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LONDON, THURSDAY, APRIL 8

A PETITION LONDON SHOULD FAVOR.

The Ottawa board of control, following the example of the Toronto city council, has endorsed a petition before the Legislature to enable municipal councils to assess improvements at a lower rate than land values.

The theory that land should be the sole basis of municipal taxation finds a wide and growing acceptance, but to effect this change at one step would create some confusion, and possibly some injustice. Ratepayers would have time to adjust themselves to the system if the municipal councils had power to levy a rate which discriminated between land and buildings. The community could then shift as much or as little of the burden of the land as it desired.

The policy of assessing the land at a higher rate than the buildings in proportion to real value has been followed in this city in recent years, but not sufficiently far to encourage improvements or discourage the holding of idle land. It would be a good stroke of business if the taxation on vacant lots were stiffened at once so as to compel their sale at a reasonable figure, and thereby stimulate improvements. Many of these are being held in the central portions of the city at outrageously high figures, as compared with the assessment, the owners profiting by the increase of value created by more enterprising citizens who are building in the neighborhood. There are also rookeries which depreciate the value of surrounding property, and which would be thrown on the market for building purposes if the land were taxed as it ought to be. The Ontario system of taxation, which imposes a fine on improvements, has been discarded by the majority of municipalities in the newer provinces of Canada, where local option in the matter prevails. The municipalities of Ontario could also safely be trusted with such powers as are asked for in the petition before the Legislature.

HOW TO UTILIZE ONTARIO'S WASTE LANDS.

The forest problem in Southern Ontario is exhaustively dealt with by Mr. E. J. Zavitz, professor of forestry, in a report to the provincial department of agriculture, recently issued.

At one time it appeared as though there were inexhaustible supplies of white pine in Ontario, and the manufacturers were able to obtain the greater part of their hardwood supply at home. Last year Canadians imported close on \$10,000,000 worth of forest products, but the United States will very soon cease to be a wood exporting country, so that the future supply of hardwood for Ontario is a serious problem.

Prof. Zavitz points out that there are in Ontario two classes of lands which should be permanently managed for forest crops. First, there are the small isolated patches of non-agricultural soils to be found throughout otherwise good lands. These are sand, gravel or rock formations, steep hillsides, etc., and the reclamation of these denuded and unimproved soils must depend upon local initiative, although Government assistance of an educational nature is advisable. Second, there are the large contiguous areas of non-agricultural soils which exist in many parts of the province. This older portion of the province is divided into two general classes of soil. The Laurentian formation, which constitutes one of the important watersheds of Ontario, contains large tracts unfit for agriculture, much of this area consisting of rocky outcroppings, with a soil lacking in lime and consequently not naturally adapted to agriculture. This region once contained magnificent white and red pine, with yellow birch, sugar maple and a number of other hardwoods. Much of the valuable white and red pine has been taken out of this area and a large portion of this country has been badly burned. There are also throughout the older parts of the province large bodies of sand lands, which are not suited for agriculture, and which can be made permanently productive only by being managed for timber crops. Prof. Zavitz maintains that the only solution of the waste land problem is a policy which has as its aim the gradual segregation of these lands, to be permanently managed as provincial forests.

In the county of Norfolk are two definite areas of sand lands unfit for agriculture, estimated at 100,000 acres; Lambton contains a belt of sand formation several miles in length, and from half a mile to two miles wide. Since has three sand areas, amount-

ing to 50,000 acres, while considerable areas are to be found in Northumberland, Durham, and smaller ones in Bruce and Prince Edward.

Prof. Zavitz devotes considerable space to the financial possibility of reforesting at a profit, shows what other countries have done, and believes that if these areas in Southern Ontario were again placed under forest it would assist to insure this older part of the Province against a wood famine for its local industries. Forest growth, he says, must be gradually relegated to non-agricultural soils. Not only would the putting of these lands under forest management pay as a financial investment, and assist in insuring a wood supply, but it would be the means of protecting the head waters of streams, and would provide breeding-ground for wild game.

A PRAISEWORTHY BOYCOTT.

A noble example is offered by the three great British firms of Cadbury, Rowntree, and Fry, in deciding to purchase no more cocoa from the Portuguese Islands of San Thome and Principe off the west coast of Africa, until the planters change their labor system, which is now practically slavery.

British philanthropists who visited the islands have from time to time entered indignant protests against the labor conditions, and the Portuguese Government has repeatedly promised reforms. The boycott by the British firms has followed a report by Mr. Wm. Cadbury, who recently returned from a five months' investigation, and declared that "no adequate steps have yet been taken to remedy the evils proved to exist." Nearly 5,000 men and women are imported yearly by the planters from the neighboring mainland, chiefly Angola. Some of these unfortunate creatures are captured in raids upon villages, but most of them are bought cheap from chiefs or relations. The slave-dealers who purchase them sell them to the planters for prices ranging from £30 to £40.

Those who are secured far in the interior are marched to the coast, and as the journey takes weeks and months many of them die, and the sick who cannot keep up with the march are slaughtered for fear delay should exhaust the provisions. Although certain regulations are laid down about their labor, wages and health, and it is to the interest of the planters to keep them in good condition, many of them who reach the cocoa islands die of misery and home-sickness the first year. Of 4,000 imported five years ago, only 793 were living this year. Mr. Rust, who accompanied Mr. Cadbury to the islands, also visited them eighteen months before and reported that in addition to the hideous system of slavery, the plantations grew sugarcane and sweet potato entirely for the manufacture of spirits, which served as payment for the natives, and worked their utter destruction in health and character. Mr. H. W. Nevilson, writing to the London Nation on March 20, says that when he found on the islands four years ago he found that the slaves and their children were included as part of the plantations when these were sold. He adds:

"If the name of England should disappear from the roll of living nations, the peoples of the future will still remember our race for a few great qualities, a few great legends of thought, and a few splendid purposes accomplished. Among those splendid purposes they will remember that at the beginning of the nineteenth century the English redeemed their slaves at a great price and declared that within the limits of their empire no man or woman should be claimed as a slave, or sold into slavery. The present action of the British cocoa firms shows us once more that our country has not lost that spirit of righteousness and freedom. It is still ready to maintain the temple of justice, and that slavery is an abomination, even though the personal sacrifice in maintaining it may be large, as it was to our fathers."

The cocoa plantations of San Thome and Principe are very lucrative, and yield about one-fifth of the whole cocoa supply of the world. Of the total output, Great Britain takes between one-quarter and one-third, so that the boycott declared by the three principal British customers of the islands will be a blow to the planters as heavy as it is deserved. It will probably stir up the Portuguese Government to a sense of its duty.

Up to the time of going to press the German fleet had not been sighted off the shores of Britain.

Four Conservative members of the Legislature bolted their party last night, and voted against the three-fifths clause. It is so seldom that a spark of independence is shown in any Canadian Parliament that it deserves to be noted.

The London Telegraph says that Canada is a nation that has been built up largely by a unique method of advertising. Yes; the money spent in printers' ink by the immigration department of Canada was the best investment any country ever made. And Canada had the goods to back it up.

Ideas of greatness greatly differ. Sir Andrew Fraser, late governor of Bengal, and one of Britain's most distinguished pro-consuls, was in Toronto for a week, and his presence was unnoticed by the civic authorities. But a civic reception was tendered Harry Lauder, a music hall artist, a short time before the mayor and aldermen assembled to do him honor.

The honor of parliament and public life is not often violated so brazenly as it has been during the past week by the chief Opposition whip in the House of Commons, George Taylor. The other night he pretended to quote from the auditor-general's report an account for "ladies' blouses and

cloaks" charged to the expenses of the Government steamer Montcalm, and on the strength of the item he raked the department of marine force and aft. The minister of marine remonstrated with his officials, and found that the blouses and cloaks had been purchased for sailors, and that the word ladies was nowhere used by the auditor-general. Mr. Taylor was cornered, and instead of apologizing like a man defended his piece of sharp practice, and threatened to create a row if the minister did not "call off his bull dogs," meaning the Government supporters who reproached him for the deception. The office of party whip is an honorable one, and should be held by an honorable man.

THE WISEST WAY.

[Ottawa Free Press.]
The English press, even of the Tory school, is gradually appreciating the fact that the Laurier policy of self-defense is better both for Canada and the empire than any mere contribution would have been, and time will still further justify the course of the Canadian Parliament.

PULPIT ABSENT-MINDEDNESS.

[London Chronicle.]
Of curious prayers a writer says: "I have heard a layman utter this petition during his prayer, 'O Lord, be thou with us in our uprisings and our downfalls'—a variant of the text in the Psalms, 'Thou knowest my downfalls and mine uprisings.' A minister occasionally introduced a Latin sentence into his prayer and forth proceeded to translate it. An older minister in his early days experienced considerable difficulty with the long prayer before the sermon. In Nonconformist churches this usually occupies a quarter of an hour before the service begins. On one occasion, while in this dilemma, he started his hearers with the words, 'And now, O Lord, I will relate unto thee a little anecdote.'"

IF IT COULD BE.

[Canadian Home Journal.]
If it could be made a part of the Monroe Doctrine that any man on this continent who talked of war should be put in a strait jacket, and the United States to the world a lesson on the supreme folly of this last legacy of our naked ancestors.

HIGH-PRESSURE FIRE SERVICE.

[Washington Star.]
The other day a fire occurred on the top floor of a ten-story building in New York city, and for a minute it seemed as if the fire department would give up the fight with ordinary means. A water tower was then ordered in front of the building, and the high-pressure service was notified to put on a pressure of 175 pounds. The stream easily reached the tenth story and quickly drowned the flames. The damage, estimated at \$5,000, was confined to the top story.

THE FIRE UNDERWRITERS' COM-BINE.

[Ottawa Free Press.]
The Government will, we are afraid, lay itself open to public condemnation if it insists upon the retention of the section in clause 71 of the Grand old act which proposes to penalize those Canadians who, in their desire for protection from fire, are compelled to place their risks with foreign companies whose headquarters are not in Canada, or who do not happen to possess a Canadian license. The case is one which could be fought by the law of supply and demand. No business man, who has occasion to seek insurance against fire, can fail to admit that he is better off with the demands of the Canadian fire underwriters' combine or must seek protection elsewhere. He must have fire insurance. When he is confronted with the alternative of paying what he may regard as excessive rates for that protection in Canada, or of seeking it in a foreign country, the simplest elements of prudence and common sense will compel him to adopt the latter course.

FORTY YEARS AGO.

[Belleville Intelligencer.]
Some idea of how conditions have changed in Belleville may be gained by this little story: "Forty years ago," said a lady recently, "girls in this city used to be out on the streets from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., for 25 cents a day." They wouldn't do it now.

MARY'S ANIMAL SHOW.

Mary had a little lamb—
"Twas Persian on her coat;
She also had a mink or two
About her dainty throat;
A kind of cat, she had, too,
And ermine made the hat;
That perched at faunt angle,
On to the world in the wind,
Her tiny boots were sable-topped,
Her gloves were muskrat, too,
Her muff had heads and tails of hair,
The critters in the world,
And when she walked abroad, I ween,
She feared no wintry wind;
At keeping warm, 'twas plain to see,
She had all nature's cunning."

WHAT WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN SAYS.

[The Commoner.]
The man who stands up to demand protection for dollars can always get a hearing; the man who asks for protection for human beings has to hunt for an audience.

CLOTHES AND THE MAN.

[Chicago Record-Herald.]
Don't misjudge the man who wears a frayed overcoat. He may be merely trying to make it last six weeks longer.

SIGNS.

[Boston Herald.]
The sun is gittin' higher
Ev'ry day;
We don't have to poke the fire
Ev'ry day;
The snow is slowly goin'
The grass will soon be growin'.
Our neighbor's rooster's crowin'
Ev'ry day.

ENGLAND'S QUEER TREPIDATION.

[Cincinnati Inquirer.]
When it comes to a danger of German invasion of England, it is not worth considering. It is true that Great Britain has in her history been overrun and conquered by the Romans, the Norsemen and the Normans, but under very different circumstances from any that now exist. Such an attempt on the part of Germany could only be made after having

waged a successful war on the sea, disabling the British navy, and then it would be impossible to land a force large enough to be a peril before it would be confronted by many times its number and driven into the sea. Englishmen can be trusted to defend their homes if need be, but it is almost impossible to imagine conditions under which any invasion of Great Britain would be attempted. There is everywhere a profound and growing desire among nations for deep peace, and a realization that the best use to put another country to is not to fight it, but to trade with it.

A SONNET OF SPRING MICROBES.

[Punch.]
What art thou, Spring, that poets oft have sung
Thy praises, and the beauties thou dost wear,
In sonnet, madrigal and lyric fair?
Not so do I, but rather tends my tongue
To speak of those small microbes, freshly sprung
From winter sleep, that fill the waking air,
And mumps and measles through the country bear,
Thy sign to mortals that the year is young.

Women's New Hand Bags

To attract attention to the enlarged showing of new Hand Bags we quote the following extraordinary values:

Black Seal Grain Hand Bags, 10-inch size, special value, at\$0.60
Strap Hand Purses of fancy embossed leather. Colors, grey, brown, tan, green and black. Special at\$0.60
10-inch Black Striped Grain Bags, special\$0.75
12-inch Black Walrus Bags, special value\$1.00
Walrus Bags, in tan, black, green and grey; double straps and overlapping flap, special at\$1.25
One-piece Hand Bags, large size, in black and colors, special value\$1.50
Alligator Bags, priced from\$1.50 to \$14.00
Morocco and Real Seal Hand Bags, gusset bottom, outside pockets. Prices, from\$2.00 to \$5.00

"The Virginian."

The Kirke La Shelle Company's production of "The Virginian," as dramatized from Owen Wister's immensely popular novel of the same name, will have two presentations at the Grand tomorrow, with W. S. Hart in the title role, assisted by a notable array of dramatic talent. This is well known as an interesting romance of the western plains, one which takes hold of the sensibilities, charms the eye, thrills the emotions and presents an absolutely truthful picture of its territory. The company will also include Frank Campbell in his characterization of the villainous cattle thief, Trampas.

"The Wizard of Oz."

"The Wizard of Oz," merriest of musical extravaganzas, now in its seventh season, and still the most popular in its class, comes to the Grand on Saturday, matinee and night. It is difficult to understand why "The Wizard" retains its hold on theatregoers. It possesses many of the essential features that go towards making a stage production a success. The light and frivolous kind, which a vast majority prefer. Its comedy is unique, its music distinct, and its scenes beautiful. George Stone plays the Scarecrow, and William Baker the Man of Tin, both clever comedians, dancers and singers.

Frederick Hastings' Recital.

At a recent private recital in Boston, Mr. Frederick Hastings, baritone, presented the entire programme, which consisted of classic and modern German songs, Italian and English groups. The programme was arranged to give some of the prominent musical people of Boston an opportunity to hear Mr. Hastings after he had achieved such success in his own country. Mr. Hastings will be here with the Dresden Philharmonic Orchestra on April 16 for matinee.

Snake Bites Dancer.

New York, April 8.—No one knows whether it was professional jealousy, or a desire to vary the monotony of a daily diet of guinea pigs and sparrows, that prompted Sarah, one of the principal snakes supporting Princess Rajah's Oriental entertainment at the Victoria Theatre, to attack the athletic little dancer.

For eleven weeks Princess Rajah has been giving the most brilliant and successful of snake shows at the Victoria. She has been displaying a set of dances that she alleges are an exact duplicate of the kind Cleopatra used to fascinate Mark Anthony.

Sarah recently closed with a "Ten Nights in a Barroom" troupe, where she was required to wiggle for Joe Morgan's edification, when Joe was in his cups. They ran out of whiskey, and the show closed. Sarah appeared shortly after and said that the princess gave her a spanking. Princess Rajah says it is the hardest thing in the world to make a snake spring at the dancer and sink its fangs in the left side of her face. Until the blood came from the neck she should not touch the snake, and she knew something was wrong.

Princess Rajah finished her performance, but in her dressing-room became hysterical.

George Little, financial manager for Jack Johnson, the pugilist, who is appearing there this week, took in the situation and ordered the bewildered players to get a doctor. Then he pressed his lips against Princess Rajah's lacquered cheek and drew the blood from the wounds. Dr. Bernard F. Mulligan, No. 240 West Fourth street, arrived shortly after and said that Little's prompt action had saved Rajah's life. He cauterized the wounds which were about two inches apart.

Manager Hastings, who is the dancer to eliminate the snake from her performance, but she refused and went through the act, holding the snake in a firm grip.

More Moving Pictures.

Hamilton, April 8.—A pleasant change of policy will be inaugurated at the Savoy Theatre as soon as the Selman Stock Company closes its engagement on Saturday, April 17. Manager Appleton announced this morning that the Savoy would attract Monday, the 19th, with moving pictures, giving a continuous performance from 2:30 in the afternoon until 5:30, and from 7:40 until 10:30 at night. He had a conference yesterday with General Manager Bennett at London. The London house for several weeks has been devoted to moving picture entertainment, and has been drawing capacity business.

Bad at Hamilton.

Hamilton, April 7.—A gale of wind that at times attained a velocity of 70 miles an hour did a great deal of damage and played all sorts of strange pranks in Hamilton and vicinity today.

Chapman's

Open Tonight: Open Tonight for Easter Shoppers.
Store Closed Tomorrow—Good Friday.

Chic Lingerie WAISTS

Every preparation for Easter has been made—the best ideas of the season in values of remarkable merit are featured in this showing. Prices\$1.00 to \$4.00

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Black Seal Grain Hand Bags, 10-inch size, special value, at\$0.60
Strap Hand Purses of fancy embossed leather. Colors, grey, brown, tan, green and black. Special at\$0.60
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Morocco and Real Seal Hand Bags, gusset bottom, outside pockets. Prices, from\$2.00 to \$5.00

Swell Long Coats

Received yesterday in an importation from Germany—Ladies' New Long Coats of light-weight spring materials, Repp, Poplin, Cord and Linen. These are exclusive models and there are no two alike. Long Coats are considered particularly good style this season. Prices \$7.50 to \$20.00

Imported Short Coats

In the same shipment are Ladies' Imported Short Spring Coats, Fawn and Black, in fitting and semi-fitting styles. Smartly tailored and finished. Priced from \$7.50 to \$15

Dutch Collars

Dainty design in new Dutch Collars. There are pretty, soft ones, formed of batiste and lace, and laundered ones of linen, embroidered and scalloped edges. These new collars are sure to appeal to all women in quest of distinctive effects.

Silk Gauze Scarfs

Beautiful Silk Gauze Scarfs for the head or throat. Colors, sky, pink, mauve and white. Price\$1.50

FREE TRIP TO LONDON

Easter visitors can have their round-trip fare refunded on all purchases, as below:

Up to 20 miles on purchases of \$10.00
Up to 25 miles on purchases of \$15.00
Up to 40 miles on purchases of \$25.00
Up to 60 miles on purchases of \$35.00

Make application for the refund at our office.

Kid Gloves

A very superior, soft, elastic quality of real kid; Pewney's make; with 2-dome fasteners. They are perfection in fit and finish. Colors are grey, tan, brown, green, navy, white and black. Fitted and guaranteed at, per pair\$1.00

For Easter

Several people were injured by boards blown off high buildings. Mrs. William Acres, an aged woman, was lifted off her feet on King street and hurled against a wagon. Her head was badly cut and her body bruised. On Main street the wind swooped a large board off a warehouse and carried it across the street, where it struck and almost killed a pedestrian, who was removed to the hospital.

Another man was blown off a building, but escaped serious injury. Women were knocked off their feet on James street, and a great deal of damage done along the bay front, where the waves ran mountain high. The first intimation of a gale came from Chicago and the western points, where the service was practically demoralized. For a time Hamilton was entirely cut off from communication, although the telegraph companies got some of their lines opened up, this afternoon.

The street car service and machinery in manufacturing places was tied up for considerable time.

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