

# London Advertiser

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LONDON, SATURDAY, DEC 23, 1907.

## THAT HALF-MILLION FUND.

Concerning the fund of half a million dollars raised for the Conservative party in 1904, Hon. Mr. Pugsley, in an interview at St. John, N. B., says he will pay no attention to such "political mosquitoes" as Mr. Kemp or Mr. Bennett, but he adds that "whenever Mr. Borden is ready to discuss the matter with him, either in Parliament or elsewhere, he is ready to meet him in debate."

Mr. Borden has so far declined to take up the challenge issued by Mr. Pugsley at a public meeting in Ottawa. The Minister of Public Works offered to give the name of a person who received \$25,000 to be spent in one New Brunswick riding, if Mr. Borden demanded it on the floor of the House. So long as Mr. Borden remains silent the fundings of his lieutenants mean nothing.

Another sidelight on the Conservative campaign of 1904 is furnished by Mr. David Russell, the eastern capitalist, who mustered strong influences against the Laurier Government. He has accused the general manager of a leading bank of a breach of faith in divulging the fact that he (Russell) had sold Mr. Hugh Graham's note for \$100,000. There was no violation of trust by the bank manager, as he was compelled to produce his books by an order of a high court. This \$100,000 was for use in the Maritime Provinces. Mr. Graham has already testified that he sent election funds into each of the ridings of the Quebec district. His benefactions must have been enormous in the aggregate. And he was not the only special providence of the Conservative party. Mr. Russell was another with a long purse. The other members of the plutocracy are not yet known to the public, but their names will probably leak out.

Was all the money they subscribed merely a pledge of their affection for the Conservative party? Did they expect no return, if that party got the reins of power?

## UNCLE SAM'S NAVY CRITICISED.

In the current number of McClure's Magazine appears an article on the United States navy, which is causing a big sensation over there. Mr. Henry Reuterdahl, the writer, is an associate of the United States Naval Institute, and has evidently been prompted by men in the naval service who are in a position to know the facts. His object is to show that Uncle Sam's warships are not fit to go into battle. Such charges, however, are not new. The Navy, a periodical devoted to the interests of the service, has been saying the same thing for months past, and so have a number of the daily newspapers. Mr. Reuterdahl's article merely sums up, but his conspicuousness and earnestness have made it the climax of a long series of publications, and whether he is exactly right in all his assertions, he has achieved the difficult feat of goading the bureau chiefs into taking some notice. The charges are being discussed by the press generally, such sound journals as the Brooklyn Eagle accepting them as correct. Discussing Mr. Reuterdahl's article the Eagle says:

"He begins with the assertion that if war is to come to this country it must come by sea; that it will be decided by a few hours of fighting; that it is for those few hours that our fleet must be continually prepared; that if we are not prepared when that time comes our losses will be incalculable. These facts are so obvious that our author is content to stand on them, and he comes to the conclusion that the American navy is unprepared for war, he submits an array of bolstering facts that are as alarming as they are body blows to our pride in our navy."

One of Mr. Reuterdahl's most serious charges is that after the battleships now on their way to the Pacific were fully loaded their armor belts, which were all right when the vessels were light, were found to be in no case more than six inches above the water line. On this the Eagle comments:

"The humiliating fact is present that alone of the nations of the world America is the one that has continued to have its last product—the Connecticut, the flagship of the fleet—spending to the Pacific—this fundamental blunder. A battleship fights at sea. Hence her gun ports and turrets must be well out of water. All modern battleships in foreign navies have forward decks from 22 to 28 feet high, the armored sides 25 to 32 feet. The three of our navy of the Indiana class are but 11 feet above water; the two of the Kearsarge, 13; the Connecticut, 18. Experience shows that with ports open for action during bad weather each wave would send through them tons of water, by which, in short circuiting the electrical apparatus, turrets and guns would be put out of

business. In short, the gun power of each ship would be reduced one-third."

Naval officers are taking part in the discussion, some of them being remarkably outspoken. For instance, Rear-Admiral Melville declares that there is a dangerous and self-seeking clique at the navy department, and as he was for fourteen years head of the engineering bureau of the department he should be in a position to know. While in that capacity he did his utmost to induce the department to take the lead in engineering matters, but with little or no success. "No good," says the old admiral, "can come out of the navy so long as it is controlled by these bureaucrats, for the 25-years-old clique down there at Washington wants to get the control of the navy into its own hands." The change of clique control, however, is by no means a new one, having been made as far back as 1859.

The result of the charges and discussions is to convince the bureau chiefs that they can no longer pursue their historic policy of ignoring such accusations or of pigeonholing them when made by subordinates, and it is announced that they have decided that some reply must be made.

## A GIFT FROM THE PEACE RIVER.

The Winnipeg Free Press, greatest of western journals, sends to its contemporaries every year a unique Christmas gift, characteristic of the west. This year it is a miniature barrel of flour ground at Vermillion in the Peace River country, and made from wheat grown in that neighborhood. Vermillion is described as being situated 700 miles due north of the United States border, 400 miles south of the Arctic Circle, and 650 miles west from Hudson Bay. The mill in which the flour was made, which belongs to the Hudson Bay Company, was built in 1902, has a capacity of 35 barrels a day, and is the source of supply for the company's posts in the region. It may be added that wheat from the Peace River country took first prize at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893, which was not its first trophy. Before it reached Winnipeg the flour was carried over 1,800 miles, by steamer, pack train, York boat and railway.

In the book accompanying the gift is some interesting information as to milling methods from the earliest times. The saddle-stone, the pestle and mortar and the quern, used by the ancients, are still employed by primitive races. The greatest modern revolution was the introduction of the purifier in Minnesota in 1870, which enabled the miller to grind from spring wheat, then regarded as of no account. Before its invention the price of good flour was \$10 a barrel. The purifier gave value to the crops of Minnesota, Dakota, and Western Canada, and led to the agricultural development of that part of North America. Fifty years ago Ohio was supposed to mark the western limit of wheat-growing. Kansas, Illinois, Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, were not considered at all, and Western Canada to all intents and purposes was not on the map. But wheat-growing began its western and northern march, and now no one ventures to set limits to the latitude in which the king of cereals may be reared in this country. The Peace River district may within a generation become the home of a large population, and count its yield of wheat by millions of bushels.

Since the federal general election the Liberals have won 33 by-elections and the Conservatives 9. In the aggregate the Government has not lost a seat.

London's milk supply scores 100 per cent in the official tests. Let us keep our water supply on the same high level. We can't do it by taking the supply from the river.

The accusations leveled at George W. Fowler, M. P., by a Moncton paper, are described by Le Soleil as "terrible." If he is being slandered there is no man in public life who will get less sympathy or deserves less.

Probably the nice things said of the retiring mayor by men in receipt of his hospitality, will be treasured up for use if he ever becomes a candidate for the Legislature. This was done in Mr. Beck's case by his organ. A grosser breach of the civilities could scarcely be imagined.

More citizens of the right stamp ought to be offering for aldermanic and school board honors. But when we think of some of the men elected year after year, is it any wonder?

The solid men who do offer their services regard municipal office not as an honor but as a duty. This is creditable to them, but a reflection on the majority of citizens who are responsible for such a condition of things.

## IF CHRIST WERE HERE.

(Woodstock Sentinel-Review.)

Would you find Jesus Christ at the ring, where crowds assemble to see two men hammer each other till the blood flows? Would you find Jesus Christ editing a paper that would give a full account of such a performance? Would Christ attend the card table, the whist tournament? Would he attend the opening ball at the Armories? These and many other questions were asked by a local minister in the course of a sermon on Sunday on "The Devil of Sport." They suggest other questions. Would Christ be found editing a modern church paper? Would he attend

# THE ADVERTISER, LONDON, ONTARIO, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1907

## BRIDGE WHIST ON THE WANE

CHEATING BLAMED FOR IT—SOME EXAMPLES OF SHARP PRACTICE.

### A PAIR OF THEM.

"Jimmie," said a merchant, solemnly, at the eleventh hour, "we have forgotten to get a fresh supply of stamps."

And the office boy, in his excitement, responded with: "Goodness, sir, so we have!" If we ain't a couple of blunder-headed idiots!"

### NOT NECESSARY.

[Baltimore American.]

Nell (excitedly)—I'm going to hang up mistletoe in the decorations this year. Are you?

Belle (calmly)—I don't have to.

### A LITTLE PRAYER.

[S. E. Kiser.]

That I may not in blindness grope.

But that I may with vision clear

Know when to speak a word of hope.

Or add a little wholesome cheer.

That tempered winds may softly blow

Where little children, thinly clad,

Sit dreaming, when the flame is low.

Of comfort they have never had.

That through the year which lies ahead

No heart shall ache, no cheek be wet,

For any word that have said,

Or profit I have tried to get.

### JOLTING THE GRANDDAD.

[Life.]

A fond grandfather and father were

admiring the new baby.

Youngster is a great deal more intelligent

than you were at his age.

Insulted Parent—Naturally, he has a

great deal brighter father!

### SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS.

[Technical World.]

Today Canada alone produces over \$3,000,000 worth of furs every year, and to this

Alaska now adds \$750,000 of raw pelts, and

Laborador probably half this amount. Until

decade or so ago the Prybloss and other

seal islands sent out \$500,000 worth of

skins annually, and then, of course, we

have the enormous quantities dressed and

manufactured for the home markets.

### KELVIN'S FAITH.

[Guelph Mercury.]

It will be rather a blow to the free-

thinkers, so called, to find that Lord Kel-

vin—"the greatest mind of recent times"—

believed in the Supreme Being.

### HAPPY.

[Chicago Record-Herald.]

"I'm so happy. George proposed to me

last night."

"George? Why, I never would have

guessed that you cared for him at all."

"I don't, and he says he's going to be

miserable all his life because I won't have

him. But this makes the third proposal

I've had this year."

### SO THAT THERE COULD BE NO MISTAKE.

[Chicago Record-Herald.]

A London paper, describing the reception

to Emperor William at the Guildhall,

says: "Round about him were gathered

the wealth, the intellect, the beauty and

the aldermen and the lords of London."

It is always well to be explicit

when touching upon such matters.

### UNDER THE MISTLETOE.

[Town Topics.]

They stood beneath the mistletoe.

Pretty Bess and bashful Joe.

Stood and stood and stood and stood.

Like two solid blocks of wood.

Like at last Joe said to Bess:

"Might as well sit down, I guess."

Bess just glared and said: "You can."

I am waiting for a man."

### CANADA WILL GET THE MEAT TRADE.

[National Provisioner, New York.]

An item of news of importance to Ameri-

can export meat interests is the announce-

ment this week of a treaty between France

and Canada by which Canadian meats are

admitted to France at the lowest tariff

rates, in return for tariff concessions by

Canada. This means that unless the

United States makes a reciprocal agree-

ment with France, our meats will be shut

out of that country, as they are now,

practically—while Canada gets the trade.

### WHY?

[Sam Kiser.]

Although my gifts are cheap and small,

And not the things I need, at all,

Why should I regret to give them?

Since all around me I may see

The happy ones who wanted what

They got?

### THE NEXT DAY.

[Toronto Star.]

The night before Christmas has been

widely treated of by poets. But the Morn-

ing After—where is the lyric that can harp

dispepsia?

### SHOPLIFTERS.

[Hamilton Times.]

It is said that 250 shoplifters were caught

in Montreal stores last Saturday afternoon

and night. Five hundred private detec-

tives watched the departmental and other

large stores with the above result. Not

one of the 250 were prosecuted. Why?

Because, we are told, it is a settled policy

not to prosecute the kind of thief in a police

court they believe to be harmful to their

business. They only prefer charges when

some very valuable article is lifted or

in all cases, however, the party detected

is usually made to sign a confession of

guilt, which is carefully locked away to

be used should the party be found stealing

a second time.

### INK FROM BANANA TREE.

[The banana furnishes us with ink, with

handkerchiefs, with wax, with blacking,

with excelsior, with oil, with flour, with

window cord, with brushes."

The speaker, a banana planter from

Jamaica, paused and smiled.

"You don't believe me, do you?" he

said. "Yet truly the banana tree is a won-

derful thing. Every part of it serves some

good use. The long leaves make a

fine excelsior. The juice, being rich in

tannin, furnishes a good indelible ink.

A good shoe polish. The stems yield

a quality of hemp, and from this

hemp there are made face handkerchiefs,

brushes. The oil is used in gliding.

Of banana flour, the flour ground from

the dried fruit, there is no use speaking—you

are too familiar with it."—Philadelphia

Bulletin.

It is a common practice with some

of the club servants to be directly directed

to tell Mr. So-and-So the next time

he comes to the door that his resigna-

tion has been accepted and that he is

no longer a member. Unless he is

very dense he takes the hint and de-

parts.

But you cannot regulate things that

way among women. While women are

very ready to talk and to compare

notes and even to name people, they

are never willing to make charges to

a committee.

It was not more than a year ago

that a woman's club caught one of its

members red-handed with a pocket-

book that she had taken from a card

table at which she was playing a mo-

ment before. Did they do anything?

Oh, no. Of course it was all a mis-

take, they said, even though the same

woman had been under suspicion of

crooked practices for months.

She is still a member of that club

in good standing; watched, of course,

and talked about, but never openly

denounced or asked to resign.

There seems to be something in the

game of bridge more than in other

games that tends to sap the moral

sensibilities. Strange to say, playing

bridge for money does not seem to ex-

cite the cupidity of women, "hail so

much as playing for a prize. The

things that otherwise respectable and

highly moral women will stoop to for

the sake of winning a prize in a bridge

tournament are simply astounding.

One of the favorite tricks when the

game is pivot bridge is for four fea-

to arrange their own table and to

agree that they will double and redou-

ble everything, no matter what the

declaration may be, so that at least

one person at the table shall have a

tremendous score. The result is prac-

tically the same as if the trick was

were 8, 16, 24, 32 and 48, instead of the

ordinary series of 2, 4, 6, 8 and 12.

In a recent game at which the play

was only two hours the winner un-

blushingly presented a card which

showed she was more than 14,000

points plus. In order