

London Advertiser.

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Managing Director and Editor, John Cameron

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Municipal Ownership.

The meeting of the City Council, called by the Mayor to consider the question of the municipal ownership of a London street railway line—either through acquiring the present line, or construction of a parallel line—can hardly be said to have contributed a great deal to the discussion. If we understand His Worship's idea it was to have an immediate vote of the ratepayers on the double (and rather divisive) question. Do you want to buy out the existing street railway line from the present company, providing they are willing to sell it at a reasonable figure? Or do you want to construct a parallel line?

The majority of the council took the position that undue haste would be attended with risk, and sent the whole subject to No. 1 Committee for an early report. It was also decided to have the committee ascertain from the Street Railway Company if they were willing to sell, and at what figure.

That is where the matter stands today. There can be no doubt the idea of municipal ownership has made great strides throughout the civilized world in recent times; and, naturally enough, not least in London, owing to the circumstances connected with the prevailing street railway strike in this city. The sort of dead-lock existing in London would not, of course, be possible were this city, like Glasgow, operating its own street railway line. For that matter, neither would the existing dead-lock be possible had the New Zealand remedy of compulsory arbitration a place on the Ontario Statute Book, as should be the case at the earliest opportunity.

The City Council can hardly be blamed for declining to keep pace with the impetuosity of the Mayor in desiring an immediate vote of the ratepayers on a question in which the public would naturally desire first to know something of the proposed machinery of municipal operation; and also, of course, the price at which the present Company would be willing to sell, if they are willing to sell at all.

A Market for Ontario Fruit.

An experienced fruit grower, in the Farmer's Advocate, warns fruit raisers to see that exports to Great Britain are composed of choice, good-keeping stock, and are properly packed. These are two most necessary conditions to a paying export trade in fruit. It must never be forgotten that in the motherland, they have always the choice of the best of everything from all parts of the world, and they do not want culls on any account, as Canadians who have shipped second-class apples have found to their cost. There is another and growing market for Ontario fruit which should be cultivated for all that it is worth. That has not been the case in the past. We refer to the market that exists in Western Canada.

"Why not," asks the Farmer's Advocate, "cultivate this great home market by better and more liberal transportation facilities?" Yes, why not? It should not be very difficult for the railway companies to meet the necessities of the case. At the time when the railways are finding it difficult to provide cars to carry out the grain crops of the West, the season for harvesting and marketing the apple crop of the East arrives. The cars that take the wheat of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories can hardly be expected to get full return loads, and it will surely pay them to carry apples at a cheap rate to encourage shipment to the West as well as to the seaboard. There is this other suggestion which we would throw out to the C. P. R. That company still owns in British Manitoba and the Northwest more first class land than is as yet under cultivation in the Province of Ontario. The shrewd managers of the great transcontinental line have always professed that it is not their desire to hold this property for a rise in prices. They are now selling the land on terms that are most liberal to the settler, for the reason that they desire to make money rather than developed traffic on their lines of railway than from speculation in land values. In this they are wise. The railway managers are too shrewd not to know that the best way to add to the number of settlers is to aid in making the settlers already there thoroughly satisfied with their lot. One way to do so is to see that such necessities as fruit are brought within the easy reach of all. Now, while the question of fruit growing in Manitoba and the Northwest, apart from the hardy species

that has been found to grow wild, is still unsettled, it is certainly a wise course to let the settlers have our Eastern fruits at the very lowest price possible. By and by, no doubt, the Northwest people will be growing hardy apples, and in this effort they will be helped by the Dominion Agricultural Department, which is conducting experiments with trees grown in Siberia and other parts of the world situated even farther north than are our Northwest Territories. But until that time arrives, the growers of apples in Ontario and other parts of Eastern Canada will have excellent customers for a very large portion of their annual production if they ship good keeping fruit, and manage to get it carried by the railway authorities at reasonable freight rates. This is a matter in which the railway managers and the apple growers ought to be able to co-operate with mutual profit.

Bad Assessment Laws.

Among the resolutions passed at the municipal convention in Hamilton this week was one calling upon the Legislature to amend the assessment law, which the delegates properly denounced as "unjust, impracticable and impossible of equalization," in its application to personal property and income. They recommend that ratepayers assessed for personal property or income be obliged to make an annual return "as required in Great Britain and the United States." But would that be a remedy? In the United States the personal property tax is a disreputable farce. It leads to more perjury and evasion than any other law on the statute books. In more than one state its abolition is advocated in the interests of public morality. In this Province, also, the assessment of personal property and income is notoriously inefficient. As a rule the assessor is not to blame. He has no inquisitorial powers, but can only take the word of the ratepayer or guess at the amount. Those who pay their honest share of taxation are the victims of rank injustice, as they are saddled with the taxes which their dishonest neighbors evade. The abuses are such that it would be far better to leave personal property and income untaxed than to retain the present inequalities. A law putting taxpayers on oath would be successful if everybody respected the oath. But would our experience be any more fortunate than that of the United States? In Great Britain they do these things better and appear to have no difficulty with the income tax, but there they have the national machinery to enforce it.

The fact of the matter is that our assessment laws need a complete overhauling. The construction of a scientific system of municipal taxation is a problem that demands the earnest attention of our legislators.

Prevention of Drownings.

What a long list of drownings every summer records! Many of these seem to have been unavoidable; and often even good swimmers are drowned, through taking cramps, or the death-clutches of those they seek to save. But very many are drowned through lack of knowing how to swim even a little. A person who can maintain himself or herself in the water with the self-possession which some knowledge of the art of swimming would supply, has obviously an infinitely better chance of being rescued than the person who gives up at once or sinks like a log.

But how shall young people and old learn the art of swimming? Opportunity is often lacking. Take our own city, and it is but a type of many. A boy has to go a long way for "a good swim," or to endeavor to learn how to swim, and he is harassed by all sorts of regulations.

What we are driving at is this. Every city should have facilities for acquiring the art of swimming. These facilities the municipality should provide, either with or without a small fee. On certain days and certain hours they might be absolutely free.

There are many things both useful and agreeable that municipalities might provide. We have often thought that if more of the capable representatives of the mass of the people themselves were in the municipal councils, there would be some sins of omission as well as of commission that would be avoided.

The Dreyfus case will not end with the verdict of the court-martial. When that court gives its decision, the Dreyfus case will put France upon trial.

The new British commander has been welcomed at Cape Town by cheering thousands. The Boers are preparing to give him a reception equally warm, though of another kind.

They tell us that in some parts of the old world there will this year be a shortage of breadstuffs. They know where to apply. Canada is ready to ship an ample supply of No. 1 hard.

A great Democratic meeting in New York on Tuesday cheered lustily for Aguilado. Not that they love Aguilado, but that they hate John Bull, who is accused of egging on Uncle Sam in his imperial career.

The Opposition press is in the habit of denouncing the political writer in the periodical "Events," printed in Ottawa, as a Liberal. He never gave a Liberal vote in his life. We shall be told next that the editor of the Hamilton Spectator is a Liberal.

The London Spectator asserts that there is "danger in continental envy of British prosperity, though the danger is not near enough to affect consols." This declaration by one of the best-informed of British journals is an effective reply to those Canadians who are every now and again declaring that Britain's trade policy is ruining her. Neither nations nor individuals are envious of neighbors who are on the down grade.

In the Volksraad yesterday one of the Boers complained bitterly that business in the Transvaal was ruined and the treasury was drying up. That is largely because the outlanders have left the country. The Boers, if they wish the outlanders to remain, should treat them fairly. If they prefer to get rid of the outlanders, the Boers have no right to complain of the consequences. They have either to put up with the outlanders, or put up with bankruptcy.

The Hamilton Times is advocating the consolidation of the small farms in that district, and the holding of a large one in the city. With all due respect to Hamilton, we do not think the experiment would be a success, for purely geographical reasons. Toronto supplies the exhibition for middle Ontario and London for Western Ontario. There is no room between them for a really great fair. Would the Ambitious City be satisfied with anything less?

The railway receipts for South Australia during the year ending June 30 last amounted to £105,800, while the working expenses were £61,600. In New South Wales, in the same period, the railway receipts were £3,500,000, showing an increase of £150,000 over last year. This, in view of the comparatively unfavorable season, is considered most satisfactory. The net earnings amounted to £1,500,000, being equal to a dividend of 3½ per cent on the capital. After providing for interest and working expenses, a credit balance remains of £77,000. In South Australia and New South Wales, as in all Australasian colonies, the railways are under public ownership and control.

What Others Say.

Quite Commonplace Now.

[Boston Herald.] Lying as a fine art has gone out in France. They now make it a regular business.

True to Life.

[Toronto Star.] Mrs. Langtry's new comedy, "The Degenerates," is said to be occasionally vulgar. That is where the comedy resembles Mrs. Langtry.

Mr. Everett's Attitude.

[Hamilton Herald.] Mr. Everett, president of the London Street Railway Company, confesses that he doesn't believe in municipal ownership of street railways. Neither does a pensioner believe in the abolition of pensions.

The Fame of the Western Fair.

[Ottawa Citizen.] The public attention which is now directed to the Dreyfus case and the tension in the Transvaal will be diverted in a few days to the mammoth pumpkin, the obese steer, and the mentally deranged quilt.

The Same Way Out.

[Rev. Dr. Haydn in N. Y. Independent.] A strike becomes justifiable only when, on either side, every possible means of conciliation has been exhausted; and once on enforced arbitration seems to be the only sane and safe way out.

A Cheerful Labor Day.

[Stratford Beacon.] There was a genuine note of cheerfulness and prosperity attending all the Labor Day celebrations this year. Everywhere there seems to be plenty of employment for the Canadian working man. It is quite evident that we are entering upon an era of development and progress in our country's history and the happiest feature of the

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Our Clothing and Furnishings Department is full of bright, glistening new goods. We select the cloth and have our own ideas carried out in all the clothing we sell, buy the best cloth in large lots and have them made by manufacturers of long experience. The styles we show are exclusive. The value the best to be had for cash. A look through this section will fully repay you whether you wish to buy or not.

Men's Navy Blue Serge and Dark Over-Check Tweed Suits, well made and lined with heavy Italian. Special..... \$5.00
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Boys' 3-Piece Suits, in fancy tweeds and worsteds, from \$3.50 to..... \$10.00
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Children's Navy Blue Serge Blouse Suits, all sizes, at 75c, 90c, \$1.25, \$1.35, \$1.50..... \$1.75
Our Gents' Furnishings Department complete in every useful line. Newest Ties, Collars, Cuffs, etc.

Ladies' and Gentlemen's Medium and Fine Shoes

Case after case of new stylish Footwear for fall use is being placed in stock. The best makers contribute to our assortment. The cheap, worthless kinds find no room here. We have the prices low enough to enable the poorest to find what they want—fit and wear fully guaranteed. Our better goods are simply perfect. Compare our values. Then you will buy here.

Women's Dongola, sewed soles, patent toe-caps, laced or buttoned; special value..... \$1.00
Women's Dongola, laced and buttoned, extension edge soles, solid leather insoles, kid tips; our price..... \$1.25
Women's Dongola and Box Calf laced boots, fancy toe-caps, very stylish; special..... \$1.50
At \$1.90, \$1.95 and \$2.00 we have Women's Laced and Button Boots in big variety, ordinary value \$2.25 to \$2.50; our price, \$1.90, \$1.95 and..... \$2.00
Women's Vici Kid, hand turn and welt soles, newest shapes; at \$2.50, \$2.75, \$3.00 and \$3.50

Men's Dongola, sewed, extension edge soles, laced boots..... \$1.00
Men's Buff and Boston Calf Laced and Congress Boots, rivet and pegged soles, at \$1.10 and..... \$1.25
Men's Dongola Laced and Congress, sewed soles, newest shapes; special..... \$1.50
Men's Dongola and Box Calf Laced Boots, new British toes and back straps, stylish, solid wearers; see them at..... \$2.00
We make a specialty of \$3.00 and \$3.50 Men's Boots, fifteen different styles; best welt soles \$3 and..... \$3.50

Misses', Boys' and Children's Departments bristling with new goods. Prices in keeping with our ideas of quick business.

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outlook is that this prosperity is general and not confined to a class.

Their Terrible Temptation.

[Kilt in Toronto Mail.] Low wages is the source of the largest share of immorality. It is so easy to talk platitudes when you've had a good dinner and sit comfortably clothed and warm in your snug room. But think of youth and fresh girlhood fading day after day in the dim precincts of factory and sweatshops; think of every hope slowly dying, of the want and despair and pinching out of all the meagre gray days. And side by side with this terrible existence place the temptations that always come to poor youth, and to poor girlhood. How many of us who are better off would keep to the straight and narrow path were we in a like case, while the broad highway on which lie the pleasures and luxuries of life shines so near.

Dreyfus.

[By Edwin Markham, author of "The Man with the Hoe and Other Poems," in McClure's Magazine.]

I.
A man stood staided: France was one Alp of hate,
Pressing upon him with the whole world's weight.
In all the circle of the ancient sun
There was no voice to speak for him—not one.
In all the world of men there was no sound
But of a sword flung broken to the ground.

Hell laughed its little hour; then be-hold,
How one by one the unguarded gates unfold!
Swiftly a sword by Unseen Forces hurled
And now a man rising against the world.

II.
Oh, import deep as life is, deep as time!
There is a Something sacred and sublime
Moving behind the worlds, beyond our ken,
Weighing the stars, weighing the deeds of men.
Take heart, O soul of sorrow, and be strong!
There is One greater than the whole world's wrong.
Be hushed before the high Benignant Power
That moves wool-shod through sepulcher and tower!

No truth so low but He will give it crown;
No wrong so high but He will hurl it down.
O men that forge the fetter, it is vain;
There is a Still Hand stronger than your chain.

'Tis no avail to bargain, sneer, and nod,
And shrug the shoulder for reply to God.

Light and Shade.

It is now said that Dewey will arrive much earlier than was expected. That is just Dewey's way.

Dorothy (greatly surprised at seeing a horseless carriage go by)—My, there's a carriage that walks in its sleep!

"Don't the heathen dress ridiculously?" said Maudie.
"Of course they do," replied Ethel.
"What else can they do, when we send them trunks of shirt waists and beaver hats every year?"

"Biggs has invented a soap that can't be stolen from hotels and waiting-rooms."
"How does it work?"
"Over a roller, same as the towels."
—Chicago Record.

Lawyer—You wish a divorce from your husband on the ground of incompatibility? How does that incompatibility of temperament manifest itself?
Lady—Why, I want to get a divorce and he doesn't.

"Well, I can't see anything in her—in fact, I think she's positively plain."
"Oh, do you think so? I only wish I were half as lovely."
"You are, darling."

THE BEAUTIES OF SAMOA

Some of the Strange Costumes That Are in Vogue.

Nobody Overburdened With Clothes—Kind of Kilt Is the Most Popular Garment—Finery Is Gradually Gaining a Foothold However.

In spite of the simplicity of Samoan attire, the natives spend a great deal of time beautifying themselves. Neither sex is overburdened with clothes. The common dress for both men and women is a piece of drapery wound above the waist in a manner whose adjustment seems to foreigners nothing short of miraculous. The adults, however, seem to have no difficulty in keeping the lava-lava in place, but the children are less expert and careful of theirs, and often lose the scant scrap of cotton stuff that serves as an outdoor costume.

Children of all ages indoors, and babies in arms everywhere, wear no clothes at all. This kind of garment—or drapery, perhaps, would be a better word for it—is, in slightly varied form, common to most South Sea Islanders, as well as inhabitants of the Indian Archipelago and the southern countries of Asia. It is called by the Malays a sarong, and its name differs in different groups of Polynesia. The Klings of Singapore, Ceylon and the Malaysian Peninsula wear it loose or straight, while the Burmese and Siamese tack it up something after the manner of the well-known infantile accessory.

track of commerce, particularly with the feminine heart, and it is not unusual to see a Samoan lady gorgeously arrayed in a fine mat lava-lava, combined with a ball gown waist or velvet basque cut V-necked, or with her hair done up empire style, and wearing, to complete her toilet, a string of ferns around her waist, and a necklace of sharks' teeth around her dusky throat—bust, arms and limbs bare—promenading with all the refreshing grace and conscious aims of Bridget on her Sunday outing, the observed of all observers.

But there is one shackle of civilization they refuse to accept—shoes and stockings. Perhaps, however, this is because they can find no covering large enough for the aboriginal "tribes." Nevertheless, in one of the fights in which native allies of the Americans participated, one warrior was observed proudly wearing a pair of 18-button black silk stockings extending above his knees, with his huge black feet protruding beyond the soles, which were worn through. He had doubtless "looted" them from some European house, whose owner fled when hostilities began.

ACCOUNTED FOR.
"No wonder the French people are that way."
"Why? Do you attribute it to their climate?"
"Not altogether. They publish more poetry in France than in any other country on earth."

A Plain Talk To Women

Almost all the sufferings that women endure can be traced to irregularities of the delicate and sensitive feminine organism. A healthy woman is never irregular. It is the pale, weak, nervous woman who suffers with headaches, backaches, bearing down feelings and gloomy forebodings when the monthly action comes on.

Set the nerves right and the pains and aches will disappear. There will be no more irregularities when the whole body is under control of healthy nerves.

The most successful restorative that science has ever devised for exhausted nerves is

DR. CHASE'S NERVE FOOD

and it has proven so wonderfully beneficial to women that it is now considered specific for ailments peculiar to women.

Besides restoring and revitalizing the nerves, Dr. Chase's Nerve Food makes new red corpuscles in the blood, rounds out the form, and gives new vitality and elasticity to every movement. 50 cents a box, at all dealers, or Edmanon, Bates & Co., Toronto.