

London Advertiser

Published by
THE LONDON ADVERTISER CO.
London, Ont.

MORNING EDITION
3670 TELEPHONE 3670

Private Branch Exchange,
From 10:00 a.m. to 9 a.m., and
on holidays, call 3670. Business
Department, call 3671. Editors, 3672.
Reporters, 3673. Composing Room,
3674. Circulation Department, 3675.

ADVERTISING BRANCH
OFFICES
Toronto Office—P. W. Thompson,
300 King Street West, Room
204. U.S. Representative—New York
Charles H. Eddy Company, Fifth
Avenue Building, Chicago; Charles
H. Eddy Company, People's Gas
Building, Boston; Charles H. Eddy
Company, Old South Building.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
City—Delivered.
10 cents per week, \$2.50 for six
months, \$7.50 for one year.

By Mail—Outside City.
\$2.00 per year, \$2.75 for six months,
or 10 cents per month for short
term subscriptions.
To the United States, \$3.00 per
year, \$4.00 for six months, or 50
cents a month.
Foreign subscriptions, \$12.50 per
year.

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ADVERTISERS, NOTE.
Circulation audited by A. B. C.
Report furnished advertisers on
request.

London, Ont., Thursday, Feb. 17, 1921.

THE NEW CITY HALL.

This is a live question. It is to
be left to the vote of the people.
The questions apparently to be
submitted are:

1. Do you favor an office build-
ing on the site of the Nitschke
Block, now used as the city hall?

2. Do you favor a new city hall
across the street on the site for-
merly occupied by the McCormick
factory?

3. Do you favor delay?

There are many who favor the
court house square, and probably
many more favor acquiring the
custom house and converting it into
a city hall.

The first question, the existing
city hall, contemplates tearing that
building down. It is a valuable
building and would result for a con-
siderable sum.

The second question, across the
street, has already torn down a
very valuable building, the McCor-
mick factory. It is said to be more
expensive than the present site.

The third question, delay, is the
least expensive.

The taxes are very high and the
new high schools needed will not
lessen them.

Do the questions submitted meet
the situation? Should the custom
house not be seriously considered?
It would make the best civic centre.
St. Paul's Cathedral and the square
are beautiful. The custom house
itself can be obtained for far less
than its value, and is a first-class
civic building. It could easily be
converted into a first-class city
hall. Then the buildings surround-
ing it, the Cathedral and rectory,
the Grand Opera House, the new
hotel, the Bank of Montreal, the
Huron and Erie, the London Club,
and on the west side of Richmond
street the new postoffice and custom
house, designed to be the finest
public building west of Toronto, and
kept back from the street fifteen or
twenty feet. It will be a building
of which London may be justly
proud. It will be of classic design.
It is said the Government must
delay for some time on account of
the cost of building. If the Gov-
ernment must delay, should not the
city also? If the Government knew
it could sell the old building it might
cause them to build sooner. What-
ever the old building sold for would
reduce by that amount the cost of
the new.

The taxes should be seriously
considered. They are too high now.
The present site may be less ex-
pensive than across the street, the
McCormick site. The custom house
is preferable to either from every
standpoint. It is far less cost. It
is quite central, one block north of
the corner of Richmond and Dundas
streets, the business centre. It is
on St. Paul's Square and will be
across the road from the new post-
office and custom house.

Many thousands of dollars can be
saved by adopting the custom
house site. The sale of the Nitschke
Block might bring as much as the
custom house would cost.

PROVINCIAL EXPENDITURES

Critics within and without the
Legislature charge the Drury Gov-
ernment with extravagance. Stress
is laid on the expenditure of close
to a million dollars for carrying on
the various provincial asylums and
similar institutions. But surely the
province cannot afford to have the
care of the unfortunate inmates
anything but the best.

For hydro enterprises the treas-
urer's statement shows an increase
of five and a half million dollars.
Those who score the Drury admin-
istration for this item are conven-

ently overlooking the fact that this
expenditure is necessary to carry on
work started by the Hearst Govern-
ment. It is curious to see members
wailing over these figures when
they are, or were, willing to have
the province go bond for stupendous
sums for hydro radicals on the mere
say-so of one man.

The truth is that the Drury Gov-
ernment could not escape running
up a big bill. Soaring prices made
it inevitable. Unless the Govern-
ment refused to carry out large and
vital undertakings necessary to
progress the farmer government
was bound to shoulder a heavy
advance in expenses.

THE BANK BOYS' RECORD.

Two hundred and fifty boys of the
staff of the Canadian Bank of Com-
merce gave their lives in the great
war, out of 1,701 who enlisted. The
boys of the bank did their part, and
it is praiseworthy on the part of
the bank itself that an extensive
volume of "Letters from the Front"
has been published by it.

Sir John Alder, in the introduction,
says "it was a heartfelt desire to
be at one with the motherland in
sacrifice and in the service of
right."

Pamphlets were at first issued,
and these grew and multiplied until
the idea of the book took form in
the mind of the staff inspector of
the bank, Mr. Charles Lyons Foster.

The result is a volume containing
letters from the front and many
portraits of fine looking boys who
gave their lives for the world cause.
The portraits remind one of those
appearing in the London Illustrated
News.

Some regiments have published
histories and the idea is a good one.
We would like to see the deeds of
our own boys in permanent book
form. The publication by the Bank
of Commerce will be welcome in
many homes. It is essentially a
home book. The war is over. Those
who came back are settling down
again. They will often, by the fire-
side, turn over the pages of the
book, look at the faces of their dead
heroes, read the letters and in their
minds see the fields in which they
did what they could to preserve in
the world all worth living for or
dying for.

It may be necessary still to keep
their swords. Dr. John McCrae
wrote: "If ye have righted all the
wrongs of earth, lay by the sword,
its work and ours is done."

EVERYTHING

ORIGIN OF THE STIFF COLLAR.
[The Manchester Guardian.]

The stiff white collar has many
softer, rival novadists, and the fact
that its weekly cleansing is in the
future likely to cost more rather than
less suggests that it may disappear
altogether. The reflection prompts the
question: When did that same stiff
collar first come into existence as a
separate garment? It was about 1825,
and the invention was due to the wife
of a blacksmith in the American town
of Troy, which, oddly enough, is the
biggest collar factory in the world at
the present moment. The worthy
woman—Hannah Lord Montgomery, as
a tablet to her memory on the wall of
her house informs the traveller—was
busy washing her husband's shirt,
and forthwith she started making the
separation required. The idea caught on
with her neighbors, and she began to
sell her collars. Then one Ebenezer
Down, a retired Methodist preacher,
who kept a small shop in Troy, scented
money in the manufacture and made
selection of these separate collars—
"stiff collars" he called them—in his
downs. The sale and demand grew
from the first, and several collar
making companies were operating be-
fore 1840.

THE MIRROR.
[Clinton Scott.]

I brave the shrewd sting of the wind;
The snowy paths are undefined.
Below a crest there lies a pool,
Its ice unfurled and beautiful.

Gazing upon it do I see
The writhing bough, the twisted tree;
Nay, but the budding leaves that shine
Upon the coils of climbing vine.

I read fair omens; I decree
Fort and vernal prophecy
O strange and most miraculous thing!
This is the mirror of the spring.

AMERICA NOT FOOLED.
[New York Times.]

Lincoln's birthday seems to have been
seized upon by various foreigners as a
fit occasion for acting as if they thought
that the "plain people" of the United
States are mostly gullible fools. A very
explosion of propaganda, and dread of it,
marked the day. A scheme is afoot to
hold meetings to denounce the use of
black troops on the Rhine in the occu-
pied territory. Secretary Coby has had
to explain to Congress, what was other-
wise well known, that there are no black
troops there. But Premier Briand's
newspaper in Paris catches up the in-
cident and expresses apprehension lest
the American people be misled into anti-
French prejudices. The British, too, ap-
pear to be a good deal disturbed by the
German propaganda in this country.

Our good friends abroad need have
no fear. The honest sagacity of the
people, in which Lincoln trusted and
gloried, is not going to fall them now.
They see through all the little tricks
of van Mach and Viereck, and laugh
at them. A certain number of pro-
German are crawling out of the holes
into which they were drove them, in order
to show that their scent for trouble
is still keen, but they really signify rather
less than German propaganda hopes.
The true American stands unshaken.
It has not forgotten the emotions and
the international friendships born of the
war. It ruefully admits that a year of
politics appeared to cast a shadow upon
the new relationship brought in the
common battle, but that incident is now
nearly closed. When the opportunity
rightly presents itself, the American
people will show to Europe
what their abiding sentiments are.
Waiting that happy day, they can only
beg the French and English not to
believe that Americans are helpless
victims of foreign propaganda, taken in
like so many children by fairy-tales
made in Germany.

OTHERS' VIEWS

AS OLD AS THEY FEEL.
[London Daily Mail.]

The secret of success at every age is
to work on and keep the passion
fresh, and there are abundant exam-
ples of those who by doing this have
placed themselves in advancing years
among the immortals. Mr. Hardy, for
example, disappointed with the criti-
cisms on his novel, turned to writing
his great poem, "The Dynasties," the
first part of which he published at 63.
Handel was broken down in health and
bankrupt at 58, when he began to com-
pose the music which has made his fame.
M. Clemenceau was 78 when, by his
firmness in meeting the German offen-
sive of 1915, he saved his country and
Europe.

OUT FOR GOOD.
[Brantford Expositor.]

It is a case of "Betty and I are out"
between Mr. MacBride and the provin-
cial executive of the I. L. P. What is
more it seems as if it might be a long
time before they will kiss and make
up.

EDISON ON ADVICE.
[Toronto Mail and Empire.]

Asked on his 74th birthday to give
advice to young men starting in the
world of business, Thomas Edison re-
plied on the ground that the request
was foolish. He has learned by this
time that the number of people who
take advice is insignificant, and that
the majority of this remnant take
wrong advice.

MORTAL STROKE TO MEIGHEN
GOVERNMENT.
[Vancouver Sun.]

Hon. Arthur Meighen brought the ad-
ministration to West Peterboro for in-
strument and support, and he has
been a mortal stroke to that ad-
ministration; a death wound from which
there is no possibility of recovery.

Ontario was supposed to be the one
province to most certainly give Mr.
Meighen's arguments for class govern-
ment and special privilege a cordial
reception.

All the forces of the Government,
all the forces of political influence and
political patronage, were brought into
the constituency. Liberal principles
were misrepresented and abused by
Mr. Meighen and his lieutenants.

No election of modern times has seen
such tremendous pressure brought to
bear for the securing of a Government
victory.

Mr. Meighen knew that for him it
was success or political death; there
was no half way station, and he con-
ducted the battle in the spirit of bitter-
ness and controversy.

The electors of West Peterboro, by
their verdict, have declared that Mr.
Meighen does not possess the confi-
dence of Canada; that his Government
is a usurpation and that the days of
the usurpation are numbered.

As these electors have spoken, so
will all Canada speak when an election
can no longer be deferred, and when
those who now cling to office like
leopards to a rock, and shrink from a
general election as from sudden death,
are finally brought to the bar of public
opinion in a general election by forces
over which they have no control.

Canada's greatest need is the restora-
tion of public confidence in the
Federal Government, and in Canadian
business institutions and methods.

By means of a general election, and
by this means alone, can PUBLIC
CONFIDENCE be restored. General
elections and business uncertainty will
prevail until the nation has elected a
parliament of its own selection.

THE GROWING FEMALE FOOT.
[Toronto Star.]

They say that the female foot grows
larger. Very likely. The female of the
species is starting to use her feet as
up to till comparatively recent time she
wore very little. She sat at a lot, and
climbed a lot, and Mother Nature de-
signed to make her feet smaller and smaller.
Now that she's going into business and
athletics and all that sort of thing,
there's no reason why Sister Susie
shouldn't eventually hope to have feet
as large and as well developed as feet
as most men have, and she'll need them
as the years pass if she's going to stand
up for herself in the battle of life in an
age when chivalry shall be a forgotten
art.

THE LOAF SUPERSTITION.
[London Mail.]

Is it possible to find the bodies of
drowned persons with the aid of a loaf
of bread containing mercury?
A Manchester scientist, referring to
a case at Wheelock, Sandwich, Che-
shire, where a body was stated to be
recovered by this means, said the
idea was ridiculous.

He is not supported by Dr. H. Bush-
ell Gore, medical superintendent of the
Louth Steamship Company, Ltd., Liver-
pool, who in a letter to the Daily Mail
points out that a loaf weighed to pre-
vent it from being too much under the
influence of the wind will stop when
the current of a brook falls to continue
its course, and goes round and round
as though in a whirlpool. Obviously
this is also the spot where the body
will lie. Dr. Gore adds that the ex-
periment could not be successful in a
lake or deep river.

This theory is corroborated by the
Daily Mail's reporter on Humber, Lin-
colnshire, correspondent, who some
years ago saw the recovery of a child's
body from a tributary of the River
Nene. In this district the superstition
of what the use of loaves is kept in
position the piece of the loaf used to
enable the mercury to be in-
serted. The villagers explain that the
"charm will not work unless the white
tape is used."

THE SUPERSTITION IS MENTIONED
in Mark Twain's "Huckleberry Finn."
When Huckleberry Finn ran away from
home leaves, filled with quack-silver
were used on the river where it was
thought his body had been thrown.
Huckleberry, who was watching the ex-
periment from a hiding place, seized
one of the loaves which floated his way
and ate it after removing the quack-
silver.

WOMEN ON JURIES.
[St. John Telegram.]

The women of Iowa appear perfectly
willing to serve on juries. They may
wear hats in the jury box, one judge
has ruled, and will be given time to
powder their faces during court ses-
sions. It is doubtful, however, if
many of them requested such con-
cessions. And there would seem to be
no reason for fear that the standard of
the Iowa juries will be lowered by
having women serving on them.

MANUFACTURERS AND POLITICS.
Excellence in quality, and efficiency
in production, have never failed to
create great and profitable manufac-
turing industries.

Alliance between manufacturers and
political party can never be made
a working basis for either of these
prime requisites.

Hon. Mr. Meighen is concentrating
his political efforts on a campaign of
appeal to the manufacturers, with in-
tent to convince them that their busi-
ness interests will be advanced by ac-
tive partnership in behalf of Mr.
Meighen and his administration.

Suppose it were true. Suppose that
Mr. Meighen could give to the Canadian
manufacturers, through political al-
liance, a control of the home market
so far as offering merchandise for sale
is concerned.

The manufacturers would gain nothing.
You cannot make people buy in
paying customers anything they do not
want, or do not like, or are suspicious
of. The buyer controls the buying, and
is in a position to wreck anybody who
tries to control the selling.

Every autocracy is temporary; a com-
mercial autocracy is the most certain
the growing seeds of its own destruc-
tion, just as certainly as a political
autocracy.

The imminent danger to Canadian
manufactures, today is that of being
associated in the public mind with a
conspiracy to reduce the buying power
of the money of Canada by the use of
actions shoddy and threatening the
natural course of Canadian business.

AT LARGE IN PHILADELPHIA.
[From Punch.]

Five million typhoid germs, the prop-
erty of Dr. John Gibbon, are said to
be at large in Philadelphia, according
to the Daily Express. One of them is
said to have got away disguised as a
meal.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT CANADA?

ANSWERS TO YESTERDAY'S QUESTIONS.

1.—The French fort Cataragui stood on the present site of Kingston, Ont.; founded 1673.

2.—Fort Good Hope, on the Arctic circle, and Fort Macpherson, still farther north, are "the Hudson's Bay trading posts farthest north."

3.—The earliest date appearing on Canadian silver coins is 1859.

4.—Canada's 1919 farm products valued two billion dollars.

5.—One of the thickest known coal seams in the world is at Steller-ton, N.S.

6.—John Cabot was sent out by Henry VII. He sailed from Bristol with eighteen men in a small vessel, the Matthew.

7.—The disastrous explosion at Halifax occurred December, 1917. It was caused by the collision of two vessels laden with high explosives.

8.—Col. John Graves Simcoe was first governor of Upper Canada.

9.—The "Hungry Year" was in 1879, when the crop failure in the United Empire of Loyallists settlements caused considerable distress to the settlers on the forest farms.

10.—The three principal agricultural colleges in Quebec are: Macdonald College at Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Oka Agricultural Institute at Lake of the Mountains, and the School of Agriculture at Ste. Anne de la Pocatiere.

11.—QUESTIONS.
1.—Where did the Place d'Armes in Montreal get its name?

2.—How long are the rapids on the St. Lawrence River?

3.—What names have been given to the town of Niagara?

4.—What was the population of Canada in 1907?

5.—What is Canada's capital city and in which province is it situated?

6.—How many Canadians held as prisoners of war escaped from Germany during the war?

7.—When was the Methodist Church of Upper Canada separated from that of the United States?

8.—Was New Brunswick settled before New France was surrendered to England?

9.—Where had Gen. Brock served before he came to Canada?

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SAY REDUCTION OF WAGES IN BRITAIN IS SOON INEVITABLE

Correspondents Express Opinion That Unorganized Trades Will Be Cut Down.

LONDON, Feb. 17.—Labor corre-
spondents of various London news-
papers assert the cost of living has
declined in Great Britain, and that a
reduction of wages is inevitable. They
report decreases in wages already have
occurred in cases where sliding scales
of pay were based on the selling price
of the goods produced.

These wages cuts, however, are mostly
in trades which are poorly organized,
and many agreements have been made
among the labor writers as to the atti-
tude of workers in highly organized
trades, when they are called upon to
accept a lower wage, in accordance
with previously arranged plans based
upon the cost of living.

The number of labor official figures
on the cost of living for working class
families show that at the end of
December the percentage was 108, as
higher than in 1914, against the Novem-
ber figure of 176, while for January it
was expected to reach 165.

This, while alleviating the lot of the
worker to some extent, and assisting
employers, will not solve the present
acute unemployment situation, and
many agreements have been made to
during the past week or two whereby
workers have decided to go on short
time or accept less money in order to
avoid a total closing down of works.

The Furness ironmasters and repre-
sentatives of the men's union have
met, and the latter decided to accept a
reduction of wages from 22s 8d to
19s 6d a day, so that work may be
resumed in the iron works.

The number of unemployed in Great
Britain is given on labor exchange
books as 850,000, while other authori-
ties place the total of people without
work at 1,500,000.

Short time is soon to go into force in
the government dockyards and other
government establishments.

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