the French-Canadian journals complain that the English journals are narrow and prejudiced in their pro-English attitude, while we regret that some of those who thus complain are justly amenable to a similar charge. These are facts in the life of our country, and shutting our eyes to them will not abolish them nor lessen their importance. Perhaps, on both sides there is room for improvement in the way of taking a wider view of things, and of manifesting more mutual confidence and consideration.

As to the larger matter of the relation of England and France at the present time, we must confess that it is in an unfortunate condition. We trust and expect that the Fashoda incident will pass over without actual appeal to arms. We must expect that, unless we are completely losing faith both in common sense, and diplomatic skill. In the old days of slow communication, the British commander would probably have settled it on the spot. That, of course, might have provoked retaliation of some kind. However, the matter was referred to the respective governments, and the abundance of newspaper comments on both sides, combined with the restless condition of France, have tended to produce a feverish condition, which may be considered unworthy of two great peoples. The interests that are at stake are great. War would be a great misfortune for Britain, and perhaps a greater one for France; so that it seems impossible that a terrible conflict can arise over such a matter; but in the end, great conflicts are often brought about by apparently small things. But we believe that for a variety of reasons such conflict would be a great folly on the part of France. It would mean that she has gone out of her way to provoke a conflict with a great power that desires to be friendly. The French people, as a whole, care nothing about Fashoda, while the English people are united in the feeling that the work they have undertaken in Africa must be carried through. Fashoda is a long way from the French territory in Africa, but it is on the British line of march. It may be a mistake on the part of the British people, but they are beginning to take the cry, "From Cairo to the Cape," seriously. There may be a certain amount of jingoism and vainglory about that, for no human movement is free from such imperfections. But we believe that this means the final freedom of Africa from the curse of the slave trade, and the opening of her great trade routes to the commerce of the world.

This may be for the glory of Britain, but we believe that it is also for the good of the world. Of course, we can understand that a Frenchman does not so easily accept this view. The two peoples have fought great battles in the history of the world, such as we trust will never need to be repeated. Englishmen and Frenchmen have faced each other as foes in all parts of the world, and the jingoism of both nations persistently keep up the idea that they are natural enemies. The fact that they fought side by side against Russia in the Crimea is one that, of course, Frenchmen now desire to forget. France not being able after the war with Germany to bear her share of "splendid isolation" (for was it not splendid when, after such dire defeat, she showed such great recuperative power?)—sought an alliance with Russia, and has been playing that country's game. If the French desire to serve Russia by irritating Britain, they have abundant opportunity. They have retained just sufficient rights in Newfoundland to create a perpetual sore. They have a great grievance in Egypt; though when Britain took hold there, they declined all responsibility. Their treatment of English missionaries in Madagascar has repaid in a peculiar manner England's "graceful concessions." In other parts of Africa, as well as in Asia, there are points of contact between the two peoples which may cause complication. Diplomacy in such a case is always strained, and so far it has done well, and it will be a great pity if the peace which has been kept for the greater part of a century is broken now. This would cause the deepest pain and disappointment to English speakers, as well as Frenchmen, in this great Dominion. But the fact is that the British people believe that they have made all possible concession for the sake of peace, and that the French are at present seeking needlessly to dog their steps, and cause them trouble. Hence this Fashoda incident, small as it appeared to be, may become a matter of the highest importance. The

French Minister declared that there was no Marchand mission, but in deference to popular feeling he hesitates to carry out that statement. It is stated on good authority that the Frenchman, who deserves credit for his skill and courage, would have been swept away by dervishes if it had not been for the action of the Anglo-Egyptian army. However that may be, we contend that, if the positions were reversed, the French would not tolerate an English adventurer planting the flag of his country directly in their line of march. Canadians have every reason to pray and hope for peace, but they would be the last to expect Britain to be cowardly and disloyal to her great trust.

## The Flag Flies.

History is being made rapidly. Yesterday the last Spanish soldier left Porto Rico. Yesterday the flag of Spain was replaced on the beautiful island by the Stars and Stripes. Within five years the transformation will be as if by miracle. Railways, sanitation, security, development, the impulse of modern progress—all these will burst forth in their beginnings like blossoms in the time of early summer. Exit, the stagnation of Spanish colonial dominion. Enter, another domain of the world under Anglo-Saxon influence.

## The flag flies.

Canada's Steady Progress. Less than a month ago, the spectacle was presented of the leader of the Conservatives in Quebec engaged in the denunciation of the Dominion Government, because, according to him, the exports of farm products from the Dominion had fallen off. "Why," he exclaimed, "does not the Government of Canada prevent this falling off?" The Opposition press followed his example, and there was a perfect chorus of newspaper bewailings at the impotency of the Administration. Now, it appears that the Jeremiah has opened out too early. There is no falling off. There is a substantial increase in the shipments of the staple products.

Professor Robertson affirms that it will be a record year. There will, he says, be between seven and eight million dollars worth of Canadian bacon exported, when the season ends, as compared with five million dollars worth last year. Then we learn that the shipments of butter from Canada's chief shipping port now number over 206,000 packages, or 12,000 more than at this time last year. Perhaps the ungenerous critics of the Minister of Agriculture will now wish that they had been discreet enough to hold their peace until the season had been further advanced. Then they might have seen it to be the part of prudent men to keep silence in the face of the magnificent results, or to confess that the agricultural interests of this country are prospering under the oversight of Hon. Mr. Fisher to a degree never before experienced in the history of this country.

## A Suggestion.

Sydney Low, in the Nineteenth Century for this month, says that if the Russian Czar can induce the peace conference, to which he has asked the powers to send delegates, to pledge their governments to an arrangement whereby any individual proposing a new machine or device for warlike purposes shall be immediately taken out and hanged, his majesty will confer great benefits on every country in the world. This is a new idea. Most of us have hitherto been under the impression that the inventors of these death-dealing machines were really unwitting agents of the Peace Society. It has been the generally accepted view that the more destructive the weapons of warfare, the less likely are nations to go to war until all other means of settling international disputes are exhausted. Really, the behavior of the great nations of Europe has forced this conclusion upon us.

## Defending Ontario's Rights.

Premier Hardy has made public his reply to the American Secretary of State, who protested against Ontario's timber legislation. Mr. Hardy comes out firmly in defense of Ontario's rights. He points out that under the statute all regulations made from time to time by the Government are binding and effective upon timber licenses. Mr. Hardy affirms that the question is one for Ontario alone. The disallowance of the Provincial Government's act would be an unconstitutional exercise of the power of the Governor-General in council and an unwarrantable interference with a matter of purely provincial concern. Mr. Hardy makes a shrewd and telling retort when he says that the State of Michigan, having adopted its own timber, now seeks supplies in Ontario to keep its sawmills running, while the tariff legislation of the United States practically prohibits the exportation from Canada of a large portion of the lumber manufactured in Canadian mills, thus inflicting heavy losses on the saw-milling industry of the province.

Again, logs out in Maine, but rafted and sawn in New Brunswick, cannot be sawn by Canadian workmen, under the penalty of a duty of \$2 per 1,000 feet, if again sent into the United States.

No provision is here made for the protection of Canadians who had erected mills in Canada, and provided men, plant and machinery at great cost for the purpose of sawing these logs in Canada, as had been the practice before the adoption of the new feature of the tariff act of the United States. Yet no one can allege that Congress was not within its strict rights in enacting these clauses of its tariff laws, however hardly they may operate upon those who are adversely affected by them.

Mr. Hardy's position is unassailable, and he is supported by the people of Ontario, irrespective of party.

There is one hopeful thing about the movement for municipal reform in London: everybody admits there is room for it.

France has issued a yellow book on the Fashoda affair, but it is not as yellow as some Paris journalism on the same subject.

The French ministry is engaged in the delicate task of trying to let go of Fashoda without letting go of office. The feat seems impossible.

Things have come to a pretty pass when an alderman can discharge a faithful city employee because the employee happens to have a dispute with the alderman's friends.

Mr. T. D. Hodgins, M.P.P., boasts that there are Conservatives in the Legislature so clever that they can talk by the hour. That is no accomplishment. A very ordinary man can talk an hour on one topic by ram-ifying it sufficiently.

The report that Russia is jealous of the Kaiser's designs in Asia Minor is fairly cheerful news. The jealousies of the whole world in late years have been directed so entirely against Great Britain that it is comforting to know someone else is getting a share.

The appointment of Major A. M. Smith to the command of the Seventh Battalion will meet with cordial approval. He will be popular with the officers and the rank and file. Now that citizens of both parties are coming together in support of the battalion, the future of the Seventh is bright, and we may look for a speedy return of the old esprit de corps.

New Zealand, which has just adopted an old age pension scheme, is the most radical country on earth. It has had woman suffrage for years, and is governed largely on socialistic lines, including public ownership of railways and a tax on land values designed to prevent large holdings of real estate. It is a most progressive and prosperous colony.

The late Harold Frederic, the journalist and novelist, left school when 14 years of age to enter his vocation. The fact that in the midst of newspaper work he acquired so high a degree of literary culture and so excellent a literary style is proof of his remarkable industry as well as his talent. His example is encouraging to hard-working newspaper men who began, as he did, without the advantage of an academic training.

La Minerve, the Conservative French-Canadian paper, calls Premier Laurier an Anglo-Maniac, because he predicted the universality of the English language. Some Conservative papers in this province contemptuously dub him a Frenchman. While his opponents thus give each other the lie, and attempt to play race against race, Sir Wilfrid stands secure on the broad platform of Canadian nationality.

Speaking of an Anglo-American alliance, the proposed reduction of letter postage between this country and Great Britain from 5 to 2 cents would expedite things in that direction.—Boston Herald.

Here is a leading American newspaper advocating 2-cent postage as a bond of union between the United States and Great Britain, while Canadian newspapers, which used to prate of their loyalty, sneer at imperial penny postage as a fad.

The Hamilton City Council is considering the municipal electric lighting question. An expert electrician and engineer, who has been engaged to make estimates, reports that under civic control the cost of lighting can be reduced to 14.93 cents per lamp per night. This, he says, allows for interest on investment and depreciation of value in the plant. Hamilton at present pays 25 cents per lamp per night. The London City Council recently awarded a ten years' contract at the rate of 23 cents per light per night.

John Morley has been chosen as Gladstone's biographer. Mr. Morley, who excels in biographical work, will probably aim to make this his crowning achievement. It will be a heavy task, but with Mr. Morley it should be a labor of love. He had the profoundest admiration for Gladstone. He enjoyed the great man's confidence and even his affection. Their political sympathies were identical—in fact, Morley is credited with Gladstone's conversion to home rule. Despite what has been said of Mr. Morley's religious skepticism, we think he will be able to appreciate the spirituality of Gladstone's character—its rarest essence.

## Sympathy, but No Help.

[Ottawa Free Press.] "The muddle at the city hall is getting worse," says The London Advertiser. Sympathy, but no help. We are in much the same box in Ottawa.



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## WHAT OTHERS SAY.

## A Two-Edged Sword.

[Toronto Telegram.] When Michigan villages are depopulated and Michigan sawmills are idle, because there is no further supply of pine logs from Canada, the electorate of that state will have a chance to realize that extreme protection is a two-edged sword.

## An Apt Reply.

[St. Thomas Times.] At a county board examination of teachers for the county of Middlesex many years ago, one of the questions asked was: "When did the reformation take place?" One lady teacher answered: "It is still going on." The late Bishop Cronyn, who was chairman of the board, smiled at the answer, but, no doubt, in view of its manifest correctness, did not challenge it.

## Longevity in Kent.

[Chatham Planet.] The Advertiser appears to imagine old people are scarce. They may be around London, but in this great and healthy section old people between 90 and 110 are to be found on almost every concession. In fact, anyone who dies on the under side of 90, is considered off in his prime, as the case may be, and the whole community mourns at the loss of a neighbor, who was considered to be just entering on a vigorous old age. Just to show the world how many hale and hearty people of mature years Kent can produce, we wish our friends would send in for publication sketches of any old residents in each locality, giving name, age, place of birth, length of residence in this vicinity, and any other particulars.

## More Permissive Power for Municipal Reform.

[Ottawa Free Press.] The city of London, Ont., is proposing to ask for legislation which will empower the city of London to elect aldermen by general vote, as are the mayor, water commissioners and hospital trustees, and to limit the representation to one alderman for every 4,000 of the population. The Advertiser says it can be "obtained for the asking." Although it will be too late to be operative in the coming year, it will be available a year later, and the new arrangement can be duly prepared for. It would not be amiss to have a general act of a persuasive character were framed and passed at the next session. During the past four or five years there have been a number of acts passed bearing on municipal matters all more or less in the direction of reform which might profitably be consolidated, and so amended and added to as to extend their operation and afford greater permissive powers to cities in the matter of accomplishing such changes in administration as may be deemed advisable. The limitation of a number of useful reforms to cities of 100,000 people is very absurd.

## LIGHT AND SHADE.

## A Potentate.

"The time is past," said Mrs. Mockton oratorically, "when man can assume to lord it over his family like an Asiatic potentate." Henrietta," said her husband, gently, "might I ask you whether, when you allude to an Asiatic potentate, you have in mind the Emperor of China?"—Washington Star.

## Two Little Girls.

"My father's a general. What does your father do?" "Whatever mother tells him."

## What Bismarck Said.

"Nobody loves me," said Bismarck during his illness. "For what I have done. I have never made anybody happy—not myself, nor my family, nor anybody else. But how many have I made unhappy! But for me three great wars would not have been fought, eighty thousand men would not have perished. Parents, brothers, sisters and widows would not be bereaved and plunged into mourning. . . . I have had little or no joy from all my achievements; nothing but vexation, care and trouble."—Boston Transcript.

"Jest Do Your Best," Says Riley. The signs are bad when folks commence.

A-findin' fault with Providence, And bakin' cause the earth don't shake. At every prancin' step they take, No man is great till he can see How less than little he would be If stripped to self, and stark and bare He hung his sign out anywhere.

My doctrine is to lay aside Contentions, and be satisfied; Jest do yer best, and praise or blame That follows that counts jest the same. I've allus noticed great success Is mixed with troubles, more or less, And it's the man who does the best That gets more kicks than all the rest. —James Whitcomb Riley.

## The Plague of Custom.

Von Schubel—I just wish to leave these few short stories with the editor. What is customary? I've never done any work for the paper before. "Office Boy-Well, it's the general custom to leave 'em, an' then come back in a day or two—an' get 'em."—Puck.

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Colored Velveteens—A special line of colors, worth 40c. Special for 25c.  
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 35 pieces of Black and Colored All-Wool Serges, 42-inches wide. Worth 40c. Special at 29c.  
 Blouse Silks, in Plains, Broche and Beadwork Stripes. All new colors. Pure silks. Special at 50c.  
 200 yards All-wool Poplins, heavy weight. Regular value, 75c. Special at 50c.  
 44-inch All-wool Dress Plaids, extra heavy, for skirts and dresses, with over-check of black in green, brown, blue and cardinal. Regular value, 90c. Special at 65c.  
 44-inch Silk and Wool Checks, new, bright colors, for dresses and odd waists. Very pretty goods. Special, at 75c.  
 44-inch Fancy Dress Goods, in new blue, green and red, with black figures. Regular value, \$1. Special at 75c.  
 Special purchase of Fancy Silk-Figured Dress Goods, also plain Whipcords, Courts and Irish Poplins. Regular value, \$1.25. Very choice. Only 75c.

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 TABLE No. 2—Dress Goods—60 pieces—plain and fancy. Price, 60c to \$1. Your choice for 50c.

54-inch All-wool Ladies' Cloth, special weight for jackets and skirts, in blue, green, brown, black and cardinal. Regular value, \$1.25. Special at \$1.

54-inch Ladies' Cloth, all-wool, thoroughly shrunk, and will not spot; in all the new shades of blue, green and brown. Regular value, \$1.50. Special at \$1.25.

56-inch Ladies' Brown Suiting, extra finish, for Jackets and Skirts, in new blue and greens, an elegant cloth. Special, \$1.75.

58-inch Satin-finish Beaver Suiting, in green and the national blue. Extra special at \$2.50.

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