

## London Advertiser

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1923.

### The Fire Department.

The recommendation of the Citizens' Research Institute that the fire chief in London be given full and positive authority to run the fire department sounds reasonable.

The inference in the report is that there has been too much of a beaten track between the fire department and the city council chamber.

A fire chief should receive his commission from the city council. He should be held responsible for the performance of his department. If he does not function under those conditions he should leave and make room for a man who could.

The chances are that Fire Chief Aitken, or any other chief, would ask nothing more than to be allowed to work under such conditions.

There have been cases where rulings by the chief, or the changes he made in the placing of his men, have been taken up by members of the city council within a few hours of their occurrence. They have asked the chief for his reasons, and have argued about the advisability.

London does not elect any man as an alderman for this purpose. An alderman can find plenty of things to do without touching or interfering with a department that is entirely removed from his province.

Dr. Brittain says there should be no firemen's union. If membership in that union interferes with the men's attention to their duty, or if it brings in a third party between the chief and his men, then that clause deserves serious thought. A fireman accepts a serious responsibility, and the public look to him for the same devotion to duty that they see in a soldier.

We do not question the right of any body of men to organize to better their condition, but there are certain callings where public interest is a prior claim. Priority, or promotion by length of service, is one of the 1000s of contentions in many fire halls, but it does not follow that a man should get a captaincy because he has been there longest. Another man might have spent his spare time fitting himself for promotion, or he might have qualities of leadership that others did not possess. These matters should be determined by the chief if he is to be held responsible for the conduct of the department.

In brief Dr. Brittain finds that the chief of the fire department should run the place as chief in fact as well as chief in name. That view is so palpably apparent that the wonder is that it was necessary to bring in an outside agency to say so.

### A Common Understanding.

The imperial conference has not succeeded in writing down in definite chapter and verse just how the various dominions in the empire shall function both as units and as one concerted whole when the case warrants.

The Canadian Parliament, as far as the people of Canada are concerned, is the supreme governing body in this country, and other dominions hold the same respect for their governmental institutions. The premier of Canada has established the point—and we believe the great majority of Canadians agree with him—that Canada cannot agree in a war outside the Dominion without the consent of parliament.

The chief difficulty in formulating a policy whereby Canada, South Africa, Australia and other dominions would take identical action in a European crisis is that we are not acquainted with the situation. It is a long way removed, and none of these dominions have ambassadors or representatives on the spot. They all depend more or less on reports from London, where there is not a unity of opinion on even the greatest and most acute problems, such as the last Near East crisis or the Ruhr situation. Politics and diplomacy get very much tangled up at times, and it is hard to see where one stops and the other starts. Thus it is impossible to have a clear, disinterested lead on such matters from London.

There is something significant in the fact that some representatives at the conference are also on the roster of the League of Nations. There they sit representing a nation; in the imperial conference they take a seat representing a nation within an empire. It is a relationship based on faith and trust, which is stronger than parchment documents; it is a link made of common ideas, of a passion for liberty and a genius for government, for all of which it is hard to substitute a book of rules.

### We Need More Planning.

A London property owner, in a letter to The Advertiser, complains of the way his taxes have increased. His house is on a 40-foot lot, and a pavement was put down in front of his place. He finds that the assessment for this makes a larger addition to his tax paper than he had anticipated.

While it means more in taxes, the amount is not very great when compared to other cases. He is getting the use of the pavement, and it has added to the value of the street, and so to the value of his property. He lives on a street that is well built up.

Compared to some other cases, this ratepayer has no grievance at all. Here are some people who have a grievance:

The owner of a corner lot on Quebec street, in the annexed district, assessed at \$100, the tax on which used to be \$1.50 at the special 15-mill rate. This year he was presented with a bill of \$68.59 for sewer, grading, water and oil on the street.

A little farther along the same street is a vacant lot assessed at \$100, the taxes on which are \$61.78. At the corner of Richmond and Huron streets is a vacant lot, 136 x 130, assessed at \$2,720, on which the general tax rate is \$94.30. The extras are: Sewer, \$121.23; sidewalk, \$9.33; pavement, \$95.91; curb, \$5.23; street cleaning, \$9.52; garbage, \$3.26, or a total levy on this lot of \$338.92.

On another Richmond street lot is a house in which the same family have lived for almost 40 years; they went away on the outskirts of the city at that time in order to get some cheap land and live comfortably. The income is limited. The house is assessed at \$3,050, which gives a tax rate of \$105.83. With local improvements added it brings the figure up to \$380.57, an amount away beyond the ability of this pioneer house to pay. There is an extra lot, and of course it will be remarked, "Why don't they sell it?" The answer is that the "For Sale" sign is there, and has been there for months. The taxes keep the buyers away.

A vacant lot on St. George street, between Victoria and Regent, assessed at \$875, general tax rate at 34 mills makes \$30.36; the bill this year is for \$128.92; sewer and side drains were laid there. Perhaps the most outstanding case is a lot with 260 feet frontage on the Pipe Line road. It is assessed at \$1,200 and the general tax rate levy plus war tax is \$45.33; the local improvement taxes from paving amount to \$138.55 per year. These two put together mean that this man is paying, not a 34-mill rate, but 179.9 mills. Next door is another vacant lot, on which the general tax rate is \$4.48; it is assessed at \$130, and the bill this year is \$52.55.

These cases could be continued, but they would only furnish more evidence of a similar character. A measure of relief has been granted in some cases where the debentures are now changed from a ten to twenty year basis.

It all goes to show the need for greater attention to town planning, and the confining as much as possible of local improvements to districts that are settled sufficiently to warrant the expenditure. London covers enough ground for three times its present population. It should be possible to look far enough ahead in these matters so that no property holder who is using his land for living purposes should suddenly be brought face to face with a bill that will want to make him sell out.

### Note and Comment.

Standing shoulder to shoulder in a common cause means the way the canned peaches and the strawberry jam line up on the fruit cellar shelves.

Lloyd George is hoarse. There are a good many thousands of us who would mind being hoarse if it were from shouting a welcome to him.

Youngsters in school are taught that a straight line is the shortest distance between two given points. In later years they learn that a detour is the longest line between two driven points.

A girl in Cincinnati sues for \$5,000 because she says she was squeezed by a man on a crowded street car. Most men don't realize that they are bestowing a \$5,000 gift every time they indulge in that national pastime.

Another good farmer has been killed by an infuriated bull, this time near Dundalk. The more these cases appear the more one sees the reason for the iron cages in which these animals are kept on stock farms in this district.

Riding over the section of new roadbed on Richmond street is a treat. Good tracks make all the difference, for a very ancient chariot gets along on the new road in great style, whereas a new street car on old track is painful transportation.

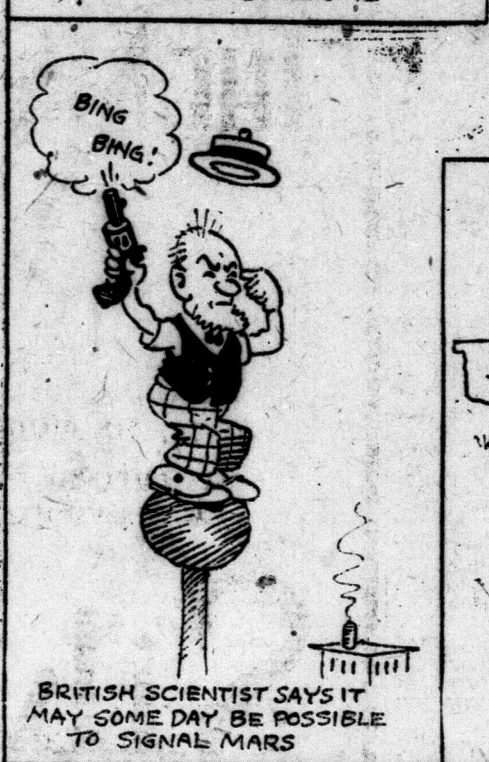
## DIBS AND DABS

—BY HARRY MOYER

### TWINS



AL AND SEVERAL



BRITISH SCIENTIST SAYS IT MAY SOME DAY BE POSSIBLE TO SIGNAL MARS

LIGHTNING CAUSES \$224,503 WORTH OF DAMAGE IN ILLINOIS IN ONE MONTH

### RUMMY RHYMES



TH' TAIL ON BILLY'S PURP WAS BENNY HE WASN'T WORTH A DOLLAR BUT EVERYWHERE THAT BILLY WENT THAT PURP WAS SURE TO FOLLER!

—Moyer.

## Rarebits by Rex

A PROTEST.  
All the pretty brides are raving.  
You can't satisfy their craving.  
Every penny they are saving.  
For this antiquated stuff.  
Any old, decrepit table.  
Resurrected from a stable.  
Can be sold to Waud and Mabel.  
If it's only old enough.

For it seems, someone has spoken.  
That a chair that's bent and broken.  
Is a sure, unfailing token  
Of a fine, artistic sense.  
So each antique dealer's haunted  
By sweet brides who are undaunted.  
Paying any price that's wanted.  
To these walnut vending gents.

And while wives make close inspection  
Of each second-hand collection.  
Husbands rave and rant objection.  
But the girls don't give a hoot.  
Yet if any man commanded.  
That his bride wear second-handed  
Shoes and blushing, he'd be branded  
As a cruel, unfeeling brute.

As a matter of fact, antiques are so expensive that by the time a man is able to afford them he is an antique himself.

Waves of indignation against an investigation of the fire department have subsided now that Dr. Brittain's report is out. You might say that Brittain rules the waves.

The Yankees are favorites to win the series. With Ruth on the lineup their attack will be ruthless.

Some wives miss their husbands when they are away, but others are mighty good shots when they are at home.

A little song of autumn  
Is crooning in my ear:  
The soft refrain of falling rain.  
The wind across the mere.  
The boughs in orchards swaying  
And nuts that patter down.  
The bushes gray that stir and sway  
Above a hedge-row brown.

A little song of autumn  
Is humming me today.  
A moth awing a wayside spring.  
A field mouse soft and gray.  
A coolish breeze creep o'er me  
And as I sat and shivered  
Beside the glen I wondered when  
My coal would be delivered.

Since hearing the jokes in a burlesque show we can appreciate why there are bald-headed rows. After standing on and so often the hair simply drops off through sheer exhaustion.

The whereabouts of two drowned men was discovered by Prof. Menoreau by smearing bread with clay. The professor would have saved himself a lot of work if he had dealt from our baker.

They are using ammonia on rebellious convicts in Kentucky to put them to sleep. Why not sauté in extracts from Mr. Meighen's speeches.

It's autumn in the country now. The leaves are red and gold. And beauty lies in flaming guise On oak trees staunch and old. The frost has blighted everything That in the garden grew. But chestnuts brown are falling down. And autumn skies are blue.

It's autumn in the country now. Against October's sky A spiral gray floats out today. The smoke is rising high. Inside the apple jelly drips. And cider's in the press. The kittens steal indoors to feel The warmth and coziness.

It's autumn in the country now. October trips with scarlet lips. In blue and amber gown! The cornfields soon will lie knee deep In snow's white mystery. But autumn's in the country now. Right where I long to be! (Copyright, North American Newspaper Alliance, 1924.)

## Autumn in the Country

By ANNE CAMPBELL.  
It's autumn in the country now. The leaves are red and gold. And beauty lies in flaming guise On oak trees staunch and old. The frost has blighted everything That in the garden grew. But chestnuts brown are falling down. And autumn skies are blue.

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## The Guide Post—By Henry van Dyke

SILLY STREAKS IN WISE MEN.  
So doth a little folly him that is in reputation.—Ecclesiastes x., 1.  
Wisdom in the abstract is perfect, rounded and complete. But wisdom in the concrete, as we find it embodied in those whom we call wise men, always has cracks in it.  
There are faults in the gold-bearing vein.  
For example, the silly streak in Solomon's most sagacious of kings, seems to have been his insatiable fondness for the fair sex.  
It is not our place to judge and condemn the personal passions and prejudices of the wise. But we shall do well to recognize them as weak points.  
The fortunate thing is that they seldom coincide. When we put them side by side they tend to correct and neutralize one another.  
That is what is meant by the proverb, In a multitude of counselors there is safety.  
It is not because the many know more, but because when they meet together they joyfully detect and expose one another's silly streaks.  
One person alone, in all history, is free from flaws. Read Sidney Lanier's poem, "The Crystal." Remember what Pontius Pilate said of Jesus:  
"I find no fault in him."  
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## Your Health: Why You May Not Suffer With a Floating Kidney.

By ROYAL S. COPELAND, M.D.  
Many diseases are called by odd or striking names. I suppose the first doctor to discover an ailment has the right to label it. He is in a sense the father of the ailment and should have the parent's right to give it a name.  
"Floating" or "wandering" kidney is a name you frequently hear. This is one of the peculiarly named diseases I have in mind. An ailment has the right to label it. He is in a sense the father of the ailment and should have the parent's right to give it a name.

You might have a floating kidney all your life and suffer little or no discomfort. This particular type is known as a "floating" kidney. By this I mean that the attachments which should hold the kidney in place have been lacking from early life.

In any case of floating kidney these tissues are very lax. The blood vessels may be unusually long, lessening their support. In one way and another the kidney surroundings lack the binding and holding qualities they should possess.

There are many causes for acquired floating kidney. An injury to the back, such as a blow or a fall, may loosen it. Once in a great while the relaxation of the abdominal walls after pregnancy may be followed by displacement of the kidney.

In the old days, when they were worn, the use of tight corsets was supposed to be a factor. As I have said, some people with floating kidney suffer very little. Others may have severe, spasmodic pains and soreness in the kidney region. The fact that it is movable and creates pressure on other organs causes reflex pains in the abdomen and back.

The dangerous thing is, the possibility of twisting, with compression of the ureter—the tube which carries away the urine. Such a complication would cause the fluid to accumulate within the kidney with the obvious effect of such a condition.

The first thing to do if floating kidney is suspected, is to have a thorough examination to determine the position and movability of the organ.

Sometimes a properly-fitted surgical corset will be found a great help. It supports and protects the kidney region.

The general health must be built up. Good, nourishing food, proper rest in a comfortable bed, and well-directed exercise are all important. The reason is because these natural methods give firmness and tone to the tissues. Softness and flabbiness are the very things which lead to this disagreeable condition. After the kidney has been restored to its normal position it can be kept there only by giving strength and elasticity to the tissues.

During the acute attack—that is, the period of displacement—rest in bed, with a pillow supporting the back, is the best treatment. Hot applications are very helpful in relieving the pain.

When it is suspected that the kidney moorings are unreliable, good medical advice is essential. You see, these cases sometimes require surgical aid. On this account they must be carefully studied.

With proper care this ailment can be banished or at least the victim may be protected against serious results.  
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AT DRUGGISTS ONLY

## TO THE EDITOR.

### PRESBYTERIANS AND CHURCH UNION.

Editor of The Advertiser:

Sir,—Dr. E. Scott's war-whoop in the press calling upon all Catholics, as well as Protestants, to "oppose in parliament" (his own words) the church union scheme as unconstitutional reminds me of Euclid's Hædionian satire on the "Presbyterian true blue" who "proved his doctrine orthodox by apostolic blows and knocks" on the drum of ecclesiasticism.

The banner he waves, however, is not "true blue," but amazingly streaked with the red of the anarchist! His lurid terms for the general assembly—always addressed as "the venerable," but branded by him as "iniquitous"—indicate that, despite scripture, he is not afraid to speak evil of dignities. It is, he says, "scrapping the church, wiping it out forever, winding it up, selling it up," compelling the faithful to "get out, homeless, on to the street," although he knows that equitable provision is made for non-concurring congregations to retain their property and share in church funds.

What crazy rascals they must be, these moderators, the 427 majority members of last assembly, almost all members of the Free Church of Scotland, our foreign missionaries and college professors! But parliament can be relied upon (with proper push and pull) to bring them to their senses! Catholics must join in the parliamentary fight for "religious liberty vs. despotism," else, he tells them, "your turn may be the next to have your church scrapped"—an evil bid for the rescue of the minority of Quebec Catholics. We might let him go on thus; he is doing fine, alienating moderate men from extremist courses. But the assembly's pastoral to the church, signed by Principal Gandier as moderator, did not appear in your pages, and your readers must not be left to Dr. Scott's perversion of it.

The authority of the Presbyterian church in its stated courts is repudiated. Dr. Scott and his company are detroning the general assembly. It was, according to the Presbyterian Church Association, "in no sense a representative body, and its action, therefore, could not bind the church at large." Is that self-appointed association more representative of the church than the assembly?

Dr. Scott says that Dr. Gandier in the assembly's pastoral "does not even refer to the people; to him the people are nowhere; not worth mentioning; to be kept quiet till tied hand and foot." Is there a blind spot in his eye, or how? The pastoral, in plain words, cites "overwhelming majorities of our people," etc. He and his company would not accept the vote of the people when it was twice given, and try to excite blind passion by branding the assembly's

action as "coercion."

Dr. Scott makes an addition to the constitution of the church, for there is no provision for consulting the people at all. Such questions must go down to Presbyteries, and no lower. The Free Church of Scotland never took a vote of the people before proceeding to union. He is not even a good Presbyterian; he would make us Congregationalists. More curiously still, he says the church is under "clerical despotism," yet he knows that all our courts are equally composed of ministers and laymen.

Dr. Scott's other plea contradicts and undercuts his appeal to the people in claiming that constitutionally it was beyond its power for the assembly or church to decide for union at all. He says, "the church has no provision for its own disbanding (a word I challenge); all the constitutional steps are for its own continuance." On this principle the people, no matter how big the vote, could not legally determine for union. Sending down the question to the people was a fool's errand, for union was blocked in advance by the absence of provision for it. Why did not unionists, instead of debating the question as if it were valid, enter an injunction to prevent any vote being taken in either courts or congregations? It was only when defeated in church courts that they fortunately discovered the whole thing illegal.

Some associates of Dr. Scott would have liked to unite with the Anglicans, and I led in negotiations for a larger union. But such a union would be unconstitutional; according to Dr. Scott we can never unite with any other body! So here our church is stuck perpetually.

What is really at stake now is the spiritual freedom of the church. Is it free to adjust the expression of its prevailing mind upon creed and government, or is it in the grip of the "dead hand" of the church union, prevented by parliament or any legislature? Having failed in the church courts these extremists are to appeal to Caesar or the secular arm to override the assembly and thwart the will of the church. Dr. Scott even invokes Catholics to oppose it in parliament. The enabling bill deals only with property interests and civil matters, and if extreme anti-unionists are going to manipulate political powers to overthrow the spiritual freedom of the church in respect of union itself—such ecclesiastical sedition will surely set the heather on fire.

All honor to brethren who on conscientious grounds must stay out of the union to their own and our distress; but if they temporarily thwart union do they suppose the three conferring churches will throw up their hands?

I am not thrashing the merits of church union, on which I have my own personal difficulties, which were

finally overborne by the larger interests of the church and country. Every one was free to maintain his own opinions up to the last ditch at the recent assembly. But it is quite another matter when the church, through the assembly, is robbed of authority and loyal adhesion, and may be overridden by Erasmians whose final trust is in parliament. Yours  
R. E. WELSH.  
Presbyterian College, Montreal,  
October 4, 1923.

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