

London Advertiser.

[ESTABLISHED BY JOHN CAMERON IN 1883.]

Managing Director and Editor, John Cameron

London, Wednesday, Oct. 3, 1898.

Obstacles to Disarmament.

Whatever it may have been for the Government, the Czar's manifesto was for the French press and people a startling surprise and a severe disappointment. Considering the Franco-Russian Alliance, they conclude that the French Executive must have received private intimation beforehand. Of this, however, they are not sure. They simply feel that if the alliance which they have celebrated so enthusiastically is real, such intimation ought to have been given. Then, reasoning along this path, they infer that the Government must, before promising support to the peace proposal, have made clear statements with regard to the Alsace-Lorraine question. This kind of argument shows that even the well-informed journalist is at a great disadvantage in dealing with matters of diplomacy, because part of the material is in the open and part in the dark. However, the discussion, even under these difficulties, emphasizes the fact that the great hindrance in the way of European peace is this same question of the Lost Provinces, and brings out clearly the present state of French feeling in a way that nothing of less importance could have done. Such a proposal from any other quarter would at the present time have received secret attention in France; but when the Czar, who not long ago made a triumphal march through Paris, spoke, France was bound to listen. In the replies made there is clearly perceptible, in spite of the constrained manner in which they are given, a feeling that an attempt is being made to offer up France as a victim for the good of Europe. According to the views of leading Frenchmen, the Alsace-Lorraine question is the pivotal point of European politics. It led to the formation of the Triple Alliance, and forced France into the arms of Russia. For 27 years France has held on to the hope of regaining these provinces, and on this account spent large sums on the reorganization of their army, and she is not likely to give up this hope without a great struggle.

Of course, there are in France, peace societies, and societies for the promotion of arbitration, which hope that good will come out of the Czar's message, and that France may be saved from great dangers and heavy burdens without loss of national honor. But the general feeling is one of uncertainty and irritation. General du Barail says: "I do not see that it is a question of repairing the injury done to us in 1870. Consequently I consider a real disarmament impossible in the present situation of the European nations." Another general, Blainville, considers that the Czar's proposal does more credit to his generosity than to his political insight, and he points out that the desire of France to get back her lost provinces led to the increase and reorganization of her army, and hence to the increase of other armies, and thus the Alsace-Lorraine situation is one of the chief considerations in the case. Then it is recognized that if the Emperor of Germany were willing to give back these provinces, the military party in Germany would not allow it; while to Frenchmen the neutrality or "dependence of Alsace and Lorraine is not at all acceptable. So that this question, which is regarded as the main factor in the case, is exceedingly difficult to solve, if not quite insoluble. But supposing this solved, the French see great difficulties in the way. For example, who could give satisfactory pledges that the conditions laid down by a peace conference would be kept? This goes to the heart of the matter, as it reveals the spirit of mutual distrust which is the cause of the secret service, and of one nation spying upon another. This difficulty constitutes the shame of our Christian civilization, and shows how little Christianity has entered into international relationships.

Discussing particular schemes of disarmament, a French authority concludes that in any case they would be to the disadvantage of France. To reduce according to population, would mean that if France ever had to meet Germany it would be in the proportion of 35 to 45, while to make the reduction in proportion to the total military contingents of the two countries, would bring similar disadvantage. "In the first case, they would propose to lessen the number of our soldiers to the profit of Germany; and in the second, to increase the duration of our mobilization to our detriment." These points we need not discuss in detail. Sufficient has been given to show that these proposals have awakened a special sensitiveness in France, and that in any proposal for the reduction of armaments, the legacy left from the Franco-German war of 1870 will be the specter at the banquet which will not be easily banished.

The Emperor of Austria, whose Queen was recently assassinated, is said to have made the following remark to the Hungarian Premier: "Do not spare me in the matter of work. Henceforth I desire to work harder than ever, as that is one of my chief consolations." As an immediate alleviation of grief, there is probably nothing to equal work, and it is equally wholesome in other circumstances, too.

"The Thunderer" on the Klondike.

Miss Flora Shaw, the special correspondent of the London Times, has been writing to that journal a series of letters from Dawson City. When we consider the character and distinctness of both the correspondent and the newspaper, these letters are worthy of more credence than the statements of partisans who have tried to make scandals out of vague rumors. Miss Shaw makes no individual charges, but alleges that there is a widely-prevalent conviction in the Yukon, not only that the laws are bad, but that the officials are corrupt. There is also much dissatisfaction with imperfections of organization. In Dawson City, with 20,000 population, there are no roads, no trustworthy mail arrangements, and no sanitary organization. Typhoid is always present. It is a matter of common knowledge, writes Miss Shaw, that bribery of officials is the usual condition upon which miners can secure privileges which are theirs by right, such as staking out districts, recording claims, or even obtaining letters in reasonable time. The letter points out that Mr. Ogilvie's name is accepted as a synonym of disinterested integrity, and that he will undoubtedly endeavor to cope with the difficult task before him.

The Times, commenting on these statements, says that the isolation of such a community as the Klondike is the source of serious dangers, not the least being the weakness of the machinery of government and the opportunities for the growth of unchecked abuses. For the credit of the Canadian Government the Times thinks these things should be inquired into. The Times adds:

"There is, happily, a general conviction, fully shared by the people of the mother country, that the Canadian Government have neither any sympathy with such practices nor the slightest disposition to shield the guilty persons. It is felt that offenses of such a nature are possible only because they are done at a distance and in the dark. * * * The first condition of reform is to put an end to the isolated state of the Klondike and to bring this infant community into close and constant touch with the rest of the world. When that has been done, Mr. Ogilvie, whose character stands deservedly high, * * * will find that he has behind him not only local feeling, but the support of the Dominion Government and of public opinion at home."

The Canadian Government can hardly let such accusations as these pass unnoticed. The Government has proved its desire for sure and efficient administration by the appointment of Commissioner Ogilvie, and if there are abuses, he has plenary power to remedy them.

The Bridgeport Mystery.

The infallibility of circumstantial evidence, upon which prosecuting attorneys in particular are wont to insist, has been dealt a hard blow in the famous Bridgeport mystery. "Men sometimes lie, but circumstances never do" is the pet aphorism usually hurled at the jury by the lawyer whose case is built upon this kind of testimony. In the Bridgeport case circumstantial evidence of an apparently flawless character would have hanged an innocent man, if other circumstances had not come to light in time. The dismembered body of a young lady is found in a pond near Bridgeport, Conn. The severed head is identified as that of seven different women, but these identifications are not convincing. Then comes a Mr. Perkins, of Middleboro, Conn., who proves conclusively to the authorities that the head and body are those of his daughter, Grace Perkins, who had recently disappeared. The father asserts that the birth-marks and chicken-pox scars on the body correspond with those on his daughter. He also identifies the teeth, and the dentist who did the filling corroborates his testimony. Without any demur the remains are turned over to Mr. Perkins for burial, and when he reaches home with them he finds his daughter there, alive and well. She has returned with a young man, her lover, Charles Bourne, who had been regarded as the murderer.

Had Grace Perkins not revealed herself in time, Bourne could have been hanged on the testimony of the girl's father; the identity of the dead woman might never have been discovered and the real criminals, with the added guilt of Bourne's judicial murder, would probably have never been detected. Here was a case where the chain of circumstantial evidence around an innocent man for a time was seemingly without a weak link. Which proves that circumstances do lie sometimes, as well as men.

The report that Great Britain has secured control of the railways and telegraphs at Delagoa Bay is probably true. It was bound to come. The commerce of the port, which has been paralyzed by Portuguese incompetence, will flourish again, and the Transvaal Republic will be effectively bottled up.

The Liberals exposed a great many scandals when in Opposition, and are ready to continue the good work if it is necessary in the Yukon.

"Literature would be better," remarks N. Y. Life, "if there were not so many dead men still in the business." Shakespeare, for instance.

Portugal intends adopting extreme protection in her colonies. These colonies are already dying from inanition, and Portugal is taking the quickest way to finish them.

There are a few calamities that do not find a home in Kansas. It is the citadel of free silver, the playground of the cyclone, and now the insects are taking up their abode in clouds.

A dispatch from Montreal says that a combine on patent medicines has been broken, and that prices will fall. What effect would that have when patent medicines are already a drug on the market?

Miserable curl!
Wretch!
Molasses barrel!
No, gentle reader, these are not more gems from Mr. Whitney's speech—they are merely pleasantries exchanged by local aldermen.

Seattle merchants are hastening to protest against the transfer of Dyes or Skaguay to Canada, knowing it would injure their Klondike trade. As the Canadian Senate has added them so generously, the Seattle merchants naturally think their own government will not see them suffer.

The brewers and maltsters of New York State have an agent in Quebec, urging that the American duty on Canadian barley be reduced from 30 to 10 cents a bushel. The McKinley tariff struck a hard blow at agricultural interests on the north shore of Lake Ontario—the great barley-growing district—but the farmers recovered by turning to other lines of production. They have almost ceased to grow barley, but the trade was so profitable that the reopening of the American market would doubtless revive it.

The people of Stratford will vote on the question of abolishing the ward system. An alderman responsible to the whole community will take a broader view than the alderman who seeks only the suffrage of a small section of it. The former is impelled to consider the interests of the city; the other, the interests of his own ward. These two sets of interests often clash. In submitting this proposition to the electors, the Stratford city council shows sense and public spirit. We expect nothing of the kind here this year.

The Hamilton Spectator called for a Pingree to rescue the city council, and The Advertiser wanted to know if Mayor Colquhoun, M.P.P., and Ald. Carscallen, M.P.P., were not equal to the job. Didn't the following reply by the Hamilton Times hit London as well?

"There is nothing the matter with Hamilton that cannot be cured by the Hamilton electors. As happens occasionally in every city, we are temporarily afflicted with the presence of several below-par aldermen in the council, but the people can put better men in their places next January. Then we shall get better roads, and one or two other things that are required. Hamilton is not in a position from which she can only be rescued by heroic measures. She has merely been too tolerant of mediocrity."

WHAT OTHERS SAY.

Whitney's Hysterics.

[Toronto News.]

Mr. Whitney should not lose his head in this ridiculous manner. His hysterics are quite unworthy a leader of a party, and of a man with such a good reputation as Mr. Whitney's.

Africa's Destiny.

[Toronto Telegram.]

It will probably be the destiny of Africa, as it was the destiny of India and North America, to fall into Anglo-Saxon hands, and it is probably the destiny of France to continue in the future childless, as far as real colonies are concerned, among the nations.

Both Rates Small.

[Hamilton Herald.]

If it must be admitted that Ontario's birth rate is small in comparison with that of other countries, we may boast that the death rate in this province is also small. According to the last census, our death rate was 118 per 10,000. This was 20 per 10,000 less than the average for the whole of Canada.

Might Be Done Gradually.

[Toronto Citizen and Country.]

The London Advertiser commends the disarmament of the nations in a thoughtful editorial, published elsewhere this week, but recommends that the process be made gradual. If the principle of disarmament were recognized by the nations, it would be satisfactory if a 10 per cent reduction were made annually.

British Mothers an Example.

[Victoria, B. C., Colonist.]

In Great Britain, where the conditions of life are generally easy, the birth rate maintains a fairly high position, and this is because British matrons consider it to be their duty to raise families. The perpetuation of the family is a part of the British instinct. In education along this line, Ontario will find the solution of what must be admitted to be a very serious problem.

Can Do Without Them.

[Toronto Saturday Night.]

If German goods are a little cheaper than British goods, they are a good deal poorer; and as the majority of Canadians have a higher idea of the importance of this country than appears to be possessed by the Mail and Empire, they would no doubt forego

the luxury of using stuff "made in Germany" for the sake of proving that if Germany can do without us, we can do without Germany.

Wooden Wit.

[Hamilton Herald.]

A correspondent writes to ask why London is called the Forest City. Perhaps because it is a wooden sort of place.

LIGHT AND SHADE.

Sounds Better.

"Dah's a heap o' callin' fings by dah wrong name in da word," said Uncle Eben. "Lots o' folks call 'plain laziness' 'takin' care o' dah health.'" — Washington Star.

Conceit.

A little dog barked at the big, round moon. That smiled in the evening sky, And the neighbors smote him with rocks and stones. But still he continued his ragged tune, And he barked until his throat was dry.

The little dog bounced like a rubber ball. For his anger quite drove him wild; And he said, "I'm a terror, although I am small, And I dare you, you impudent fellow, to fail."

But the moon only smiled and smiled. Then the little dog barked at a terrible rate. But he challenged the moon in vain, For as calmly and slow as workings of fate, The moon moved along in a manner sedate And smiled at the dog in disdain.

But soon "heath a hill that obstructed The moon sank out of his sight, And it smiled as it slowly dropped under the crest, But the little dog said, as he lay down to rest: "Well, I scared it away, all right." — Puck.

Stop There.

We should be careful to get out of an experience only the wisdom that is in it—and stop there—lest we be like the cat that sits down on a hot stove-lid. She will never sit down on a hot stove-lid again—and that is well; but also she will never sit down on a cold one any more.

His Answer.

Smartly Dressed Young Lady—Oh, you wicked boy, how could you rob that nest? No doubt the poor mother is now grieving for the loss of her eggs. Urchin—Oh, she doesn't care. She's up in your hat.—Boston Globe.

An Alarming Symptom.

Jack De Broke—Doctor, I desire to put myself under your treatment. The fact is, I am losing my nerve. Doctor—What are the indications? Jack De Broke—Well, for one thing, I have begun to dread asking my friends for loans.—San Francisco Examiner.

NEWS ABOUT NOTED PERSONS

An Interesting Budget of Gossip From Old London.

The Presentation of a Sword to the Sirdar.

A Great Honor—A Freak in Paris—A Mountain Climbing Knight—Salisbury Busy Abroad—A Royal Romance.

London, Oct. 4.—Few city ceremonies in the coming year will be more genuinely attractive to the London public than the announced presentation of the city freedom with a sword of honor to the sirdar when he returns. In the old days this distinction was conferred on Nelson and Wellington, and other contemporary heroes, and more recently on Sir Garnet Wolseley, Sir Frederick Roberts, and Sir Beauchamp Seymour, all afterwards raised to the peerage. It is the highest mark of appreciation of "the great city" for gallant and patriotic service, and is never bestowed save in cases of very exceptional merit.

STRANGE THINGS IN PARIS. Strange things occur in Paris. A correspondent relates an incident which causes some amusing effervescence in the Rue de Richelieu. As one of the Clichy and Odéon omnibuses approached the boulevard a strange looking man seated on the outside jumped up, swinging a laser, which he threw with great accuracy round the neck of a lady in the street, who was dragged along after the vehicle. She was happily soon rescued. The lunatic, when arrested, imagined that he was in South America, and that he had successfully assassinated a emperor. He was, of course, placed under restraint.

BISMARCK NOT LIBERAL. According to a Berlin correspondent of a leading Belgian paper, Prince Bismarck, who has died so rich, was far from being a liberal man. His name was never seen on the list of charitable donations, and now his old valet, Pinnow, has come to Berlin to seek a situation, as the £250 left him by the prince cannot support him. It is said that Dr. Schweninger refused his fees, but such a patient probably brought him thousands.

MAJOR ANDRE'S TOMB.

Roses were laid on the tomb of Major Andre in Westminster Abbey on Wednesday, with a card, on which was inscribed: "From Mrs. Curran, nee Beatrice Benedict Arnold, of Chicago, a descendant of General Benedict Arnold, who detests the memory of her ancestor, but reverses that of the man whose death he encompassed, Major Andre. This is a token of her loving respect." Arnold, it will be remembered, had turned traitor to Washington, and was trying to secure West Point for the British, and in a culpably careless manner had sent Major Andre on a secret expedition. The major, in civilian dress, was returning, when he was seized by the Americans and hanged as a spy in October, 1780. His remains were exhumed and brought to Westminster Abbey in 1820.

A MOUNTAIN-CLIMBING KNIGHT.

Sir W. M. Conway's latest achievement is to ascend the Yllmani, in the Cordilleras—a peak the summit of which is 22,500 feet above the sea.

"He that stays in the valley will never get over the hill." Don't delay, but try Blue Ribbon if you want to enjoy good tea.

Don't Hesitate

when you pay your life insurance premium. It is NOT EXPENSE. You are NOT PAYING SOMETHING FOR NOTHING. You are SAVING MONEY, and insurance is taking care of it for you. Life insurance is business done in a business-like manner.

THE NORTHERN LIFE ASSURANCE CO., of Canada,

are just issuing some new plans having special investment features. Consult with them before you invest.

JOHN MILNE, Manager.

Head Office, Temple Building, London, Ont.

A First Class Range is the

HAPPY THOUGHT.

It is not an experiment, but has stood the test of years and has never been found wanting. The longer you have one the more you get attached to it. Ask any housekeeper who has a HAPPY THOUGHT and they'll tell you they would have no other, as the best results in cooking are always obtained.

A First Class Base-burner is the

"RADIANT HOME."

Because it is easy on fuel, very handsome in design and a powerful heater. We extend an invitation to all to call at our store and inspect our Stoves and Ranges. There are many good points we cannot put in print, but will be pleased to explain.

PARKINSON & CO

Richmond Street, OPPOSITE CITY HALL.

GENUINE ENGLISH RODGERS' A1 SPOONS AND FORKS

Have stood the English test for 50 years, SUPERIOR to any SILVERWARE made in AMERICA.

Hobbs Hardware Company, London, - Ont

This is the weather for Flies. 34 ft