London Adbertiser. (ESTABLISHED 1863.)

POUNDER AND John Cameron.

London, Thursday, January 6, 1898. The City Hall Tragedy-How

London Has Been Grossly

Libeled. It is too bad that while London has suffered and is suffering so much, deand of its inhabitants should, by retailing lying stories, endeavor to create wrong impressions, and to do the

people grave injustice. Here is a specimen of the comment which has been made by ill-informed persons who have written about the recent disaster at the city hall. It is from the editorial columns of the Toronto News, and is headed "The Lesson of the London Disaster":

"The heart-rending disaster which has plunged London in mourning is one of those fatalities which excite more The Great Drama Being Played that, in consequence of the legislation poignant grief from the fact that they might have been avoided. It will be oor consolation to the families and friends of the victims in that terrible catastrophe to reflect that if someone past few days been so absorbed in conhad not been careless, or if false economy had not come into force, their loved ones would not have down to a overtaken them that they have probsudden and frightful death.

"The city hall, where the fateful meeting was held last night, is a relic of the style of building which found fa-vor with architects in the early fifties. More than 40 years old, the ramshackle, antiquated hall required overhauling. quarters; they stuck to the penurious y of patching and mending. It was by a contractor who felt that he was called upon to do a cheap job, that any room above removed. Although it was as important as our Atlantic seaboard. that time. But I imagine that the well known that the floor of the cham- The possibilities of developing trade primary cause which generally makes the hall above. Had the beams underneath the floor of the room, crowded to amined and the weak timbers replaced by sturdy supports all might have been well, but it appears that some of the beams were actually rotten and needed only a slight pressure to send them and their precious freight of human lives

This comment is founded on erroneous information circulated in this city, apparently with a well-defined object which will be better understood as it is developed, and telegraphed by some one to the outside press. It is most unfair because it is untrue, and calculated to prejudice the interests of this fair city in a most unwarrantable manner. The London City Hall is not a "ramshackle." A "penurious policy of patching and mending" has not been carried out. Instead of that, we know that the hall, which was much better built than many erections of of a competent architect, and it was inches by 12 inches was placed under beam was examined by competent builders, along with the writer, immediately after the disaster, and found to be as sound timber as the day on which it was inserted and declared by Col. Tracey amply sufficient for supporting the floor immediately above the room. It was not "actually rotten." as our Toronto contemporary erroneously states. It was sound timber, as was shown at the fracture. Nor was the floor of the chamber well known to be so weak that dancing was not allowed in the assembly room. and their prohibition has never been the Chinese customs receipts, adminthought of.

It is open to argue that the work demnation of the City Hall as a moves. "jerry" building, are ill-founded, and only calculated to manufacture false and unfair sentiment against the taxpayers of London.

Let anyone examine the alterations

way the reporters were wedged between the table in front of the platform and their chairs, and they were unable to write, their safety being constantly menaced. They had been pleading with gentlemen on the platform to stop the speaking, and let them out of the table in front of the platform to stop the speaking, and let them out of the table in front of the platform to stop the speaking, and let them out of the table in front of the platform to stop the speaking, and let them out of the table in front of the platform and to their taxes being spent to enable them to again go into the public hall business. We now have the Grand Opera House, the Y. M. C. A. Auditorium, the drill shed, and other large halls, in addition to the skating rinks, which are available for a large portion of the year. All that the taxpayers are

tempting to still the tumult and force called upon to do is to see, as in other a cessation to the talk, when the progressive cities, that suitable offices crash came, 1 .obably accelerated by are upheld for the council and officers the fall of the seats, as told by Mr. of the corporation, in which to conduct Robert Boston, governor of the jail, who the business of the taxpayers. A public

short an architect falls of his duty who very many citizens to be unjustifiable. does not insist that the floor of a hall But, as we have said, this matter can shall be so supported as to bear an at- be more fitly considered at a later day. tack on its strength such as has been so graphically described by independpreceded the catastrophe, but nothing lows:

Mr. C. M. Hays, general manager of the Grand Trunk, has received a New Year's cable from the London board congratulating him upon the road's condition, and his success in the management. It is well deserved. The road has made substantial progress during the past year, and Mr. Hays and his painstaking subordinates are bound to make the most of their opportunities | London. to advance the prosperity of the line.

in China.

The citizens of London have for the templating the sad calamity which has very important developments in pro-

The matter is not one of remote importance to Canadians. It is not so The London council did not dream of many years since our Atlantic coast building more capacious and befitting was considered the "front door of the sea": but since the establishment of decided to fix up the old place, and the Canadian Pacific Railway, and the some time ago the alterations were development of Canadian interests in made. The work must have been made the Pacific, and with the swift vessels that are now plying between our ports sort of repairs and alterations to the and China, Japan and the Far East hall would do, so that they were done generally, it is highly probable that quickly. Changes were made in the the frontier of Canada which faces the offices underneath the hall, and a sup-porting wall to the floor of the assembly Pacific Ocean may in time become fully

ber was so weak that dancing was not allowed in the hall, the person or persons directing the alterations, in a great East are practically beyond the lessens opportunity for them is that sons directing the alterations, in a splendor of insane carelessness, drag- range of the imagination to seize. It cheerless in temperament, and insist red away almost the only support for is the commercial side of the question, that the new ways of doing things are apart from our importance as a part all wrong and that every progressive the doors by a dense mass of excited of the world-wide British Empire,

They do not note, nor keep pace, with people last night, been carefully ex- which places before Canada in a special improvements or inventions in their sense the importance of what is going on in the Chinese seas.

The latest news, to summarize the situation, is that the seizure of Kiao simply because men at 60 have con-Chau Bay by Germany has been legalized in the shape of a lease for an inwhat this means. It is a permanent ture; but the point for the moment is adapting a phrase that has become popular, it is a "splendid isolation." It later construction, was under the care is now found that Britain, which at repaired, from time to time, as he have, an overwhelming naval force in deemed requisite. It is true that in that part of the world, has many Tracey, city engineer, one of the most | Germany, and friendly to our Motherexperienced architects in Canada, two land. The same is true of Japan, in comparatively small rooms under the which country there is a strong dehall were thrown into one by the re- mand for a permanent alliance with moval of a brick dividing wall, some Great Britain. The general sentiment 16 or 18 feet long. But on all four in the United States is also now in sides of the enlarged room brick walls favor of the British policy with regard remained under the hall, and in place as China, as opposed to that of Gerof the wall taken away a beam 12 many and Russia. As the London Times aptly puts it, the British policy the flooring from wall to wall. This is not one looking to the dismember-"going concern," for the sake of the financial interests in China, which are constantly being developed, is strongly disposed to indorse Great Britain's polof \$80,000,000 for China, which Great Assemblies have been of constant oc- Britain intends to guarantee, taking in currence in the hall for many years, return therefor a certain proportion of

Istered by a British officer. There seems to be little doubt that carried out by City Engineer Tracey | the result of the recent manipulations in 1888, and untouched since then by will once more emphasize Great Brithis successor, because on examination ain's supremacy in the Far East. A it was found to be secure, was insuffi- more interesting drama than that ient, and that the judgment of these which is now unfolding itself along the xperts ought to be condemned. But shores of the Flowery Kingdom has beyond that the wholesale denuncia- seldom been witnessed. Our readers tions of all and sundry, and the con- will do well to closely watch the future

Future of the City Hall.

The suggestions which are afloat as to the disposal of the London City Hall which were carried out by City Engin- property are decidedly premature. eer Graydon in the last year or two, After the inquest is concluded, and the while making the only alterations un- public are calmed down, it will be time der the hall undertaken by the city enough to review the whole situation, council since 1888, and it will be con- and decide what is best to be done in ceded that the work has been done the public interest. In any case, it is most thoroughly, and the public safety not probable that the City Hall auditorium will ever again be used for hold-It is denied by no one that the crowd ing great public gatherings. But that which stampeded in front of the plat- should not be held to imply that Lonform placed over the city engineer's don requires the construction of an office was the greatest that was ever additional costly public hall in some wedged into any corner of the hall at other part of the city. The city has any one time in its history. For a long now more hall property on its hands time before the over-strained floor gave than is profitable for it, and the tax-

was a witness of the tragedy, and nar- hall speculation, such as the council rowly escaped being engulfed in the went into in the early days, when there were no public places of assembly in It may be open to argument how far the city, would certainly be held by

ent eye-witnesses of the struggle which eronto, write to The Advertiser as fol-"We sympathize deeply with is to be gained by misrepresenting the those suffering from the terrible accident in your city. It was indeed a heartrending accident."

Women School Trustees. It is understood that the newlyelected London City Council will appoint two women trustees to take the place of the Collegiate Institute trustees who retire this year. A woman school trustee will be a novelty in

The Port Huron Times points out of the Ontario Government, put in force some time ago, the lumbermen no longer import their men and supplies into Canada. They are compelled to hire Canadian workmen and to buy all supplies in this Province. Our contemporary very properly concedes that in view of the United States legislation, which has been recently made hostile to Canadian interests, this is a justifiable course.

MEN AT SIXTY.

[Philadelphia Bulletin.] Men at 60 usually find that their digestion or their memory, or both, have gone back on them. They can no longer trust their stomach or their heads. If they are rich and wise, also, they ease up at that age, as Peter A. B. Widener has done. It is only an exceptionally strong and gifted man that can

callings. Some of the biggest business houses of Philadelphia in the past have been ruined, have come to a standstill or have fallen into decay, simply because men at 60 have continued their methods at 40. An illustration came under my notice a few decay and the standard of the liver and free the patient from these disorders. One or two of Radway's Pills, taken daily by those subject to hillow rains and toroid to be liver and free the patient from these disorders. One or two of Radway's Pills, taken daily by those subject to hillow rains and toroid to be liver and free the patient from these disorders. tration came under my notice a few days ago. The head of a book publishdefinite term-some say for fifty years. ing house had consented to put an We are, of course, not deceived as to advertisement in a Philadelphia journal which he had heard well of in repute. Before he had closed the agreeoccupation of the territory, forced on ment he found it was sold for a penny. China by Germany's "mailed fist." to He thercupon declined to advertise in use the Emperor William's own ex- a settled conservatism that had stoppression. The other Powers are im- ped his growth in ideas about twenty mensely interested in this new depar- | years ago. Judging penny papers only by his results at that time, he was unable to see that the brains and the its relation to the British Empire. At character in the making of them and first it was stated that Great Britain that the average of the intelligence of the widespread constituencies hind them were quite as high as those of the higher-priced and much less circulated papers.

Rev. Charles Fish. Methodist Ministe Dunn Ave., Toronto, Cured of

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SECOND ONLY TO THE QUEEN. [Ottawa Citizen.1

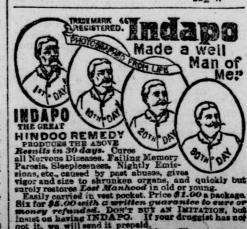
Without sanctioning the premier's political record we can cheerfully pay tribute to his interesting personality and his magnetic presence which, the London Advertiser assures us, gave him a place in the jubilee celebration second only to her Majesty Queen

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