

London Advertiser.

(ESTABLISHED 1863.)

FOUNDER AND MANAGER, John Cameron.

London, Friday, April 22, 1898.

The Advertiser's War News.

For many reasons the people of Canada will take special interest in the war now in progress between the United States and Spain. It is in our own neighborhood. It is waged, on one side, by a kindred people speaking the English tongue. It will exemplify modern warfare, especially on the ocean. It will be reported by the ablest expert pens in the service of the most enterprising newspapers of the United States and Great Britain in partnership. There will be bushels of dispatches. To print them all would need a newspaper with pages as large as a barn door, while simply confusing the reader. It is here the competent editing of telegraphic dispatches comes in, so as to blow away the chaff, and leave the kernels of wheat. This is what The Advertiser undertakes to do for its readers—to give, within moderate limits, the essential news in such manner that the reader, even if he never saw another paper, would be kept fully informed. For our two editions daily every atom of information available to any newspaper in the world is practically available to readers of The Advertiser.

Stability in Tax Collecting.

The Montreal Star, which has become one of the most aggressive of Conservative advocates, pleads for tariff stability—that is, that there shall be no change in the tax rate of the Dominion. Our contemporary says that there was "tariff stability in Canada from 1878 up to the Liberal victory of two years ago."

In its zeal our contemporary overshoots the mark. While the Conservatives held the Government of the country there was no tariff stability. The tariff was altered just as often as the combines and the contributors to the campaign funds of the men in power demanded that it be changed for their profit. Is it not on record that the Conservative leaders repeatedly met the rich men who desired favors at the expense of the whole people in the Red Parlor at Toronto? There he told them the story of the individual who sat in the tree, and had the power to shake down the fruit to the hogs waiting below in anxious expectation? And is it not equally true that again and again this "beneficent" man did shake down the nuts in the shape of tariff increases? Finally, the public resented the tariff programme which our Montreal contemporary now holds up as a model with so great force that Sir John Thompson went to Toronto, and made his famous speech, in which he promised to "cut off the mouldering branches" of the discredited national policy. Parliament met. Some of the "mouldering branches," the existence of which had been denied by the Conservative press till the leader owned up to them, were cut off in the first draft of tariff changes. But so thoroughly under the control of the combine influences was the late ministry that before the budget was disposed of almost all the tariff changes were put back to where they were. Surely in view of all the manipulations of the tariff that went on between 1878 and 1896, the Montreal Star is not serious when it says that there was "tariff stability." There was tariff instability, and, what was worse, the changes made were not for the benefit of the many, but of the few.

We are not among those who think that violent changes of the tax rate on imported goods is advisable; but no reasonable man can object if, as time goes on, and the constantly changing circumstances of the country warrant it, the Finance Minister finds occasion for further removing burdens from the people.

With the reduction made by the tariff of 1897 and the preferential tariff established to promote trade between the Dominion and the motherland, the present Government has made an excellent beginning, and it will no doubt be inclined to give the new departure a fair trial before further changes are decreed. That will insure reasonable tariff stability, with the further assurance that any future changes will be made in the interests of the whole people, and not of a favored few. In this respect, the policy of the present Administration is diametrically opposite to that of its predecessors. Hence its indorsement by the great majority of the people.

A DIOS.

[Cleveland Plaindealer.]

Land of garlic and tortillas,
Land of xebecs and mantillas,
Land of mules and smuggled bitters,
Land of raisins and of fritters,
Land of Pedro and of Sanchez,
Land of Weyer and of Blanco,
Land of bull fights and peestas,
Land of dusky senoritas,
Land of manners stiff and haughty,
Land of Isabella naughty,
Land of Bobadil and Hamil,
Don't you hear your Uncle Sam?
"Gitt!"

There are lots of people who can stand ginger ale better than Nicholas' flood of oratory.

The Sad Plight of Spain.

There may be vicissitudes in the war upon which the United States and Spain seem determined to enter. It is possible that Spain may score a victory or two on the high seas and make it a somewhat difficult task for her antagonist to drive her from the Cuba, as the mission of our neighbors is announced to be. But of the ultimate triumph of the side which has the heaviest battalions, the longest purse, there can be no reason to doubt. It is a fight against the fates which Spain enters on, unless, indeed, some complication arises which will move the European powers to intervene in the quarrel, and that is hardly likely, at least if the United States adheres to its declared programme, as set forth by the President, of under no circumstances taking possession of the island. Spain is indeed an effete nation. She had her opportunity as a colonial power, and she abused it, and it has been a righteous fate which has resulted in her losing control over another of the nations which she has misgoverned. The Spaniards are, as the London Economist so well puts it, of all European peoples, the most willing to live upon nothing but bread, onions and water; yet their government is believed to be honeycombed by corruption; and even if that suspicion is unfounded, they are always and under all circumstances, in peace no less than in war, plunged in financial difficulties. The treasury of Madrid is always borrowing and always poor. The money they raise never seems to bring the rulers anything, not even military power. Some quality of deficiency in the ruling class appears to destroy all the effective value of Spanish valor, Spanish pride, and Spanish habits of rigid economy, and to produce, after infinite effort and suffering, a regime which wastes lives and treasure and energy, and obtains in return nothing but defeat. A great people always striving after a lofty even if evil ideal, after planting their civilization, their creed and their language through half a world, have sunk—they do not know why, and those who look on do not know why—into a people scarcely regarded in Europe where they once were first, and unable to subdue the single weak island which is all that is left them of their vast Western dominion. For all impartial men, anxious for the future of Europe, it is a lamentable spectacle. It is not the less bitter because there seems to be no prospect of a remedy. Spain never appears to secure a great king, or to throw up one of those statesmen who everywhere else occasionally reinvigorate old states.

Yet the country is large enough, if well governed, to support thrice its population. It is full of resources that make up national wealth, and its people leave on all who have studied them on the spot an impression of nobleness and of existing though wasted power.

Nations do not always collapse when the symptoms of their decay appear to be strongest; nevertheless the present condition of Spain is such as to afford scarcely a ray of hope for even the most optimistic friend of the Peninsula. This view can hardly be changed, even though Spain may not be entirely worsted in the present conflict with the United States, though, indeed, there are few who believe that in the end anything but humiliation awaits her proud people.

The powers of Europe failed to prevent war, but old King Coal may be the final arbiter.

It is the general opinion in Montreal that the war will cause a great decrease in ocean passenger traffic, but that the American business will be largely diverted to Canada.

The Minister of Agriculture is about to issue to farmers a most complete compendium of agricultural information. It will specially advise how products should be prepared for the British market.

John Wannamaker, who employs 1,600 hands, has offered to continue the salaries of all his employees who go to the front. He will also insure each man's life for \$1,000. John's patriotism is deeper than his pocket; which is saying a good deal in his case.

The death of President Crespo of Venezuela, who was shot while fighting rebels, claimed hardly a paragraph in the newspapers. Such things are common in South America. Is it because of the taint of Spanish blood? If Cuba becomes free, it is to be hoped she will show herself more capable of self-government than the other republics which have thrown off the yoke of Spain. If not, Uncle Sam will have another task on hand.

Enthusiastic crowds, martial music, flying flags, and all the "pomp and pride" of war, mark the farewell of the boys in blue. It is very fine and inspiring, but there are mothers, wives and daughters who have little heart for it. There are more tears than cheers, if they could be counted.

The self-obstruction of those obsolete politicians, Bowell and Tupper pere, reminds one of Lord Chesterfield's saying: "Trelawny and I have been dead these two years; but we don't choose to have it known."

The war promises to call forth a magnificent display of journalistic enterprise. The leading English and United States dailies have combined to obtain the most effective service.

The Advertiser is suppressing a good deal of war poetry. It has no desire to aggravate the situation.

Have Carved
Off \$26,500.

Board of Works Estimates Reduced From \$78,050 to \$49,550.

Of Which \$32,000 Will Go Toward Street and General Improvements.

Plans Approved for Alterations to Police Station—More Permanent Walks—Morkin's Money and Other Matters Discussed.

The board of works held the regular meeting yesterday afternoon and waited through a good deal of important business in a short time and with little talk. The chief item for consideration was the estimates for 1898.

The board has decided on a policy of rigid economy, and has balled things down to the barest necessities. Last year the board expended \$45,591.49, but there seemed so much to be done this year that the estimated expenditure amounted to \$78,050. Of this \$56,100 was set apart for streets and general improvements, an increase of \$32,224.58 over that of last year, when the amount paid out was \$23,875.42. The improvements for the different wards were proportioned as follows:

Ward 1.....	\$ 7,335
Ward 2.....	10,940
Ward 3.....	7,538
Ward 4.....	10,927
Ward 5.....	9,825
Ward 6.....	9,715

Total.....\$56,100

This matter was allowed to stand, as the last item of consideration and the board proceeded to knife the other estimates. Bridge expenses were reduced from \$1,700 to \$700; a new boiler for the city hall, to cost \$800, was stricken from the list; the city parks' expenditure and salary expenditure was reduced from \$2,000 to \$2,000; West London breakwater will get only \$1,000 instead of \$1,200, and the \$100 for storage building was wiped off, thus lessening the estimated uncontrollable expenses by \$2,400.

TORE OFF A BIG PIECE.

The estimate for streets and general improvements was taken up, and Engineer Graydon suggested that the amount might be reduced to \$32,000, and ward appropriation made so that the money and empowered to expend the money and have the work done where it was most needed throughout the city, with a view to economy.

LITTLE INCREASE OVER LAST YEAR.

The estimates to be recommended to the council for this year are as follows:

Accounts.	Paid out, 1897.	Estimate, 1898.
Streets and general improvements.....	\$29,875.42	\$32,000.00
Street cleaning and snow-plowing.....	5,798.20	6,500.00
Bridge expense.....	543.38	700.00
City hall expenses and repairs.....	1,272.07	1,200.00
City hall accident.....	1,000.00
City parks expenses and salaries.....	2,006.47	2,000.00
City pounds.....	55.95	50.00
Exhibition building and salaries.....	874.43	800.00
Militia camp.....	100.00	100.00
Sewer repairs and culverts.....	4,323.17	4,000.00
Registry office expenses.....	141.99	150.00
Storage building.....	568.56
Town hall expenses.....	27.25	50.00
West London breakwater.....	1,000.00

Totals.....\$45,591.49 \$49,550.00

The increase over 1897 is \$3,958.51. Of this extra amount \$1,000 goes to repair West London breakwater, and \$1,000 for the city hall accident claim, leaving the legitimate increase \$1,958.51.

The committee approved of the recommendation of the engineer that the permanent artificial stone walk be laid on the following streets and advertised under the local improvement act:

North side Dundas street, from Adelaide street east about 250 feet; north side Dundas, from Elizabeth to English streets; north side Dundas, English to Ontario; south side Queen's avenue, from Wellington to Waterloo street; south side King, from Colborne to Waterloo street; north side King, from Colborne to Waterloo street, this latter to be asphalt.

Plans for the proposed remodeling of the police station cells were submitted and approved. Tenders were ordered called for. The building will cost \$1,400.

OTHER MATTERS.

The application of C. R. Tison, on behalf of the Musical Society, for the usual grant for concerts in the park was laid over for consideration with the estimates in council.

Mr. F. J. Colgrove, in a letter to the committee, protested against the proximity of the car rails, as a result of the new "X" on High street. The

engineer explained that some alterations had been made, which was satisfactory to all parties.

J. D. Smith and others petitioned for the opening of Dufferin avenue, between English and Ontario streets. Aid. Dransky understood that the petitioners had granted some of the land, and were willing to contribute to the purchase of other land necessary to carry the street through, and the matter was left in his hands to report.

SOME JUGGLING.

When the accounts came up, Aid. Cooper disputed one of \$8 to be paid to J. Morkin, as excessive. A discussion followed that was productive of the information by Engineer Graydon that Mr. Morkin, in rainy weather, was allowed half a day's pay, 87½ cents for removing the soil from the pavement. The engineer thought it little enough for any man who had to work in the drenching rain.

Aid. Cooper—Well, it is not right. In justice to every man he should stand by his contract. Morkin agreed to water the streets for \$1.40 per day when it wasn't raining, and to remove the dirt for 20 cents a day, rain or shine, and he shouldn't get another cent. The matter finally dropped. The account passed and the difference charged to No. 3 committee's account.

SPOT THEM!

Description of the Three Gold-Brick Fakirs at Sarnia on Tuesday.

The Sarnia Observer says Provincial Detective Yorrell, of that town, has the gold-brick case in hand, and has issued the following descriptive circular:

David Brown—Aged 45; short, stout build; close-cropped full beard about half an inch long; dark complexion; wore brown clothes, dark overcoat, black Adora hat, dark gray flannel shirt with collar of the same material, no necktie; very bald, and has small eyes.

J. C. Gilfillan—Age about 50; mustache, fair complexion; very red in face; weight about 200 pounds. Registered at J. C. Gilfillan.

Orlo Douglas—Age about 70; long hair, dark, mixed with grey; when here was dressed as a Mexican in buckskin and blanket.

These names are probably fictitious. These men obtained by means of gold-brick fake \$9,000 in tens and fives of Traders Bank of Canada bills, and will probably exchange some as soon as possible. Please notify banks. If located, arrest and wire to Detective Yorrell at Sarnia.

INFANTICIDE

Reported to be Epidemic in Quebec Province—Baby Thrown to the Dogs.

Montreal, April 22.—An epidemic of infanticide seems to be raging in the Eastern Townships, and the provincial attorney-general has sent Detective McCormick to clear the matter up. John McCormick has been arrested at South Ruxton. A child of which he was the father was thrown to the dogs. The mother is a 15-year-old French-Canadian girl named Rosanna Couture. Other arrests will follow.

STAGE HELD UP.

Solomonville, Ariz., April 22.—The stage between Geronimo and Gila was held up about five miles north of Geronimo by two robbers. They took the registered mail and express, and robbed all the passengers. The robbers went north. Agent Rice, of San Carlos, sent Indian scouts to take the trail. It is not known how much booty the robbers secured.

Blood Humors

Whether itching, burning, bleeding, scaly, scrofulous, pimply, or blotchy, whether simple, hereditary, or from infancy to age, speedily cured by warm baths with CUTICURA SOAP, gentle anointments with CUTICURA OINTMENT, the great skin cure, and mild doses of CUTICURA RESOLVENT, greatest of blood purifiers and humor cures.

Cuticura

Is sold throughout the world. For Sale by Druggists, Grocers, and Dealers. Sole Importers, J. C. McLaughlin & Co., Ltd., 100, Queen's Avenue, West, Toronto.

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Free Medical Treatment for Weak Men

Who Are Willing to Pay When Convinced of Cure.



A scientific combined medical and mechanical cure has been discovered for "Weakness of Men." Its success has been so startling that the proprietors now announce that they will send it on trial—remedies and appliances—without advance payment—to any honest man.

If not all that is claimed—all you wish—send it back—that ends it—pay nothing! No such offer was ever made in good faith before, we believe no other remedy would stand such a test.

This combined treatment cures quickly, thoroughly and forever all effects of early vitality, sustaining powers and restores weak and undeveloped portions to natural dimensions and functions.

Any man writing in earnest will receive description, particulars and references in a plain sealed envelope. Professional confidence. No deception nor imposition of any nature. A national reputation backs this offer. (Cut out and send this notice or mention paper.) Address ERIC MEDICAL CO., Buffalo, N. Y.

We pay duty and send all packages from Canadian side.

Why They Strike.

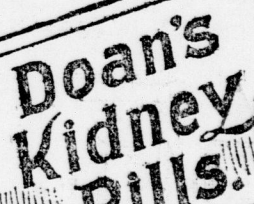
Working every day in the year.
Very little rest at night.
Must keep going all the time.
Filter! Filter! Filter! day and night.
Keeping the blood pure.
Keeping the system strong and healthy.
No vacation for the Kidneys.
Do you wonder why they strike?
They get tired when the work's too hard.
They stand it as long as they can then they strike.
Backache is a Kidney strike.
A Kidney strike calls for prompt relief.
Don't try to arbitrate with the wrong means.
Go to their assistance equipped to help them.
DOAN'S KIDNEY PILLS are what is needed.
They will break up any Kidney backache.
DOAN'S KIDNEY PILLS are made for Kidneys only.
They're good for nothing else but Kidney troubles.
DOAN'S KIDNEY PILLS cure every Kidney ill.
Plenty of evidence that this is so.

Mr. James Guess, Sr., well known in Essex, Ont., made this statement:—

"For many years I have had terrible pain and lameness in my back, caused, undoubtedly, by kidney trouble. The urine was highly colored with a great deal of sediment, and I was also afflicted with severe neuralgic pains in my head. I commenced the use of Doan's Kidney Pills, and can say they are a great kidney medicine. I have been getting better ever since I began to take them, and to-day have no back ache or urinary troubles."

Doan's Kidney Pills at all drug stores, 50c. a box, or 3 for \$1.25. Remember the name DOAN'S and accept no substitute.

The Doan Kidney Pills, Comp'y, Toronto, Ont.



D & A CORSETS

Put in and Repaired at Lowest Prices. All Work Guaranteed. Medical Batteries of All Kinds Repaired.

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Antiseptic Spruce Fibreware

(Capacity, 3 to 12 lbs.)

For packing Lard, Butter, Mince Meat, Jellies, etc.

It prevents decay and rust. It is water-tight, and airtight. It is by far the cheapest package in existence.

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of coal goes with every order given us. It is clean, burns to an ash and can be excelled. We also supply wood in any quantity.

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Branch, 12 John street, West London. Telephone 247.

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John Ferguson & Sons

FUNERAL DIRECTORS and EMBALMERS.

FIRST-CLASS IN ALL APPOINTMENTS. 174-180 King Street. Telephone—House No. 572; Store No. 543.

WESTERN SCHOOL OF ART

Spencer Block, Dundas Street.

Students desiring to try the government examinations should attend this term, commencing Monday, March 28.

EVENING CLASSES: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 7 to 9 p.m. Fees for Wiggins St. Freehand, model drawing, modeling in clay, oil and water-color painting. Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Oil, water-color and china painting, crayon drawing, etc.

For circulars apply to J. E. GRIFFITHS, Principal.