

London Advertiser.

FOUNDED IN 1863.

TWO EDITIONS DAILY — WEEKLY.
TELEPHONE CALLS.Business Office 107
Editorial Department 134
Job Department 175
The London Advertiser Company,
Limited, 191-193 Dundas street, London, Ont.

LONDON, SATURDAY, OCT. 13, 1906.

AN UNFOUNDED CHARGE.

The Toronto News brings a curious charge against the managers of the political parties in this city. It alleges that both have always connived at corrupt methods, and have had an understanding that protests or reprisals would not follow elections.

This is scarcely logical, in view of the further statement by the News that with many of the citizens of London politics is a species of mania. Party feeling runs high, indeed, in this community, and there is nothing in its electoral history to show that Liberals and Conservatives have given each other quarter. Mr. Hyman's election in 1891, to go no further back, was protested, without much display of tenderness. Neither was the seating of his opponent, as a result of the bye-election of 1892, by any means acquiesced in by the Liberals. Mr. Beattie's election in 1896 was also challenged in the courts. In 1900 Mr. Hyman's majority was so considerable as to preclude any insinuation that he owed his seat to corrupt practices. He was re-elected in 1904, but it was known that the seat would be reopened in a short time by his preference to full cabinet rank, so that a protest would have been futile, even if there had been evidence to justify it. Many Liberals thought there was undue forbearance in the neglect to prosecute a number of Conservative workers on charges of perjury and subornation, as a consequence of the exposures of corruption and debauchery in the contest of 1896, but the long and costly trial under the election act was conclusive proof that there was no understanding between the heads of the parties, such as the Toronto News alleges to have existed. There may be some truth, however, in our contemporary's statement that the people of London take their politics too seriously. The political temper of this city might be softened with advantage to itself and the public interest, and perhaps with some gain to public morals.

MR. FOWLER'S ADMISSIONS.

Mr. George W. Fowler, M. P., was under the probe of the insurance commission yesterday. His squirms and protests indicated that the instrument touched some sore spots. So far, his evidence confirms the belief that a number of Mr. Borden's followers in Parliament have not kept themselves unspotted from the world.

Mr. Fowler admits that he and his enterprising associates asked the owners of the Canadian Northern railway for a "tip" as to the projected route of that line. With this information the political syndicate picked out a block of C. P. R. lands which would be likely to rapidly rise in value, because they were along the Canadian Northern's path. While negotiations were hanging fire the price leaped from \$3 50 to \$5, and the syndicate was quoted the latter figure when it formally applied for the option. Not to be daunted, these practical politicians carried an appeal from the land department of the C. P. R. to the foot of the throne, to the president himself, and got the lands at the earlier price. The raising of money to take over the option presented another difficulty, but again the resourcefulness of Messrs. Pope, Fowler, et al., was equal to the situation. One of the owners of the Canadian Northern indorsed their notes for \$14,000. Mr. Fowler's evidence was carried to the point at the time of adjournment yesterday. He will be under Mr. Shepley's X-rays again a little later on. The story grows more interesting as it unfolds.

THE NEWFOUNDLAND EMBROGLIO.

There appears to be a good deal of party politics in the tempest raised in Newfoundland over the modus vivendi with the United States. The former leader of the Opposition in Newfoundland, Mr. Morine, says that the premier, Sir Robert Bond, is not wholly blameless for the discomfiture of the colony. He was piqued by the rejection of the second reciprocity treaty he had negotiated with the United States, and rushed into reprisals, which, in the opinion of the Washington Government, infringed upon the rights of American fishermen, guaranteed by treaty. In any event the temper of the Government of Newfoundland was such that the United States authorities had to appeal over its head to the Imperial Government.

This is one view of the situation. The other is that the Imperial authorities have doubted Newfoundland's rights of self-government. Under the new arrangement the British Government agrees that the Newfoundland author-

ities shall not interfere with the use of Americans of purse seines. Newfoundland has a law forbidding the use of such seines. The new treaty overrides that colonial law. It is also provided that Newfoundland sailors and fishermen may be employed on American fishing vessels in defiance of another retaliatory island law.

The modus vivendi is only for the present season, and next year an attempt will be made to frame a new treaty covering all disputed points. The people of Newfoundland will be well advised if they accept the present temporary arrangement, and moderate their denunciations. They will have an opportunity to lay their representations before the Imperial Government before a permanent treaty is negotiated.

Mr. Fowler, M. P., denounces Mr. Shepley as a sleuth hound. But the hound appears to be on the right scent.

It must be admitted that the big chief of the L. O. F. comes out of it more creditably than some of his braves.

Magistrate Denison says he will go back to 1893 if he wants to. Some opponents of Mr. Hyman in this city hope that some other magistrate will not rake over the ashes of 1896.

Don't get uneasy over the Ontario Bank disclosures. Banking conditions in Canada are sound, and the system is as sound as the proverbial stone wall.

Crown prosecutor DuVernet has been given carte blanche by the Government in the matter, and he is evidently being backed up in the difficult task in hand by the police magistrate of Toronto.—London Free Press.

Just so. This is a very candid confession of the truth.

If the King approves, an old attraction at the royal palace of Holyrood will be replaced by a new. The Earl of Severn and Melville, who died last August, leaving a personal estate of \$5,250,000, bequeathed \$200,000 to put into repair and to restore the chapel at this old residence of Scottish kings and queens, which is now a ruin. The Earl was a member of the Order of the Thistle, and his object, as expressed in his will, is to have the chapel restored for the special use of this order. The Earl was a believer in advertising; he stipulated that if the chapel was restored at his expense a permanent inscription should be fixed in an appropriate place money in an envelope, an old him if recording the fact that he did it.

The London Free Press indulges in a few cheap sneers over the fact that Hon. Walter Scott, Premier of Saskatchewan, did some editorial work in this city during the Hyman-Gray bye-election. No one knows better than the editor of the Free Press that during any election campaign the production of columns of political material every day would be impossible for one pen. In the election it speaks of, the Free Press enlisted the aid of a Toronto journalist for editorial or reportorial work. Mr. Scott, an experienced newspaper man, being in London at the time, was requested by the editor of this paper to contribute articles upon the school question, upon which no Canadian was better informed. We do not see why this is a matter for comment by the Free Press, unless that journal is still smarting under the recollection of its own conduct and policy in that campaign. The advertiser emerged from it creditably. Can the Free Press say the same? We don't care to pursue this subject, and we have a shrewd suspicion that our neighbor will not invite further discussion of it.

A LITTLE GENTLEMAN.

[Margaret E. Sangster.]
His cap is old, but his hair is gold,
And his face is clear as the sky;
And whoever he meets, on lanes or streets,
He looks them straight in the eye,
With a fearless pride that has naught to
hide.

Though he bows like a little knight,
Quite debonair, to a lady fair,
With a smile that is swift and light,
Does his mother call? No, not kite or ball
Or the prettiest game can stay
His eager feet, as he hastens to greet
Whoever she means to say.
And the teachers depend on the little
friend.

At school, in his place at nine,
With his lessons learned and his good
mind ready to toe the line,
I wonder if you have seen him too,
This boy, who is not too big
For a morning kiss from mother and Sis,
But gentle and strong, and the whole day
long.

As merry as a boy can be,
A gentleman, dears, in the coming years,
And at present the boy for me.

LATCHKEY SOURCE OF TROUBLE.

[London Telegraph.]
Ever since some mechanically-inclined person, with an almost diabolical instinct for making mischief, invented a form of spring lock which can be opened on the inside by a knob and on the outside only by a key, there has been trouble. The latchkey, from the first, has been a domestic storm center; it has divided family circles, and even broken up homes.

THE HEARTLESS EDITOR.

[Somerville Journal.]
Assistant—This poet says that the last two verses of his poem may be omitted, if you think it is desirable.
Editor—'I'll do better than that. I'll omit the whole poem.

HOW IT WAS MANAGED.

[Home Journal.]
Chatting in leisurely fashion with Prince Bismarck in Berlin, Lord Russell asked the chancellor how he managed to rid himself of importunate visitors whom he could not refuse to see, but who stuck like burrs when once admitted.
"Oh," replied Bismarck, "I have my easy escape. My wife knows people of this class very well, and when she is sure there is a bore here, and sees him slay-

ing too long, she manages to call me away on some plausible excuse."
Scarcely had he finished speaking when the Princess Bismarck appeared at the door. "My dear," she said to her husband, "you must come at once and take your medicine; you should have taken it an hour ago."

NOT FRIGID.

[Baltimore American.]
Belle (hopefully)—Lil told me she had observed a coldness between you and George last night.
Nell (calmly)—Possibly she saw us when we were eating ice cream.

NO DIFFERENCE.

[Exchange.]
He—Fred has more money than brains.
She—But he has lost all his money.
He—That makes no difference.

NATURAL INFERENCE.

[Catholic Standard and Times.]
"Last night when I accepted George," said Miss Roxley, who was as suspicious as she was homely, "he kissed me on the forehead."
"You don't say?" replied Miss Knox.
"Yes, now I wish I hadn't, for he didn't salute my lips. Oh, horror! probably he had been drinking."
"Very likely. You say he proposed last night?"

THOSE RUSSIAN NAMES.

[Chicago Journal.]
Miss de Style—By the way, count, it is very awkward, but I do not know your name.
Russian Count—Would you like to hear it?
"Most certainly."
"Then if you have ten minutes to spare sit down and I will tell it to you."

THE STORY OF URIAH.

[Rudyard Kipling.]
Jack Barrett went to Quetta. Because they told him to. He left his wife at Simla. In the fourth of the month screw. Jack Barrett died at Quetta. Ere the next month's pay he drew.
Jack Barrett went to Quetta. He didn't understand. From the pleasant mountain-land; The season was September. And it killed him out of hand.

Jack Barrett went to Quetta. And there gave the ghost; Attempting two men's duty. In that healthy post. And Mrs. Barrett mourned for him. Five lively months at most.

Jack Barrett's bones at Quetta. Enjoy profound repose. But I shouldn't be a snigger. If now his spirit knows. The reason of his transfer. From the Himalayan snows.

And when the Last Great Bugle Call Adown the Hurrahs is blown. When the last grim joke is entered. In the big black book of jobs. And Quetta graveside he lies again. Their victims to the air. I shouldn't like to be the man Who sent Jack Barrett there.

A BRICK.

[Harper's Bazar.]
Knicker—Which side of the house does the baby resemble?
Booker—The outside. Don't you see how red he is?

A PROBLEM.

[Washington Star.]
While musing on the rights of man And wealth of nations, I think upon my boyhood plan; No decorations. Bade me a doubtful claim assert To legal tender. I needed just my "pants," a shirt And one suspender. Why now do kings bewail the price Of gilded spender. And Croesus win with loaded dice More legal tender? Why lose my envy of them hurt When these citizens do kings bewail? My life content—just "pants," a shirt And one suspender?

NIGHT THOUGHTS.

[Young's Magazine.]
Miss Marie Cahill, who returned to New York early in August to rehearse "Marry Mary," was discussing the following couple, and incidentally told the following good thing about a married couple:
The wife, in the middle of the night, was awakened by the loud snoring of her husband. She endured the horrible racket as long as she could. Then, pinching the man sharply, she said:
"Herbert, you'd make less noise if you kept your mouth shut and your hands off me."
Herbert, sleepy and surly, muttered: "So would you."

A STRIP OF RAIL FENCE.

[Adella Washer, in New York Sun.]
It binds the end of the orchard That slopes away to the east. And stored in its folds the borders Is many a luscious feast. A buttered quince on a corner. Wild grapes weave a lanky screen. And flaunting its orange berries The bittersweet creeps between.

Each spring it hides in its shadows A bright-eyed bird on a nest. And curves in alluring fashion A rail that invites to rest. It leans in quiet contentment Against a thorn apple tree. And watches over a meadow Where bobolinks sing in glee.

Dark stained and warped by the weather. And furrowed by rain, it wears old patches of lichen. Put there by the passing years; Yet clothed it is in best dress. That changes from day to day. And leaves on my mind a picture That never shall fade away.

YARDMEN GET INCREASE

Ten Cents a Day More for G. T. R. Men Portland to the Tunnel.

Toronto, Oct. 12.—The yardmen employed on the Grand Trunk system from Portland to Port Huron are rejoicing because of the increase of wages.

Some time ago the company's officials and a committee of the men held some half dozen conferences before they received their pay check.

The increase granted to each man is ten cents a day. That is, men who received \$1.50 will receive \$1.60; foremen who were receiving \$2.25 will get \$2.35. The men are well satisfied and consider the wages paid now will compare with any other line in America.

ENGINE TOPPLED OVER

One Man Killed and Three Injured in Accident Near Guelph.

Goderich, Oct. 12.—A hoisting engine, used in the construction of the bridge over the Maitland River here, toppled over into the river, causing the death of John Madford, and severely injuring Henry Gilman, Dean Lynn and J. Campbell, all of whom were employed on the bridge. The drop was at least 60 feet. Fortunately, but four men went down with the machine. The accident is blamed to a gust of wind. Madford was caught beneath the wreck and terribly crushed. He is said to have been a member of a wealthy English family.

FOWLER AIDED BY RAILWAY MAGNATES

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Nothing in the way of making application for a contract was done then. "What was the next stage?" "We thought we would get as near as possible to the location of the Canadian Northern, so we came to Toronto and saw Mr. Mann, Mr. Mackenzie & Mann. We asked as to the route, and Mr. Mann said that as far as it was surveyed we could see the route by going up there. Afterwards we received a map on which the route was marked."

"Was there any suggestion at that first time that they should help you as to the purchase?" "Saw President of C. P. R." "We went to Montreal and saw the president of the C. P. R. about the lands and told him that we wanted to buy. He said that he would take a hand in changing the price, but that we must make formal application to Mr. Griffin. We felt that as we were buying a tract of 200,000 acres we should be given a figure lower than the one told us in Winnipeg."

"When was the amount fixed at 200,000 acres?" "Between the time we were at Winnipeg and the time we got to Montreal. I don't think it was before we got to Toronto."

Mr. Fowler stated that a couple of weeks after sending in their application for the C. P. R. lands they were notified that the lands had gone up in price to \$5, and that they couldn't get them for \$3 50.

Mr. Shepley—That was disconcerting. "Yes, it was a cold touch."

This, however, was gotten over eventually. They went again and interviewed Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, president of the C. P. R., and told him that at the time of their application the lands were selling at \$3 50, and they didn't see why they should be turned down.

Mr. Shaughnessy said Mr. Griffin, the head of the lands department, would soon be in Montreal, and asked them to call again when he arrived.

At this meeting they, Messrs. Pope and Fowler, met Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, Mr. Griffin, Mr. Dennis, connected with the lands in Alberta; Mr. Wm. Whyte, the vice-president of the C. P. R., and Mr. Foster, who had to wait quite a while till the president was free to receive them, but as soon as he was ready the matter was quickly disposed of.

"He has a lot of big wall maps in his office," said Mr. Fowler, "and Mr. Shaughnessy went and pulled one down and told me to show him the lands we wanted. I indicated the lands with a pointer. He then asked Mr. Griffin the price of those lands at the time of the application. Mr. Griffin said \$3 50. The president asked Mr. Griffin what he considered a fair price. The reply was \$3 50. 'Gentlemen, are you satisfied?' said Mr. Shaughnessy."

They were satisfied with the price, but tried to get better terms of payment. Lands sold to speculating syndicates had to be paid for in six installments, while those which were to be retained to farmers had ten installments. They asked for the latter terms but were refused.

Mr. Fowler then stated that they had at first some 300,000 acres from which to select the 200,000 in which they were buying the options. Then Mr. Griffin found out the route of the Canadian Northern, and retained part of these lands, but still left them more than the 200,000 acres.

"Was there any correspondence as to the withdrawal?" "No, it was arranged at an interview."

"You had agreed not to disclose the private information you had got about the C. N. R. route?" "Yes."

"Did Griffin suspect you had this information at the time, or was that a factor of the withdrawal?" "No."

Mr. Shepley asked about the block of 17,000 acres rejected during the selection. Witness said there were plenty of lands that were not taken. The 17,000 were not "culls," unless it was that they were not well situated.

Mr. Fowler knew nothing about the agreement with the C. P. R. after the selection of the lands.

Mr. Shepley asked him to make a note of this and also other documents and produce them for the commission.

Mr. Fowler said that there were ten in the syndicate and that all were in the time the options were acquired. Besides Messrs. Pope, Fowler, Bennett, Lefursey and Peuchen, there was a friend of Mr. Pope's, whose name he could not give, and some friends of his own. There were George Parker, S. A. McLeod, Mr. Parlee and A. B. Pugsley.

Each of the ten put up the preliminary \$200 for expenses.

Land was going fast in the west, and the intention was that the syndicate should never own the lands, but sell their options at a very early date. None of the members were able to pay for the lands.

The first payment was \$20,000 or \$25,000. Bennett and Lefursey each put up their \$25,000, and some one financed Mr. Peuchen's \$20,000, as he was absent.

Mr. Shepley—How about the rest? (Witness addressing the commission.)—This is carrying the investigation too far. This has absolutely nothing to do with the inquiry.

Mr. Shepley—You are sharp enough to know it is necessary for us to get these facts.

Mr. Fowler (warmly)—I am acute enough to know, also, why this information is sought.

He then stated that the other \$14,000 of the \$20,000 the first payment to the C. P. R. was covered by a note of Pope and Fowler's indorsed by Mackenzie & Mann. He said also that he understood that if they had to take the lands these men would help to finance the seven interests that have not paid the \$2,000. They are in that case hold the lands and sell them retail.

"What interest were Mackenzie & Mann to have?" "A half of the seven-tenths, I understood."

Witness also stated that when he

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Best quality, bordered all round; the following includes brass binding with corners and nails.
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A bargain for tonight in Men's Wool Socks, just the kind for present wearing. Extra special at 15c pair, or 4 pairs for.....50c

Children's Stockings

Children's 2x1 1/2 Cashmere Stockings, with double heels and knees, all sizes, selling at, per pair.....25c

Wool Carpet

One roll genuine all-wool guaranteed Carpet, full yard wide, reversible, reduced from 75c, tonight to.....50c

Children's Towsels

20 dozen all linen Huck Towsels, size 19x23, regular price 18c each, on sale tonight.....15c

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EGG-LAYING CONTEST

London, Oct. 13.—The tenth annual laying competition of the Utility Poultry Club will begin on Oct. 22 next, and end on Feb. 10, 1907, on Stocks Farm, Rayne, Braintree.

For four months all the best laying breeds of poultry will strive in competition for prizes, the latter including a silver cup, gold and silver medals, and various certificates. E. W. Richardson, the Utility Poultry Club's honorary secretary, will see fair play.

There will be forty pens, each containing four pullets of one bred hatched not earlier than last January. All the competitors are now in strict training, and condition will tell largely in the results, for one of the rules of this egg-laying contest is that no bird shall be given any spice or condiment likely to spur it on to abnormal feats.

The best pen will be determined according to the quantity and quality of the eggs laid. Three points will be given for every egg weighing two ounces or over, two points for every egg of one and three-quarter ounces, and less than two ounces, and one point for every egg weighing less than one and three-quarter ounces.

The first month will be an anxious period for some of the birds' owners, for the pen of pullets which cannot produce ten eggs during the month will cause its owner to be mulcted in a fine of 10s. A similar failing in the second month must be met by a fine of 5s, or the alternative of withdrawing the birds altogether.

Every pen responsible for 240 eggs in the four months will be awarded a first-class certificate and a gold medal; those producing 200 eggs will receive silver medals and second-class certificates.

