

The Advertiser

Founded by John Cameron in 1863.

THE DAILY ADVERTISER.

Daily, by mail, per year (8 to 12 pages).....\$4 00
Daily, by mail, for three months.....1 00
All subscriptions payable in advance.

IN LONDON:

Morning Edition, 6¢ per annum; Evening Edition, 10¢ per week, delivered.

THE WESTERN ADVERTISER.

(OVER WEEKLY EDITION.)

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 CO.,

LONDON, - CANADA.

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

—[BROWNING.]

London, Tuesday, May 9.

The British Columbians claim that the census for that Province has been bungled. Will the condemnation of the census never be complete? The alleged returns of industrial establishments, compiled in response to the offer of a liberal reward for every industry chronicled, is the laughing-stock of the whole Dominion.

If some faithful historian would trace the history of the U. E. families down to the present he would be able to show that a large proportion of them have returned to the land from which their forefathers came. If he honestly stated the causes that led to this exodus from a land rich in undeveloped wealth, he would give a powerful impetus to the cause of emancipation from the tariff abominations that have done so much to injure this fair land.

WHAT is the matter with Cobourg? The county town of Northumberland had 4,829 inhabitants in 1891; the assessors this year only find 4,359. This is fewer than in 1871, when the assessors found 4,442. In 1881, just after the long period of world-wide dullness in trade, which also affected Canada, the census officers found 4,957 inhabitants in Cobourg. It is apparent that this finely situated town, like many others throughout Canada, has been hurt rather than helped by the trade restriction policy.

BRITISH agriculture does not appear to be that dying industry in every part of the country which some people would have us believe. Some farms in the Lothians have recently been let at largely increased rentals. In one instance a fine dairy farm has realized an increase of £1 7s 6d per acre, and in East Lothian two holdings have been leased at an increase of 16 shillings per acre. Similar improvement has been shown on the Duke of Buccleuch's estate, and they seem to betoken better times both for landlord and tenant.

"WICKED and bad as may have been your past life, I might not have been any better had I had the same circumstances and surroundings and temptations." So writes the Governor of New Hampshire to condemned murderer Amy, now under sentence of death in that State. One can recognize the fairness of the reasoning without entertaining any maudlin sympathy for the murderer, who, in cold blood, killed an estimable young lady because she refused to let him court her.

The United States Government is determined, if precautions will effect it, to keep cholera out of the country. With this object in view the Treasury Department has issued an important circular, giving instructions as to the regulation of immigration and cabin passage under the new law to consular and medical officers at foreign ports. It is ordered that all baggage of steerage passengers shall be labeled to show if it has been inspected and passed or disinfected, and passengers shall be given cards of inspection. These are not valid unless bearing the seal and signature of the consular agent or medical officer at the port of sailing. Cabin passengers shall bear a special inspection card of the same character. These cards will state the place of departure and destination, date of inspection and time of inspection before sailing.

"If tariff reform is to be taken to mean tariff for revenue only, then the tariff will be levied alike on all articles of import." — [Toronto Empire.]

How misleading our high tax contemporary can be when it chooses. A tariff for revenue only would let many articles in free of duty; it would tax diamonds and other luxuries much higher than necessities of life; and it would not, like a tariff for "protective" purposes, tax the poor man 50, 60 and 70 per cent. for what he requires, while the rich man's outfit escapes with 25 and 35 per cent. Dr. Dupuis, speaking as a man who had hitherto been a Conservative and a high tax supporter, said at Kingston on Saturday night, "protection" is legislation that makes manufacturers monopolists and workingmen slaves. It has had its day in Canada, and no special pleading or misrepresentation of the true tariff policy—a tariff for revenue only, getting to freedom of trade as speedily as possible—can save the men now in power at Ottawa from condemnation at the polls.

DR. BEDLOE, United States consul at Amoy, China, sends in a report to the Secretary of State in which he deals principally with the numerous varieties of disgusting insects that swarm in the city of Amoy. There are grubs that bore into furniture and render it unreliable. These grubs afterward develop into fat, winged ants that swarm by the bushel at meal time. There are millions of cockroaches that poke under the toe and finger nails of persons asleep. There are large and ferocious spiders, red ants of poisonous bite, and insects that bore into the human skin, producing Itch. Dr. Bedloe's office-holding

experiences are far from pleasant, nevertheless applicants for Government positions are far less plentiful in the United States than in Canada if he does not find hundreds of men ready to take his position, with all its discomforts, its bites, and its itches, the moment he tenders his resignation.

WORKS BOTH WAYS.

Last night, the Opposition in the Imperial Parliament had a taste of the closure, and it was made most evident that they did not like it. In fact, they pronounced the application of the rule as shameful and at least simulated disgust.

The closure has proved a boomerang to the Conservatives. When Lord Salisbury was in power, he got tired of the opposition extended to his measures by the members to the left of the Speaker. At his instigation, Mr. Balfour, Conservative leader in the House of Commons, formulated a set of rules that enabled the Government of the day to cut off discussion at any reasonable point where a majority of the members might decree. This rule was worked for all it was worth while Mr. Balfour was leader for the Government.

The tables, however, are turned. A Liberal Premier deems it wise to follow the example set him by his opponents. The rule they established for shortening debates has been applied to prevent an organized course of obstruction to the consideration and passage of the bill for granting local self-government to Ireland.

When Mr. Balfour and his friends passed the closure they were told that it was a rule that would be worked both ways. They should be philosophers enough now to partake without very wry faces of the medicine they prepared for their opponents.

A POINT FOR CORRESPONDENTS. It is just as well for correspondents of the ADVERTISER to know that a rule of this journal is not to permit its columns to be used by anonymous writers to reply to arguments contained in other papers. When a man has a quarrel with a paper, he should conduct it in that journal, otherwise how are all readers who have read one side of the discussion to see the other side?

THE TELEPHONE BARGAIN.

Chief Justice Galt having decided, in the case of Robinson vs. the city of St. Thomas, that municipal councils cannot give exclusive rights to telephone companies, even for a term of years, an endeavor is to be made to have the law changed so as to place the right of a municipality to control its own highways beyond a doubt.

Section 286 of the Consolidated Municipal Act of last year provides that "no council shall have the power to give any person an exclusive right of exercising within the municipality any trade or calling," etc. Section 496, sub-section 39, thus deals with the general powers of municipalities regarding public privileges:

"A municipality may pass bylaws for regulating the erection and maintenance of electric light, telegraph and telephone poles and wires within their limits."

The chief justice has held that the first-mentioned section is distinctly violated in a bargain that grants exclusive privileges to a company or person, and he maintains that the general powers contained in section 496 do not include the right to grant a monopoly.

This being the first case of the kind in Ontario, the chief justice had no precedents to guide him, but he quoted cases in the United States in which judges declared such municipal action contrary to equity, and he indorsed the following language of an Ohio judge:

"If, under the general power here given, a single city council might bind its successors not to make or permit any further use of the streets for a similar purpose for a period of 25 years, why not for 100 years, or in perpetuity? If so, we fail to discover it, either in express terms of the statute or as arising from a clear and necessary implication."

In the case of St. Thomas, he added: "It is manifest that, so far as the agreement was concerned, it was the object and intention of both parties that the Bell Telephone Company should have a monopoly for the next five years of the telephone business in the city of St. Thomas, and therefore it is entirely beyond the power of the municipality to enter into such an agreement. Order made quashing the by-law with costs."

A bylaw having been passed in London granting similar privileges to the Bell Telephone Company, Chief Justice Galt quashed it at the same time.

This would be a serious state of affairs if it were allowed to stand. It would simply mean that councils would not be able to make a reasonable bargain with any one company, to the exclusion of all others, and for the payment of a substantial yearly rental into the public coffers.

The interpretation placed on the existing law by the chief justice has naturally caused much discussion. Dissent from the judgment, however strong, would be of no value unless followed by action. The intention, therefore, is not to try and upset the judgment of Chief Justice Galt, but to have the Legislature pass a measure authorizing the urban municipalities to enter into arrangements for granting exclusive powers to a telephone company, at a rental to be agreed upon, for a short term—say five years, the limit stipulated in the agreement between London and the Bell Telephone Company. The streets are public property, and the aldermen should be placed in a position to make the best use of them for the benefit of the whole people. We do not believe in monopolies on general principles, but it is open to question whether any citizen desires to maintain two telephones to transact either public or private business, if one telephone will do. It is well, however, for councils not to unduly extend the time during which agreements shall be maintained. Ten years would be too long to grant exclusive rights to use the streets to any telephone company even at a good rental; five years, the period proposed, is reasonable.

A STRATHROY HERO.

Strathroy Town Council very properly regard the heroic conduct of Orval Fortner, at the time of the knitting factory fire, as worthy of recognition. They apparently believe that it is possible to obtain for Mr. Fortner the medal of the Royal Humane Society. This, we have the best authority for saying, is a mistake. After the St. George's bridge railway disaster the writer endeavored to obtain a Royal Humane Society medal for Miss Aggie Nicholson, of Hamilton, a young lady who saved more than one life by her daring efforts on that memorable occasion. The personal aid of Lord Rosebery was cheerfully given on the occasion, but the Royal Humane Society, while acknowledging the heroism of the young lady, and extending to her all praise, were regretfully compelled to decline the application. The reason for this lies in the fact that the Royal Humane Society is incorporated by charter solely to take cognizance of and to grant medals and diplomas to those who have been instrumental in saving persons from drowning, or from losing their lives in mines, or from losing their lives in fires. The announcement of this fact, in the case of Miss Nicholson, was followed by the presentation to that lady of a gold watch by the people of Woodstock, in which reside several of the persons who were aided by her efforts to escape from the burning wreckage. We commend the assignment of Woodstock to the mayor, council and citizens of Strathroy. Let Mr. Fortner's heroism be appreciated by those who know him best.

Warner's Failure.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., May 8.—H. H. Warner, the patent medicine man, to-day gave up the struggle against adverse fate and filed his general assignment for the benefit of his creditors. The assignment gives a list of the amount of either assets or liabilities. Mr. Warner said if he had been given time he could have paid dollar for dollar.

Brother and Sister Drowned.

DETROIT, May 8.—A fatal drowning accident took place here yesterday, the victims being a brother and sister, William Thompson and Miss Florence Thompson, residing at 317 Twenty-second street. The former was a saw-filer by occupation, and the latter employed in Stearns' laboratory, on Twenty-first street. They went out in a rowboat in the afternoon, and when in the middle of the river by some means their craft capsized, and both went to the bottom before aid could reach them.

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., May 8.—Cornelius Smallegange, aged 24, took Annie Ratman, aged 17, out for a boat ride upon the river yesterday afternoon, and while they were trying to change seats the boat capsized. The couple sank almost immediately, but a man upon the bank rowed out in time to save the young man. The girl was drowned.

A Warning.

For having mocked and offended a lady who wore a corset in a public garden in Vienna four persons were yesterday fined. It appears, says our Vienna correspondent, that a crowd followed the wearer, but she could not find out the names of more than four offenders. They offered to beg her pardon, but the indignant woman would not hear of it and insisted upon their being punished, saying that she only wished she knew who the other offenders were. — [London Daily News.]

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