

The Planet

S. STEPHENSON, Proprietor.

EAST MIDDLESEX RECORD.

The London Advertiser tries to comfort itself over its defeat in East Middlesex in this way:

"Subject, therefore, to slight variations in the official returns, Mr. Robson's majority would seem to be the slim, even if sufficient, total of 46, in a constituency that has hitherto given opposition majorities up to 500. The contest has been a keen one, and it indicates that the hitherto supposedly safe opposition seat of East Middlesex can no longer be counted on by opponents of the government, even when they bring on their admittedly strongest candidates in the riding. As the opposition were in possession of the seat previously, the government were in the happy position of having everything to gain and nothing to lose; so that, so far as East Middlesex is concerned, Premier Ross is no worse off, and the opposition no better off, in the house than before. The only difference is that the majority in a hitherto supposedly strong opposition seat has been reduced in favor of the government to a handful."

The Advertiser seems to be a relic of the old style party newspaper, which deemed it good policy to try and deceive its readers in political matters. Happily the day of that kind of journalism has gone by. The Advertiser appears to be about the last of the old class, yet it doesn't seem to realize it. Now, instead of East Middlesex being a strong Conservative constituency, it has only gone Conservative at the provincial general elections. Since Richard Topley carried it in 1882. In 1886, Mackenzie, Liberal, won the riding from Routledge Conservative. In 1890, it was recaptured by Richard Topley for the opposition. In 1894 Frank Shore, a Patriot, carried it. In 1898 Hodgson, Conservative, retook it for the opposition by 95 majority. And this is the riding the Advertiser impresses on its unfortunate readers as heretofore safely Conservative by 500.

However, this great family journal will be generous and assume the Advertiser did not wilfully intend to deceive. Its mistake was probably due to ignorance. It probably didn't know that the constituencies of East Middlesex for legislative and Dominion purposes are quite different. One has a large Conservative majority; while the other has always been a hard-fought battle ground. As the Advertiser is published in the middle of the riding, it ought to know this, but it apparently doesn't, and is confounding the Dominion majorities with the provincial contests.

East Middlesex was Robinsonized.

A prophet hath no honor in his own land. Neither can Hon. G. W. Ross carry a close constituency in the vicinity of his own native beach. They evidently know George too well round East Middlesex.

The Sarnia Canadian wants to know why Duncan Bole, the alleged ballot box crook, was not arrested when he appeared in East Middlesex about the same time as Keep-Your-Man-Low Vance, Premier Ross and the rest of them? We really cannot answer the Canadian's question. It should apply to Hon. G. W. Ross, the attorney general. He probably knows more about Bole's immunity from prosecution.

PATIENTLY BORE DISGRACE

A Sad Letter from a Lady Whose Husband Was Disgraced—How She Cured Him.



"I had for years patiently borne the disgrace, suffering misery and privations due to my husband's drinking habits. Hearing of your marvelous remedy for the cure of drunkenness, which I could give my husband secretly, I decided to try it. I procured a package and mixed it in his food and coffee, and as the remedy was odorless and tasteless, he did not know what it was that so quickly relieved his craving for liquor. He soon began to pick up flesh, his appetite for solid food returned, he stuck to his work regularly, and we now have a happy home. After he was completely cured I told him of the deception I had practiced on him, when he acknowledged that it had been his saving; as he had not the resolution to break off of his own accord. I heartily advise all women afflicted as I was to give your remedy a trial."

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tion than anybody else. At least it is his place to know it.

Tall, slender girls of Irish parents make the best telephone operators. This information may somewhat compensate our esteemed friend, William Hickey, of Merlin, for the fact that Scotchmen seem to fit comfortably in all the public offices in this vicinity.

We always thought Woodstock a pretty small place, but the latest yarn from there seems to paint its meanness in excessively bright colors. It asked for plans for a new town hall. Among those sent was one from Architect Powell, of Stratford. Mr. Powell's plans were approved of, and then he was notified of their rejection. Now he alleges Woodstock used them on the quiet to build its town hall, thereby escaping paying for them.

THE MODERN RICHARD.

Galt Reformer.

Lord Strathcona does not, like Richard of old, offer his kingdom for a horse. He does better—he offers his horse for the Kingdom.

EDITORS VS. GENERALS.

Toronto Telegram.

England cannot expect anything but disaster when the men who know everything are editing newspapers and the men who know nothing are leading armies.

DO KINGSTON GIRLS SMOKE?

Eganville Star.

We published a district item a few weeks ago, which read: "It is no uncommon sight to see Kingston girls go into cigar stores and purchase cigarettes. There are a good many smokers among the fair sex."

The editor of the Mattawa Tribune wants to know who told us. He says that Kingston was his home for years, yet he never saw a Kingston girl smoking cigarette, pipe or cigar. He thinks there must be some mistake.

Not at all, old man—not on our part, anyway. The item in question was taken from the Kingston Whig, and that paper ought to know what it's talking about.

CONSERVATIVES HAVE THE PULL.

Ottawa Citizen.

A prominent member of the local Reform Association was filled with an intense feeling of indignation on Monday, over the recent appointments on the "hill." He said that the Conservatives were getting everything, and the Liberals nothing. "Not content with filling his cabinet with old Tories like Tarte, Cartwright, Scott, Dobell and Blair," he exclaimed, "Sir Wilfrid Laurier is now bestowing every good thing that falls vacant upon people of the same stripe of politics, many of whom have been actively working against us. It was only the other day that I wrote the premier a letter of remonstrance over the appointment of Miss —, the daughter of a prominent Conservative, and as an answer thereto, we have the Chapeau and Lamothe appointments. I feel so discouraged, that I mean to take the first junior county court judgeship that falls vacant, if I can get it."

OUR BABIES.

By a Chatham Papa.

They're into mischief from morning till night.

They're playing together, then having a fight.

They're clean in the morning, at noon a fright.

Our babies.

They're making a litter all over the floor.

They're eating green fruit, then crying for more.

They're jangling the bell on our very front door.

Our babies.

They're making cocked hats out of this evening's news.

They're eternally crying for their day to amuse.

They're teasing the bird and the cat they abuse.

Our babies.

They're tearing the hair all out of their dolls.

They're jumping around and have all kinds of falls.

They're laughing one minute and then its all squalls.

Our babies.

They're crying for dough when their mamma makes bread.

They're asking for pieces with sugar well spread.

They're stuffing themselves until they're near dead—

Our babies.

They're never contented, not even in bed.

They're kicking the clothes all over their head.

They're marking the walls from A down to Z—

Our babies.

They're laying asleep now, quiet and still.

They're all tired out, of play had their fill.

They're not troubling now, but tomorrow they will—

Our babies.

CHARING CROSS.

The shooting match on Thursday last resulted in a victory for the side captained by W. Walker.

C. Howlett's condition is slightly improved.

Don't forget the Valentine Concert in the Foresters' hall on Feb. 14th.

Mr. Hicks, a student from Huron College, preached in the English Church here on Sunday, Mr. George going to Sandwich.

Frank Drury left on Saturday on a trip to eastern cities.

HOMES FOR SOLDIERS

INSTITUTIONS ABOUT WHICH VERY LITTLE IS GENERALLY KNOWN.

Veteran Volunteers are Well Cared For in National Homes—Nineteen Thousand Inmates Supported at the Public Expense.

No part of the lately published volume containing the report of the Secretary of War is more interesting than the account of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, an institution about which but little is generally known.

This institution is composed of eight branch homes: to wit, the Eastern, the Central, the Southern, the Western, the Northern, the Pacific, the Marine and the Danville, situated in as many different States. Each of them is under the immediate charge of local officers appointed by the Board of Managers. The aggregate population of the homes is over 19,000. The general government of the institution is invested in a board of fourteen managers, three of whom, the President of the United States, the Secretary of War and the Chief Justice, are members by virtue of their offices.

The other eleven are chosen from time to time by Congress for a term of six years. The Board of Managers elects from its own members a president, two vice-presidents and a secretary, and, from non-members, an inspector-general, an assistant inspector-general and a general treasurer.

The president has his permanent headquarters in Hartford, Conn., and the secretary, at Princeton, Ill.; the Board meets from time to time at places agreed upon. The administrators of each branch home are selected by the Board of Managers from honorably discharged officers and soldiers; a recent inspection shows that their duties are discharged with commendable zeal and efficiency.

The purpose of this institution is to receive and care for veterans who have rendered service to their country as volunteers, but who are unable to earn a living by reason of disabilities incurred under the colors.

It is to be expected that unfortunate survivors of the Spanish-American War will be presently compelled to look to the Government for shelter, food and clothing, and the Secretary of War recommends that such legislation be enacted as shall admit honorably discharged soldiers, who have taken part in that contest to the Home for Disabled volunteers.

New buildings will be erected for the benefit of survivors of the Spanish-American contest and the report placed in the Southern States, where the advantages incident to a mild climate may be secured.

The records published here show that, of the 19,000 disabled volunteers constantly present during the past year, the average daily number of sick was 2,010 in hospital, 883 in convalescent quarters and 471 at sick call. They are said to receive proper care and attention from an excellent corps of surgeons and nurses. In the hospitals, trained female nurses have been substituted for the veterans to whom used to be delegated the charge of their sick brethren.

What the homes lack as yet is a central medical authority, who should either be a salaried member of the Board of Managers or an assistant to its president, and who should supervise the medical administration, especially as regards the purchase and distribution of medical supplies. The mortality during the last year was 50.9 per 1,000, a proportion which speaks well for the medical administration, as, with the advancing age of the veterans of the Civil War, a higher death rate from year to year was to be looked for. The general condition and police administration is pronounced by the inspector exceptionally good, and, evidently, an effort is made on the part of the local officers to make and keep them attractive. — Collier's Weekly.

Once-Japanese Trees.

An exhibition of Japanese floral and arboreal plants has been held at the American Art Galleries. To reproduce a Japanese garden plants and decorations have been brought over, and some are very rare specimens, many of them being the oldest in existence.

Geisha girls, who came over with the plants, poured tea in the garden, the entrance of which was like an old gateway, decorated with old stone ornaments.

The trees are nearly all dwarfed, this being done by clipping the roots. In the collection are a number of evergreens, ranging in age from 25 to 200 years, and most of them are trained to the shape of Fujiyama, the Japanese sacred mountain. One evergreen is reputed to be 1,100 years old, and the only one of the kind in the world; it is only ten feet high, and weighs about a ton. One of the beautiful specimens is the chi-shio or red maple; it is quite unlike any maple of this country, having fine, small leaves, and being of a delicate peachblow that it is nine feet high.

Of the remarkable specimens is a piece of mountain-sponge about two feet square, out of which there are growing ten dwarf trees of different varieties, such as pine, cedar, evergreen, and paulownia, some of them only a few inches high. A curious and rare specimen is the densiflora pine. The Japanese in the training of this tree have shown their usual love for reversing the natural order of things; the roots are nearly all exposed and growing in the air, while the tree, instead of being supported by the roots, actually supports the roots. The tree is so small that it will keep the tree alive with the hope that in time by great cultivation this tree may flourish with barely a root.

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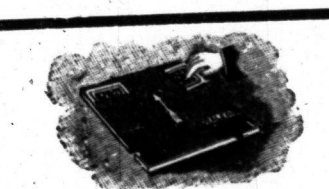
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