

# London Advertiser

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London, Ont., Wednesday, December 22.

## A CALL TO THE ELECTORS.

Today is nomination day, and because of new legislation which is now in effect for the first time the field from which the electors can make their choice promises to be the largest in the city's history. It is to be hoped that the large list of candidates may prove an incentive to citizens to turn out at the polls. One of the most regrettable things in connection with past elections has been the unusually small number of voters who exercised their franchise. Statistics indicate a tendency on the part of ratepayers to remain at home. Even when issues involving large capital expenditures are to be voted on the turnout has in many cases been most disappointing. This is not as it should be. Those who stay at home are usually the loudest critics of the men elected, or of the expenditures made. They had it in their power to do their share in selecting different men or in directing the proposed expenditures, but by neglecting or refusing to exercise their franchise nullified their voice, as far as voting went. Not so, however, in regard to waiting afterwards. Locking the stable after the horse has run away is just as sensible as bemoaning what is being done in the council after it has been elected. The time to do the protesting is on election day, and if every man and woman who has the right to vote will go to the polls it would be a big step forward in civic efficiency. There is only one chance in the whole year to vote. It only takes a few minutes to mark the ballots. Those who have the right to vote are neglecting their duty if they do not vote. More than that, by their indifference or neglect they are jeopardizing civic interests and the welfare of the community of which they form a part. Just what can happen when conditions like this prevail has been shown rather strikingly in many municipalities. Unquestionably it does not make for the best results. If good men are willing to offer as candidates, often at considerable sacrifice to themselves, the least the electors can do is to support them. If they do not, the way is opened for less desirable candidates, who may happen to have a personal following, to get into office. In a very few days the electors of London will have an opportunity of making their choice. They owe it to themselves, to their city, and, in a larger way, to the Dominion, to investigate intelligently the issues before them, the men who are offering for the various offices, and then vote as their judgment directs.

## PROVINCIAL HIGHER EDUCATION.

Some of the friends of the University of Toronto are clamoring against the possible diversion of funds from that institution to Queen's and Western. They adduce statements from leading men in Victoria, St. Michael's and Trinity to the effect that those universities went into federation with Toronto on the understanding that the province was to support but one central university. It is suggested that considerable grants to Queen's and Western would be a sort of breach of faith with those denominational institutions.

This is a desperate line of argument to bolster up discredited centralization. If politicians of thirty years ago made the mistake of trying to centralize all higher learning in one city, and if Queen's was actually reprimanded at one time by centralists for refusing to abandon Kingston and Eastern Ontario and accompany Victoria to Toronto, it does not follow that we must all now regret after a generation's experience that Queen's continued to grow in Kingston, or that we must support a policy any longer which is proved to be more in the interest of the city of Toronto than of the province as a whole.

A Toronto paper prints editorially some figures to show how the Provincial University serves the whole province. In attendance there are 189 students from Simcoe county, 182 from York, 169 from Wentworth, 135 from Perth, 135 from Huron, 121 from Middlesex, 108 from Carleton, 96 from Bruce, 1,828 from Toronto. The last figure is an eye-opener as to what the university is. Its board is of Toronto. Its students of Toronto, its cost is on the province. The simple fact is, apart from what ought to be, that Toronto University is kept up very largely for the city of Toronto. The buildings are over-crowded and it is the youth of Toronto that crowd them.

It is different in the small city of Kingston. There no such preponderant percentage of the student body resides in the city itself. Queen's University serves especially Eastern Ontario. The same will be the case with London's university when properly financed and expanded. It will serve not only London, but this whole rich southwestern peninsula. University education paid for by the whole province has to be distributed with some sort of fairness among the people, and that can only be done, as experience both in this country and in Great Britain shows, by decentralization.

Some Toronto writers argued recently that if Western and Queen's are to be helped in the

interest of the west and the east, then some town in Northern Ontario will next be claiming a university for the north. And why not, where there is a north to compare with this west, or even better? It is that kind of talk by Toronto people that promotes a secession movement in Northern Ontario. Toronto is not the only part of the province that should have a place in the sun of higher education.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

Old St. Nicholas will have a hard job this year. It's only a few days until Christmas, and those Russian Bolsheviks don't know what they want yet.

Sugar embargo, luxury tax—yes, the Meighen Government is just like the brave old Duke of York's army that marched right up the hill, turned around, and marched right down again.

When that earthquake occurred the other day, some superstitious people believed that it was an evil omen, and feared the end of this old world. But what's the use of being pessimistic. It may have been that Mother Earth felt a victim to that extremely contagious disease called the "shimmy."

## Letters to the Editor

To the Editor of The London Advertiser:

With regard to the statement appearing in the Saturday (December 18) issue of your paper that a resolution to the effect that Mayor Little use his influence with the Provincial Government in asking that Harry Wray be removed from the position of assistant employment agent at the local branch of the government employment bureau, allow us to state that the resolution was not read to the meeting, and could, therefore, not be officially passed. The question was brought up at the meeting of December 18 and passed, but it was later asked to be adjourned till Mr. Wray could be present to present a defence on the charges made against him. When Fred Young, who made the charges, was asked on Friday evening for proof of these statements, he could not do so, and in our opinion Mr. Wray is completely exonerated. (Signed) F. TUCKER, Vice-President.

H. HILTON, G. P. CLARKE, J. BURDETT, P. JOHNSTON, H. JOHNSTON.

To the Editor of The London Advertiser:

Relative to the letter of Ald. Watkinson re the fremen's holidays in London being one in seven days, with pay, etc., one would think that they were naturally of a privileged class, and entitled to all kinds of benefits, simply because they are fremen in the citizens' employ. Does it follow that they as fremen should be upheld as a special class? What about our civic men who do actual manual labor on our waterworks system, hydro, sewers, etc., and not to forget the people in the bureau of the city of London, both male and female, who work by the hour in various factories, etc., and when they are not working their pay stops. Why the distinction? A person who hires by the day, hour or year should be satisfied as to his or her agreement, and live up to it; whereas the fremen are entitled to one day's holiday in seven paid for? I say no! Any time that they don't "punch the clock" they are losers. The fremen are paid bi-weekly or monthly, so their money is there whether they are on duty or not. Not so the hourly workers. If they are not at work, there is no cash for them, so why should the fremen draw money for nothing? Crowded meetings, away from their employment through sickness, or the families, or their families, are not entitled to money while away. Why should the same help to contribute to fremen's holidays, one in seven? It seems to me that there is a great liking in some to stand in with a class who have "cushy" jobs. Yours for publication,  
60 Hyla Street. F. WAKEFIELD.

## THE COLLEGIATE QUESTION.

To the Editor of The London Advertiser:  
As one who is vitally interested in the general problem of education, I should like to offer through the columns of your paper one or two observations on the collegiate question.

Factors which the board of education has taken into consideration in dealing with this question, namely, those of efficiency and economy. And the board is fully justified in having made these vital factors. As for the economic, the question of whether there is one central collegiate or unit colleges scarcely seems material. Thousands of dollars difference for either plan is neither here nor there. The pertinent question is that of efficiency, and it is with respect to this factor that I am disposed to take issue with the board of education. The position of the board, if I interpret it aright, is based chiefly upon the factor of efficiency. But it would appear to the writer that the board has not given a very comprehensive interpretation of this term. It will generally be accepted as true that the "unit system" in itself must necessarily permit of a greater measure of efficiency than that of one central collegiate. But efficacy of the specific "unit system" as planned by the board of education, as against the specific central collegiate plan, is not so readily palpable. Efficiency with respect to a high school education, as with any other department of education, has a much wider application than that merely of the classroom and school environment. The effectiveness of high school education is measured by the benefit which it insures to the community. And the community, for the purposes of education, is the citizenship of a particular geographical area. Now the plan as put forth by the board of education fails to take into account the vital interpretation of the word efficiency. Efficiency, in their view, as outlined to the citizens through their published statement, is an efficiency of the classroom and school environment, and not that of the highest benefit of the youth of this community.

Their present plan—and it is only this that can be dealt with at this juncture—is to build a complete unit collegiate, presumably on the site now occupied by the home of Sir Adam Beck; this to serve as the main collegiate for the time being, a second unit to be built on a site to be selected in London South. Now, these two units are the only ones projected under the present scheme. Consider, therefore, the position. The former school would serve fairly adequately those sections of the city of London, including part of London West. The latter school would serve that section of the city which is coterminous with the boundaries of Ward 1, and the southern part of London West. But what of the large and populous sections that lay in the eastern, northeastern and southeastern parts of the city? It is reported that more than 60 per cent of the present college pupils live east of Adelaide street, which figures, if they be correct, are an unerring indication of the inefficiency of the present plan of the board. And let it not be forgotten, the overwhelming majority of these pupils belong to what is generally known as the working class, and therefore are the ones who are in greater need of educational advantages than are the children of a better-to-do class, who possess advantages other than those of an ordinary collegiate education. If the "unit system," as planned, were to be adopted, consider the position of those large numbers of pupils who live in the eastern sections of the city. With a new collegiate erected on the old site, the majority would be within walking distance. But not so if they should have to go to the proposed site

on Richmond street. Therefore, from the standpoint of general education, as applied in the case of the greatest good to the greatest number, the present plans of the board are palpably inadequate. Why discriminate against the working class in favor of the bourgeois north and south? The board affirms that its plan made "provision for a unit collegiate to be built in the eastern part of the city which would require no additional land." But surely these requirements at present exist, and it logically follows from this circumstance that the demands for a collegiate in the eastern part of the city are more urgent than for any other part. If the "unit system" is going to be adopted, then let the plan be worked out in such a way that it will afford the greatest possible advantage to the community in different parts of the city, which would of the board, then let their application of this factor be consistent.

Another plan has been suggested for solving the collegiate problem, and one which is worthy of consideration of the board (if they have not already considered it), and to which I should only allude in passing. The suggestion is that the plan would call for a central collegiate to be erected on the old site, sufficiently large to take care of the higher form pupils only. The first and second form pupils could be accommodated in strategically selected public schools in different parts of the city, which would be easily accessible to the children in these different sections. The plan would require no additional land, or reconstructed, as the case might be, and the necessary equipment installed, to carry on efficiently the work that has heretofore been done in the first two forms at a central collegiate. This plan would enable a larger number of schools to be utilized for preliminary high school education purposes, and therefore afford a wider advantage to the city's youth.

In conclusion, Mr. Editor, whatever plan be adopted, let it be based upon that fundamental necessity of insuring the greatest possible measure of benefit to the greatest possible number of the city's youth and let the plan be economical but only in so far as such economy does not compromise the realization of this fundamental necessity.

EDWIN HAWKINS.

To the Editor of The London Advertiser:

We note by the "Tiser" that the Independent Labor Party, at its meeting on Sunday last, passed a "vote of confidence" in the workings of the local labor bureau.

The news came as a surprise, for we were not aware that anyone had charged the I. L. P. with "lack" of confidence in the bureau. In fact, recent action among the unemployed veterans of the city led us to believe that the veterans thought that the I. L. P. had too much confidence in the bureau. Therefore, with the "vote of confidence" the poet has said: "To gold refined gold, to paint the lily, to add a perfume to the violet, is wasteful and ridiculous excess."

Yet, in spite of that, there are people who spent a lot of time in an attempt "to add a perfume to the violet."

FRED YOUNG.

To the Editor of The London Advertiser:

As I am one of the taxpayers who will have to provide high school accommodation, I submit the following for constructive criticism:

1. I am in favor of decentralization for schools as well as for universities, and believe that the schools should be scattered about the city.

2. The preparation of artistic plans for buildings, with wings or additions to meet the requirements of a population of one hundred and fifty thousand, is a task of no small magnitude for each school.

3. Build an upper and middle school on the old site, as there would not for many years to come be sufficient pupils to justify an upper school on the other sites.

4. High school plans should now be prepared to meet the requirements of the next fifty years, and planned so that the main building and its additions on each site when completed would be a structure of architectural beauty.

5. The cost of building is now too expensive to erect main buildings, while the erection of wings around existing buildings, and the giving of work to builders and laborers.

On such an important question, when the cost of building is so high and the need of accommodation so urgent, the best policy for the present and future should be pursued.

T. J. MURPHY.

To the Editor of The London Advertiser:

A recent news item states that the U. F. O. Women have placed themselves on record as critics of the Hon. Mr. Grant, minister of education, because he has advocated higher salaries for teachers. Doubtless the honorable minister is perfectly informed as to his duties, and is quite able to defend his position, but this rather remarkable point of view challenges consideration from all intelligent citizens.

What are the duties of a minister of education? Apparently the U. F. O. Women consider that increased grants to rural schools, text books and revision of the curriculum are within his province, but with teachers' salaries being a matter to do (except to hand out generous grants towards paying them).

At present there is a shortage of 2,000 teachers in Ontario. Many schools are closed for lack of teachers, and many more are in charge of those lacking the qualifications which, for many years, Ontario has proudly claimed as a feature of its education.

Of what use is all the machinery of education without the teacher, the vitalizing personality, behind it?

From a business point of view there is no better investment for money than in providing the best possible educational advantages for the citizens of tomorrow.

The efficiency of the schools depends almost entirely upon the ability, personality and leadership of the teachers. The brightest and best young people from the high schools and colleges should be attracted to the teaching profession and kept there for their own sake, but for the good of the community. This can only be done by doing it right. Put the teaching profession upon such a basis financially that it can compete with other callings in attractiveness.

There was a day, not so far past, when many girls became teachers simply because that was practically the only occupation open to a well-educated girl. In those times teachers were paid well and salaries correspondingly low. The day is past forever. The college or high school graduate of today is offered a choice of many occupations.

Why should she choose teaching? Is it not particularly fascinating to most ambitious young people. It requires a long and expensive course of training to qualify as a teacher. It is not particularly stimulating. It is a way of doing it right.

Added to all this, the financial returns are so pitifully meagre that they offer no inducement to ambitious students. In every community there are elderly people living in dire poverty, often in charitable institutions, who represent the best of their lives teaching in our schools. Every one of them is a beacon to warn young people away from the teaching profession.

What is the result? A shortage of 2,000 teachers today, and a greater shortage in the near future, unless the public wakes up and faces the condition squarely.

The minister of education has considered the matter intelligently, and suggests that the obvious and only remedy be applied.

It will be a bright day for the future of Ontario when the people decide to follow his lead.

ST. THOMAS. BERTHA ADKINS.

## WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT CANADA?

### ANSWERS TO YESTERDAY'S QUESTIONS.

1—Montreal was a capital city and seat of government from the time of the union of Upper and Lower Canada, and the burning of the parliament buildings there.

2—There are two Avon rivers in Canada, one in Nova Scotia, emptying into the Basin of Minas, and one in Ontario, near Stratford.

3—The government of Yukon is administered by a commissioner, who is appointed by the governor-general, and a council, appointed partly by the crown and part elected by the people of the district.

4—The most valuable nickel mines in the world are at Sudbury, Ont.

5—Canada's 1920 wheat crop ranks second only to its largest crop, in 1915.

6—Mount Hardisty is a peak in the Rockies on the Upper Athabasca branch of the Canadian National Railways.

7—Louis Papineau was a French-Canadian patriot, who tried to establish a French Canadian republic in Quebec during the early part of the nineteenth century.

8—The Montmorency Falls are on the river of that name at its outlet into the St. Lawrence River, seven miles below Quebec.

9—The "Jesuit Relations" are annual reports on New France written by Jesuit priests during the seventeenth century.

10—The fight at Montgomery's tavern was a clash between the rebel and loyalist party in the rebellion of 1775. Montgomery's Tavern was on Yonge street, a few miles out of Toronto. The rebels were scattered.

### TODAY'S QUESTIONS.

1—Where is the B. of Fundy?

2—Where is Nanaimo?

3—Which province produces the most plums?

4—Where is Thorne Mount?

5—What is the estimated cost of the new Welland Canal, now under construction?

6—What fur company was represented by Alexander Mackenzie, the great explorer?

7—Who was Sir James Douglas?

8—Why "Massacre" Island?

9—Who were the two leaders of the Family Compact in Upper Canada?

10—What were the 94 resolutions of Lower Canada?

## Poetry and Jest

### SHOP WINDOWS.

(Margaret Ashmun, in New York Sun.)

Is high of price and not for me?

To make me happy as I pass

To gaze a while beyond the glass

And note the costly and the rare

Which cunning hands have gathered there.

I pause and pore, and weigh the worth

Of things I cannot buy for cash.

And think the beauty of all earth

Has yielded something precious, bright.

That I may look with sheer delight

At things I cannot buy for cash.

So I am glad that there are pearls

To shine upon the throats of girls;

And emeralds and amethysts

To circle matrons' necks and wrists;

And lace for the old, and muffs

To circle waists of fragile stuffs;

And gowns of regal sweep and line;

And matter if they are not mine?

So, other woman still may buy.

More, older and more rich than I.

My job, I done now with dreaming, blent

With mine. So I am content.

For who can tell? These things may be

Some time "plain" in the reach of me!

MISERY LOVES COMPANY.

Joe (who has just missed his train,

To a friend who arrived, a minute

late)—"Confound it, Fred! Just got

there in time to see it! I'm going

the station." "Lucky beggar! I didn't get

a glimpse of it at all!"

SIX GREEN SINGERS

(By Eleanor Farjeon.)

The front of the moon fell over my door

And six green singers stood at my door.

"What do ye here that music make?"

"Let us come in for Christ's sweet

sake."

"Long have ye journeyed in coming

to us, and long have ye journeyed in coming

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## INGOT METALS LEAD PIPE

THE CANADA METAL CO., LIMITED  
TORONTO

## BABBITT, SOLDER SHEET LEAD

ext Jan. 5.

And make a complicated din

Upon a Chinese mandolin.

The moonlight on the Hoang-ho

Gave me enjoyment to Li-Po.

And many quatrains he wrote

Expressive of his deep delight.

Ye bards, these morals briefly note:

Eschew the cup and trim the boat;

And treat romance with circumspection;

And, oh, steer clear of all reflection.

THE MISTLETOE BOUGH.

(There are several poems entitled

"The Mistletoe Bough." The one we

print is by Thomas Haynes Bayly.)