

London Advertiser.

FOUNDED IN 1853.

TWO EDITIONS DAILY-WEEKLY.
TELEPHONE CALLS:Business Office 107
Job Department 178
Editorial Department 134 and 135
The London Advertiser Company,
Limited, 191-193 Dundas street, London,
Ont.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Readers of The Advertiser are requested to favor the management by reporting any irregularities in delivery. Communicate with the Circulation Department, or phone 197.

LONDON, MONDAY, MARCH 16.
DOMINION EXHIBITION FOR LONDON.

The directors of the Western Fair will have the people of London and the whole of Western Ontario at their back in their efforts to secure for this city the Dominion Government exhibition grant of \$50,000 for next year, and thus make the Western Fair of 1909 a national event. Since this grant was inaugurated Dominion exhibitions have been held in various parts of Canada. Toronto, Winnipeg and Sherbrooke have had it in turn, and this year it goes to Calgary. London should be the next choice. Situated as this city is in the heart of the richest agricultural district of the Dominion, and itself a leading industrial center, London has been for many years able to carry on without Government aid an annual fair, equalled only by the Toronto exhibition, which has had the financial backing of a much greater population at its doors. Indeed, London has always been the leading exhibition town of Canada. The old Provincial Fair when it came to London once in four years, invariably established a new record. Not only did the entry list exceed that of Toronto, Hamilton or Kingston, but the quality and variety of exhibits were greater, while the attendance compared well, even with that at the more populous Queen City. It was these quadrilateral successes that induced London to start, as an independent enterprise, the Western Fair, the splendid results of which prompted Toronto, a few years later, to copy the idea.

Of course, if the Dominion grant is secured for London next year or the year following, the Western Fair board may be relied on to co-operate in making the Dominion exhibition a success. We have here the necessary grounds and buildings, and with the active sympathy of the citizens and people of the surrounding country failure would be impossible.

If held here the Dominion exhibition would probably last two full weeks. The addition of \$50,000 to the amount usually devoted by the Western Fair board would enable the directors to increase the prizes offered, both in number and value. The exhibition should be worthy of the best section of the best province of the Dominion.

MR. HISLOP'S ELECTION REFORMS.

The bill introduced in the Legislature by Mr. Hislop, Liberal member for East Huron, to amend the election act deserved more consideration at the hands of Premier Whitney, who professed to see neither good nor harm in it. There were features of the measure which many people will regard as in the right direction.

Mr. Hislop would evidently like to see voting made compulsory, if it were possible. It is possible, however, to compel voters to go to the polls, and this the bill in question contemplated. It is a fact established by the election courts that the offering of bribes to voters to remain away from the polls is almost as common as the paying of electors to vote for a particular candidate; indeed the former would seem to be the safer investment for the briber, seeing that a man who would accept a bribe would not be implicitly trusted to vote as he promised. In addition, if going to the polls were made compulsory, it would tend to do away with the hiring of rigs, which, though now prohibited by law, is still carried on, and in reality constitutes a form of bribery—in the first place to the liveryman, who is apt to find the election agent more generous than the ordinary customer, and also to the voter, who is given a free ride from his home or place of employment to the place of voting.

It is estimated that about thirty per cent of the total vote in Ontario remained unpolled in the last general election, sufficient to have changed the result in many constituencies. This indicates that not far from one-third of the provincial electorate takes no interest in public affairs. Doubtless, if voters were made to understand that they must appear at the polling place on election day, much of this indifference would disappear.

The other proposals in the bill required all candidates to state their views on public questions at all meetings and prohibited candidates from privately soliciting support. Personal canvassing is one of the most objectionable features of our election system. It is a hole-and-corner practice that no candidate should be forced to submit to, and is not infrequently taken advantage of by unscrupulous voters to extort promises of personal favors. Released from what is now

regarded as the duty of canvassing the candidate would have more time to discuss the questions of the day in public meeting, the proper method. It is very often the case that the candidate most proficient in "button-holing" electors is the one least qualified for public service. The prohibition of the personal canvass would make public life more attractive to the best class of men.

THE WHITNEY-ROSS DISPUTE.

A pretty controversy is in progress between Premier Whitney and ex-Premier Ross. Mr. Whitney's complaint that his hands had been so tied by his predecessor that the Government could not, even if it so desired, purchase and operate the Electrical Development Company's plant, brought a reply from Mr. Ross, who claimed that the present Government had itself ratified the agreement with the company, which Mr. Whitney now attacks.

Mr. Whitney denies the soft impeachment. He says that the late Government too power in 1899 to ratify contracts with Niagara power companies without reference to the Legislature, and put the Electrical Development Company's agreement through by order-in-council, in January, 1903. In 1905, when certain parties assigned their interests in the agreement, the assignment was ratified by the present Government, which therefore, says Mr. Whitney, only "incidentally" ratified the agreement.

Whether Mr. Ross or Mr. Whitney has the better of the argument upon the question of responsibility for the agreement, it is clear that there was nothing in the contract to prevent the present administration from accepting the offer of sale made by the Electrical Development Company. That is the main point. Mr. Whitney resolved of his own free will against the policy of Government ownership. He had the right to take any course he chose, and he is accountable for it only to public opinion; but he has no right to say that the previous administration left him no alternative.

The House of Lords is relied upon to stem the rising tide of Socialism by throwing out the Government's temperance legislation.

What is Mr. Beck's view of the Government ownership and operation of the Electrical Development Company's plant? He was apparently not consulted by his chieftain.

Kipling has written a series of articles on Canada. He is a genius, but he has a great deal of assurance if he thinks he got an accurate focus on this great country in three weeks.

Premier Whitney says he may have "something emphatic" to say on the power question. Mr. Whitney's language is so emphatic on every occasion that he will have to invent a new list of epithets to attract attention.

Another court has declared the Natal Act invalid in British Columbia, where British subjects from India were imprisoned because they could not pass an educational test. Such tyranny suggests that there is something seriously wrong with the education of British Columbia politicians.

Lieut.-Col. Irwin, secretary of the Canadian Patriotic Fund, Ottawa, will receive contributions toward the fund for Blind Trooper Mulloy. Mulloy has a brave outlook on life, in spite of his terrible disability. His moral courage should touch the sympathy of his countrymen and enable him to realize his worthy ambitions.

THE DOCTOR'S ADVICE.

"You should never take anything that doesn't agree with you," the physician told Mr. Marks. "If I had always followed that rule, Marks," he remarked to his wife, "where would you be?"

SPOTTING SMOKELESS POWDER.

[Washington Herald.] German military authorities are experimenting with a device by which the location of troops using smokeless powder may be easily discovered. This device is in the shape of a small lamp which is placed in the landscape through a pair of glasses. The flash of the smokeless powder appears strong in red light, while ordinary objects are dimmed. By furnishing field glasses with the device in question, which is provided with screens of the proper tint, the position of concealed marksmen can be detected.

UNRELIABLE LEGS.

[Punch.] "Vicar—Well, Mr. Stiggins, how are you today?" "Cobler—Very bad, sir." "Vicar—And what is the matter?" "Cobler—Ah, sir, it's my legs. They be wonderful bad!" "Vicar—Dear me! How long have you been like this?" "Cobler—Why, sir, these legs, if you believe me, I've had 'em on and off for the last thirty years."

SIMILAR RESULT.

[Youth's Companion.] There are certain shades of expression of which a Frenchman is, as a rule, past master. One member of that fluent nation, stranded in New York, was setting forth his troubles to a lawyer. "I understand from what you say that you are convinced that your friend Legende had not assisted me to hunt for it, I should have found it again."

HIMSELF TO BLAME.

[Kansas City Journal.] A youthful visitor in Washington not long ago sought the criticism of a well-known publisher who chanced to be at the national capital on business with the copyright division of the Library of Congress. "Sir," said the near-poet, indignantly, when the publisher had brusquely advised

him to "burn the stuff"—"Sir, poets are born, not made."

Whereupon the publisher smiled broadly. "Young man," said he, "I won't help your case in the least to try to shift the blame on your parents."

VERY MUCH OUT.

[Argonaut.] An acquaintance called on some ladies in an Alabama town who had at the time been much wearied by an apparently endless succession of callers. The door was opened by Augustus Butts, the faithful old butler.

"Are the ladies in?" asked the caller. "No, ma'am, they're all out." "I am so sorry that I missed them," continued the visitor, handing him her cards. "I particularly wished to see Mrs. Jones." "Yes, ma'am, thank you, ma'am," responded Augustus. "They're all out, ma'am, and Mrs. Jones is particularly out, ma'am."

EXPLAINING THE MYSTERY.

[Exchange.] Patient—Doctor, how can you as a Christian man charge such enormous fees? Doctor—Scriptural authority, my dear sir. "Physician, heal thyself," you know.

THE FOUL-TONGUED ONE.

[Toronto Globe.] It is encouraging to note that Mr. W. H. Bennett reads a sermon once in a while. For while the lamp holds on to burn the vilest sinner may return.

CALLED BILL FOR SHORT.

[Toronto Star.] Now Whitney sharpens up an axe. To knock the Grits quite silly. Its name, if you would know the facts, Redistribution Bill.

THE ANCIENT GAME OF BOWLS.

[London Medical Press.] One of the most recent revivals is the ancient game of bowls, which now bids fair to take once more again a leading place among the sports of Merrie England. As a matter of fact, it is just as good a game today as it was in the time of Raleigh or in the remote Anglo-Saxon times. From a medical point of view we have nothing but praise for this most excellent of recreations. It provides general exercise and amusement for old and young, it is admirably fitted for many invalids, and, above all, it is one of the best of what may be called natural opiates.

THE REAL THING.

[Hullington Spectator.] Londoners are in love with their spring water that gets into your cellar without the aid of a waterpipe.

THE DULL SEASON.

[London Tid-Bits.] A curate, new to a small seaside town, in visiting a number of cottages, found many complaints of hard times, and one poor old woman, who was very poor, was the subject. The reverend gentleman kindly predicted better times in store.

"And tell your husband," he said, "that he must be very thankful to be able to keep his head above water."

"That's just where you're wrong, sir," was the reply. "My good man has kept his head above water too long already, worse luck!"

The curate looked surprised until the good lady explained.

"You see, sir, my husband, he's a diver."

AN UNIQUE RECORD.

[Ottawa Free Press.] When Hon. C. R. Devlin took his seat in the Legislative Assembly of Quebec at the opening of its session a day or two ago, he made a unique record in the history of parliaments. He had within two years been elected at three elections and had taken his seat for the third time during the session of Parliament which he had been elected. The first of these occasions was in the Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, when he was presented as member for Galway by Mr. P. O'Brien, M. P. for Kilkenny, and by Capt. Donaldson, M. P. for Cork. The second was last year, when, after his election to the Canadian House of Commons for Nicolet, he was introduced by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux; and the third came when he took his seat in the Legislative Assembly of Quebec, as member for Nicolet and minister of colonization, and was accompanied by Hon. Lomer Gouin and Hon. Adolphe Turgeon.

But these are not Mr. Devlin's only claims to hold parliamentary records. Although still only a young man, he has won six elections and taken his place six times in various Parliaments. He was in the Canadian House of Commons as M. P. for the County of Ottawa, in 1881; the second time as M. P. for Nicolet in 1886; the third as member for Galway, at Westminster in 1903; the fourth again at Westminster in 1906; the fifth at Ottawa, M. P. for Nicolet in 1907; and the sixth at Quebec, as M. P. for Nicolet in 1908.

If there is any other parliamentarian in the British Empire with a similar record, we should like to hear of him.

THREW HIM DOWN.

[Toronto Globe.] Premier Whitney's speech in the Legislature on Tuesday was a very deliberate throw-down for the power policy of Hon. Adam Beck.

GRACE BEFORE MEAT.

[London Opinion.] The General—Mrs. Vanstatter laces up pretty tight before a good dinner—what? The Hostess—Oh, yes! You see, she prefers grace before meat.

WANTS \$5,000 TO REFEREE

Jim Jeffries' Price to Run Bout Between Johnson and Burns.

Los Angeles, March 16.—"If Burns and Johnson meet in the ring and want me to referee it will cost them \$5,000," was the decision of Jim Jeffries. Jeffries intends to branch out as a light promoter in the near future. The first champion is tired of watching limited round fights, and plans to erect a large arena just outside the city limits, where fights can go any distance. "I have backing from some of the richest men in the world," said Jeffries, "and unless plans miscarry, I will have fights to a decision soon. These ten-round affairs are jokes. They lead to many free fights among the men who bet on them."

HONUS WAGNER QUILTS GAME TOO STRENUOUS

Pittsburg, Pa., March 14.—Hans Wagner, one of the world's greatest baseball players, will not be in the game this season. In a letter today to President Barney Dreyfuss, of the Pittsburg club, with which team Wagner has played since 1897, the renowned shortstop says the game has become too strenuous for him.

MUST PUT SELF IN BACKGROUND

Evangelist Belcher Preaches on What It Costs to Follow Christ.

Evangelist T. L. Belcher, speaking in York Street Mission last night, on "What It Costs To Follow Christ," said the first essential is the renunciation of self and all selfish interests. "Let him deny himself,"

Christ's hearers were to learn what was required of them. They were to renounce self and to follow their Lord. Such a renunciation was, sometimes known by the Gentile proselyte as "The new birth."

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There is a self-love which is right, but the moment that it passes over into selfishness it is wrong. Selfishness in Cain made him ask, "Am I my brother's keeper?" Selfishness in Satan led him to exalt himself above all that is called "God." Christ had no self-love; from his manger to his cross he lived for others. His life was a continual death. He died daily that he might live divinely. We must die daily if we are to live Christly. Would to God that my self-love were crucified with Christ upon his cross. Would that the Christ-life might be in every act, in every word, and in every thought. (Mark.)

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LAYMEN OF SARNIA WILL RAISE \$9,000

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A hearty vote of thanks was then

A Reliable Spring Medicine

RECOMMENDED TO THE PEOPLE OF LONDON.

At this season of the year there is hardly a man, woman or child in London who does not need a medicine to purify and enrich the blood, to induce an appetite, to promote digestion and create strength, and we are said in saying we have never sold anything in our stores equal to the cod liver preparation Vinoli for this purpose.

The reason Vinoli is so far superior to old-fashioned cod liver oil and emulsions is because it is made by a scientific, extractive and concentrating process from fresh cod livers, combining with peptonate-of-iron all the medicinal, healing and body-building elements of cod liver oil, but no oil.

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The World's Most Successful Cure

Cured Us Both.

"I used the sample bottle of PSYCHINE you sent me, and it helped me very much. My chest is much better. My wife took the grip when she was in Ottawa. She got a large bottle, and after using it for a few days she was quite well. I took a cold and an aching it and an getting all right. Again I think it one of the best medicines on the market today."

R. N. DAPOR, Northfield Farm, Que.

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FOR Weak Lungs Throat Diseases Stomach Troubles IS

Psychine vs. Consumption. "I was given up 35 years ago as an incurable consumptive by Prof. Lyman, Rush Medical College, Chicago. I suffered several years after this until I heard of PSYCHINE, and through it I was restored to perfect health, which I have enjoyed for the past ten years. My sickness began first with catarrh of the head. I readily advise catarrh and is gripe sufferers to take PSYCHINE."

MRS. A. WELLS, Lyndall, Man.

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