

## London Advertiser.

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## LET THE LONDON ADVERTISER FOLLOW YOU.

Those who are leaving the city for the summer months should not fail to have The Advertiser follow them. In this way only can they keep informed about affairs at home. Addresses may be changed as often as desired, and the paper will promptly reach any part of Canada or the United States.

LONDON, WEDNESDAY, JULY 29.

## THE CELEBRATION CLOSING.

Today the Prince of Wales leaves Quebec. He has performed his duties with tact, and with at least a show of interest and enjoyment, though, with banquets, addresses, reviews and full-dress functions in rapid succession, he has had no holiday jaunt. The celebration in its essential features has been a complete success. As a spectacle, it has fulfilled all expectations. There could have been no grander setting for such a drama than the picturesque city of Quebec. It was nature's theatre; the theatre, too, in which were enacted, centuries ago, many of the scenes of which the pageants of the past few days have been imitations.

These representations have had a deeper purpose than the entertainment of the crowd. They have made the past live again, and illuminated chapters of Canadian history with which too few Canadians are familiar. They have served to remind us Canadians of British descent that the story of Canada did not begin with the English conquest; that the French were not only the pioneers of this country, but their descendants helped to keep it for the British flag.

Happily there has been no untoward incident to mar the harmony of an event which had its delicate side. The celebration did not make the same appeal to the two peoples. To the French it was a symbol and reminder of the achievements of their ancestors, and it stimulated their pride of race, a sentiment naturally tinged with regret over vanished glory. There was a danger that their geniality might be wounded by the overwhelming suggestion of British ascendancy, and the invocation of the memory of Montcalm's defeat by the project of nationalizing the Plains of Abraham; but the whole spirit of the affair has been admirable. French and English alike seem to have grasped its central purpose and meaning—the fraternity of the two races, and the solidarity of the Canadian nation. The people of this country will look back upon the Quebec tercentenary as a landmark in Canadian history.

## FRANCE'S DECREASING BIRTH RATE.

Although the French are not an emigrating people, the population of France continues to diminish, not because the death rate is increasing, but on account of a startling decrease in births.

The publication of the vital statistics for 1907 has revived in that country discussion of the question of race suicide. The figures for that year show the number of deaths to have been 793,000, and of births 744,000, or a natural decrease in population of 19,000. For many years the country's birth rate has been steadily declining, and this actual excess of deaths over births is giving rise to much uneasiness among statesmen and military men.

One writer, M. Meassimy, who is an authority on military matters, points out that if the present low rate of natality continues, and the dead overtop the living, in fifteen or twenty years there will be a loss of 50,000 to 60,000 men in the army effectiveness.

The Paris correspondent of the Pall Mall Gazette, in a recent letter, says that after her war with Prussia, France seemed to be reaping her harvest, as if nature were anxious to fill up the depleted ranks of her army. Then the births represented 960,000 a year. But this manifestation of patriotism did not last very long, as in twenty years the natality tables tell 200,000, until finally the deaths have outnumbered the newly-born. In seven years French natality has fallen from 860,000 to 774,000, or 12,000 a year. There were no epidemics, and the general state of the public health was good.

As to the cause underlying the dwindling birth rate of France, the correspondent ascribes it to "our civilization, a refined sensitiveness, and a refined selfishness." "No one," he adds, "wishes to have big families because the difficulties of life are thereby augmented." For some time this "over-sensitiveness" was confined to the upper classes of society, but has finally reached the masses, and now the peasant refuses to be burdened with more than two children. He feels that there is more excuse in his case than in that of the wealthier people,

for during the last couple of decades nearly every item in family expenditure has risen in price, and he cannot afford to add to his already too heavy living expenses.

Apart altogether from the moral aspect of the question, as to which much might be said, there can be no doubt that if present conditions in France continue for many years, that country must eventually be numbered among what the late Lord Salisbury once termed the dying nations. The decline of France would be a grievous loss to civilization and freedom, as to which she has been in the van of the great continental powers.

## THE LAW AND THE CORPORATIONS.

The arch-enemy of the trusts, President Roosevelt, is incensed at the judgment of the federal court of appeals overruling Judge Landis, who imposed a fine of \$29,000,000 upon the Standard Oil Company. While there is no question of the guilt of the defendants, many of the President's political friends are by no means in sympathy with him in his recent attack on the higher court, which was unanimous in its decision.

In his anxiety to strike a blow at the "oil octopus," Judge Landis evidently went beyond the bounds of prudence, and has defeated the object at which he aimed by imposing a fine that is regarded by the federal court as bordering on the confiscatory. The President has ordered a new trial, and if it should result in another conviction, the fine imposed is likely to be much more moderate. In such a case as this the amount of the fine is of less importance than that the Government should be able to prove that it has the power to control corporations, and is determined to prevent violations of the law.

President Roosevelt has to an extent been successful in putting a stop to rebates—discriminations granted by railroads in favor of corporations which were thus enabled to become monopolies. He has succeeded in having the laws strengthened, and the railroads now manifest a genuine desire to live up to them. With all treated alike as to freight rates the greatest menace to independent business will disappear. Of course there is no telling how long impartiality in freight rates will continue; more suits may be necessary before permanence in this matter is established. But as the courts have declared they will not approve of a discriminatory fine, and a nominal fine amounts to nothing, the Philadelphia Inquirer is forced to the conclusion that there is only one way to ensure against law-breaking corporations, and that is to hold the officials personally responsible. Under such a law injustice might be inflicted upon directors who were not cognizant of the acts of agents. The whole case bristles with difficulties.

There was some good sport at the Olympiad, but some poor sports from all accounts.

Our local contemporary acknowledges the corn by alluding to the Federal Opposition as the Ottawa Blocking Brigade.

The Grand Trunk Pacific will have a hundred locomotives hauling cars in the west this autumn. It enters the field in the nick of time.

Whether "Bobs" is coming to London or not is still a matter of doubt. His movements in Canada are as uncertain as the Boers found them in South Africa.

A journal not far from here sneers at the idea of honoring warriors who died three hundred years ago. The Canadian who would not do homage to the memory of Champlain is not versed in the history of his country.

## WOLFE AND MONTCALM.

(New York Sun.)  
Support me, let my gallant fellows should see the fall—Wolfe.

It's nothing, it's nothing; don't trouble yourself for me, my good friends—Montcalm.

The battle on the Plains of Abraham, which are dedicated as a public park at Quebec, was one of those rare conflicts that leave a sting by reason of the greatness of soul of the soldiers who commanded the opposing armies, both of whom were mortally wounded while leading their troops in person. An Englishman who does not hold the name of Montcalm in honor, or a Frenchman who fails to admire the intrepid Wolfe, would be out of place at the ceremony that celebrates their common glory.

## ALL FOR HIM.

(Philadelphia Press.)

"Your fiancée seems to have a will of her own."  
"Yes, and sometimes I half regret that I'm the sole beneficiary."

## THE LAST AWFUL DAY.

(Philadelphia Blade.)

Father (just home from journey, to his daughters)—Did your mamma seem to miss me much?  
Daughter—Not at first, but yesterday she seemed in great trouble.

## WHY BACHELORS SHOULD BE TAXED.

(Baltimore Sun.)

We have frequently advocated a tax upon bachelors in the past, and our opinion remains unchanged. We incline to the view, indeed, that they should assume the whole burden of taxation—that all taxes, real, personal and mixed, should be assessed against bachelors alone. They bear, at present, every other civic and national burden. They fight the nation's wars, they write its poetry, they sail its ships, they direct its industries and they do its thinking. Why should they not complete the sum of their services and

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(Calgary Herald.)

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"Say, dad, what's a strenuous life?"  
"A strenuous life is when a man tries to live up to the salary people think he is getting without running into debt."

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(Richmond Watson Glider.)

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And in the roof of the arbor  
Leaves woven through and through—  
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What wonders new are seen!  
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(Hamilton Spectator.)

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## Hay Fever Cannot Exist in the Highlands of Ontario.

Anywhere north of Orillia on the Grand Trunk suffers from this annoying complaint will find instant relief. The higher altitude and the pure air impregnated with the odor of the balsams and pines is a sure cure. Tourist rates are low, and good accommodation may be obtained from \$6 a week up. Get illustrated copy of publication entitled "Hay Fever" at city or depot offices.

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