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THE LONDON ADVERTISER COMPANY, LIMITED.

London, Ont., Friday, October 29.

THE SUGAR SCANDAL.

The Meighen Government may think that it has edged its way out of the sugar scandal as a result of the resignation of the members of the Board of Commerce, but there are two or three other circumstances arising out of that happening that will bear a good deal of light, and it will be the duty of the Liberal Opposition during next session to endeavor to throw light on these matters.

In the first place, the people of Canada ought to know what the refineries were doing with such immense stores of raw sugar in their warehouses while the country was given to understand that there was no sugar in the country. During all the early summer the people of Canada were paying an inflated price for this necessity, while at the same time the warehouses at Montreal appear to have been bursting with piled-up reserves.

Again, it would be well to know what negotiations there were between the refineries and the cabinet prior to the matter going into the hands of the Board of Commerce. Did members of the cabinet know that the refineries were in possession of stocks of sugar during the earlier months of the year? If they did know that such was the case they were countenancing an unquestioned case of profiteering on the largest scale.

Another question that arises is as to the composition of the Board of Commerce. If the Government was really desirous of maintaining fair prices in this country and doing something worth while to reduce the cost of living would they have appointed such a group of incompetents as issued the sugar order, for example? On the face of it, it would appear that the Board of Commerce was intended to be a perfectly harmless body that would make some academic investigations but harm nobody. As a matter of fact, about the only harm they have done has been to the Government that appointed them.

Premier Meighen may think that by accepting the resignation of the Board of Commerce he has disposed of public indignation against the course followed by his Government and its Board of Commerce in relation to the cost of living. He will yet find that the "sugar order" sank deep into the minds of the people of Canada, and that they have not accepted his airy explanations of vast sugar reserves at Montreal at a time when the country was being held up by the sugar gamblers. Even the staid old Montreal Gazette, organ of big business, has no excuse to make for the sugar refineries, and hints that they were caught in a big gamble. This is the impression quite general among the people of this country who were to have paid their losses, had plans not miscarried.

EXTENDING UNIVERSITY INFLUENCE.

Every citizen of Western Ontario must feel an interest in the developments that are taking place at the present time in connection with Western University. From day to day foundations are being laid for work of one type and another that in days to come will count in the lives of all the people in this part of the province. This week has seen the extension work of the university put upon a new basis and in the hands of a board representing all three faculties. Extension work in the past has been largely worked out by the separate committees of the faculties, but from now on their efforts will be co-ordinated. At the very outset a splendid field has opened up in the opportunity of providing classes or lectures similar to the work of the Workers' Educational Association in Great Britain. The university's proposal in this direction was favorably received by the London Trades and Labor Council at a recent meeting, and a joint committee is now working out the details.

The Workers' Educational Association movement in England had grown to large proportions before the war. The brightest minds in the universities were engaged in it, and scores of young scholars holding fellowships were going out from week to week in all parts of England, meeting groups of workmen and instructing them in science, history, economics and other subjects. While the war disrupted this work for several years, it is now rapidly coming back to a pre-war basis. In this country a very successful work has been carried on in Toronto, Professor MacIvor of the Provincial University taking an active part. The Toronto activities were described in an issue of the Labor Gazette a few months ago.

The Western University will be brought into touch with a large body of Western Ontario citizens through the work of its public health department under Dr. H. W. Hill. Dr. Hill foresees the day when each of these fifteen western counties will have an active organization, concerning itself with all the public health problems of its community. The first of these associations bids fair to be realized within the next few months, and will have a close connection with the Western University. It is entirely in order that work of this kind should be carried on under university auspices. The resolution of the Extension Board at its inaugural meeting was that the board would take upon itself the "consideration of, and active work in any project which tends to extend the services of the university to our constituency," and the constituency of Western is the group of fifteen counties of which London is the geographical centre. This is a big step, and it can only be

realized in its details step by step. The Extension Board has set before itself the high ideal that it will concern itself with all that tends to make living conditions better, and that promotes the welfare and happiness of the people with whom its influence may come in contact.

HELP THE NAVY LEAGUE.

British Brothers, Limited. The greatest trade emporium in the world is the British Empire. Canada can make preferential trade agreements with other peoples under the British flag without arousing international complications. Canada possesses men with brains to make these preferential trade agreements. But we make good these agreements with Canadian ships.

Three million new customers for Canada's grain, produce, manufactures secured by the West India trade agreement and Canadian ships. By willingness and ability to provide ships, Canada this year has drawn the West Indies closer to herself and to the Empire. She can make preferential trade agreements with other peoples under the British flag without arousing international complications.

Canada's sea-conscious spirit must be developed. The merchant flag of Canada must fly in every part of the Empire. "The sea does not separate—the sea binds." To develop our sea heritage we must send chosen and trained emigrants—our most able businessmen—to make preferential trade agreements with the other nations in the Empire. And we must make good these trade agreements with Canadian ships.

Canada can reduce her taxes, pay her war debts, keep workers busy, make farmers prosperous, by selling her surplus grain, fruits, dairy produce, manufactures, to the nations of the British Empire. The key to the market is ships—Canadian ships. Canada can do what Britain has done—make and control her own trade routes with Canadian ships. Protected by the British Empire navy, of which the Canadian navy will be a unit. It will be an honor to this country. And that contribution to all-British sea power in keeping with Canada's premier place within the Empire.

Trade follows the merchant flag of Canada. By willingness and ability to provide ships Canada this year has drawn the West Indies closer to herself and to the Empire. The trade of 45,000,000 people in British Tropical Africa is waiting for us today. But we must have ships and a sea-conscious spirit in the people and in the Government.

The West India trade agreement would not have been worth the paper it is written on had it not been for Canadian ships, and the vision of Canadians who realize these facts. To win world-trade we must develop our sea heritage, our ports, our men, our ships. Trade must flow east and west and overseas. Shut off this Dominion from the seas, and in fifty years Canada will cease to be a nation. Canada is the eighth maritime power. Seventy years ago Canada was third. There are 8,700 ships under the Canadian flag today. The value of the merchant fleet of Canada is \$250,000,000. Through lack of interest of Canadians in their maritime affairs these ships are neither officered nor manned by Canadians. Today the protection of Canadian trade routes is not given by Canada. The burden of the British navy is \$17 per head of British taxpayer. The "burden" of the Canadian navy is 25 cents per head of Canadian taxpayer.

To continue its service in this great patriotic work the Navy League of Canada requires the sum of \$760,000, and to secure this a Sailors' Week Campaign has been planned for November 2, 3 and 4. It is confidently expected that London and Western Ontario will contribute generously to the cause.

Letters to the Editor

THE TOWN IN WHICH WE LIVE.

To the Editor of The London Advertiser:—One was pleased indeed to read the letter in a recent issue from the pen of T. H. Yull, as there are many very excellent reasons why the dam at Springbank should be rebuilt. For five years every energy has been rightly devoted to the production of food, but with the return of our golden task is being taken up by an ever-increasing number of homes, towns and communities.

A careful stocktaking of the conditions of many Canadian towns reveals an almost absolute lack of plans for beautifying of their streets, parks and individual buildings. Anyone who desires may improve his own property, but the towns as a whole are not entering into big schemes and interesting every man, woman and child to make their town the prettiest in Canada. There is scarcely a village which does not boast of perhaps one beautiful, velvety lawn, with trees, shrubbery and flowers, but just as "one robin does not make a spring," so one beautiful home cannot cover up a whole community of neglected ones. It is the effort on the part of every citizen which will transform our ugly places into beautiful spots. No stone should be left unturned to influence public opinion in favor of a "clean-up" campaign—the schools may assist, the women's organizations, business and the churches, each should have an important share in the boosting for more beauty everywhere.

One reason which retards progress in the beautifying of our homes and communities is the constant flying of our homes and communities in the constant moving which takes place. People are here today and there tomorrow, and are prone to say: "What's the use?" Why can we not overcome this feeling, and, although more renters, plant something that is permanent—a rose bush, a flowering shrub or a tree—something that will beautify the earth, even if we may not be present to enjoy its fragrance? Someone will, and flowers are always better than rubbish. Yours very truly, WM. GILES, 780 Talbot Street, City.

WAR ON RATS.

[Quebec Telegraph.] War to a finish has been declared against the rat by the Hygiene Commission of Paris, France. The commission was aghast to learn from a report read to it by Professor Bordas that there were 8,000,000 rats in the city. The extermination of the rats is to be accomplished by all the weapons known in war, and the campaign will be both offensive and defensive. The offensive weapons are the following: Use of bacterial products or deadly poisons likely to cause epidemics among the rats; asphyxiating gases in the sewers for several hours at a time, repeated at intervals, and traps. In this connection Professor Bordas warns rat-trappers not to smoke before setting their traps, as the rat holds tobacco in abhorrence. A premium of two sous is to be paid for each rat killed by hunters. The defensive campaign will be conducted by rat-proofing houses, and by setting the garbage cans on the sidewalks only a few minutes previous to the arrival of the garbage automobile, so that rats cannot feed on their contents overnight. Many pest-mitigating relays were heard in the Hygiene Commission as to the chances of success in ridding Paris of the rat nuisance, especially after Professor Bordas had explained that the Paris rat could boast of a family tree dating back to the early centuries of the Christian Era, having migrated to France from the Near East with the early Crusaders. "Such aristocrats are bound to put up a stiff fight for their privileges," said a humorous member of the commission.

From Here and There

ACROSS THE BORDER.

[Halifax Chronicle.] Senator Lodge, speaking in Brooklyn, declared the United States war department spent \$1,051,000,000 for aircraft without getting a single combat service airplane. He said that the army had ordered 1,000,000 sets of double harness, 1,537,000 horse brushes and 2,023,000 nose feed-bags for only 301,000 horses and mules, while a contract was made for 100,000 sets of harness for one or two horses and mules. Evidently our friends across the border did not count the cost in money at any rate.

TOO MANY SILK SHIRTS.

[Quebec Telegraph.] "Too many silk shirts and too much good time are the causes of racial unrest"—according to David T. Howard and Howard is a man who can have all the silk shirts and all the good time that any man could desire if he wished to, for he is a wealthy Southerner, and one of the richest and most respected negroes in the United States. A self-made man, having gone into business on a capital of \$150, and now owning the fourth largest business of his kind in Atlanta, Georgia, Howard declares that he never in the time, never went in for wild oats, but always attended to his business. As a natural result he has grown rich, and needs neither silk shirts, social equality or what are commonly called "goodly" times, as he is not the men who buy silk shirts and who are constantly on the lookout for good times. They are not strikers or social agitators. They grow rich by virtue of steady, hard work, honest labor, careful expenditure, rigid economy, and minding their own business. The world is all the better for them, and would be better still if their numbers were increased a hundredfold.

WATCH SCREWS.

[New York Herald.] The smallest screws in the world—those turned out in a watch factory—are cut from steel wire by a machine, but as the chips fall from the knife it looks as if the operator were simply cutting up the wire to amuse himself. No screw can be seen, and yet a screw is made every third operation. The fourth jewel-wheel screw is next to invisible, and to the naked eye it resembles dust. These tiny screws are four one-thousandths of an inch in diameter, and the heads are double the size. It is estimated that an ordinary timepiece would hold about 100,000 of them. About 1,000,000 are made in a month, but no attempt is ever made to count them. In determining the number, 100 of them are placed on a very delicate balance, and the number of the whole amount is calculated from the weight of the whole. All the small parts of the watch are counted in this way, probably 50 out of the 120. The screws are then hardened and put in frames, about 100 to the frame, heads up. This is done very rapidly, but entirely by the sense of touch instead of by sight, so that a blind man could do it as well as the owner of the sharpest eye. The heads are then polished in an automatic machine, 10,000 at a time.

BE AN OPTIMIST.

[Toronto Telegram.] Canada is emerging from the war-muddle with the sun of prosperity shining bright over her broad domain. Her barns are bursting with the products for which the world is hungry. Her gold and silver mines are pouring forth their riches. Her almost inexhaustible coal deposits are daily taking on new values. Her foreign north is teeming with oil that will feed the millions of autos for five hundred years to come. The inevitable unrest that follows a world conflict is settling. The specter of red that gives you anxious thoughts is being played by the victors. Politics. Could you hear the thousands cheer the patriotic pictures at the exhibition or watch the spectators at football games stand with bared heads while the hand of the victor is raised without realizing that the country is sound at heart? Prices are coming down! Isn't that what you have been shouting for? Then why should the decline cause the country to be pessimistic? Canada is coming back to normal—coming fast—coming also to a greater period of prosperity. Hasten its coming by drowning your pessimism. Prove your patriotism by becoming an optimist.

HOW BULGARIA HAS FALLEN.

[November System.] Conditions in Bulgaria are such that the currency of the country has depreciated in value to almost nothing, and there is great dissatisfaction because of the food restrictions. Profiteering is rampant. Every man, woman and child is suffering. Bulgaria has sunk within a few years from the most powerful Balkan state to one of the most unimportant in the group. These are the observations of Max Woldenberg, a Canadian, who included Bulgaria in his seven months trip through Europe studying business conditions. In his report on this trip, Mr. Woldenberg continues: "The laboring and disorganizing effect of the constant wars for the past ten years that they have lost any desire to work which they may have had. Crops are not being sown, and industry is at a standstill. "In Rumania I found a great amount of dissatisfaction. Profiteering is rampant. The government seems entirely unable to cope with various problems at hand. Broken promises are made by the government, but concessions or favors from the administration are only limited by one's financial ability to pay for them. Speculation is the general order of the day, and large sums of money are made by speculating various commodities for speculative reasons only, so that the poorer classes, who are very illiterate in Rumania, are suffering immensely, and are really supporting the entire country."

CUPID IN THE VICAR'S GARDEN.

[London News.] The Rev. James Dixon, the Vicar of Wilsden, is a great match-maker. He organizes dances and weekly entertainments in the vicarage garden during the summer, and he is not alone in regretting that the chilly evenings now make them no longer possible. "The boys and girls meet here; they become attached to one another, and ultimately fall in love," said Mr. Dixon, who has been very strongly criticized when I started these entertainments a few years ago. "What, dancing on the vicarage lawn?" people exclaimed with shocked surprise, but I have proved that it is good for everybody. When the young couples are married they are never likely to forget the vicarage garden, where they did their early courting, and this helps to keep them in touch with the church. "I always tell the lads and lassies that if they come to my dances they will catch the measles," he added with a chuckle. "Love, you know, is very much like the measles. The more you try to stay its course the more virulent it becomes. I find that most of the 'grasshoppers,' as they are called, fall victims sooner or later." The vicar is not only a benign Cupid, if the expression may be used without disrespect. He has thousands of activities, and his garden is open for many purposes. Mothers' meetings are held under the chestnut trees, and small children are taught to play real games with dolls, perambulators and a rocking-horse.

SUGAR PRICES MUST COME DOWN.

[Vancouver Sun.] No doubt there are a thousand reasons why sugar is selling in Vancouver at 15 to 21 cents as against 11 to 13 cents in Seattle. Under government control the Canadian people enjoyed slightly lower prices than those prevailing in the United States, but that privilege, however it amounted to, was not secured at the expense of the Canadian refiner, who were the whole story told, has made a great deal more money during the past few years than he was entitled to. He has been able to do this with bonuses and increased capital, have been and are, taking place in an effort to cover up the profits that have been made. Yet he has not been able to supply and demand force conditions to a point where a small loss should be taken by the manufacturers, in order to meet the prevailing prices, the cry for further protection is being raised, and the government is being asked to make a mockery of "protection." That such prices and restrictions are allowed to exist constitutes a national disgrace which upon no account must be permitted to go on.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT CANADA?

ANSWERS TO YESTERDAY'S QUESTIONS.

- 1—La Salle made a 1,600-mile journey on canoe from the Illinois River to Lake Ontario in 1678.
- 2—in 1916 Canada sent most men overseas in any one year in the world war, 165,553.
- 3—in 1871 the first Ontario immigrants arrived in Manitoba.
- 4—Kootenay National Park is in British Columbia on the international water highway through the Vermilion country.
- 5—Systems of taxation come under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government.
- 6—the main boundaries of British Columbia were fixed in 1863.
- 7—Since Confederation there have been three Presbyterian governors-general held office—Lorne, Aberdeen and Milne.
- 8—Electric street cars were first used in Canada at Ottawa.
- 9—the first steamship to plow the Pacific Ocean was the Beaver, which arrived from England in 1825.
- 10—Joliet, the discoverer of the Mississippi River, was a Canadian; a native-born explorer (1645-1700).

TODAY'S QUESTIONS.

- 1—How many Canadian soldiers went overseas with the first Canadian contingent in 1914?
- 2—When did the union of Upper and Lower Canada take place?
- 3—When did Canada establish the Dominion parks branch of the department of the interior?
- 4—When was Manitoba grain first shipped to Europe?
- 5—Of what church is the premier, Hon. Arthur Meighen, a member?
- 6—What are the postage rates on postcards for Canada, Mexico and the United States?
- 7—Who was the first intendant of New France?
- 8—Who was Roberval?
- 9—Who wrote the "Anne of Green Gables" books?
- 10—What is an order-in-council?

Poetry and Jest

THE WAY TO SHADOWTOWN.

[By Eugene Field.] Sway to and fro in the twilight grey. This is the ferry to Shadowtown. It always sails at the end of day. Just as the darkness closes down. Rest, little head, on my shoulder—so: A sleepy kiss is the only fare. Drift off to sleep, my little head, go. Baby and I, in the rocking chair. See, where the firelight glows and spark. Glitter the lights of the Shadowland. The raindrops on the window—hark! Are rippling lapping upon its strand. There, where the mirror is glancing dim. A lake lies shimmering, cool and still. Blossoms are waving over its brim. Those over there on the window sill. Rock slow, more slow in the dusky night. Silently lower the anchor down. Dear little passenger, say "Good-night." We've reached the harbor of Shadowtown.

HANDS UP.

"You say you were held up by a fellow with a revolver this morning. At what time?" "Five minutes to one." "How can you fix the time so precisely?" "Because I could see the church clock, and I noticed the hands were in the same position as mine."

TWILIGHT.

The shadows were languidly across the waters black. The poplars and the birches leave a white from the woodland sheltering the lone whip-poor-will cries. And as the moon came upon him, the hawk cleaves the skies. Adown the distant tree-tops the sun-light shone in golden rings. More lurid and tempting than any miser's gold. The night bird softly crooning in the swaying tops of pine. The stars and moon haunting a night in summertime.

WELL, WELL.

Applicant (for job): "What's the chance for a fellow beginning at the bottom and working up?" Foreman: "None, our job is digging wells."

A PRAYER.

[Theodore Garrison.] Let me work and be glad. O Lord, and I ask no more: For when I turn where the sunbeams burn At the sill of my workshop door. Alas! I played my prayer For the glory and gain of earth. But now grown wise and with opened eyes I see what the prayer was. Give me my work to do: And peace of the task well done: And the light of the moon and sun. Pleasure of little things That never may pall or end. And fast in my hold no lesser god Than the honest hand of a friend. Let me forget in time. Eddy of dirt committies in the constant moving which takes place. People are here today and there tomorrow, and are prone to say: "What's the use?" Why can we not overcome this feeling, and, although more renters, plant something that is permanent—a rose bush, a flowering shrub or a tree—something that will beautify the earth, even if we may not be present to enjoy its fragrance? Someone will, and flowers are always better than rubbish. Yours very truly, WM. GILES, 780 Talbot Street, City.

ALWAYS STUNG.

Hokus—Why do you compare Hard-uppe with a busy bee? He isn't particularly industrious, is he? Pokus—Oh, no; it isn't. But nearly everyone he touches gets stung.

A FRIENDLY WORD.

[Edgar A. Guest.] Seems like as somebody here is always scatterin' joy and cheer, I've never known a rainy day. But what some friend has come my way. To sort o' laugh the clouds away. I ain't been one deservin' much O' special favor an' the touch O' generous hands in time o' need. An' yet good friends at double speed. Have given before I'd ask or plead. It seems I'm ten thousand eyes Are tryin' to take me by surprise. Just what I felt the time I see. Just what I felt the time I see. Just what I feel can be. And what some friend has come my way. To sort o' laugh the clouds away. I ain't been one deservin' much O' special favor an' the touch O' generous hands in time o' need. An' yet good friends at double speed. Have given before I'd ask or plead. It seems I'm ten thousand eyes Are tryin' to take me by surprise. Just what I felt the time I see. Just what I felt the time I see. Just what I feel can be. And what some friend has come my way. To sort o' laugh the clouds away. 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