London Advertiser.

FOUNDED BY JOHN CAMERON IN 1863.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:

Daily, by mail, per year (8 to 12 pages)....$3 00
Daily, by mail, for four months..... 1 00
Daily, by mail, for one month..... 25
All subscriptions payable in advance.

IN LONDON.

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Made known on application at office. Address all communications to

ADVERTISER PRINTING COMPANY
LONDON - - CANADA.

BRANCH OFFICES:

Toronto—C. Rowland Orr, 11 King street west.
Montreal and Maritime Provinces—A. McKim & Co., Montreal, Que

London, Tuesday, Jan. 27.

WILL THERE BE A DISSOLUTION?

The ADVERTISER has been for six months urging upon the Liberal party the duty of being prepared for the general elections. A dissolution of Parliament seemed more imminent a few months ago than it now is, and particularly when the Premier and a number of his colleagues took to the holding of public meetings in various parts of the country. But although they are giving no outward sign now there is no assurance of dissolution being abandoned. The trade question is growing more awkward and unwieldable to the Government every day of its existence, for no one can doubt that converts to unrestricted trade with the United States are being made every day. Farmers are not alone in the desire to strike off the N. P. shackles. Merchants, manufacturers, workingmen and the great body of consumers generally are demanding continental free trade. This is the case in Ontario, where Sir Richard Cartwright and Mr. Charlton have been holding a series of successful meetings. It is the case in the Maritime Provinces, where Mr Laurier has recently completed a tour. It is the case in Quebec, where men of every occupation are witnessing the disastrous operation of the McKinley tariff. And, needless to say, it is the case in Manitoba and the North-west Territories, where the people are a unit for free buying and selling with their neighbors.

But Sir John Macdonald and his colleagues are also impressed with the progress which the movement is making in the United States, where men of the highest positions in the Government and in Congress have declared themselves in favor of reciprocity with Canada. They have also read the signs of the times as revealed in the fall elections, in which the McKinley tariff was the chief issue, and naturally enough they dread a like revulsion against high tariff in Canada when the first opportunity comes to the people to pronounce upon it. Added to all these circumstances is the confession of the Conservative press that an offer for enlarged trade has come to the Government of Canada from the Government of the United States, and the rumor that the Imperial Government is urging the settlement of all complications between the two countries on the basis of reciprocity. Within a year the situation has so changed that the members of the Government at Ottawa hardly know which way to turn. They feel that they are hunted, and should they turn to bay by dissolving the House we shall not be surprised, no matter how unjustifiable such a move might be.

It is the duty of the Liberals, however, to be prepared for any emergency, and we would again urge their leaders and workers in every constituency to be up and doing. Meetings ought to be held in every electoral district within the next three weeks for the selection of delegates to the Provincial convention, and these meetings ought to be large and representative and the opinions of the party on public affairs ought to be clearly expressed.

The present is a time for showing beyond peradventure where the Liberals stand, and on the trade question there is only one attitude for them to assume. Let us have public opinion and organization at the same time, and we shall be ready for the dissolution of Parliament, come when it may.

ON TEACHING ENGLISH.

Of the value of a thorough teaching of English it is a good thing to recall what Dr. Arnold once said. "What a treat it would be to teach Shakespeare to a good class of young Greeks in regenerate Athens; to dwell upon him line by line, and word by word, and so to get all his pictures and thoughts leisurely into one's mind, till I verily think one would, after a time, almost give out light in the dark after having been steeped as it were in such an atmosphere of brilliance." It is in this way the best teachers instruct in Greek and Latin. Why should it not also be the way of instruction in English? If our teachers would only take up a play of Shakespeare, or part of a play, and drill their pupils in it in the very thorough way Dr. Arnold would drill a class of young Greeks in regenerate Athens, we would have in our young men and women a much more complete mastery of the English language than is possible under the prevailing practice of cramming them with the literature of any other tongue, dead or living.

—Many school boards in Ontario are excited over the large number of children of school age who absent themselves, and thus are left uneducated. The compulsory appointment of truant officers is spoken of. In Stirling, Scotland, the magistrates have come to the rescue of the school authorities by sanctioning the employment of the police to look after truants.

THOUSANDS OF LIVES SACRIFICED.

The Canada Health Journal reaches the conclusion from the return of the mortality in 29 of the principal cities and towns of the Dominion, that if the same rate prevails throughout the whole of Canada, and medical men generally believe it does, 20,000 more human beings die in this country every year than would die if the mortality in it were reduced, by proper education of the people and sanitary administrations, to the average mortality rate in England. There appears to be room for reform in the sanitary surroundings of the people all over the country. After all what the people need to be taught, and taught continually, is that to prevent disease is far better than to invent means for its cure. The Health Journal tells of a dissipated, broken-down young man who when he consulted a celebrated French physician from whom he received some good hygienic advice, said: "Any idiot would know he'd get well if he did that which you advise, but I don't want to do that; I want to do just as I have been doing and have some medicine to cure me." This, as the same authority points out, is just the way with the general public. They want to live on in their unnatural, unhygienic ways—to live as they please—luxuriate, dissipate, as their disordered tastes dictate—eat bad food and breathe worse air, to have something injected under their skin, no matter what, to kill or cure them. The same public are now dancing with delight in the hope that they can live on in their evil ways and need not even try to avoid the "great white plague," consumption; that when they contract the disease they can get cured of it by a few drops of Koch's lymph. Koch was a great man and so was Jenner, who first applied vaccination to the lessening of the mortality from smallpox. But it is no longer doubted that if notification isolation and infection had been practiced in Jenner's time as they can be and are now, the mortality would have been greatly reduced without the aid of vaccination. Koch is too great a physician to hold that the strongest preventive measures will not be as much needed in the future as in the past. Though his lymph may aid in relieving those who become afflicted with consumption the fact remains that "pure air, sunlight, wholesome food and temperance in all things" will continue to be the best antidotes to disease of all kinds.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

—Brown stone fronts are going out of fashion in New York city. Good brick houses are now regarded as quite fashionable.

‡‡‡

—Counting Mr. Campbell, of East Durham, as an Independent, Hon. Mr. Mowat has now a majority in the Legislature of 19, with two bye-elections yet to fight, and reasonable prospects that a Liberal member will be elected in one or both of them.

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—The Jamaica Exhibition will be opened to-morrow by Prince George, son of the Prince of Wales. It is expected that the exposition will be a success. In point of exhibits, the Dominion stands first, with 10 courts. England has 8, Austria 5, Italy 4, Germany and the United States 3 each and France 2.

‡‡‡

—In promptly meeting and resolving to be well represented at the Provincial Liberal Convention in Toronto on Feb. 18 and 19, the East Middlesex Liberals have shown a good example to the friends of good government throughout the West. There should be a full representation from every section of the Province.

‡‡‡

—A Philadelphia father, by stroking the head of his child, and gazing at her with his piercing black eyes, hypnotised her. The child slept for 36 hours, and then a doctor was sent for, who brought her out of the sleep. One trial of this method of securing domestic harmony will be enough for this stern parent.

‡‡‡

—The Presbyterian Church of Canada has made enormous progress since the union of the several branches of the body in 1875. This fact is shown, in more ways than one, by the Presbyterian Year Book for 1891, which is ably edited by Rev. George Simpson, of the Canada Presbyterian, and published by the Presbyterian Printing Company, No. 5 Jordon street, Toronto. Take, for example, the statistics of the church's progress in Manitoba and the Northwest, while in 1871 there were but nine congregations in that country, there are now 510. The communicants have increased from 1,355 in 1882 to 8,218, and the contributions from $2,000 in 1871 to $129,535 at the present time. Many of the congregations are now self-supporting. The Year Book also contains full statistical information regarding all branches of the church, a list of its ministers, and a biographical sketch and fine portrait of Rev. Dr. Laing, the present moderator of the General Assembly. It must be invaluable to every member of the denomination.

‡‡‡

—At a Liberal dinner in Toronto on Saturday night, Sir Richard Cartwright pointed out that the men in power at Ottawa are deliberating most anxiously "not whether they should violate the constitution—that would not trouble them much—but whether they can violate the constitution to their own private advantage in this particular instance." This reference to the dissolution scheming is timely. Sir Richard said the tide of public opinion had turned from high taxation in favor of reciprocity, and that not even gerrymanders, franchise acts, or half million subsidies could stem the current. He pointed out further that the Reformers of the Dominion had before them two notable examples of what union and effort could do. One was that of the United States, where the people had risen, even against as great odds as faced the Liberals of Canada, and had declared themselves by an overwhelming majority in favor of greater freedom and against the trade restrictions which had been imposed upon them. The other was the case of the Ontario Government. "We have in Mr. Mowat," he said, "an example of what can be done by an honest man whose hands are clean, whose heart is clean, a man who has always studied, and has compelled his opponents to admit that he has studied the welfare of his country." Premier Mowat was happy in the consciousness that what Sir Richard said was the truth, and that he had a popular majority in the Province of over 15,000 at his back. In his speech he counseled unity of endeavor in the coming campaign. As the issues were greater in the Dominion than in the Province, so the exercise of energy and intelligence should be greater.

OTHER NEWSPAPERS.

NO CLOSER RELATIONSHIP.

Brantford Expositor.

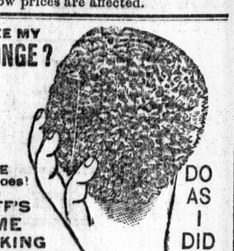
The ex-Premier, Hon. A. Mackenzie, while declaring himself to be an advocate of unrestricted reciprocity, has announced himself as opposed to commercial union. In this respect he stands upon the same platform as the great majority of Reformers. In fact, the leaders of the party, in Parliament and outside of it, have always repudiated any closer relations with the United States than would come with unrestricted reciprocity.

THE PRICE OF BARLEY.

Winnipeg Free Press.

The Toronto Empire says that the price of barley in Ontario has been maintained in spite of its exclusion from the United States by the McKinley tariff. "This is all the more remarkable," it continues, "from the fact that so much of this grain was hurried into the United States market in anticipation of the McKinley Act becoming law." Instead of making the fact more remarkable it affords a natural explanation of it. So much was hurried out of the country that the portion left was in good local demand, hence the favorable prices. Wait until next year, when it cannot be hurried out or induced to go out leisurely, and then tell us how prices are affected.

SEE MY SPONGE?



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