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JOHN CAMERON, President and

Mng. Dir.

London, Saturday, Nov. 7, 1896.

Mexico cannot be so very bad a

country. Recent travelers say that

they could discover no poorhouses

there.

We do not need to go abroad to find

suffering. There are no fewer than

three hundred thousand people in

the control of the Chinese in Victoria, B. C.

Hazen S. Pingree's phenomenal victory

in the race for Governor of Michigan

makes him a strong Presidential

possibility for 1900.

Good schools, good churches, good

homes, good society, and the best

water in the world, make London one

of the most desirable places of residence

on the continent.

Hon. Mr. Fisher, Dominion Minister

of Agriculture, visits Washington next

week to confer on the proposed

changes in regard to the quarantining

of cattle affecting both countries.

A peer who becomes bankrupt in

estate is disqualified from sitting in

the British House of Lords. He may

become bankrupt in character and

still hold on. This is one of the anomalies

of the hereditary chamber.

Hog cholera has done great damage

in one or two Western Ontario counties.

The disease will spread if farmers

do not everywhere co-operate with

the Government officers to combat the

epidemic. The Farmers' Advocate says

that the essentials in prevention are

good food, pure water and clean, dry

quarters.

The Peterboro Review asserts that

the Advertiser is displeased with the

result of the recent Tupper secret

convention in Toronto. Our contemporary

does us an injustice. We are

delighted with the convention. Sup-

posing it had been organized to suit

our views, and to promote our inter-

ests, it could not have worked better.

If the Presidential election could

have taken place within a week or

two after his nomination, Mr. Bryan

would in all probability have been

elected. But the leading newspapers,

whether Democratic or Republican,

went against his policy, as not in the

interests of the country, and he was

defeated. Publicity and discussion did

it.

The advantages of advertising were

recently illustrated in London. A

man advertised for the return of a

lost cat. In less than a week 322 of

them were brought to his house. The

advertisements in an up-to-date paper

like The Advertiser are as closely

scanned by the average reader as

the telegrams.

Some people wonder how the United

States uses up all the eggs laid by

the hens over the border and millions

of dozens imported from other coun-

tries. The explanation is found in the

fact that calico print works use 40-

000,000 dozen eggs per year, while clar-

A New Drill Hall and a Reor-

gized Seventh Battalion.

It is apparent from the remarks of

Col. Otter, after the inspection of the

Seventh Battalion, the other evening,

that this fine old military organization

needs new life and vigor put into it

if it is to take its proper place in the

ranks of the defensive forces of the

Dominion. We do not intend at the

present time to discuss the shortcomings

of those charged with the man-

agement of the battalion, but we de-

sire to point out wherein they have

been somewhat seriously handicapped.

Every city of any pretensions in the

country has a first-class drill shed

right in its center, easy of access to

all the men, and so constructed as to

be reasonably comfortable in winter

as well as in summer. In such cities

as Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton, Hal-

fax and Ottawa, where the rendezvous

of the civic military bodies had be-

come antiquated, the Dominion Gov-

ernment has provided new drill halls,

fitted up with every modern conven-

ience for the comfort of the men and

for the promotion of their efficiency.

In this respect, London has been

left far in the rear. The drill shed on

the corner of Central avenue and Wel-

lington streets is not centrally situat-

ed. It is not a convenient place of re-

sort for the military companies of the

city. Erected many years ago, when

London was less than half the size

that it is now, the shed is not fitted

up as modern armories are. Nor is it

a comfortable place in which to drill.

Its roof leaks, and the floor is almost

as full of ridges and holes as a St.

Andrew's golf course.

While this kind of home was sup-

plied to the citizen soldiers, handsome,

commodious and in every sense com-

plete quarters were placed at the dis-

posal of the permanent corps in the

School of Infantry Barracks. Nor did

the late Government stop there in

its anxiety to spend money for the

alleged benefit of the permanent

corps. The ex-Minister of

Militia two years ago hired Sir

John Carling's former residence as a

place in which to keep the military

stores, though everyone recognized

that a most convenient storehouse

could be had at the military buildings.

At the same time, the Government of

that day became responsible for

keeping the old Carling mansion in

repair during the period for which it

was leased—five years. We under-

stand that even now the roof leaks,

and that the authorities will be called

upon to replace it, though the lease to

the Government only runs for another

two years. How much better it would

have been had the stores been placed

in the Military School and the money

spent in hiring and fitting up the

Carling property been devoted to

erecting a new drill hall for the

Seventh Battalion in the center of the

city.

Steps should be taken at an early

date not only to have the Seventh re-

organized, but to have provided for

the battalion a proper headquarters.

We should have a crack corps in

London, and we should have a com-

fortable drill hall for it right in the

center of the city.

The Latest United States Out-

look.

Though the majority for McKin-

ley is smaller than the first returns

indicated, it is apparent that the Ohio

man has a secure hold on the Presi-

dency through within the next few

years. The new Senate, according to

the Republican Buffalo Express, will

be almost equally divided between the

two great parties. Not till after the

Congressional elections in 1898 is the

Senate likely to have a decided leaning

to either side, and perhaps it is just

as well for the country.

Some School Problems Which

the Trustees Can Solve.

Whether they know better or not,

many people grumble about the Gov-

ernment management of the public

schools, when, by the agency of trust-

tees and teachers, they can secure

the reforms which they consider to

be desirable. It is a habit with some

trustees, indeed, to stave off every

suggested change by the statement

that the "Minister won't let us," or

"We are tied up by the Government

regulations," whereas in almost every

instance there is complete home rule

with regard to the matter, and the

trustees have it in their power to act.

There are the two systems of writing.

Many people believe that it should be

optional with the teachers to teach

either the Spencerian or the vertical

system, as the needs of a pupil may

dictate. But in this city, when it was

suggested that teachers should be for-

mally empowered by the trustees to

do what many of them were already

doing of their own volition, there were

those who told us that vertical writ-

ing was not authorized; that the De-

partment stood in the exercise of their

judgment. But it is not so. Vertical

writing is authorized, and no red tape

idea can long prevent the optional

adoption of the system in the case of

individual pupils.

Then we have newspapers grumbling

because fifth form work is not taken

up in the public schools, and we have

trustees excusing themselves on the

alleged ground that the Minister pre-

vents it. The fact is that fifth form work

is authorized to be taught in the pub-

lic school, and what is more, it can

be taught by the headmasters in the

London public schools in connection

with their own work without extra

cost, and to the relief of the Col-

legiate Institute. It is simply a matter

of local arrangement.

When Trustee Griffin began the agi-

tation for the establishment of a

commercial class in the common

schools, to obviate the necessity of a

pupil who intended to enter com-

mercial life passing into the Collegiate

Institute, he was met with the ob-

jection that the Government regu-

lations prevented it. Strange, then, that

such a class has been in successful

operation in Guelph and other places

of far less importance than London.

Up to midsummer of this year, the

Guelph public school commercial

classes were solely commercial. Now

a slight change has taken place. The

junior class is taught arithmetic,

book-keeping, composition, botany,

dictation, drawing, business laws and

forms, geography, writing, phonog-

raphy, reading and business correspond-

ence and punctuation (botany and

geography are new subjects this year).

These are added, so that the class

may write on form 1 examination. The

senior class does not take drawing

and reading, but is taught banking

and typewriting instead. In other re-

spects, the classes have the same sub-

jects, the seniors, of course, having

more advanced work. These classes

take the place of the fifth form in the

Central School, Guelph, and enjoy all

the Government grants which that

class is entitled to. All pupils must

pass the entrance examination to be

eligible for this class, and non-residents

pay a fee of 70 cents a month. Not

Government opposition, but trustee

opposition, rightly or wrongly, as the

individual citizen may view it, pre-

vents the establishment of similar

classes in this city.

Another outcry is that Collegiate

Institute education costs the taxpayer

too much, and that the individual pupil

gets too much encouragement to enter

professional life. That, too, is in the

hands of the people's trustees. They

can, if they choose, impose fees on

pupils, either in all the classes, or in

only a portion. Many other cities pay

as much as one-third of the salaries

of the teachers from these fees. It is

entirely a matter of choice that Lon-

don takes another course.

Slaughter Sale of

Organs

Do You Want One?

Now's Your Chance

EASY TERMS.

1 Doherty Organ, piano case

6 octaves, 13 stops, regular

price \$125, now \$95.

1 Clinton Organ, piano case,

6 octaves, 13 stops, regular

price \$110, now \$75.

1 Thomas Organ, high top, 6

octaves, 12 stops, regular

price \$100, now \$70.

1 Karn Organ, high top, 6

octaves, 12 stops, regular

price \$100, now \$65.

1 Dominion Organ, high top, 5

octaves, 12 stops, regular

price \$90, now \$60.

1 W. Bell & Co. Organ, high

top, 5 octaves, 11 stops

regular price \$90, now \$55

1 Doherty & Co. Organ, high

top, 5 octaves, 9 stops,

regular price \$75, now \$50.

1 W. Bell & Co. Organ, high

top, 5 octaves, 9 stops,

regular price \$70, now \$45

1 Karn & Co. Organ, high top, 6

octaves, 11 stops, regular

price \$65, now \$40.

And about 25 others as low

in price as \$15.

WE MUST GET RID OF THEM—