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London Advertiser

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These Men Are Murderers.

The robbery of the bank messengers in Toronto was the most cold-blooded crime enacted in years, where the only motive was robbery. The men who planned the robbery and carried it out did not even have the extenuating circumstance of having any personal hatred or enmity against the men they shot down. They possibly did not know them. Their only relation to the messengers was that they stood between them and \$125,000.

To get this money they were prepared to take away the lives of these four men and the lives of any others who had the courage to rush in and assist in the defence of those attacked.

To all intents and purposes those bandits are murderers, every one of them, and it is a misnomer to call them robbers or bandits.

The right or wrong of the method of carrying large sums of money through the streets of a city has nothing to do with the case at present.

The only consideration is the running down of those murderers, and the country should be scraped with a fine comb for them. Although the description secured is meagre, there can be no let-up until the hand of justice closes in on those criminals.

The skill and daring with which they operated marks them as dangerous men, and the fact that they are dangerous men makes it all the more imperative that Canadian law and its officers rise to the occasion with the full force of its might and ability.

The bank messengers did their best. They risked everything to remain true to their calling. The whole country hears with gratitude that they will recover from their bullet wounds.

London and the Red Shoes.

A New York woman visiting in London claims that people stared at her red shoes so hard that she was much embarrassed, so much in fact that she left the city a day or two before she had intended doing so.

She told a reporter that some of the people here even laughed at them. Yes, sir, that's what she said, they actually looked at her red shoes and stockings and laughed.

Now, we doubt that. To be true, the folks here don't go in for green and red and pink shoes very extensively, but occasionally they are to be seen.

But this New York woman should not be offended. We are a rather bright and very observant lot of people in London. We are out to see all there is to see, and the only way to see things is to look at them.

When a young man, for instance, goes back to his old home town he expects to be looked at; so does a girl. If a young chap gets a new cut in a suit of clothes, with a crease in the pants that looks like the acute corner of a packing-case, with a collar and tie exactly like the men in the ads wear, well he expects that the folks at home are going to have a good long look at him. He reckons that by the time he walks from the postoffice over to the town hall, and past the leading store, he will have given that place quite a little thrill. And if he's picked up a couple of gold teeth he is certainly going to smile just as a sort of anti-climax.

All of which is the most natural thing in the world. These New Yorkers can't scare us with their red boots—not a bit of it. We've seen their ladies piling out of big touring cars in khaki bloomers and in tweed bloomers, and we've seen them in red shoes and green shoes. And, of course, we look at them—why not? We're looking at 'em in half the fun of their trip. When they get back home they'll be able to talk over the back fence and tell how the folks in London thought they were regular summer cut-ups in all their travelling and touring garments. Why, if we paid no attention, and just assumed an air that said "that's old stuff over here—we quit wearin' these three years ago," they would feel mighty bad, and the tourist trade would get a regular black eye.

We're sorry that New York woman took London's attention the wrong way. We were simply trying to make her feel that she had made quite a hit here, and that we were tickled to death to see her.

They Should Feel Better Now.

Five London aldermen, named by Mayor Wenige as "obstructionists," have stated their case, and their reply to the mayor is just as lively as the mayor's expressed opinion of them.

It is to be hoped, now that all hands have had their say, that they will feel better, and be able to sit down seriously and go to work.

What the mayor thinks of certain aldermen, or what these certain aldermen think of the mayor, is not the greatest business before the administrators of London's civic business.

London expects each and every one of the men it elected to remember that he is in a position of responsibility; that he is doing business for a corporation that is worth \$60,000,000, and that the people who are paying taxes in London are putting up real hard-earned money to keep the thing going.

There is also a dignity attached to the position of alderman that is not to be lightly regarded.

It is out of the question, and quite beyond the bounds of reason, to think that the present aldermen desire to carry on their meetings in anything but a proper, and dignified manner. The present council contains capable men, but they have failed to pull together. They have an excellent opportunity right now to go ahead and demonstrate how a real city council should function.

Not Many Great Speeches.

The Ottawa Journal has a low estimate of the average speech in parliament, so low that it refers to Hansard, the publication in which all these speeches are printed, as "a nightmare."

It is undoubtedly a fact that there are few great speeches made in the Canadian Commons. Now and then there arise big issues that stir men to great efforts, and on those occasions men are moved to say the things they believe, and by which they are prepared to stand or fall, regardless of party. On such occasions we believe the debates in the Canadian parliament will stand up with those in any other similar body.

The trouble is that these times are infrequent. Members know just about what the party has in mind, and if a speaker wants to add his quota to the debate he feels compelled, by party pressure, to say what he believes and select his phrases as to bring grist to the party mill. Such an atmosphere does not produce great speakers or great speeches.

There is small room for the independent who strikes out right and left. In the first place it is hard

for him to get elected, and if he succeeds he is apt to find himself sandwiched between the dominating political forces, for which the grooves have been very thoroughly and strongly cut by years of practice and precedent.

Parliament has a great many men who want to bring to the attention of the House affairs that are peculiar to their own constituencies. They may be of the greatest importance to a riding or a county, and they may be very well presented, but the comparatively parochial nature of their appeal causes other members to write letters or read newspapers. These home-interest speeches, unfortunately, never get into history as "a great effort," or an "epoch-making utterance."

Hansard cannot be a great publication, because it contains very few "great speeches." It is not the fault of Hansard; the defect, if any, is with the way in which we do business, by bringing many things to the floor of the House that could be dealt with by committees or heads of departments.

Let Zorra Attend To This.

The Woodstock Sentinel-Review has the following: According to a report of a Scottish picnic held at Port Stanley recently, a trophy was awarded for the best bagpipe playing. But how could anybody tell whether any kind of bagpiping was better or worse than any other kind?

Tut! tut! and this from a paper that is published under the very eye of East and West Zorra, where oatmeal is called food and the bagpipes music.

And was it not from the same Zorra, that five mighty men went forth years ago to take the end of a rope and pull the five finest policemen in Chicago right out of their boots in a tug-of-war?

And today this Woodstock paper wants to know if "any kind of bagpiping was worse than any other kind."

Some of the sturdy Scots from out Zorra way should walk into the editor's office in Woodstock and tap him on the head with a caber, or drop a "56" on his toes.

Women, Please Don't Do This.

The crinoline, so Paris fashion masters say, is coming back. To those of this age who do not know what a crinoline is, just this word, it is an enormous skirt built on hoops or some sort of a framework. It used to be considered great at the time when grandfather greased his Sunday boots.

Imagine the crinoline climbing in one of our smart little runabouts. Or how will she behave in either an upper or lower berth, or how under the sun will she get through the doors of our pay-as-you-enter street cars?

Yet Paris says the war is on to bring the crinoline back. Woman, lovely woman, don't you do it!

Note and Comment.

The day's greatest optimist is reported from New York, where he bought a million German marks for \$1.50.

A farmer in the north end of Middlesex had a man poke a revolver in his face the other night. He says the barrel of the thing looked as big as a silo.

A boy dug a pearl out of a clam in the Thames River that is said to be worth \$500. Well, we hope it is, and also that he gets the whole \$500 and knows how to use it wisely.

Those who regard the O. T. A. as being a fairly strict temperance measure are reminded that a Windsor woman opened fire with a gun on her husband when he came home drunk.

A Toronto paper reports that a man who drove through a crowd on Danforth avenue "was fined \$5 or ten days in the afternoon police court." In the mornings and evenings he can probably do as he likes.

The Liberal Association in Toronto is being sued for the price of a wreath sent to the funeral of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. If that association will not pay it, there are others all over the province who will.

The mayor offered to take the pulpit of one of the city churches. No doubt the parson knew the mayor to be one of the most spectacular advertisers in the business, and feared he would take as his text "Riding is Cheaper Than Walking."

The north and south are having a merry war in London, the object being to see which end of the city can put up the most residences this year. A glance at the type of house being erected makes it certain that London's claim to being a city of homes stands in no danger of being eclipsed.

Fear has been expressed that tearing up Richmond street for paving will interfere with traffic. Positively groundless is any such fear. That section of Richmond street is used only in emergency cases by those who have been over it once. Let the tearing proceed, and may it be carried on vigorously, and even viciously.

Sir Henry Thornton says it is not possible to issue bonds for necessary western lines of the National Railways because the Senate killed the chance of the move being made in the proper method. It is to be hoped that the Senate fully appreciates the thoroughness with which it is obstructing the work of the National lines and the development of the Canadian west.

SEES NO SIGN OF REACTION.

(From the Christian Science Monitor.)

There could be no more convincing evidence of the fixity of public determination to enforce literally the prohibition amendment in the United States than the summary of legislative action taken on this subject during the past year published yesterday by The Associated Press. This thoroughly unbiased and nonpartisan organization reports that the question of enforcing prohibition laws has come up within the last few months in the legislatures of fourteen states. The states in which it has been a matter of legislation are: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas and Wisconsin. They constitute almost a third of the states of the Union; in population—40,000,000 in round numbers—they equal more than one-third of the whole people of the United States. Politically, they are largely Republican, Texas only being safely Democratic. 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