

## London Advertiser.

(ESTABLISHED BY JOHN CAMERON IN 1853.)

Managing Director and Editor, John Cameron

London, Wednesday, Jan. 4, 1899.

### The Tribute to Mr. Tarte in the Way of Attack.

The letter which Premier Laurier wrote to Senator Dandurand the other day, in response to the invitation to address the great mass meeting of electors in Montreal last night, was a notable deliverance. It was timely, as all the utterances of the Dominion Liberal chief generally are. There has been a disposition on the part of a comparatively few persons in connection with certain political clubs in Montreal to attack Hon. Mr. Tarte, the Minister of Public Works, on one score or another. The number of such persons is small, but they have made up in noise what they lack in importance, and their vapourings have been gladly seized upon by Opposition newspapers as an excuse for not only attacking the Minister, but for building up a story of widespread revolt against the Liberal leaders in Montreal district. If anything were needed to silence these busybodies, it would be found in the record in recent Dominion bye-elections in the Province. Only the other day, there was an election in the historic Conservative county of Bagot—a constituency which was gerrymandered in 1882 to make it doubly certain to return a candidate favorable to the Conservatives. The Minister of Public Works went down into that county, and challenged the Conservative leaders to successfully assail the Liberal record and policy, but in this they signally failed, and for the first time since it was formed into a Dominion constituency, thirty years ago—for the first time in its history, in fact—Bagot is represented in Parliament by a Liberal.

Because Sir Wilfrid Laurier has chosen to say that he has no sympathy whatever with the attacks which have been made upon his colleague, we are treated to a series of jeremiads by the Opposition press on the deplorable condition of affairs which the conductors of these newspapers profess to believe exists in the Liberal party. It is all imaginary. The Premier has but taken a very opportune time to say a kind word for a most brilliant member of his Administration, who has done, and is doing excellent service for the Dominion, as well as building up the interests of the party with which he has cast in his lot. We frankly admit that some of the adherents of a couple of clubs in Montreal have been inclined to resent the prominence given to Mr. Tarte in Liberal councils, because of the fact that at one time he was a member of the Conservative party. But we believe that if it had been possible to gratify the ambition of these men to serve their country in the public employ, but very few of them would have had any fault to find with the Minister of Public Works. They should understand that in this regard there is not always a legitimate opportunity to gratify budding ambition, and that one of the very worst ways to secure the ear of the managers of public affairs is to unfairly attack them either individually or collectively.

For ourselves, looking at the matter with an unprejudiced eye, we believe which have been made on the Minister of Public Works are undeserved, that they emanate from but a comparatively few, and that if it were not for the poverty-stricken condition of the Opposition at the present time, we should hear but little about them. The Opposition is in a terrible straits. It has no policy. It is disgusted beyond measure because its prophecies of disaster and ruin, when the Liberals got power, have been falsified, and Canada has enjoyed such prosperity and progress as has never before been hers. Hence a little domestic tempest in a teapot—if it is even as much as that—has been magnified into a row of gigantic proportions and dilated on with greater malevolence, because the person who may be injured is the man who refused to condone colossal wrongdoing in the Conservative party, who, when a thorough party investigation was refused by his leader, entered Parliament and compelled a public inquiry, which not only proved that he was right, but showed how utterly corrupt had become the then management of public affairs.

Such being the circumstances or Mr. Tarte's advent in the Liberal party, can any just man say that it was not highly creditable to him? Mr. Tarte, as an independent member of Parliament, did what he could to drive the men from power who had betrayed their trust, and had refused to set on foot a reformatory process within their ranks without the public exposure which followed the denial of that measure of justice and party caution. What could have been more natural than that Sir Wilfrid Laurier should call to his side, as one of his Ministers, a man who, in the days when the Liberals were in opposition had done yeoman service to establish correct principles of administration? We have but to give this fair statement of the reasons which actuated the Prime Minister in choosing Mr. Tarte as a member of the Cabinet to show the reasonableness

of the course adopted. Mr. Tarte was a positive force when in opposition. For several years he gave a loyal support to the Liberal party in the capacity of an opponent of the late Administration. What has been his course since the present Administration came into power? To loyally aid his chief to carry out the declared policy of the Liberal party as a whole, and to especially promote the welfare of his native land by using every energy to make the lot of the people of Canada more tolerable than it has been in the past. As Minister of Public Works, those who have come in contact with him know that his first question has been, "Is the work which you advise the Administration to undertake in the public interest? If it is not, do not expect us to go on with it."

It is for the reason that the attacks on the Minister of Public Works have invariably proved to be ill-founded that we take no stock in these recent ebullitions which the Premier has incidentally severely reprobated in his letter to Senator Dandurand. Indeed, but for the anxiety of the Opposition to get some slender thread on which it could hang a complaint against the man who exposed wrongdoing among its leaders, but little attention might be given to these attacks, which, being ill-founded, can but increase Mr. Tarte's prestige.

We would be just as ready as any one to condemn wrongdoing, were it shown that such existed; but we will never be parties to an attempt to keep men of talent in the background simply because at some period of their lives they did not see eye to eye with the leaders of the party to which they may have subsequently given alliance. The Liberal party, when its opponents were preaching exclusiveness, intolerance and sectionalism, in hopes that by coercion they might make political capital, took a bold stand for fair play all round. Its view of the test to be applied to party membership is summed up in the declaration of the Scottish poet, that "A man's a man for a' that." And for that reason, whatever few local jealousies there may have been, or yet are, in Montreal, over the selection of so able a statesman as Hon. Mr. Tarte to take a seat in the Dominion Cabinet, there has never been any other sentiment in the great Province of Ontario but that of the warmest appreciation of the Minister of Public Works and honest recognition of his merits as an administrator. Indeed, when one watches how eagerly his own and political opponents endeavor to make capital, by far from fair means, against the minister, it can well be understood why many people in the Province love the Hon. Mr. Tarte for the enemies he has made.

### Figures of Prosperity.

We are indebted to Mr. Irving, Ontario manager of Bradstreet's, for a statement of mercantile failures in Canada during the last seven years. It is no paradox to say that in this record of failures the prosperity of 1898 is very conspicuously written. The figures are:

	Failures.	Assets.	Liabilities.
1892	1,832	\$1,848,065	\$11,603,210
1893	1,781	7,383,492	15,690,404
1894	1,873	11,947,253	23,983,283
1895	1,923	6,289,177	15,793,569
1896	2,205	6,793,257	16,369,576
1897	1,927	5,224,897	13,219,379
1898	1,407	4,194,827	9,825,554

Another financial barometer, the Toronto Stock Exchange, tells the same story of progress. The total volume of business was larger than ever before, and in many cases record prices were made. The aggregate business during 1898 was 264,278 shares of bank, miscellaneous and loan company shares, against 246,615 in 1897. The total of 264,278 shares in 1898, however, does not include 623,277 shares of War Eagle and 96,317 shares of Cariboo.

The new stocks listed in 1898 were: National Trust, London Street Railway, Halifax Tramway, Hamilton Electric, London Electric, Traders' Bank, War Eagle and Cariboo, having an aggregate face value of \$4,900,000.

The only exception to the general buoyancy that prevailed in stock exchange values last year was in loan company shares. The downward tendency noticed a year ago continued during 1898. The exceptions were Central Canada, London Loan, Huron and Erie issues, Canadian Savings and People's, all of which did a little better than in 1897. The highest average of bank shares rose from 190 to 199, and the lowest average from 171 to 182. The highest average of ten miscellaneous stocks rose from 161 to 173 and the lowest from 141 to 147. On the contrary, the highest average of ten loan company shares fell from 107 to 102, and the lowest average rose from 89 to 94.

### The Value of Marksmanship.

Speaking at the annual distribution of prizes at a volunteer gathering in London, the other day, Lord Wolseley, the commander-in-chief, laid much stress upon the effectiveness of good marksmanship. All the officers who participated in the great slaughter of the Mahdi's forces at Omdurman, he pointed out, agreed that the long range rifle fire there had been exceptionally accurate, hence its destructive power. "If I were to describe the effect of the volley firing," said Lord Wolseley, "I would say that from the moment the enemies' line—an immense line, filled with the most determined soldiers—came within the zone of fire of 2,000 yards up to the time that they ceased to advance because they were knocked down and killed and wounded by hundreds and thousands—our line virtually pumped lead upon them."

The fire was so heavy that no one could live under it."

This declaration, while it emphasizes the fact that careful training at the butts greatly helps a soldier when he comes to participate in actual war, also proves how very deadly the modern weapon of warfare is. During the conflict between the United States and Spain, it was very soon shown that the nation with the newest and most scientifically equipped war vessels could always down, with ease, the old and poorly equipped ship. And so it is proved with regard to small arms. Once warfare, to be effective, was a matter of hand-to-hand personal combat. Now, we find the British soldiers standing up in the Sudan, a mile and a quarter away from the Sudanese, and literally mowing them down. What would have been the extent of the slaughter if the natives of the Nubian wilds had been equally well equipped with their British and Egyptian conquerors?

Stratford, Guelph and Barrie swept away the ward system on Monday by big majorities.

The Paris Temps draws a gloomy picture of the future of the United States. One would think that Paris papers had enough gloom at home to attend to.

The Joint High Commission resumes its sitting at Washington in a few days. This will be a relief to the Opposition press. It has had nothing to kick about during the holidays.

J. V. Teetzel, Q.C., was elected mayor of Hamilton by over 700 majority. Mr. Teetzel is the man who, in the face of vigorous opposition, did no canvassing and no organizing. He deserves his victory.

There were 90 lynchings in the United States last year, 76 of the victims being negroes. The United States has annexed a few million yellow men and should try to treat them better than the black men.

The Taber-Prang Art Company, of Boston and Springfield, Mass., have issued their annual holiday publication, containing an array of exquisite calendar designs. The company have a continental reputation for art productions of the highest class. The chromolithographic work is marvelous.

Madame Annie Grey, "the Queen of Scottish Minstrelsy," will make a tour of the United States and Canada this year. She is pronounced to be the foremost exponent of Scottish song. The fact that her tour is to be directed by Major J. B. Pond is in itself a guarantee of her merits. It is to be hoped that Madame Grey will include London in her travels.

The protectionist newspapers in the United States which are being fleeced by the paper trust have become free traders in paper, but still uphold monopoly on general principles. This affords a good opening for the Chicago Chronicle, one of the ablest free trade dailies in the country. It puts the case this way:

"The 157 newspapers representing the bulk of the total consumption of print paper in this country have no difficulty in seeing the iniquity of 'protection' when they are the immediate victims. They all see with one eye to this extent. Now, let them be consistent and plead the cause of other consumers—the great mass of the American people—as earnestly as they plead their own cause, and this huge iniquity—the monster iniquity of this otherwise tolerably free land—would be destroyed as swiftly and completely as was that other monster iniquity, that other slavery, which once cursed the land, and we would begin the new century with a clean page."

The Opposition papers that cry "French domination" are not only guilty of sectarianism and un-Canadian conduct, but of deception in trying to make their readers believe that the Dominion Government holds its power by the grace of Quebec alone. The Government has a majority in every province except New Brunswick. The parties in the House now stand:

	Government.	Opposition.
Ontario	62	40
Quebec	51	14
Nova Scotia	11	9
New Brunswick	5	9
P. E. I.	3	2
Manitoba	4	2
British Columbia	4	2
Territories	3	1
Totals	133	79

We now see what an independent press can do. Mr. Mulock proposed to keep the domestic postal rate at 3 cents. A fight in the press for the 2-cent charge has brought that Minister to time, and on and after Jan. 1, two cents will be the figure.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

How the Opposition does clutch at straws! The policy of the Administration has always been as now declared. It has not changed an iota, because of the clamoring of anyone. But by its timely extension of the penny postage system to Canada the Government has taken away one more grievance which the Mail and its allies were earnestly hoping might be theirs for some time yet. We commiserate our contemporary. It has so very little to kick about these days.

The New York Journal has some courteous things to say of Canada. It speaks of our backwardness and insignificance. It compares Canada to "a stagnant lagoon off one side from the rushing stream of American life." It calls the Dominion "anaemic," and pictures it as Lazarus, glad to catch crumbs from Dives—Dives, of course, being Uncle Sam. It predicts that the time will soon come when Canada will

beg for admission to the Union. What a yellow rag like the New York Journal says of Canada does not matter to Canadians, but it is not pleasant for them to reflect that the Journal finds its text in a Canadian paper—the Toronto World. The World's hysterical rubbish about Canada being in danger of absorption by the United States was unfortunately telegraphed abroad. The American newspapers didn't know the World, and took it seriously. They tell their readers that Canada is in fear and dread of the republic, and we are represented as a set of cravens. Hence the insults from such saffron sheets as the New York Journal. The World is probably proud of the advertisement it got.

The timely vindication of the founders of Great Britain's trade policy, from the cultured pen of Prof. Goldwin Smith, has been followed by the republication of the declaration of Mr. Cobden in favor of the maintenance of the British navy at the highest point of efficiency. The exact words which Mr. Cobden used when he spoke of spending £100,000,000, if need be, to maintain Great Britain's naval prestige, are interesting at this stage. They were uttered in a speech at Rochdale on June 26, 1861. "I have said it in the House of Commons," said the famous English economist, "and I repeat it to you—if the French Government show a sinister design to increase their navy to an equality with ours, then, after every explanation to prevent such an absurd waste, I shall vote one hundred millions sterling rather than allow that navy to be increased to a level with ours—because I shall see that any attempt of that sort without any legitimate grounds would argue some sinister designs upon this country." There is no peace at any price doctrine in this declaration. It is a pronouncement in favor of the principle that the naval balance of power must be upheld by the British at all hazards. Cobden, as the London Spectator aptly points out, was no mere cosmopolitan bagman, but a patriotic and clear-sighted Englishman.

### WHAT OTHERS SAY.

**Tired of the Thorns.**  
[Peterboro Examiner.]  
The Mail and Empire says "the Red Rose League is needed. Every Conservative should help it along." The party is tired of the thorns in the by-paths of the cold shades, and now longs for the roses.

**Barnum's Widow.**  
[Springfield Republican.]  
The widow of P. T. Barnum, having lost her second husband, Demetrius Callias Bey, has now married "Le Baron Alexandry Orangiana. As a Delaware paper remarks, she is quite as successful in capturing novelties as the great showman himself."

**High Tariff Losing Strength.**  
[New York Journal.]  
The extension of our boundaries to take in a good part of the world, and the success of American manufacturers on their own ground, have disturbed the simple faith of the Republican masses in protection, and, what is more important, they have convinced many of the capitalists who make up the Republican campaign funds that there is more money to be made on a fair deal than within a tariff fence.

**Stead's Sensationalism.**  
[Kingston Whig.]  
According to Stead the Czar of the Russias is a man the people must love. Stead calls him the emperor of peace, and writes in the most gushing way about the impressions the young man made upon him during a recent visit to St. Petersburg. Stead is a wonder to many. He vibrates so much between sensationalism and sentimentalism that one never knows when to take him seriously.

**A Conservative Tribute.**  
[Toronto World.]  
The World has no hesitation in giving our Government, and especially Mr. Mulock, credit for the great improvements made and being made in the Canadian postoffice. A two-cent imperial and domestic letter rate is a substantial improvement. So is the postal note for the transmission of money. The administration of the department has also been advanced in the direction of economy and greater efficiency. There is still other work to be done, and the minister who has done so much need not yet abate his hand.

**Rather Savage.**  
[Chicago Chronicle.]  
The Republican leaders have not abated one jot of their malignant hatred of commercial liberty. They are as much bent as ever upon the exclusion of Canadian lumber, barley and other products, and so long as that is the case there is but little hope of a removal of any of the causes of irritation. The Republican doctrine is one of jealousy and hostility towards all mankind beyond our own shores. It is a doctrine which begets estrangement, hate, war. The Republican party is one which cannot be expected to agree to any treaty providing for peaceful and unobstructed commerce.

**Smiff on Municipal Elections.**  
[Bobcaygeon Independent.]  
The great British public thoroughly enjoy an opportunity to growl, grumble and kick. The municipal elections are a perfect God-send in that respect. They are the safety valve that prevents our social system from bursting its boilers. And the way the steam blows off at this time is a marvel. Of course the fact that Councilor Smith allowed his friend Tom Brown to do a half day more on the roads than Jim Jones did, is of no consequence in itself, and no one really treats it seriously. Yet half the free and independent of Councilor Smith's constituency will work themselves into a frenzy of indignation, and boil over with a fury of forceful old British lingo. They like it, it does them good. If it were not for such opportunities the lives of the wives of these men would not be worth living, and their poor dogs would go and drown themselves. Municipal elections are a great institution. They furnish the scrapping matches that the free-born Britisher must and will have.

After a hard day's work  
there's nothing so refreshing  
as a cup of good hot  
Blue Ribbon Tea



### Solid Comfort.

It is not enough to have rubbers keep out the wet. If the fit be not perfect they will draw the feet. It costs money to employ skilled pattern makers, in order to turn out rubbers in all the latest shoe shapes, but the Granby Rubber Co. do it and the result is that



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Insist on seeing the Granby Trade Mark on the sole.

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### LIGHT AND SHADE.

#### They Arranged It.

Pat—If we can get there late and the other isn't there, how will we know if the other man has been there and gone, or if he didn't come yet?  
Mike—We'll easily fix that. If O' get there first O'll make a chalk mark on the sidewalk; and if you get there first you'll rub it out.—Life.

#### It Was a Literary Success.

Having inspired Mr. Kipling to write a poem, the Sudan expedition may consider itself a success.—Detroit Tribune.

#### The Gospel.

The world is full of sad hearts needing cheer;  
Of feet weary with the weary load;  
Of little children who forget to smile;  
Of wrongs, which must be righted for the weak;  
Of injustice and oppression of the poor,  
While one man lives in idleness and sin,  
Another has not where to lay his head,  
While there are cities filled with palaces,  
In haunts hard by the stream of life  
Is like a foul and stagnant drain.  
The song of life becomes a battlecry,  
And, before God, I swear to stand for the poor,  
Therefore I deem the wealth which men  
call mine,  
But which I never earned, no longer mine,  
And I will leave it—go into the world,  
A poor man, with the poorest; earn my bread,  
Among the poorest; bear with them their wrongs,  
And win their love; until I find, at last,  
The truest way to serve them.  
—Cardinal Manning.

#### So the Coal Man Said.

"We must lay in an extra supply of fuel this winter," said the credulous business man, while talking to his practical wife the other evening. "The corn husks are unusually thick, and that means a long, hard winter."  
"Who told you?"  
"The man we always buy coal from."  
"I thought so. We will just give the usual order."—Detroit Free Press.

#### Needs Something Else.

Bill—"The under dog in a fight gets all the sympathy."  
Jill—Yes; but, unfortunately, that isn't all he gets.—Yonkers Statesman.

The furniture of the battleships Kearsage and Kentucky, orders for the making of which have just been received at the Portsmouth navy yards, is to cost nearly \$100,000.

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