#### Tondon Adbertiser. TWO EDITIONS DAILY . WEEKLY.

TELEPHONE CALLS. Business Office ......107 LONDON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22.

#### The Legacy of the Past.

The efforts being made by the finance committee of the city council to bring the estimated expenses of the year down to such a figure as shall permit the necessary work to be done without raising the tax rate, makes clear the legacy that has been left to us by the regime of the past-and

especially of 1904. As the city grows, its expenses neces sarily increase. But it was thought that the growth in population and wealth which should bring in taxes without an increase in the tax rate, would increase the city's revenue sufficiently to meet any legitimate increase in expenditure. On a 23-mill rate, and including the extra 6 mills that come this year from South London-this

should give us \$36,000 more. But it does not appear that our expectations will be realized. The financial balance sheet of the auditor shows that while we may estimate \$42,790 increased revenue from all sources, the appropriations asked for by the various boards and committees, after they have been carefully pared down by No. 1 committee, will call for about \$13,000 more than our increased revenue will allow. If no further paring can be done this would mean the advance of

the tax rate to 23% mills. Now, the fact appears that, !caving out the necessary increase of expenditure caused by the year's growth of the city, a large portion of our cutiay this year is for expenses incurred-or which should have been incurred-in previous years.

The policy of the past has been to postpone everything possible - even though postponement made the cost higher in the end-in order to reduce the estimates for the year. Streets that should have been repaired have been left severely alone; defective sewers have been allowed to get worse; culverts and other public works that should have been constructed have been turned over to next year's council. Any permanent improvements for which a debenture issue could provide have received a fair share of attention, with the result, of course, of increasing the amount to be appropriated yearly for the debenture sinking

Of course, there have been some exceptions. Albert street, fronting Mr. in fact, the law calculates upon this control of the Legislature, and must Beck's factory, has been fairly well being done. We expect that the coun- conform to the public school regula-James street, Wellington street, and part of Richmond street, surrounding and for this reason they are all asking Mr. Beck's residence, have been properly graveled, rolled and curbed-out of the general fund. Similar treatment was given a block on St. James street, fronting the residence of last year's chairman of the board of works, and a culvert constructed on Maitland street, which will also benefit the same gentleman's property. Apart from these, however, street improvements have been sadly lacking.

But there comes a time when needed repairs and improvements can be no longer delayed, and the council finds itself confronted with expenses which should have been met by its years are either directly or indirectly predecessors. This seems to be the condition of things this year; and even worse. The estimates of the year 1904 were cut down to so low a figure that it was found necessary to spend about \$10,000 more than was appropriated. Even at that, necessary work was left undone. So that the council this year has not only to do work that should have been done in the past, but has to meet an overdraft as well. It is fortunate that certain items of revenue last year exceeded the estimate, so that the actual overdraft is only \$4,636. To this must be added nearly \$5,000 overdraft of the Board of Education.

There are other items for which 1904 is responsible, but for which 1905 must pay. The Nurses' Home, under contract, should have been completed last July. It will not be done for a month local contemporary was in a high or more. Part of the extras are credited to 1904, but there will be at least \$500 more to meet this year, together with something like \$800 towards fur-

The repairs to the market house will cost about \$3,700. These are made in consequence of an arrangement entered into last year, by which the tenants were to pay more rent in return for improvements to be made. They commenced paying the increased rental at once, but the repairs were left to be saddled on the council of 1905.

Again, at the beginning of 1904, a large fire occurred, in which the chief was killed and several firemen injured. It was recognized that some consideration should be allowed the victims of the disaster and their families. This was last year's debt, and should have been paid last year. But the matter dragged along, and the council of this year will pay about \$1,500 more on last year's account.

The sewerage farm operations is another illustration of how the council of 1905 will have to suffer for past Jan. 25. A system which before that ty of Dr. Wilson, the council took \$7,repair the streets. While this was sudden change in the point of view. possibly allowable under a legal technicality, it was a violation of the spirit Had it not been done the filtration beds was taken out and burned in the city thing was that the coke has never from the sewerage fund. While the good value for the money, and we do

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out of the sewer maintenance fund, which will be on a par nearly with the fits, or dishonest business methods. No action of the council that took sewer one begrudges the Conservative mer-

chants their turn at the public crib. money to repair the streets. Add up all these items; add thereto, for work on city streets and other public improvements, which should have been done in the past-perhaps \$8,000 bles haven't begun yet. more-and we find the council of 1905 saddled with about \$25,000, in addition to its ordinary expenditure, and which it owes entirely to the unbusinesslike methods of the past few years.

Even on the reverse side of our finances-in the matter of revenuethe council of this year is at a disadvantage. Take one illustration alone. Our waterworks department contrib- | troubles. utes a good sum to our annual revenue. This year, while the revenue of that department is greater than ever, the surplus turned over to the city will be less than last year. The reason is that all the expenditure on capital account, except the balance due on the pumps, will have to come out of what is received from the consumers. For the last three years, a large portion has come from the sale of debentures. These debentures are all exhausted. Consequently, this year, \$13,000 will have to come out of ordinary receipts to provide for extension of services—as

It is a good policy in municipal af-The various boards and committees say they want to do this, permissible, for more money than they got last vear. The Hospital Trust wants \$4,000 more; the Board of Education something like \$7,000; and so on.

But while this may justify some crease in the year's expenditure, it must be remembered that the council of 1905 will not only have to pay its own way, but to provide a large sum to meet the deficiencies and neglect of that no chicken had been anywhere past years. It must be remembered that whatever the tax rate of this year may be, from a mill to a mill and a half of it will go to defraying expenses for which the past three responsible.

## Before und After.

When the Conservative party capital during its 32 years in the wilderness, it pretended to find an issue in the Government's mode of purchasing supplies for public institutions. Conservative newspapers and politicians made a show of virtuous indig-

nation, election after election. The people were told that these supplies should be purchased by tender and in open competition; that the Government's system was one of shameless favoritism-a boycott of Conservative merchants - a source of political corruption. As late as December last, our state of moral incandescence over this question. Here is what it said:

"These supplies are purchased without tender, without any kind of supervision or inquiry extending to the majority. That such a system opens the door to gross corruption goes without saying. It enables a merchant, who gives liberally to the goods that he finds stale or unseasonable at the highest prices of new and standard goods. It provides a method of raising funds for political emergency and for the general elections when they come off.

"Can it be doubted that out of the profits of this trade, legitimate and otherwise, a fund of \$25,000 could be raised to fight a battle every four

Well, the Opposition became the Government, and what happened? In London, at any rate, the Asylum custom was quietly transferred the day after the election to Conservative merchants. The Conservative Club drew up its little list of the party stalwarts who were to get their slice of this "bribery fund." Not a Liberal merchant has seen a dollar of Asylum money since mismanagement. During the mayoral- date "opened the door to gross corruption" is thankfully accepted by the 500 out of the sewer debenture fund to Conservative party. Office makes a

There are lines of supplies for asylums and similar institutions which of the law and of business principles. cannot be purchased with advantage under the contract system. The prices would have been completed. As it was, of these fluctuate from week to week, only two beds were constructed, and and the merchant would have a much partially filled with coke. During the stronger incentive for palming off winter of Mr. Beck's first year, owing "stale or unseasonable goods" if his to the coal famine, much of this coke selling price was fixed by contract. than if he were paid the current marbuildings. That was pardonable under ket price, which assured him a fair the circumstances. The unpardonable profit. Liberals will have no complaint because this system is continued and been replaced. And the council of because the benefits have been trans-1905, to avoid legal troubles, if for no ferred to Conservatives. We believe other reason, must pay out of its gen- the Conservative merchants of London, eral fund what Mr. Beck's council took | who are on the patronage list, will give

of \$2,000 by the finance committee is in rupt dealings. Charges were made circle from now on." tself no small item. Perhaps, by an- against Liberal merchants without the other legal twist, this may be taken least justification, and not a single case has been cited of exoribtant pro-

> This is a great day for the Honorable James Pliny Whitney. His trou-

> The average age of the Japanese generals now in the field is 57, and the commander-in-chief is the oldest of

> Russia has raised an internal loan to continue the war, but no amount of

Perhaps the public will today learn Mr. Borden's opinion of the Northwest school question. He entered Parliament in 1896 as a supporter of the Manitoba coercion bill.

Not a Toronto member of Parliament attended the Toronto meeting on Monday night to protest against the school clauses of the autonomy bill Where was the Honorable George

The amended school clauses in the large a sum as was taken from this Northwest autonomy bill show that source during the past three years the Government has been reasonable and conciliatory. While the minority | Montre are permitted to have separate schools fairs to make each year pay its way; these are left absolutely under the macadamized, and a new sewer con- cil of 1905 will try to follow this tions, except during one half hour of

#### Chicken Not In It. (Boston Transcript.)

Waiter-"Mr. Wicksy didn't seem to think much of the soup; he wanted to know if we called it chicken soup be-cause a chicken had waded through the Landlord-"The idea! And what did you say to that?" Waiter-"I gave him to understand

#### near that soup." The Lost Angel.

[Chicago Record.] He called her his guardian angel once, But he calls her that no more; At night their little ones turn from play To welcome him at the door, And he must carefully pick his way

He called her his guardian angel once, When neither of them foresaw What the future years had in store and when Her lightest word was his law: He called her his guardian angel then, But at present he calls her "maw."

#### Great Relief.

[Chicago News.] As the pedestrian passed the deserted lot seven masked men sprang out and began to pummel him unmerci-

"Help! Help!" shouted the pedes-"What are you trying to do wicked gang.

"Rob you!" retorted the leader of the "Thank heaven! I thought you were going to give me a college initiation."

#### Not for Him. [Chicago Record-Herald.] "Say, Dusty."

"Wot."
"Yot fur?"
"Me parents christened me Emerson, but it won't do. It ain't fur me
The dis College counting you please after dis. Call me anything you please cause, to unload on the Government if it ain't Emerson. Look at dat paper. It says 'Emerson's works cheap." If tion,

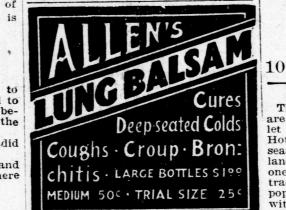
engineer asks for \$6,000, the allowance | not believe they will be parties to cor- |dat's wot the Emersons do I quit dat

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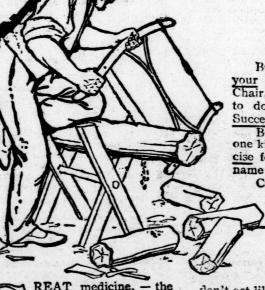
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