

The Advertiser

Founded by John Cameron in 1893.

THE DAILY ADVERTISER.

Daily, by mail, per year (\$ to 16 pages).....\$4 00
Daily, by mail, for three months.....1 00
All subscriptions payable in advance.

IN LONDON:

Morning Edition, \$8 per annum; Evening Edition, 10c per week, delivered.

THE WESTERN ADVERTISER.

(OUR WEEKLY EDITION.)

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LONDON, - CANADA.

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

—(BROWNING.)

If you trust in God and yourself you can surmount every obstacle. Do not yield to needless anxiety. One must not always be making what may happen to one in life, but one must advance fearlessly and bravely.

—(PRINCE BISMARCK.)

London, Monday, April 30.

THE LONDON ADVERTISER, with its morning and evening editions, covers the ground. With one exception, it is the ONLY EARLY MORNING DAILY IN ONTARIO, outside of Toronto.

Only those communications to which the writers are willing to have their names appended in print will be published in these columns. Neither the writing nor the publication of anonymous letters can be justified.

The Conservatives and the Patrons are not natural allies. —(Hamilton Herald.)
A close scrutiny of their respective platforms will show that.

Minister Foster continues to deform his tariff. When it is completed its builder will scarcely be able to recognize it. All who are willing to contribute election funds are welcome to make suggestions.

If the South American nations would only cease fighting among themselves and employ their energies in developing their resources, they would be formidable rivals of northern lands.

The growth of poverty in Toronto is exemplified by returns just published, in which it is shown that the grants from the city council have increased from \$18,000 in 1886 to over \$100,000 in the present year. There are now 41 charitable institutions receiving aid. As the civic grants only aid in a small way to maintain these charities, the private contributions must be enormous.

The projectors of the Georgian Bay Ship Canal and Power Aqueduct Company, who say they intend to run a gigantic waterway from Georgian Bay to Lake Ontario at Toronto, may or may not be some speculative charter-mongers. They will at least have to get along with much less money than they desired to be empowered to handle. The Legislature has cut down their power to raise capital stock from \$65,000,000 to \$20,000,000.

The Montreal Witness, referring to the serio-comic attack of Sir John Thompson on the Ottawa Free Press, says that "Judges and parliamentarians who condemn those who criticise them without taking evidence as to the grounds of the criticism and the justice of the attack, will not be sustained in doing so by public opinion in a democratic country. No one should be condemned without first having been heard." This is a correct view, but to have heard the Ottawa Free Press would have been to receive a remarkably strong defense, and that was the last thing Sir John Thompson desired to entertain.

The Province will rest easy once more. In reply to Mr. Hammell, of Cardwell, Hon. Geo. W. Ross has given assurance that in all specifications or tenders for flour "strong bakers" or "Manitoba" is not demanded. The flour required may be made from any wheat producing flour satisfactory in strength and color. The color and strength of the flour are approved by sample submitted with each tender, and accepted or rejected without regard to where the wheat may be produced. In no other way could the best possible results be secured for the expenditure of public money, and that is what is required by the Administration.

BRITISH VS. PROTECTIONIST.

There is a moral in the following London cablegram:

"Lord Tweedmouth was well advised in proving his father's will with unusual speed before the new budget was introduced. He saved \$26,000 in extra duty."

This shows the tendency of British taxation legislation. It is to put the burden of governing the country chiefly on the backs of the best able to bear it. In Canada the "protectionist" tariff presses most heavily on the masses, because it collects tribute from them at every turn. We are told that the Canadian worker should not object to this arrangement, because he is better off than the toiler in old world civilizations. That is no argument. Why should not Canadians enjoy the advantages of living in a new country, with great natural opportunities, no war debt, and no need for keeping up huge armaments? To unnecessarily tax a citizen because he is better off than some one else in a foreign land is decidedly unjust. We wonder at any worker being contented to stand it.

THE CITY ELECTION.

A week or two ago, the Liberals in the various wards of the city selected delegates to attend a convention for the purpose of bringing out a candidate to contest the city at the ensuing election for the Provincial Legislature, leaving it to the Liberal executive to call the convention when an opportune time arrived. The executive met on Saturday night, and resolved to call the delegates together for action in the Young Liberal rooms on Thursday evening next at 8 o'clock.

There has been a good deal of talk about a candidate, and the names of several well-known citizens deeply interested in the welfare of London have been mentioned in this connection. We have not the slightest doubt that among the number the Liberal and independent electors of London will be able to select a representative who will aid in promoting the cause of good and progressive government, and look well after the interests of London at the same time.

No doubt each delegate will have his own idea as to the qualifications that a candidate ought to possess. There are some characteristics that we know the Liberal candidate will not have. From what we know of the gentlemen whose names have been mentioned in this connection we can safely affirm that the candidate to be selected will be honest and upright, and devotedly attached to this beautiful city. He will be prepared to assert that in the Legislature, while taking a broad view with regard to the general welfare of the Province, the interests of the city which he represents shall be his first care. And if at any time his own private concerns should move him to cast in his lot with a rival city—to become its paid advocate, necessitating the declaration that his new client should have his first concern—we have not the slightest doubt that at the earliest moment he would return to London and resign the trust that he could no longer hold with justice to himself, to his new-found master, or to this fair municipality. It has recently been made abundantly evident that no man who has divided interests can be expected to serve London with acceptance, and that no candidate will be elected whose first duty is to uphold a rival city. The Liberal candidate, we venture to prophesy, will be a man who is devoted to the interests of the city beyond all question.

THE MILITIA REPORT.

The report of the Department of Militia and Defense, laid on the table of Parliament the other day, is for the year ending 30th June, 1893, and the inspection reports relate to the summer of 1892, now nearly two years ago. We submit that for the purpose of aiding the corps in perfecting their organization this report is practically useless. To serve a good purpose, it should be issued within a few months, at the latest, of the time when the inspections are made, and the strictures of the commanding general and his aides are made. The militia, like a good many more departments at Ottawa, requires more practical work and less circumlocutionary red-tape. We could easily set an example to Whitehall, instead of lagging away behind in matters of administration.

CLOSE OF THE LEGISLATURE.

Much work has been done in the session of the Legislature which closes this week, though the proceedings have been unusually quiet for the closing days of the present Assembly. Usually the Opposition has been able to make things lively in the last session, but whether through the blundering of Dr. Ryerson, in beginning the session by making a series of unfounded charges against members of the Ministry, or the apathy of Mr. Meredith, because of his acceptance of the well-paid Toronto city solicitorship, the Opposition has not fought with much vim in the session now practically closed. Being largely administrative, it was to be expected that the accounts of the Ontario Government would be well overhauled; but so economically managed are the public institutions that little fault could be found even by the keenest opponent of the Ministry. The fact is that all supplies that can with advantage to the Province be bought by contract are so purchased, while other articles that cannot be so bought are obtained by purchase at fair market rates. Take our own asylum for example. Time and again inquiry has been made as to its management in addition to the scrupulous auditing of the accounts by the Provincial auditor, but so little fault could be found with its conduct that during this the concluding session of the Assembly the public accounts committee were not asked to consider a single item in its management bill. This can be taken as a sample of the general supervision of our public institutions.

Misrepresentations have from time to time been made by mischief-making politicians with regard to the distribution of Provincial assistance to charities. The closing session of the Assembly presented a good opportunity for these carping to put their objections to the grants to the test by moving against them. Baseless must these be, as not a single member of the Opposition took issue with a motion to cut down these grants.

The Legislature had several views on the appointment of Provincial officials before it. It is well-known that a section of the community desire the introduction of the American system of election by popular vote, while various other views have been promulgated. The Government being wedded to no particular system, so long as the public is well

served, has appointed a commission to take evidence from every point of view, and submit it to the new Legislature, with the object of passing such legislation as may seem to be advisable. Meanwhile, a bill has been passed reducing the fees of the Provincial officials when too high, and diverting the whole of the surplus receipts, hitherto shared by the Legislature and the municipalities, into the treasuries of the municipalities alone. Intelligent public opinion will sustain this course.

Another important law was the passage of the measure conferring on the separate public school supporters the same right to elect their trustees by ballot as is now possessed by the supporters of the public schools. This change would have been brought about before now if there had been any demand for it by the separate school supporters. Mr. Meredith and his friends desired to force upon the trustees a compulsory ballot, in accordance with the crusade to which he is committed, but by one of the largest majorities registered during the session—25—the Legislature refused to endorse this view. Hon. Mr. Fraser, whose ill-health compels him to retire from the Legislature, much to the regret of the large majority of the electors of Ontario, whom he has served faithfully and well for over twenty years, voted for the optional ballot, not because he believed it was needed, but in order to show Mr. Meredith and his friends that, while the separate school supporters had no antipathy to the ballot as such, they would never accept a compulsory ballot from their enemies.

Mr. Meredith was also unsuccessful in securing indemnification for his proposal to have biennial sessions of the Legislature. Under British responsible government the idea of once calling a Government to account once every two years is out of the question. The people do not desire to cripple the importance and usefulness of the Legislature on the plea of economy. They will not vote to establish a limited autocracy in the Province to save a few thousand dollars when by abolishing the Dominion Senate they can save nearly \$200,000 a year.

The bill for the registration of voters in the larger cities has met with the persistent opposition of the opponents of Sir Oliver in the Legislature. They are apparently afraid that this very fair system will militate against their welfare as a party. Perhaps so. But as it will secure a fair, honest registration of every voter willing to go to the registration office and comply with the simple requirements of the law, all independent electors will welcome it as a decided improvement upon the present system. What is needed is a full register of voters made up on the eve of an election, when the public is aroused, not at a time when there is comparative apathy, and when other influences than are fair may be worked in favor of either party.

It would indeed be shocking if the chicken coop from which women are by the gracious permission of the Imperial Parliament permitted to peer into the House of Commons should be removed, as Mr. Herbert Gladstone proposes. The fiction is that no woman must be admitted into the House, and this is the reason for keeping up the bars. There may be some good purpose served by the rule that prevents a visitor from reading a newspaper while waiting for the House to begin proceedings, or from making a note of what he sees or hears, but surely there can be none in keeping the wives, daughters and other female friends of the members, not to say women visitors generally, from being seen in the House.

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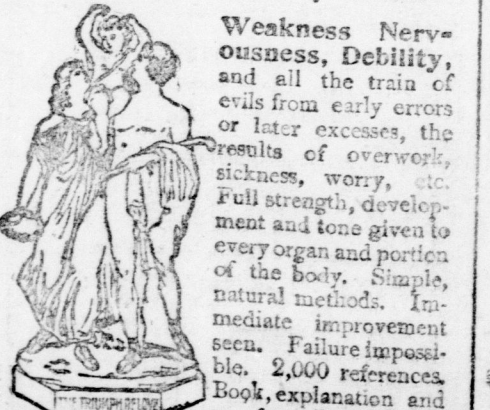
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