

The Advertiser

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JOHN CAMERON, President and Manager.

ADVERTISING RATES
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LONDON, - CANADA.God's in His heaven,
All's right with the world.
—[BROWNIE.]

London, Saturday, April 23.

ANOTHER BIG BLOCK.

It was pointed out at the last session of the Dominion Parliament, and was not contradicted, that the number of Ministers had been so multiplied that one in every seven members on the Government side was a holder of an office bringing from \$8,000 to \$9,000 a year. And when a crisis was told that Controller Clarke Wallace would in future take care of the custom houses and their patronage, and asked what Mr. Bowell, appointed to the office of Minister of Trade and Commerce would do now that he was stripped of these functions, he was gravely told that the duties of the Minister of Trade and Commerce had not been discovered, but that he would pick up something to do as time passed! Thus are expensive offices multiplied at Ottawa, and thus are minor offices multiplied also, for each Minister, be his duties many or few, must have a retinue of underlings. But this is not the worst feature. The multiplication of office-holders necessitates an increase in structures devoted to their uses.

There are four great blocks of Government buildings at Ottawa. Within the last year or two the Langevin block was completed and jobbery unparalleled in the history of the country, resulting in the taxpayers paying vastly more for the building than it is worth. When the appropriations were asked from Parliament it was represented that with the completion of this new departmental structure the wants of the country would be met for many years to come. But no sooner is the Ministry enlarged than a cry goes forth that the Ministers and their assistants are cramped for room, and that a new block must be put up as soon as possible. It is announced that Sir Adolphe Caron has the matter in hand. That fact will not reassure either Parliament or the country. If Caron is on a new Government building, we have a repetition of the experience connected with the construction of the Langevin block, or the Postmaster-General's past record goes for nothing. It should take a great deal more than his dictum, however, to move Parliament to put more money into expensive blocks of buildings at Ottawa. The present structures are big enough if any change is necessary, let the host of office-holders be sent down, beginning with the superfluous members of the Government, for whose benefit portfolios have been created out of all proportion to the number of inhabitants or the business requirements of the Dominion.

Seeing that the London Council is applying for power to take control of its own electric light system, an inquiry directed to 29 small cities from Maine to Texas, having their electric street lamps provided and maintained by private corporations, is interesting. It shows that the average annual cost per lamp to the cities is \$106.01. A similar inquiry directed to 23 small cities that own and run their own electric street lamps shows that the average annual cost per lamp to those cities is \$63.04. In the latter case several of the cities obtain considerable income from lamps supplied to private persons.

COUNTY COUNCILS TOO LARGE
A bill has been introduced into the Legislature by Mr. Rorke calling for the amendment of the Municipal Act so as to provide for the reduction of county councils by one-third. The new act fixes the representation at one for every 750; at present it is one for every 500 in the population. The result is that the county councils in such counties as Middlesex, Bruce, Grey and Simcoe are large and unwieldy. Middlesex council, for example, is about half the size of the Legislature. The Legislature might do worse than "tinker" with the Municipal Act in the direction proposed by the member for Center Grey.

The Saturday Globe is a capital paper, and no mistake. The Globe gets out an interesting paper, however, every day in the week, and we do not know that it ever was more influential than it is to-day. Of course, the tone and style are to-day different from that of days of old. The sledge-hammer-pulverization style of 30 or 40 years ago was more exciting for the moment, but on the whole you do not make converts by the sledge-hammer-pulverization method. "Not too much zeal, my lord," has application in spheres other than diplomacy.

Police and detectives report that the fuller and more baggy become the sleeves of the fair sex the more that portion of the unfair sex known as feminine shoplifters become pleased with the fashion; because a pocket slit at the shoulder converts the sleeve into a bag for the concealment of small thefts.

HOW THE MONEY GOES.

In the Dominion public accounts for 1893, under the head "Ottawa Buildings, Repairs and Furniture," \$118,916.83 is shown to have been expended in 1892. Here are a few of the items:

Cigar box	\$ 5.00
Cigarette box	2.00
Tobacco jar	11.00
Not crackers and nut pickers	37.00
Liquor stand and tables for liquor	27.00
Silk plush draperies	25.00
Draperies for mirrors	35.25
Chairs, cushions, etc.	333.00
Cabinets	339.00
Delivery ice	18.00
Framing and gilding picture, mirror in gold	127.50
Engravings for speaker's chamber	194.75
Photograph and negative	67.20
Crossley velvet, longues, book cases, currie, black walnut cupboard, screens, ice grip, hair, etc., also cost many hundreds of dollars.	

Then to furnish Government House, Regina, a building upon which the Government has squandered about \$60,000, over \$6,100 is called for. Here are a few of the items:

Building wine cellar	\$79.67
Upholstering billiard room	45.00
Silver duplex peppers in case	25.00
Electro-plate dishes, etc.	104.50
Carpets, etc.	45.00

And for Regina, Northwest council chamber, furniture, etc., \$10,406.07. Some of the items:

Desks	\$730.20
Tables	122.25
Bookcases	136.00
Washstands, etc.	157.56
Carpets, curtains, poles, etc.	659.74
Speakers chair	73.00
Chairs	621.50
Oak desks	104.50
Turkish lounge	45.00
Etc., etc., etc.	

Who says that the taxes are misapplied? asks Finance Minister Foster.



ROBERT REID.

Collector of Customs, London, and President of St. Andrew's Society.

The subject of this sketch, whose picture is given above, is one of the best known residents of the city of London. He was born in the town of Paisley, Scotland—the birthplace of the poet Tannahill, of Prof. Wilson, author of Noctes Ambrosiana, Prof. Wilson, the famous ornithologist, and in later busy manufacturing days of the Contes, Clarks, and Polsons, and of David Wylie, the veteran Canadian editor—on 1st January, 1822. Educated at his native place, Mr. Reid was early moved to seek his fortunes on the American continent, and in the year 1842, when but 20 years of age, he was found in the United States. Three years later, he moved to Toronto, and in 1848, he resolved to engage in business in London, then a rising incorporated village. For 30 years he conducted a book-selling and bookbinding establishment, only giving it up when called on in 1878, to assume the responsible position of collector of customs at this port. The work of this office he has continued to perform ever since with satisfaction to the administrators of public affairs, and certainly without friction with the business public.

Always taking a warm interest in educational affairs, Mr. Reid was for eighteen years returned by his fellow-citizens as member of the boards of common and high school trustees. He believes that the educational process goes on to the end of life, and does not cease when the pupil leaves school, and this has caused him to entertain the warmest interest in every scheme to increase the facilities for the self-education of the masses. As early as 1851 he was president of the Mechanics' Institute, and on behalf of that organization, which has been so useful in days gone by, he presented an address of welcome to Lord Elgin on his memorable visit to this city in the year named. When the Free Library Act was introduced by the citizens in 1884 Mr. Reid was elected a member of the board by the school trustees. For the latter portion of the three-year term he was appointed chairman, and as long as there was any prospect of carrying out the wishes of the electors he remained ready to do so. It was therefore natural that when the citizens, by a very large majority, again adopted the Free Libraries Act in January last the school trustees should make choice of Mr. Reid as one of their representatives on the library board. Despite the difficulties thrown in the way, Mr. Reid is one of those who does not despair of the wish of the electors finally prevailing.

In 1852 Mr. Reid was given a position as captain of the militia, in which he served for some time, and subsequently he was nominated as justice of the peace. He was one of the originators of the London Board of Trade, and vice-president of the organization for several years. In all legitimate efforts to advance the interests of the adopted land and of his charming western home, Mr. Reid has always taken a warm interest. Though he has been for many years removed from the political arena, he feels proud of having for nearly 40 years battled by the side of the late Hon. Geo. Brown for those constitutional rights which are now triumphant. No man more loyal to the principles of British methods of government than George Brown ever stood on Canadian soil, and Mr. Reid gives evidence that he has the same strong confidence. He has trained up his large family of stalwart sons to have faith in Canada, the land of their birth. Each one of them has in succession, during the last

twenty years, been active members of the volunteer force, and have never flinched in the hour of danger. They are still all around him, ready to defend their native land, no matter who may be the aggressor.

For 45 years, Mr. Reid has been an honored member of the First Presbyterian Church. His first pastor was Rev. Dr. Proudfoot, his second a son of that father of Presbyterianism in the West, who was recently succeeded by Rev. W. J. Clark. Mr. Reid has been chairman of the board of management for many years.

In 1851, Mr. Reid married Miss Ann Jane McElroy, a distinguished graduate of Toronto Normal School. Their family have numbered nine—eight sons and one daughter. Seven sons are living.

In recent years, Mr. Reid's surplus energies have been devoted to promoting the welfare of St. Andrew's Society, a social and benevolent organization of which he is president, and in which he has taken much interest. Though a thoroughgoing Canadian, he has always entertained the warmest regards for the famous nation that gave him birth, and has striven to keep alive those characteristics of his race that are worthy of perpetuation in this democratic new land. Naturally possessing a warm and generous nature, Mr. Reid has not only made many strong friends in his own walk of life, and kept them, too, but he has won the respect and esteem of hundreds of men and women who, less fortunate than he, have profited in an hour of need by his friendly counsel and financial aid. All honor to such a citizen!

THE CLIMAX

Capped by the Chamber of Commerce Banquet.

New York, N. Y., April 23.—The Chamber of Commerce banquet to-night was an appropriate capstone on the festivities incidental to the naval review. Among invited guests present were the British, French, Russian, Brazilian and Argentine admirals, the three American admirals, the commanders of the German and Dutch vessels and the captains and flag lieutenants of all the vessels in the fleet. These were essentially the guests of honor. Other guests of distinction were the Secretary of the Navy (Mr. Herbert), the governor of New York and Illinois, the mayor of New York and members of the foreign legations.

The British and French ambassadors and the Italian minister sent regrets, as did also the Earl of Aberdeen, who had been expected to be present. The banquet was held in the main dining-room of the Hotel Waldorf. Covers were laid for about 400. The scene was a brilliant one, and the oratory was short, witty and pointed.

New York, April 23.—The admirals and fleet officers of the American and foreign ships in the harbor, received an invitation yesterday to visit the World's Fair. A special train was placed at their disposal by the New York Central Railway, and they were asked to name an hour when they could conveniently start. It is expected the train will start this afternoon.

TERSELY TOLD.

The Second National Bank of Columbia, Tenn., has suspended.

Ottawa newspapers report that a general exodus of German colonists from Russia to America has begun.

At Bonham, Tex., Jim Burke and Sam Massey (colored), were hanged on Friday in the presence of 10,000 people.

A Durango (Col.) dispatch says the Navajo outbreak is assuming alarming proportions and a massacre is probable. Three deaths from typhus fever and two cases of the disease were reported to the New York Health Board Friday morning.

The winter wheat crop in the southern provinces of Russia has been almost destroyed by the cold. Food prices are rising and a famine threatens.

The New York bank presidents have assured Secretary Carnegie of their willingness to come to the assistance of the Government whenever in his opinion more gold is needed by the treasury.

Henry Shaw, a bookkeeper for French & Wood, woolen importers, 99 Franklin street, New York, and Henry Keydon, of South Brooklyn, an instant bookkeeper, by forgery and embezzlement, have defrauded the firm out of \$20,000.

The drought has rendered all the rural districts of the German Empire unusually liable to fire, and many reports of village fires are received daily. Several forests have been partially destroyed. Thousands of peasants are homeless in Western Germany.

Benjamin Buchanan, 70 years old, who for 35 years had been an officer of the Supreme Court, on Thursday morning cut his throat with a razor on the roof of his residence, and then jumped into the street and was instantly killed. He was a sufferer from dyspepsia and dropsy.

A bill asking for the appointment of a receiver for Toledo, Ann Arbor and North Michigan Railway, was filed in the United States Court at Toledo on Friday. The court appointed Wellington R. Burd, of Saginaw, Mich., father-in-law of H. W. Ashley, general manager of the road.

The Supreme Court of Indiana has just affirmed the appointment of a receiver of the Iron Hall that was contested on the ground that the judge was a father of the attorney who obtained the order, and the attorney was the attorney's father-in-law. This is a new lease of life to the Iron Hall—it confidence can be restored.

Of Course Everybody Knows That new capital has been invested in the Empire Tea Company's business. We are meeting every one's notion by giving 65 pounds of granulated sugar for 25 cents upon profit-sharing system. Magnificent stock of new presents will be added from day to day until store, cellar and garret are filled to overflowing. Hoyt's German Cologne (genuine) or Murray & Lannan's Florida Water for 5 cents with one pound of any price tea, coffee, baking powder, cocoa, chocolate, pepper or mustard. EMPIRE TEA COMPANY, three doors from Kingmill's.

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Rev. J. G. Forsyth, in Madison, North Dakota.

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The new Blood and Skin Purifier and greatest of Humors Remedies. Internally, cleanses the blood of all impurities and poisonous elements, while CUTICURA, the great Skin Cure, and CUTICURA SOAP, an exquisite Skin Purifier and Beautifier, externally, clear the skin of every trace of disease.

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