

London Advertiser.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, DEC. 17.

The Two Parties.

Liberals cannot resent full and fair criticism provoked by corrupt acts committed in the interests of Liberal candidates, but they do resent the unwarranted mud-slinging to which the Opposition is resorting in lieu of a programme or policy. They do not forget their long fight against the organized corruption of the Tory party in federal politics. They do not forget that their opponents, who are now preening of purity, followed for 20 years a leader who was caught red-handed in a gigantic political crime. In justice it should be said that it is only lately, since the stench of the old regime at Ottawa has been wiped out, that the Conservative party has made any pretense of virtue at all. The loyalty of the rank and file was temporarily shaken by the Pacific Scandal, but Sir John Macdonald remained in the leadership and the party endured him, "then pitted, then embraced." Those who could forgive the author of that flagrant job would have no compunction in swallowing the lesser scandals that followed thick and fast down to the last days of Tory rule in 1896. The reptile fund of 1887, the Macdougall scandal, the Curran Bridge scandal, the Manitoba election frauds of 1896, the ballot stuffing, switching and spoiling in scores of constituencies, the nest of traitors and the multitude of other crimes which made Canada a reproach among the nations—all these were excused and defended by Conservative leaders and the Conservative press, and it is doubtful whether they alienated any Conservative votes. The Liberal party has the cleaner record and Liberals are more sensitive than Conservatives as to the methods by which success at the polls is to be obtained. No Liberal newspaper or leader has defended the practices employed on behalf of Liberal candidates in four or five ridings. On the contrary, they have been publicly condemned and deplored, and there is a determination to rid the party of hangers-on who have disgraced it. The spirit shown at the great Liberal convention was an exhibition of Liberalism at its best, and when the Conservative party can duplicate it there will be more hope for public morality.

While the rascalities in a few bye-elections are matters of self-reproach among Liberals, there is no excuse for the torrent of slander and vilification poured out by the enemies of the Government. There have been no wholesale attempts to debauch the Province, as the Tory administration sought to debauch the whole Dominion. There never was a clean campaign than the Liberals waged in the general election of 1902. Their opponents were shouting for purity, but what was their showing in the election courts? Four Conservatives and only two Liberals were unseated, as follows:

Liberals—
McKay, North Grey.
Davis, North York.
Conservatives—
Snider, North Norfolk.
Monteth, North Perth.
Clark, Center Brant.
Mitscibell, Sault Ste. Marie.
Since then one Conservative, Dunlop, of North Renfrew, has admitted corrupt practices, and resigned, and three Liberals—Brown, of North Perth, Little, of North Norfolk, and Smith, of Sault Ste. Marie—have been unseated by the courts. If election trials are the test of morality, there is nothing to choose between the two parties. Another criterion was the marking of the ballots. More than 60,000 were scrutinized by the judges in the various recounts, and only four were found to be dubious. Mr. Justice McLennan expressed the opinion that they had been spoiled by the voters before being placed in the box.

Compared with the crimes which the Conservative party condoned for a generation, the electoral fraud in Ontario have been few and almost insignificant. There is this further difference also: The Liberals have made no attempts at condonation, and wherever possible the perpetrators have been punished. The Conservative party is making an eleventh-hour profession of purity, but it is belied by its history. The Liberal party has a history to be proud of, and has a conscience that will keep it true to its high ideals.

Christmas Gifts.

The intelligent shopper always consults the advertising columns of the daily paper, particularly before Christmas. The inventory of goods which the enterprising merchants of London have spread before the public in The Advertiser anticipates every wish and want, and purchasers may save themselves time, worry and money by scanning it before they set out on their shopping tours. What a range of Christmas gifts is suggested by the advertisements in one edition of The Advertiser! Here are a few of the suitable presents mentioned in last night's issue by the drygoods merchants alone: Fancy neckwear, belts, silk and embroidered handkerchiefs, hand satchels, kimono, kid gloves, lace and silk collars, evening fans, pillow shams, silks for waists and dresses, children's and maids' aprons, silk and woolen underwear, bath robes, jackets, fur coats, evening coats, dress skirts, traveling rugs, and derrier of all kinds, skirts, cloaks, flannellets, maids' aprons, suits, fur ruffs, stoles, scarfs, jackets, mufflers, and for children, toys in bewildering variety, leggings, booties, bonnets and caps, dresses, night dresses,

pinafors, jackets, blms, overcoats, overcoats, boys' reefers, wool and silk falls, story-books, hand-sleighs, sweetmeats, etc., etc. In the way of household furnishings one merchant specializes in bedroom boxes, dressing tables, eiderdown comforters, cellarettes, smoking tables, library tables, library rugs, leather chairs and den cushions.

In the crockery stores, there are such gifts as jardinières, dinner sets, pots and pedestals, chamber sets, chocolate pots, cocoa pots, teapots, five o'clock tea sets, pie dishes, pudding sets, salad dishes, berry bowls, berry sets, chop plates, wafer plates, butter plates, cake plates, relish dishes, fern dishes, fancy jugs, trays, and so on ad libitum.

The leading grocers and confectioners of the city offer plum puddings and cakes, raisins, figs, almonds, dates, crackers, oranges, grapes, Santa Claus stockings, and other toothsome escuents that are usually associated with Christmas cheer.

The two leading art stores of the city, than which there are no finer in Canada, show a magnificent array of reproductions of the great masters, calendars, engravings, sepia prints, statuary, water colors, picture frames, and so on. The jewelry stores are glittering with gifts which, in the well-worn phrase, are as numerous as the stars in the firmament. The leather dealers offer specialties, such as skating boots and the slippers, and the leather dealers show purses, hand-bags, letter bags, coin purses, gentlemen's wallets, bill folds and pocketbooks, playing card cases, leather and straw-covered flasks, collar and cuff boxes, cigar cases, military brush cases, toilet rolls, portfolios, travelers' certificate cases, etc. In the hardware stores are steel skates, razors, carving sets, table knife sets, coffee carpet sweepers, silver tea sets, coffee spoons, spoon trays, coffee machines, butter dishes, puff boxes, and endless useful articles. The drug stores, as usual, have a stock of dainty Christmas presents, particularly in the line of toilet articles.

The people of London have assuredly no excuse for going outside of the city to do their Christmas shopping.

Canadian Wheat and American Mills.

If there are any free traders in the United States, they must be enjoying the dilemma of the United States Secretary of the Treasury with regard to the duty on wheat. American millers waited upon him and told him that unless they could get hard Canadian wheat, free of duty, to mix with the softer wheat of the Western States, they would have to lose their export trade, which has dwindled from 14,619,814 barrels in 1902 to 9,987,241 barrels during the present year. They could not afford to pay the duty of 25 cents per bushel on Canadian wheat and compete in the foreign markets with flour ground in Canada or Europe.

Secretary Shaw fell in with their views, and allowed Canadian wheat to be admitted duty-free when ground for export only. According to the New York Sun, this ruling "is already creating complaint and exciting hostility among shortsighted American wheat-growers." Why not? The American farmers have to bear the burden of a tariff system which increases the price of nearly everything they have to buy. They have been told that the tariff on agricultural products increases the price of what they have to sell, by giving them a monopoly of the home market. Now they are to be exposed to the competition of Canadian wheat for the benefit of the milling industry. Naturally, they take the position that as they are taxed to protect the manufacturers, they should have the full benefit of any protection which the tariff can give to the tillers of the soil. Their contention is unanswerable from a protectionist point of view, and Republican logicians are finding it a hard nut to crack.

It is the old story: the protection system breaks down when you try to apply it to every producing interest. In protecting the steel industry, the United States has sacrificed its ocean merchant marine, as ships cannot be built economically in American shipyards, owing to the high price of steel. Similarly, American millers will lose their foreign markets if American wheat-growers are to be absolutely protected against Canadian wheat. American leather and shoe makers complain of the duty on hides, which is designed to protect American graziers against the pauper hides of Canada and Argentina. The American Government allows many industries a rebate of the duty on raw material, which is worked up exclusively for export, thus sanctioning the principle that American goods should be sold cheaper in foreign countries than at home. The New York Post satirizes this policy as follows:

"Exports of flour are off one-half. Foreign merchants are telegraphing to American millers, 'Your prices are out of sight.' Hence the Secretary's incessant labors to lower the price of wheat. But on one point he is unyielding. Flour must not be cheap for the American consumer. We may have special laws and orders, and strain every nerve to give the English artisan cheap bread; we must do our best to feed the German and French laborer at small cost, but no American shall be robbed of the blessing of high prices for the necessities of life. His right to pay double is inalienable."

Progress of the War.

The Russian battleships and cruisers at Port Arthur have now all been disposed of, the Sevastopol which had taken refuge outside the harbor being so badly damaged by the Japanese torpedoes as to be a negligible quantity. There still remains a number of torpedo boats and destroyers, their size permitting them to evade Japanese shot and shell, but evidently Togo does not consider them dangerous, as it is announced from Tokio that the bulk of the blockading fleet is off to the

dockyards to receive a thorough overhauling. The Japanese fleet has been at sea continuously since February, and will undoubtedly require extensive repairs before going after Rojostevsky. The officers and men, too, will require a breathing spell, after the nerve-racking labors of the last ten months.

Interest now centers largely on the progress of the Baltic squadron. One section of this fleet has reached Agra, Portuguese West Africa, and another is moving down the East African coast. It is probable that the two divisions will unite in the vicinity of Ceylon, and proceed as one fleet. It will be well into February before it arrives in far eastern seas, as the speed of the entire squadron must conform to that of the slow moving colliers.

According to the Japanese official reports Nog's guns on 203-Meter Hill continue to do terrible execution to Port Arthur. Apparently the Japanese commander, having destroyed the fleet, is content to abandon the assaults for the present. It may be that he has detached some of his troops to strengthen Oyama in Manchuria, as Stoessel's force has now dwindled to a mere handful, and cannot assume the aggressive.

In Manchuria "feeling" movements are of daily occurrence, but there is no sign of a general advance from either side.

The early shopper gets the bargain.

Don't delay your Christmas shopping till the end of next week.

Has the Conservative party ever brought forth fruit meet for repentance?

Like the husbands of other great women, Mr. Chadwick doesn't seem to count.

The increase in Ontario's surplus will make the Opposition keener than ever to get at it.

We don't approve of party politics in municipal affairs as a principle, but machine and ring rule of the city hall will not be smashed unless Liberals support only Liberal candidates for municipal office. There are some decent Tory aldermen, but they are under the thumb of the Conservative Club and cannot claim the votes of their Liberal fellow-citizens.

Same Here.

[Chicago Record-Herald.] It is suspected in some quarters that a good many of the women who do their Christmas shopping early keep right on haunting the shops till the last minute.

Finnish Philosophy.

[Baltimore American.] "Th' biggest 'n'ise ain't made be 't' str'ng mon, but be 't' wake mon thyrin' t' assert 'mself."

All Set.

[Kansas City Times.] Servant—Mr. Smith is at the door. Young Woman—Is his picture on the mantel? "Yes, ma'am." "Are the roses he sent me on the piano?" "Yes, ma'am." "Is that book he brought me on the table?" "Yes, ma'am." "Well, let the pug dog he gave me into the parlor and admit him, I'll be down in a few moments."

David Russell's Hypnotic Eye.

[Winnipeg Free Press.] Dave Russell, like another celebrated individual now attracting a great deal of attention—Mrs. Cassie Chadwick, wit—appears to possess a hypnotic eye. Upon no other ground can his absolute control of the supposedly masterful Andrew G. Blair be accounted for.

Her Reply.

[Houston Post.] The poet wrote his love a rhyme, Impassioned rhyme and sweet, Invited her to come with him, Where waves might wash their feet. She sent his poem back to him, And it made his pulses stir To read this postscript: "Wash your own! Mine do not need it, sir!"

Squelched.

[Buffalo News.] "Sir," said the book canvasser, "I have a little work here—" "Sorry," interrupted the busy man, "but I have a great deal of work here. Good-morning."

Has Its Uses.

[Cleveland Leader.] "I see that a London doctor has discovered that the verminifer appendix is useful after all." "Sure it is—to the doctors."

Only the Figurehead.

[Toronto Telegram.] The greatest service Earl Grey can do to his sovereign and to his office is to refrain from taking either himself or his official position too seriously. Canada's people are the crew, Canada's Premier is the captain, and Canada's Governor-General is only the figurehead of the Ship of State.

Of Course.

[New York Sun.] Mrs. Gunbust—What will you take to shovel the snow off my sidewalk? Trump—A shovel. Did yer tink I'd use a noodle board?

Nature Inquiry.

[New York Sun.] Modern—Mother—No, my child, there is no such person as Santa Claus. Modern Child—Did you divorce him, too?

Why She Was Happy.

[Detroit News.] Her hat reposed on the side of her face.

There were three thin red lines on one cheek.

Her hair comb peeped roughly from her belt.

Her watch chain hung aimlessly from her corsage.

One side of her skirt seemed longer than its mate.

The other side was rent with a long, jagged tear.

Her hair drooped over her nose and eyes.

But she was happy. She got a 5-cent mouth organ for Willie for 4 cents in spite of the Christmas jam.

The Imperial Overcoat.

The Imperial Overcoat is the Overcoat of the conservative dresser—the man not desiring the extremes of styles.

It is essentially a gentleman's overcoat—particularly popular with the professional and business man.

It is easy and comfortable—made in all characters and shades of cloth—such as Gray, Black, and Brown Cheviots, Vicunas, Meltons and Beavers.

Some beautiful Meltons from Isaac Carr, the celebrated West of England manufacturer—made and finished by Semi-ready specialists.

Semi-ready Tailoring

LONDON, 146 DUNDAS STREET, also ST. THOMAS and STRATFORD.

On Display.

[Detroit Free Press.] Husband—Why in the world do you keep your new fur bag hanging out on the line? Mrs. Flint—Because I nearly roared with it on this kind of weather, and it's the only way I can let people know that I've got it.

CARRIES TROUBLE RIGHT WITH HIM

Pate of the Dyspeptic Who Has Not Learned the Relief That is Found in Dodd's Dyspepsia Tablets.

The Dyspeptic is the man who carries the troubles of the world on his shoulders. He is racked with pain and filled with despondency. Life's not worth living to him. "It's his own fault," Relief, complete and permanent, is within the reach of all. It is contained in Dodd's Dyspepsia Tablets. They digest the food themselves so there can be no indigestion where there are used. Listen to what Mr. R. A. Barton, 23 Tyndal avenue, Toronto, says: "I had indigestion in its worst form. The doctors did not do me any good and I began to think my case was hopeless. As a last resort I tried Dodd's Dyspepsia Tablets. I am thankful to say that they had the desired effect. I was afraid to eat many things that would have suited my taste. Now I can eat anything that is set before me, asking no questions."

REFORMS AT OXFORD

Opinions on the Proposal to Make Greek an Optional Subject.

Interested in the proposal of the committee which, in its recent report, favored the removal of Greek from the compulsory list, giving as a substitute French and German.

The mere suggestion of this reform has had the same effect upon many of the dons as the entrance of an enraged elephant might have upon the inmates of a monastery.

Not that all the dons dread reform. A few are in favor of far more drastic changes, and the strong feeling for a complete revision of the system at Oxford, which exists among undergraduates and graduates in residence as "coaches," has found free expression in the Journal known as "The Varsity."

Very frank were the criticisms of a graduate, now in residence as a coach, who was discovered with his two pupils, both as outspoken as himself. "A sum of about a hundred and fifty thousand pounds a year," he said, "is expended upon the keep of dons and lecturers in this university. A parent pays each of these lecturers seven guineas a term for lecturing his son on subjects which will fit him for anything in the future, and which are usually so badly taught that the undergraduate is compelled to pay further fees to a private coach if he wishes to come through his exams. The text-books recommended by the authorities in the examination at Oxford constitute a positive scandal. Many of them are written and recommended by the dons themselves, and are absolutely valueless, while the works of great men are ignored. Professor Firth, the new regius professor of modern history, has already denounced the teaching of modern history at Oxford. Imagine a 'modern' history which extends only to 1533, and in which no mention is

Your Neuralgic Headache.

Makes its unwelcome appearance just when least expected. Get a bottle of Polson's Nervine, and you'll have a protection against neuralgia for all time to come. Nervine can't fail to cure; it's full of strength and pain-subduing properties that conquer neuralgia instantly. The 25-cent bottle will prevent a good many attacks. Don't forget it—Nervine, it's the one sure cure.

Ladies' Coats AT BARGAIN PRICES.

LADIES' BLACK FRIEZE COATS—All wool, tight-fitting, three-quarter styles, lined throughout. Regular price \$8.00. Sale price

\$4.00.

LADIES' BLACK FRIEZE COATS—Short box styles, new sleeve and coat collar. Regular price \$8.00. Sale price

\$4.00.

Ladies' Ready-to-Wear Skirts.

NEWEST IDEAS AND LATEST STYLES.

You can depend upon every Lady's Ready-to-Wear Skirt you purchase at Kingsmill's. We have the finest selection of Ladies' Skirts, in gray and black, all wool, with seven gores, tailored seams, six rows of stitching, trimmed with straps of same materials, silk bands and buttons. Our policy is, and always has been, to give all our customers the best satisfaction and greatest actual saving. Regular price of these Skirts is \$6.00. On sale for..... \$4.00

Ladies' Flannel Blouses

Ladies' Blouses, in all-wool French flannel, in all the newest colors of sky, white, garnet and black. Ranging in price from..... \$1.50 to \$3.50

Children's Coats

Children's Coats, in dark green frieze. Just six Coats left. Made in box styles, trimmed with capes, bishop sleeves and new coat collars. Regular price \$5.00. Clearing at..... \$1.99

Sable Furs

Clearing sale of Sable Furs, with six tails. Regular price \$10. For..... \$5.00

Ladies' Shawls

Camelhair Reversible Shawls, extra quality, in colors of oxford, fawn, brown and light gray. Regular price \$10. Clearing at..... \$5.00

Honeycomb Shawls, great variety to choose from, extra fine quality, in white, gray, cardinal, pink and black. Prices..... \$1.10 to \$2.75

"What We Advertise Is So."

KINGSMILL'S

"Special Sale of Ladies' Skirts."

RETIRING FROM BUSINESS

The entire stock of over \$35,000 must be sold at cost or less, and the public can rely upon this principle being carried out. All the stock is regular goods, and none has been purchased or will be purchased to deceive buyers. However, I will take orders for any kind of goods and sell them at cost. This is a rare opportunity for customers or for those who have never been customers. Try me. All goods will be guaranteed sold, as arrangements have been made with the successors to the business for this purpose. Promises must be fulfilled. All goods have been purchased for cash, and consequently well bought. You cannot blame your jeweler for not competing with a man retiring from business. If he does so, he must sell at far below cost. The following prices are a sample of the rest of the stock. I am bound to sell out.

SALE WILL CONTINUE FROM DAY TO DAY TILL STOCK IS SOLD OUT
Store open Every Day from 9 to 12:30, 2 to 5:30, 7 to 9.

100 dozen Sterling Teaspoons, must be sold.
Gent's Waltham Watch in a gold-filled case, guaranteed 20 years, regular \$12.00. For..... \$6.75
1847 Rogers Bros.' Tea Spoons, A1, per dozen..... \$2.25
1847 Rogers Bros.' Knives, A1, per dozen..... \$3.35
Lemaire's Opera Glasses, regular price \$5.00..... \$3.25
Alarm Clock. Regular price \$1.00, for..... 60c
Gents' Gold-Filled Hunting Case Watch, warranted to wear 20 years, with Waltham or Elgin movement \$10.00

Large stock of Purses and Hand Bags, Ladies' Umbrellas, of the best quality, Gold-headed Canes, and Manicure Sets in silver and ebony. Heavy stock Sterling Silver Goods in every line of the trade. Entree Dishes, Pearl-handled Dessert Knives and Forks; Ivory Handles, Celluloid Handles of the English Rodgers—the best makers in these goods in the world. Diamond Rings galore. I have arranged for new stock of certain lines sold out, so as not to disappoint my customers. All goods sold and found not as represented will be taken back and money returned. I have thought it best to sell straight to the public instead of calling in an auctioneer, as I shall then have sole control of the selling, and there will be no misrepresentation.

P. BIRTWISTLE, 116 Dundas Street.

made in examinations of Clive, Wellington, Nelson, or the history of Frederick the Great! "Nothing is taught of the British Empire as it is today, of railways, of political geography, or of the conditions in other countries."

"Most of my pupils," added the coach, "are unable to write a few sentences coherently in their own language, and their spelling is often in different."

ments also have been made in the factories of the western section, but the details are not yet available.

ALWAYS A GOOD FRIEND.—In health and happiness we need no friends, but when pain and prostration come we look for friendly aid from sympathetic hands. These hands can serve us no better than in rubbing in Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil, for when the Oil is in the pain is out. It has brought relief to thousands who without it would be indeed friendless.