

The Advertiser

Founded by John Cameron in 1863.

THE DAILY ADVERTISER.

Daily, by mail, per year \$6 to 12 months, \$4.00
Daily, by mail, for three months, \$1.00
All subscriptions payable in advance.

IN LONDON:

Morning Edition, \$6 per annum; Evening Edition, \$6, per week, delivered.

THE WESTERN ADVERTISER.

By mail, per annum, \$1.00

JOHN CAMERON, President and Manager.

ADVERTISING RATES

Made known on application at office. Address all communications to

ADVERTISER PRINTING COY., LONDON, CANADA.

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Toronto, 2, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 456, 458, 460, 462, 464, 466, 468, 470, 472, 474, 476, 478, 480, 482, 484, 486, 488, 490, 492, 494, 496, 498, 500, 502, 504, 506, 508, 510, 512, 514, 516, 518, 520, 522, 524, 526, 528, 530, 532, 534, 536, 538, 540, 542, 544, 546, 548, 550, 552, 554, 556, 558, 560, 562, 564, 566, 568, 570, 572, 574, 576, 578, 580, 582, 584, 586, 588, 590, 592, 594, 596, 598, 600, 602, 604, 606, 608, 610, 612, 614, 616, 618, 620, 622, 624, 626, 628, 630, 632, 634, 636, 638, 640, 642, 644, 646, 648, 650, 652, 654, 656, 658, 660, 662, 664, 666, 668, 670, 672, 674, 676, 678, 680, 682, 684, 686, 688, 690, 692, 694, 696, 698, 700, 702, 704, 706, 708, 710, 712, 714, 716, 718, 720, 722, 724, 726, 728, 730, 732, 734, 736, 738, 740, 742, 744, 746, 748, 750, 752, 754, 756, 758, 760, 762, 764, 766, 768, 770, 772, 774, 776, 778, 780, 782, 784, 786, 788, 790, 792, 794, 796, 798, 800, 802, 804, 806, 808, 810, 812, 814, 816, 818, 820, 822, 824, 826, 828, 830, 832, 834, 836, 838, 840, 842, 844, 846, 848, 850, 852, 854, 856, 858, 860, 862, 864, 866, 868, 870, 872, 874, 876, 878, 880, 882, 884, 886, 888, 890, 892, 894, 896, 898, 900, 902, 904, 906, 908, 910, 912, 914, 916, 918, 920, 922, 924, 926, 928, 930, 932, 934, 936, 938, 940, 942, 944, 946, 948, 950, 952, 954, 956, 958, 960, 962, 964, 966, 968, 970, 972, 974, 976, 978, 980, 982, 984, 986, 988, 990, 992, 994, 996, 998, 1000.

God's in His heaven,
All's right with the world.

—[UNKNOWN].

London, Friday, June 10.

THE CITY AND THE CAMP.

Ald. Garrett was quite right in suggesting that if the London Council is to be asked to pay city money to provide conveniences for the Dominion Militia Department on the camping grounds here, it should be expended on an intelligent basis.

Every time the camp has been held here a demand has been made by agents of the Ottawa authorities that various works required for the comfort of the militiamen shall be paid out of the civic purse. The money is expended, and next year a similar demand is presented. This year, it has been estimated, \$800 will be so expended. The question has been asked, and has not been properly answered, why, if the city is to be put to this constantly recurring expenditure, some effort should not be made to have the works of a permanent character, and thus avoid annual outlays?

Some of the aldermen seem to have doubts about whether or not the annual camp will continue to be held here. Surely after the arrangement of last year's camping ground by the Commander-in-Chief, and his denunciation of the plan of holding the camp anywhere except at the most convenient place for the comfort and proper drilling of the men, there will be no further attempt to make the militia organization a political engine to promote the candidature of any weakling candidate who may plead with injury to the force.

If further proof of the injustice of such a course were needed it is to be found in the evidence of Major-General Herbert, chief of the Canadian militia forces, before the Civil Service Commission. The Major-General reports that under the system now pursued the camp sites are selected on the request of politicians "in the face of adverse reports from officers appointed to inspect the sites. Hence," continues the candid officer, "we find men encamped on ground which does not answer ordinary requirements, where water is wanting, where no rifle or artillery range is available, or where the space for drill is so restricted that the training of infantry is difficult, and that of cavalry or artillery impossible. Besides involving unnecessary expense, this system gives rise to a widespread feeling, through all ranks of the militia, that the efficient training and comfort of the force are sacrificed to considerations which have no connection with the force. The uncertainty which annually prevails as to the site to be selected for the district camp acts prejudicially on recruiting, and it may safely be predicted that when an unsuitable or unknown site is selected there will be difficulty in obtaining a good muster."

This exposure of the system which has been in vogue is none too strongly put. We know that the chief militia officer have favored the holding of the camp permanently in this city, and have so reported, but the backbone of the force and the backbone of the city are the militia and the city. Their efficiency to help a sore beset politician out of a hole. This shameless prostitution of power has been defended on the ground that it is a proper use to which to put the force, but it is to be hoped that public opinion will in future prevent any such manipulation.

When the military grounds were chosen in London, the understanding reached by the press and by the aldermen was that the large farm purchased for the purpose would be used year after year for that purpose. It stood to reason that such should be the case, for London's central position renders it an exceptional point at which to hold an annual gathering of the volunteers of the district, while the facilities for drill, for water supply, for proper sanitary arrangements are all that can be desired. That being the case, why should Major-General Herbert's advice not be accepted, and the annual camp held here year after year? In this view of the chief of the militia forces is supported by the general officers and the deputy-adjutant, whose property in the nine military districts shall be turned to account for the purpose. In five of the nine military districts London is the headquarters of one of the five—Gen. Herbert says that camping sites are now available, and similar sites for the other four can be prepared at small expense. Of the Government sites Gen. Herbert further says:

"These existing sites are at points of strategic importance, where it is desirable that all arrangements should be complete for the concentration of bodies of militia in the event of national emergency."

The systematic annual expenditure of the small sum of money on the same site, instead of the squandering of money in various

places, entailed by the present system, would produce an ample return in the annual improvements to the camp and the increased comfort secured for the troops."

At considerable length, the Major-General supports this view, insisting that a permanent camp at military headquarters would prove economical to the service as well as add to the comfort of the men.

That is what the ADVERTISER has always insisted on.

Let the camping ground be permanent, and let the Militia Department foot its own bills. The city of London should no more be called upon to pay for the works necessary to the comfort of the force than it should be called upon to provide them with uniforms. It has again and again been announced that the Ottawa treasury is filled to overflowing; it is so full that expensive postoffices have been built at many country cross-roads corners, and hundreds of thousands of dollars are annually wasted in other questionable ways. Why should the Ottawa authorities continue either the miserable peddling-around policy or beg for municipal assistance to perform their duty? A great department should be above that.

At the Niagara Methodist Conference, Rev. Dr. Douglas defended his arraignment of Sir John Thompson of a year ago, and maintained that the events of last year had further proved that Sir John Thompson was not a man to be trusted by the people of Canada. In vigorous terms, Dr. Douglas maintained that the new gerrymander of which Sir John Thompson stands sponsor "would be sufficient, if perpetrated in England, to blight the reputation of any Minister, however influential. The trail of the serpent runs through it all. It cannot be that it shall pass—that this man shall prostitute the electorate of this country for his personal ambition. We discuss this subject without the rancor of party, without personal animosity, but in what we would desire to be a spirit of fairness."

WHY SOUTH LONDONERS LAUGH

We understand that Mr. Carling's "hon. gentleman who ran in South Middlesex last time"—to wit, Mr. A. G. Chisholm—repudiates the percentage of the statement made regarding South London by the member for Elliot. It will be remembered that when Mr. Carling was cornered in regard to the object of the jugglery by means of which 10,000 Londoners are kept voting in county constituencies, while a portion of London township is pitchedforked into the city, he claimed that London South was a Conservative stronghold. That cannot being exposed, Mr. Carling fell back upon the excuse that Mr. Chisholm told him that he had received a majority of 31 in the Sixth ward. Mr. Chisholm could not tell him that without uttering a falsehood, for he knows that there was a substantial majority against him in every division but two, and these gave him but 15. Mr. Chisholm, we learn, now denies the truthfulness of the statement. The question is, why did Mr. Carling make it? He is a clumsy reasoner, and he may have hoped to bamboozle the critics of the gerrymander. He failed, and now he is the laughing stock of the Sixth ward. If Mr. Carling thinks that the ward favors him, just let him permit the electors to vote with their fellow-citizens—just once. He knows better, or the city would not be carved up and distributed around among the country ridings, to his humiliation, when referred to as only having 22,000 inhabitants, and to the great inconvenience of the electors in the Fifth and Sixth wards.

No revision of the voters' lists this year, truthfully remarks the Montreal Star, means that the graveyard vote will hold a balance of power at the bye-elections next spring; while 22-year-old Canadians can do nothing but stand about the railway station and see mercenary aliens, with a single eye for the free trip, come home on special trains to help govern a country they will leave before their return ticket runs out.

DO NOT WANT FAIR PLAY.

Sir John Thompson called upon his supporters to vote down Mr. McCarthy's amendment to the Gerryman Bill, providing for the maintenance of county and city boundaries, and with the exception of Mr. O'Brien, who seconded the McCarthy amendment, they voted it down. The motion was in the right direction, but the only permanent cure for the gerrymander is the carrying out of the spirit of the Confederation Act, which lays it down as a principle that a redistribution of the constituencies shall be delegated to some independent body by Parliament. If Mr. McCarthy's motion had been adopted it would have supplied a principle upon which the redistributors should proceed. But the men who profited by past gerrymanders or who expect to profit by the present measure, preferred to act without principle. They refused to do right. Is there law or public opinion to compel them? We shall see.

It is announced in a dispatch from Philadelphia that a Pennsylvania experimenter has invented and patented a process for gas making which he claims will revolutionize old ways. A company has been formed, buildings will be erected, and machinery placed in them. It will be thoroughly tested. Those interested are perfectly satisfied that the process will produce gas that is as electric light in brilliancy and natural gas in heat. The process is very simple. It consists of forcing a column of air through a mixture of certain chemicals, and will produce gas at 2 cents per 1,000 feet. This sounds really marvelous, and if it can be accomplished it will be as great a boon to the public as it will be a setback to electric light companies. But inasmuch as the "thorough test" has yet to be gone through, the members of the last used are not likely to lose sleep over the prospect.

TOPICS OF TODAY.

The Liberals carried the first bye-election for the Quebec Legislature (Beauharnois) by a majority of over 500. This is a gain.

The Arena (Boston) continues to hold a high position as a magazine. It is a first-class, fearless exponent of advanced thought on all great public questions, and its attractiveness to Canadian readers steadily increases.

Mr. Moody, the noted evangelist, after cruising in the Mediterranean in Mr. Peter Mackinnon's yacht, arrived at Jerusalem, and has preached twice on Mount Calvary.

London society has been having a "mauvaise quart d'heure" between Lady Jeune's scathing article in the North American Review and the sermons of Father Ignatius upon its sins and its follies, delivered at the Kensington Town Hall.

Queen Victoria will send to the World's Fair, Chicago, some specimens of her own knitting, needlework, etc., and also some drawings done by her in her girlhood. Princess Christian, Princess Louise and Princess Henry will also send specimens of needlework.

The Severn tunnel has effected a great revolution in railway affairs in England, according to the superintendent of the Great Western Railway Company. He says the development of traffic by the new route, which saves so much time and travel, has been wonderful. From 1,300 to 1,400 wagons, with coal and general freight, pass through the tunnel in a day.

A famous scientific man has declared that the measure of a nation's civilization may be gauged by the amount of sulphuric acid it consumes, since this acid is an essential to the most skillful, speedy, and economical methods in the higher mechanical arts. Measured by this standard, the civilization of the United States is the highest on earth. Inscriptions on mummy cloths with a material produced only through the agency of sulphuric acid are taken as an evidence of the high civilization existing in ancient Egypt.

Don't be "taken in" by the imitations of Pearlina. Their names may end in "ine," but their use may

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