

## London Advertiser.

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Managing Director and Editor, John Cameron

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## The Growth of the Trusts.

The multiplication of trusts and combines in the United States goes on apace, and unless the movement is checked every great staple of manufacture will soon be under the control of a monopoly. The New York Herald has compiled a list of existing combinations as follows:

	Capital.
The oil trusts .....	\$150,000,000
Steel and iron .....	347,500,000
Coal combines .....	181,750,000
The gas trusts .....	452,771,000
Havenmeyer's sugar trust ..	115,000,000
Cigarettes and tobacco .....	108,500,000
Control of the telephone ..	56,720,000
The alcoholic trusts .....	67,300,000
Electrical combinations .....	139,327,000
Miscellaneous trusts .....	1,345,350,000

Grand total .....

\$2,717,765,000

The 63 "miscellaneous trusts" referred to are capitalized at figures ranging from \$150,000,000 for the flour trust (Armstrong) to \$1,750,000 for the Rhode Island Horsehoe Company. The titles of these organizations indicate trusts in leather, tobacco (plug), crackers, starch, corn, harvesters, lumber, rubber dressed beef, sheet copper, tobacco, paper, acids, and chemicals, malting, silverware, lead, knit goods, cash and doors, wall paper, cigarettes, typewriters, window glass, caskets, crockery, windows and doors, smelting, ribbon, gossamer rubber, axes, bolts and nuts, lithography, tissue paper, rock salt, celluloid, saws, tissue and twine, thread, furniture, stock-yards, matches, ice, plate-glass, cart-ridges, menhaden, linotypes, refrigerators (forming), land, strawboard, milling, air-brakes, envelopes, type, soda-fountains, tacks, potteries, marbles, packing and provisions.

Governor Pingree, of Michigan, in his annual address gives a list of over 100 trusts controlling a capital of nearly three and a half billions of dollars. But, he says, this is not by any means the sum of the trust and combine element in the country. To quote him further: "Hundreds of articles are governed in their price by secret agreements which do not make their appearance in the form of legally organized companies. If you inquire carefully you will discover that you can scarcely make a purchase in which the price is not dictated by a combination over which the merchant you deal with has no control. Each of these great trusts now aims for the most part to control but one staple, although some of them reach out for many. The control of the iron and steel and of the coal beds of the country is slowly drifting toward a single center. As the organizations grow more powerful, all related industries will be combined in one control for each great class, as in the case of iron and coal."

The governor sees in this movement an appalling evil to national progress, material and moral. The concentration of industry in the hands of a few would, he predicted, be fatal to the healthy individualism which makes a nation great. If the time should come when the trusts fully controlled production, competition would be stifled, and the American citizen would come into the world without that freedom of opportunity for the gratification of his ambition or the exercise of his talents and progressive instincts which the competitive system affords. All who were not in the hierarchy of the combines must be its servants, because all avenues of private enterprise would be cut off. The small merchant, the small manufacturer, would be devalued by the giants. A man would be no longer able to work even for himself; he must be a part of the machine. Personal initiative would become extinct. In this condition of servitude, character must deteriorate, for it is the play of individual energy that throws up great men and great deeds.

This is a gloomy picture of industrial slavery, and supplies strong material for the Socialists who argue that the present tenancy is the result of natural forces, and that when the control of productive activity becomes sufficiently centralized it will be an easy and logical step for the state to take the power from the hands of the combines and operate all industries for the public profit. It is certainly better that the public should control monopolies than that monopolies should control the public. But the growing evil of the trusts is one that will cure itself, else we might despair of society. The present movement is so rampant that it has excited public alarm, and public alarm is the first step toward redress. The press nearly every day chronicles some new combination, and leads with editorial comment, arousing and informing public opinion, which is rapidly ripening for action of some kind. It is perhaps fortunate at this stage that the newspapers of the United States are heavy sufferers from the mischief. They are compelled to pay enormous toll to the paper trust, and so have a direct stimulus to attack trusts in general. Popular feeling is also nettled by the indifference with which the combines override the law. Nearly every state has an anti-trust law, but federal and state laws alike have proved dead letters on the statute books. The Standard Oil Trust today is defying the courts.

All these things have naturally led to a close examination of the conditions which foster these gigantic combinations, and people are beginning to realize that a chief cause is the high protective tariff, which by killing foreign competition enables any syndicate,

which can kill internal competition as well, to raise prices to the tariff level. In many lines this has already been done, and the more concerns which control the home market are robbing the public with the public's sanction, as expressed in tariff legislation. This is the state of affairs to which the public's eyes are being opened. The revolt against the tyranny is growing daily. The pretense that prohibitory duties are needed to protect American industry is derided by facts. American industry is underselling its competitors in the markets of the world. The only argument for protection is therefore demolished; but the arguments against protection are being piled up by its own beneficiaries. Every new monopoly is a nail in its coffin.

The Senate No Safeguard.

Some foolish arguments are advanced by those who assert that the Dominion Senate is all right as it is, and that the Liberal Government in power at Ottawa should refrain from carrying out the mandate given to it by the people at the last general election. They tell us that if the Senate obstructs the work of the House of Commons, the remedy is to dissolve that House, and throw the country into the expense and turmoil of a general election—a proceeding which, it is estimated, from one cause or another, costs the people of the Dominion something like two millions of dollars.

But there is no guarantee that even if a parliament were to be dissolved at the bidding of Sir Mackenzie Bowell and his associates, or of any other body granted so absolute a power, the obstructionists would be any less persistent in their opposition to the real administrative and legislative work of the country than they were before the election was held. There is always more than one question under review by the people at every election, and it would be open for the Senate, as now constituted, with powers greater than those which the British House of Lords possesses, to hold that on any one line of policy the Administration had not been sustained. Under the present conditions, the autocrats of the Senate could continue to exercise their czar-like powers, and could thwart with impunity the majority of the representatives, in the hope of tiring out those who were politically opposed to them, even though it was apparent that the Administrations had been endorsed by the majority of the electorate.

The people of Canada mean that the Senate shall be more responsive to public opinion. It is well to have a buffer that buffers, but it is no buffer which fair-minded Canadians will tolerate if it reserves its buffers for but one of the political parties in the country, and plays into the hand of the other party at all times. The Senate must certainly be reformed.

London as a Revenue Center.

The last annual report of Sir Henri Joly, Minister of Inland Revenue, gives some interesting details of the sources of revenue, in which the London district shows well to the front. Here are the details, as supplied by Mr. Alexander, collector:

Balances due, July, 1897 .....	\$ 1,608 15
Spirits .....	57,361 56
Malt liquors .....	329 80
Malt .....	28,758 54
Tobacco .....	58,106 34
Cigars .....	142,161 27
Petroleum, inspection fees .....	11,113 71
Seizures .....	82 00
Other receipts .....	341 95
Total debits .....	\$299,882 93

The following gives the receipts in other inland revenue districts:

Belleville .....	\$ 80,520 28
Brantford .....	52,678 15
Cambridge .....	14,237 25
Guelph .....	328,522 16
Hamilton .....	551,108 37
Kingston .....	114,843 06
Ottawa .....	177,278 00
Owen Sound .....	54,829 23
Perth .....	47,941 04
Peterboro .....	25,480 80
Port Arthur .....	9,530 65
Prescott .....	95,810 97
St. Catharines .....	39,845 20
Stratford .....	75,990 57
Toronto .....	779,061 15
Windsor .....	257,035 94
Total .....	\$3,005,006 93

It will be observed from the summary in the first table given above that the chief sources of inland revenue in the London division are spirits, tobacco and cigars. In Hamilton, considerably over one-half of the revenue is derived from tobacco, and almost \$200,000 of the remainder is collected from spirits and malt. Nine-tenths of the revenue in Ottawa comes from spirits and tobacco, and that of Windsor is made up entirely of duty collected on spirits produced at the big distillery. The revenue in Toronto is chiefly obtained from spirits and tobacco, and spirits supply two-thirds of the revenue at Guelph.

London is second only to Montreal in the manufacture of cigars. Here is a record of the duties collected from cigars at the leading points:

London .....	\$142,161 27
Toronto .....	32,444 78
Guelph .....	30,454 56
Hamilton .....	22,928 27
Kingston .....	21,171 87
Montreal .....	259,556 85
Sherbrooke, Que. ....	46,221 88

The total duties collected in London are greater by almost \$100,000 than those paid in the whole Province of New Brunswick, and over \$70,000 more than are paid in the combined provinces of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

London last year had 15 cigar factories, which produced 23,923,775 cigars, out of 439,495 pounds of raw leaf tobacco, the total revenue accruing to the country being \$54,452 04. All the cigars manufactured in London pay duty at the rate of \$6 a thousand.

There is a growing feeling that if the Boers of the Transvaal continue to look for trouble, they will find it pretty soon.

The Kansas City Populists are trying to bring the price of a sleeping car berth in that state down to 50 cents. This is a decrease in the berth rate that will please everybody.

The beggars of San Francisco have organized a trust for mutual protection. They have as much right to combine as have the capitalists, but the law will probably get after the beggars sooner.

Canada must make a creditable exhibit of the products of her mines at the ensuing Paris Exposition. The people of so slow-going a country as the Transvaal Republic have already made arrangements to have a magnificent exhibit of that which they produce. Our rivals in the mine market must not be allowed to beat us. Now is Canada's opportunity.

A man cannot forgive another whom he has injured, and it must be on that principle that France regards England as her natural enemy. On the contrary, Englishmen have no inherent dislike of Frenchmen. The British nation has kinder feelings toward France than toward Germany and Russia, probably because France is not regarded as a serious rival in commerce or war.

The Advertiser congratulates Rev. W. W. Smith on the success which has attended his production of the "Gospel of Matthew in Broad Scotch." The sales of the first edition were so large that all the copies were soon exhausted. A second edition is now out, and those wishing copies can procure them at all book stores or of Mr. Smith himself. A complete New Testament is promised, with a copious glossary of all the Scotch terms used. Matthew's Gospel, in paper covers, sells for 25 cents. The New Testament, in cloth, will sell for \$2. A large sale of both is already assured.

Sir Charles Tupper says he is disappointed because nothing has been done by the Joint High Commission. A great deal may have been done, and Sir Charles does not know it. Still, his attitude toward the conference is more rational than that of many Conservative papers, which want nothing done at all, and are yelping at our commissioners to come home. Sir Charles has more than once expressed the hope that the conference would prove fruitful, but it remains to be seen whether he will be as statesmanlike when Parliament meets to discuss the question. It will be remembered that he applauded the Yukon Railway Bill when it was first made public, but when the session came he turned around and fought it tooth and nail. He may repeat these tactics if a treaty is laid before the House.

WHAT OTHERS SAY.

Credit to Mulock.

[London, England, Daily News.] We ought all to remember, without in any way forgetting or detracting from the credit due to anybody else for bringing about this reform, that the empire owes its accomplishment, as it owes so much else, to Canada. To Mr. Mulock, the postmaster-general of Canada, is due the real initiation of a colonial penny post.

Hiram Walker's Advertising Methods.

[Detroit News.]

As means accumulated, Mr. Walker began to advertise in that judicious and permanent fashion characteristic of the British manufacturers of great staples, which does not seek so much to shock the public for a day or a week, as to increase from year to year a fixed impression regarding the advertised article. The reputation of his staple grew slowly, but solidly, all over the earth.

New Trust Almost Daily.

[Cleveland Plain Dealer.]

It is a dull day that does not see the formation of a new trust, the closing of factories or other works as a consequence of consolidation into trusts or great corporations that are in effect trusts, or the raising of prices through the crushing out of competition by the trust process. The reason given to the public for consolidation is the ability to will give for the cheapening of production by the reduction of expenses through the concentration of capital and labor. The effect immediate is in most cases an increase in prices to the consumer.

Our Bacon Trade.

[Montreal Herald.]

The Gazette gives credit to the National Policy for the growth in recent years of Canada's bacon trade. We are accustomed also to hear the cheese trade flattered upon the Conservative tariff. In both cases the claim is without a particle of foundation. Our bacon curers owe their success to the same cause to which the cheese curer owes theirs—to their own skill and intelligence in suiting the taste of the British public with a superior article. And for our part we prefer to think that Canada's trade is based upon the lasting foundation rather than upon the shifting sands of protective tariffs.

Only an Anglo-Saxon Possibility.

[From the New York Commercial-Advertiser.]

Has it occurred to you that the proverb "Talk is cheap" is characteristically Anglo-Saxon; that it could hardly arise, except metaphorically, in any other language; that among most races talk is the most dangerous tool a man can use? In Russia talk sends men to prison for a couple of years for lese majesty, and among the Latin races, while talk is at times overlooked, it may at others lead to the most disastrous results for the talker. In England and America alone talk is regarded as what it should be—the

safety valve of overwrought feelings. A man who can, even to the woods and fields, relieve his mind with picturesque and forcible words is the better for his feelings for the expression. He is not nearly so likely to do something desperate as when his words are bottled up along with his feelings. It is like combining nitrogen and glycerin. So, well is it known that the term "a talker" carries with it the significance of the "no door."

LIGHT AND SHADE.

He Went Away.

"What is your favorite stone?" asked the young man. "Stone front," replied the maiden, with a dreamy, faraway look. "Alas! He knew he could never give her one, and he came no more."—Chicago Record.

Useful Poet.

The poet sang of woodland ways, Sweet singing birds and such as that; The poet's wife then sold these lays And bought a stuffed bird for her hat.

—Chicago News.

In Autumn Days.

Lightly he blows, and at His breath they fall, The perishing kindreds of the leaves; they drift, Spent flames of scarlet, gold aerial, Across the hollow year, noiseless and swift, Lightly he blows, and countless as the falling Of snow by night upon a solemn sea, The ages circle down beyond recalling, He strews the hollows of eternity. He sees them drifting through the spaces dim, And leaves and ages are as one to Him.

—C. G. D. Roberts.

Took the Same.

Lawyer—You were in the saloon at the time of the assault complained of? Witness—I was. Lawyer—Did you take cognizance of the barkeeper at the time? Witness—I don't know what he called it, but I took what the rest did.—Boston Courier.

Had Her Choice.

Mamma—Bobbie, I notice that your little sister took the smaller apple. Did you let her have her choice, as I told you to? Bobbie—Yes; I told her she could have the little one, and she chose the little one.—Saturday Post.

DEATH OF AMASA WOOD

Reputed To Be the Richest Man in Elgin County.

Sudden Close of a Career Full of Struggles and Successes—Widely Known Throughout Ontario.

[St. Thomas Journal, 17th.]

One of the best known men in the city and county died this morning at his residence on East street, in the person of Mr. Amasa Wood. His demise caused general surprise, as it was not generally known that he was ill and his death was therefore entirely unexpected. Mr. Wood was only sixty years of age, and he had only since last Wednesday, when he was turned around and fought it tooth and nail. He may repeat these tactics if a treaty is laid before the House.

Mr. Wood, who was reputed to be the wealthiest man in the county of Elgin, was in the 60th year of his age. His life had been one of both struggles and successes. He had been accustomed from an early age to depend upon himself. His success in life was due to shrewdness, business tact, industry and vigor. From the time at which his business successes may be dated may also be dated his generous giving. For years he was a fountain of kindness to the deserving poor, and to the appeals of the weak congregations of his own denomination—the Methodist—never turned a deaf ear, as witness the many churches in Elgin and adjoining counties which have been built or materially assisted by him. A church of his denomination, he even built in Japan, and when it was recently destroyed by fire he immediately decided to rebuild it at his own expense. But the crowning act of his life was the gift of the hospital, bearing his name, to the city. This building was formally presented to the city on May 25, 1892.

Mr. Wood was born near Brockville in 1811. His father was Amasa Wood, and his mother's name was Bice. He was of Scotch descent. Besides the wife of this sketch, they had a son, Philo, and four daughters, Elizabeth, Harriet, Emma and Vashti. Mr. Wood was the youngest of the family. When he was 5 years of age the family removed to the Talbot settlement. They moved to land near Burwell's Corners. His mother died about a year after this, and his father married again, and here it may be stated, that his sisters were married, and settled in the township—Elizabeth to Col. McQueen, Harriet to Levi Fowler, Emma to Phineas Drake, and Vashti to Thos. Drake. When a lad 12 years of age Mr. Wood carried the mail on horseback from London to Chatham, being employed by Col. McQueen, being the Stage and Mail Line. He attended school in the winter months for a time in this city. The school was on the present site of Judge Ermatinger's residence. His teacher was James Lee, a son of Dr. Lee, and brother of Mrs. Lawason, of London. When a young lad Mr. Wood entered the service of the late Col. McQueen, who at that time kept a general store on his farm. Col. McQueen till he was 21 years of age, when he made an agreement to continue on for \$100 a year, and his clothes and board. During these years those business traits which secured him success in after life were being developed. Though he lacked the advantages of a liberal education, he was a shrewd and successful trader, and knew when to buy and when to sell. While employed by Col. McQueen he made deals on his own account, and in everything he was successful. He left Col. McQueen's service when 26 years of age. He then married Miss Elizabeth Fowler, sister of the late Levi Fowler, since deceased. He purchased the White Tavern, built by Wm. Burwell, in 1830, and five acres of land on the site of the present village of Pinal. He remained in the hotel business for four years. In 1841 he entered into a partnership with the late Levi Fowler. They conducted a general store for years. In 1854 he held a government contract for Indian supplies at Muncey, Manitoba. In 1855, in partnership with Sheriff Munroe, Levi Fowler and Mr. Ferguson, registrar of Middlesex, the village of Embro, in Oxford county,

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MERRY BELLS

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London, Ont., Jan. 5, 1899.

MR. JOHN LAW, 121 Clarence St., City.

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