

The London Advertiser

Founded 1852.
London Advertiser Company, Limited.
Publisher and Proprietor, London, Ont.
JOSEPH E. ATKINSON, President.
JOHN R. HONE, Vice-President.
J. B. MUIR, Managing Director.
CHARLES VINING, Managing Editor.
Subscriptions rates: Delivered, 15 cents weekly; 95 cents monthly. By mail: In Canada \$2.00 per year; in the United States, \$2.00 per year; foreign subscriptions, \$3.00 per year.
Special Representatives:
J. B. RATHBONE, Toronto, 110 Church street.
Montreal, Canada Cement Building.
C. H. EDDY COMPANY, New York, Park Lexington Building.
Chicago, Wrigley Building.
Boston, Old South Building.
The Advertiser is a Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulation.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1925.

A Vulnerable Explanation.

A heroic effort is made by the Mail and Empire to defend Mr. Meighen's attitude—or attitudes—in regard to Canada's participation in British wars. For this it deserves credit and not censure. Loyalty to a party friend is commendable. And if the article in the Mail and Empire is vulnerable, it is because the case is weak.

First it says that Mr. Meighen still stands by his declaration of 1922. "Ready, aye ready." Next, his new policy of consulting the people in an election is consistent with his declaration of 1922, because it is to be taken for granted that the people would vote for his policy of "Ready, aye ready."

Then why hold a general election at all? This brings us to the next contention of the Mail and Empire. That is that in view of the Locarno treaty the peace of Europe is secured, "consequently the contingency of war may nowadays almost be left out of account," and "consequently the possibility of Canada being called upon again to take up the sword is remote. His own remarks therefore would be intended as of academic rather than of live political interest."

We thus arrive at the position that Mr. Meighen is "ready, aye ready," to have Canada take part in a war which is not likely to happen; and that he is in favor of a general election to decide upon participation in this war which is not likely to be fought. One naturally asks why these declarations are to be made at all. The Mail and Empire says that a public man is to have some liberty of speculation and that the *obiter dicta* of a statesman are not always to be regarded as binding. But Mr. Meighen himself evidently did not regard his declarations as mere random speculations and musings, for he followed up his speech at Hamilton by a journey to Bagot, where his object was not to make an academic speech, but to win an election. He surely wanted the people of Bagot to believe that he meant something, and that he was not merely talking to himself about a dream.

The truth is that Mr. Meighen's perplexity or the perplexity of his defender are due to a man desire to disagree with Mr. Mackenzie Mr. King in the Chevak case in 1922 took a reasonable attitude that the parliament ought to be consulted about war. War was carried on without the consent of the people which must vote the supplies or refuse to vote them. Mr. Meighen, in trying to take different ground, takes two positions, both wrong.

They Cut It In Two.

When two women came to Solomon disputing the ownership of a child that very wise ruler suggested that it be cut in two. The same course was followed by London city council last night in dealing with the ultimatum of the street railway that operations would cease unless they had a five-cent fare and a promise of the elimination of the competing buses.

In the time of Solomon the sword did not fall, but in London it did. The section allotted to the 1925 council was a 60-day agreement that the five-cent fare would be in force during that period. To the 1926 council goes the question of taking the buses off the streets. As a result, the street cars operate until Monday, Dec. 21, on which day the new council is inaugurated.

The discussion, which lasted for four hours, was informative, if not final. It was brought out that the street railway's difference in revenue between a seven-and-nine fare and a five-cent charge was \$150,000 a year; that in November, the first full month of bus competition on lines where street cars operated, there had been a drop of \$4,500 in revenue as against the same month last year.

The 1925 council went as far as it had any authority to do in granting a 60-day extension of the five-cent fare. It could not decide on the question of taking buses off the street, for they are already licensed until the end of the year. The renewal or refusal of bus licenses for 1926 is a matter entirely within the province of the 1926 council, and it was quite proper that they should not commit themselves, even verbally, before they were inaugurated as a council, although they were all present at the meeting.

Will Russia Come In?

The Genoa conference failed to interest Russia in meeting the nations of the world, and so did The Hague conference, but it is being tried again from Geneva. There is nothing on the surface to indicate that there will be success attending an effort to bring Russia into touch with the League of Nations. Since 1917 Russia has lived her life apart, regarded with suspicion, much of which has been justified. She has carried on propaganda intended to create trouble for Britain in China and India; from Moscow direction has been given to a campaign to spread discontent and rebellion in the British army. Her record in finance has been bad mainly because she settled foreign obligations by cancelling them and defying collection. Russia owes Britain \$2,807,010,000 without any allowance for interest.

It was on March 12, 1917, that the world got its first intimation of what had taken place in Russia. Revolution forced Nicholas II to abdicate, and a provisional government under Prince George Lvov lasted until May 16; on August 6 the short-lived Kerensky regime came, and was snuffed out on November 17 when the military revolutionary committee seized power. Since then legislative fanaticism and despotic experiment have tried out on Russia all the tenets of communism. The complete story of what has taken place in that great empire of limitless possibilities will probably never be correctly recorded.

Yet the League of Nations wants Russia, and the reason is not hard to gather. The strength of the League becomes greater as more nations enter; it is stronger since France and Germany settled their differences. It would be stronger still were Russia in sympathetic understanding with the other nations, for the old Russian empire contains about one-seventh of the total land area of the world, and it has a population of 200,000,000. Although its naval power is not great it maintains a standing army on a peace footing of 562,967. It is rich in grain-growing lands, coal, iron ore, copper, zinc, lead, asbestos.

Any attempt to bring Russia into a reasonable and honorable understanding with the rest of the world is immeasurably better policy than leaving suspicion and prejudice to work out their own desperate ends.

Debt and Taxes.

One of the candidates for office in a city which has yet to hold its municipal election is advocating the "pay-as-you-go" plan of financing. In a report of an appeal made he is quoted as saying: "We must cease piling up the city debt and the only way to do it is to stop piling up debentures."

His idea is not new. It really means that the city must not issue in any one year more debentures than mature and are wiped off in that period. It would be an ideal system were it possible to have expiring debentures arranged in such nice order that they would fall out just in time to permit new ones being issued when it was imperative that they should be. But they do not work out that way. London increased its debenture debt on election day by \$375,000, which means \$30,000 a year for twenty years; in 1924 it increased it by \$466,000 for storm sewers and new school buildings; it will be increased by another \$267,000 for the east end college, and while this increase of \$1,128,000 was being made the amount of debentures maturing was almost negligible.

London's total debenture debt for 1921 and 1924 compare as follows:

1921	\$11,580,484.13
1924	12,974,695.15

It may not be admitted that increasing the debenture debt does not increase the tax rate, or the actual taxes paid year after year on a given property, but the taxes in London have not reflected the increase shown in the debentures in the years compared above. This does not hold good all the way through, or in the case of non-revenue producing expenditures.

The local improvement debentures in 1921 and 1924 were as follows:

1921	\$1,918,406.81
1924	2,227,355.43

The city's share of local improvement debentures, which includes all street intersections, is really an investment that brings back more revenue. To illustrate—a new street is opened, and those owning property ask for pavements. The work is done and becomes a charge against the property, although the total adds to the debenture debt. The city is obligated for street corners. Houses are built and occupied, and these become a source of new revenue in the way of taxation.

It is worth noting also that many increases to debenture debts are not made by the council, but by the people themselves or by spending bodies over which the council does not exercise control. The size of the debt is not the surest certain method is by comparing for a term of time to gauge the tendency of taxation. The one year's actual amount of money paid in taxes—excluding local improvements—on a given property.

Note and Comment.

Our idea of scarce is the number of times Jack Dempsey defends his title.

Hamilton Spectator says the feeble-minded should be put together in a farm colony. Another safe Conservative seat.

H. J. Childs announces that he has a new stock of 1926 auto markers. Get out, we haven't worn the last ones a year yet.

Better not put off until tomorrow what you're reckoning on doing today, because by tomorrow there may be a law against it.

Just when all the moves are toward peace some inventive Johnny comes along with a great improvement on armored tanks, like the third party in a divorce case.

One U.S. congressman complained that the president's speech was "shot through with too much optimism." That wouldn't hurt so much as a charge of buckshot.

Manitoba Free Press: "It is a first-class thing for Mr. Meighen that the president of the Bank of Montreal did not make his observations on the improving state of Canada's business some six weeks ago."

The Hamilton Spectator is certain if the youngster has seen four Santa Clauses down town in the afternoon, heard a dozen more speak from different broadcasting stations in the evening and still retains his faith, you may be sure that some day he will buy some old stock.

A farmer near Greenwich, N.J., shot an animal that was raiding his chicken-house. It is described as about the size of an Alfrede dog but its forequarters are higher than the rear. Its hind feet are webbed and it has fur like astrachan. The farmer had to shoot it at close range six times before scoring a hit, and this may account for his description.

A Good Reason

By ARK.

There's lots of preachers sayin' now as how the fathers, if they're right, should plan when done of workin' hours to stay around their homes at night.

It seems a proper thing to me and quite a helpful thing to do, so thus for once I guess as what the preachers said on that is true.

When I get home to stop a spell why little Angus comes to me, and wants to know about the folks who fish around the China sea, and what's the name of some strange land, the population of Japan, and how a person starts from here and takes a trip to San Juan.

And if a farmer had ten sheep, a billy goat, a brindle cow, and sold them for ten cents a pound to buy a binder and a plow, how much would he have left beside to paper up three dining-rooms if one goat ran away from him and ten cents bought a pound of prunes.

Then Rory he comes in a spell, he's farther on than Angus be, and wants to know by A plus X who put the bottom in the sea.

And then he's got another there on why A B it equals C, of course the like of things like that is all the same as Dutch to me, but I can't say how I don't know and put myself up on the shelf, and so I say it's better far him to work it out himself.

And when he's through with things like that I find as how he gets me tired, by askin' where King John had been six weeks before come Runnymede, and why Charles kept his parliament and why they called old Alfred Great, and how it was that Henry had such trouble pickin' out a mate.

Perhaps the preachers know such things, and tellin' them be their delight—but it's the reason lots of times why I don't stay to home at night.

The Once-Over

At the risk of having our poetic license cancelled, we celebrate the day's Chinese war news thusly:

General Li Ching Ling

Was governor of Chihli.

He dealt his foes

Such tingling blows

It knocked them all sky high.

Even Feng Yu-Hsiang at Yangtsu

After doing all he could do

Was chased right in

To Tientsin

And with him went his gang, too.

Do your Christmas walking early!

Today's wisest speculation consists in buying up a supply of street car tickets at seven and nine for a quarter in the hope that the company will continue to operate.

A Polish citizen drove his auto head-on into a street car. A little of the polish was knocked off both.

We've heard of street cars hitting poles, but this time the Pole hit the street car.

Add Christmas alibis: "I was going to buy you a present, my dear, but you see the street cars stopped running and I couldn't get down town."

A GENUINE WHITE ELEPHANT.

From Paris comes a story of an elephant that ate all the box office receipts of the circus to which it belonged.

Wife Still Continues to Hunt For Husband, says a headline. All of us married men are wondering what the poor beggar did, or forgot to do.

Future prosperity of the Maritimes is assured. They've discovered a new turf for golf courses, tough enough to resist the assaults of the most frantic beginners.

Isn't It the Truth?

Short and effective ceremony: "Flatter him; pet her; married."

Obscurity consists in being one of the other English princes.

"There is no more sacrifice at the altar." Huh! Ask benedict.

Slang serves. If it wasn't for slang, some people would have to make signs.

The correct measure of a family is the size of the people it likes to gossip about.

Prosperous times are those in which the people are too busy to notice them.

Alas! Another thing that got a vacation was the old savings account.

If the photograph shows a

The old-time colony grabbers were different. They made the job pay its own expenses.

In the old days, stock-raisers were mere cattle-men—not financial bulls.

He isn't insane if he has wit enough to engage a lawyer who will prove that he is.

Maybe the dear things get fat because kind Nature is trying to make up for the lack of clothes.

The objection to a paternal government is that it coddles too much and spans too much.

Think of a past buried as long as Tui's and to chance for the scandal magazines to get in on it.

At times investigations seem no more significant than a small boy's interest in another boy's ball.

Correct this sentence: "Christmas is near," said she, "and I have no idea what Dad is going to give me."

Editorial Opinion

BUSINESS BACKGROUND.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

HARVARD has gathered a gallery of 1,000 pictures of business, commerce and transportation before 1900 to hang on the walls of the new business school buildings which the \$5,000,000 given by George F. Baker is to put up. The idea is to impress the students with the fact that a great deal was going on in the business world before they consented to prepare to "accept a position." The sound conduct of business affairs demands a background and horizon no less surely than artistic pursuits and literary culture.

HELPING U. S. TAXPAYERS.

From the Brantford Expositor.

EVERY Canadian who burns Pennsylvania anthracite ought to remember that in doing so he is contributing toward the taxes of that state. Pennsylvania derives a tax from every ton of coal mined, and it is not to be wondered at that Governor Pinchot is anxious to settle the strike. Some day Canadians will insist on getting coal produced in the dominion.

Resents Liberties



LION-KEEPER BULL.—"No, I shouldn't do that, y'know, me man; 'e doesn't like 'avin' 'is 'ed patted, any more than 'e likes 'avin' 'is tile twisted by a stranger."

Ministers and Calling

By OBSERVER.

IT HAPPENED to be talking to a minister the other day, and from one cause or another the conversation turned to the number of people he called on and what he accomplished by it.

You know there is always a great deal said about a minister being a good "pastor." That is taken to mean that he spends a great deal of his time out visiting the people, whether they need it or not. I have always had some what of a suspicion that this calling business was quite a good deal overdone, and that is, I guess, how I happened to ask the minister himself what he thought of it.

This is about what he told me: "I try and keep a record of all the families in my church, and for that purpose use a card index system that has them put in the various districts where they live so that it is easy to get to them in order and without a waste of time."

"Now that's simple enough, but it all takes time. You asked me what percentage of this calling was effective and well worth while. I should say that 20 per cent would be a fairly high average. That means that half my effort is wasted, or as good as wasted, and that is exactly what I mean."

"In order to get around I have to make a good many calls during the afternoon. At that time of day I generally find the wife or mother home, and perhaps some of the smaller children. There are times when it is possible to call on those who are shut in from sickness or old age. That I find is a good investment of time, and it is certainly my business to make those calls and put everything into them that I can. But for the rest of the afternoon calls I don't think they are particularly effective. For the most part I reach the people who are coming to church anyway, and unless I am very much mistaken they should be just as anxious about the success of the church as I am. It becomes more or less of a social duty, and I don't think a minister has much time to devote to that."

"THE calls I do like to make are in the evening, at times when I can meet the family, including the father and the boys, and then have a chapter from the Bible and a word of prayer with the family. When I get into a home like that I feel that I am accomplishing something, and whether you credit it or not those calls are the most appreciated."

"I have members of my congregation who come to me and say: 'You don't need to make one of your calls on us just because we're on your membership list. If you have time, come in; if not, go some place else where people are not attending church.' I don't need to make one of your calls on us just because we're on your membership list. If you have time, come in; if not, go some place else where people are not attending church."

"I am simply going through the motions because I feel I should. I believe ministers in general feel that too much of their time is taken up in looking after those who are members of their church, and in this way he is handicapped in getting out and spending his time looking for those who have no church interest or no church connection."

Calls It a "Barren Victory"

An Editorial in The Hamilton Herald.

LONDON has been successful in its litigation with the local street railway company. It made application to the courts for an order restraining the company from charging fares any higher than those provided for in the agreement made thirty years ago. The agreement calls for seven tickets for a quarter and nine tickets for use in rush hours. Thus the city has secured a victory over the company.

But it is likely to prove a barren victory. The company has already declared that it cannot operate with these fares without serious loss; that it has been losing money for years; and that it cannot afford to lose any more. Its statement finds support in the experience of the Ontario railway board, which operated the London street railway for a while and couldn't make it pay its way with the old fares. Now the company announces that it is going to stop operating next Thursday, and the civic authorities are face to face with the problem of making adequate provision for local transportation. The results are not likely to prove satisfactory.

It is not always expedient to insist upon the fulfilment of every contract to the letter, without regard to changed conditions.

To the Editor

A Few Comparisons.

Editor of The Advertiser:

Sir,—As a city grows transportation facilities must change to meet requirements.

A trolley system is fixed and cannot be changed only at a heavy cost, consequently it does not meet the requirements of the public. A bus system may be changed at a moment's notice. A trolley system may be wholly or partially tied up with any of the following: broken wire, disabled car, power shut off, or fire hose across the tracks. With a bus system only one of the above is applicable.

A trolley hogs the center of the road which should be left for all thorough

Hotel Brighton

Atlantic City, N.J.

ESTABLISHED 1875

IN the center of the exclusive beach front section. Spacious open and enclosed sun decks. Hot and cold sea water in private bath rooms. New fireproof addition. Orchestra of soloists. Private garage on premises. American plan. Phone Marine 1020.

ALL CUT UP.
"I Want To Be a Lady" (in six parts).—Table of contents of the Saturday Evening Post.

CARELESS OF HER.
Young Lady (after violent dance)—"There! My feet's gone! That's done for me for this evening."

YOUTH—Oh, bother! Don't you carry spare parts?

HE NEEDED AIR.
"The city of New York is very proud of Capt. Paul Greening, a splendid type of American sailor," said the mayor. "I am happy to greet you as a product of our city. You went forth upon the seas. You worked your way up from the bottom."—New York Herald.

HE NEEDED AIR.
Young Lady (after violent dance)—"There! My feet's gone! That's done for me for this evening."

YOUTH—Oh, bother! Don't you carry spare parts?

ALL CUT UP.
"I Want To Be a Lady" (in six parts).—Table of contents of the Saturday Evening Post.

CARELESS OF HER.
Young Lady (after violent dance)—"There! My feet's gone! That's done for me for this evening."

YOUTH—Oh, bother! Don't you carry spare parts?

HE NEEDED AIR.
"The city of New York is very proud of Capt. Paul Greening, a splendid type of American sailor," said the mayor. "I am happy to greet you as a product of our city. You went forth upon the seas. You worked your way up from the bottom."—New York Herald.

HE NEEDED AIR.
Young Lady (after violent dance)—"There! My feet's gone! That's done for me for this evening."

YOUTH—Oh, bother! Don't you carry spare parts?

ALL CUT UP.
"I Want To Be a Lady" (in six parts).—Table of contents of the Saturday Evening Post.

CARELESS OF HER.
Young Lady (after violent dance)—"There! My feet's gone! That's done for me for this evening."

YOUTH—Oh, bother! Don't you carry spare parts?

HE NEEDED AIR.
"The city of New York is very proud of Capt. Paul Greening, a splendid type of American sailor," said the mayor. "I am happy to greet you as a product of our city. You went forth upon the seas. You worked your way up from the bottom."—New York Herald.

HE NEEDED AIR.
Young Lady (after violent dance)—"There! My feet's gone! That's done for me for this evening."

YOUTH—Oh, bother! Don't you carry spare parts?

ALL CUT UP.
"I Want To Be a Lady" (in six parts).—Table of contents of the Saturday Evening Post.

CARELESS OF HER.
Young Lady (after violent dance)—"There! My feet's gone! That's done for me for this evening."

YOUTH—Oh, bother! Don't you carry spare parts?

HE NEEDED AIR.
"The city of New York is very proud of Capt. Paul Greening, a splendid type of American sailor," said the mayor. "I am happy to greet you as a product of our city. You went forth upon the seas. You worked your way up from the bottom."—New York Herald.

HE NEEDED AIR.
Young Lady (after violent dance)—"There! My feet's gone! That's done for me for this evening."

YOUTH—Oh, bother! Don't you carry spare parts?

ALL CUT UP.
"I Want To Be a Lady" (in six parts).—Table of contents of the Saturday Evening Post.

CARELESS OF HER.
Young Lady (after violent dance)—"There! My feet's gone! That's done for me for this evening."

YOUTH—Oh, bother! Don't you carry spare parts?

HE NEEDED AIR.
"The city of New York is very proud of Capt. Paul Greening, a splendid type of American sailor," said the mayor. "I am happy to greet you as a product of our city. You went forth upon the seas. You worked your way up from the bottom."—New York Herald.

HE NEEDED AIR.
Young Lady (after violent dance)—"There! My feet's gone! That's done for me for this evening."

YOUTH—Oh, bother! Don't you carry spare parts?

ALL CUT UP.
"I Want To Be a Lady" (in six parts).—Table of contents of the Saturday Evening Post.

CARELESS OF HER.
Young Lady (after violent dance)—"There! My feet's gone! That's done for me for this evening."

YOUTH—Oh, bother! Don't you carry spare parts?

HE NEEDED AIR.
"The city of New York is very proud of Capt. Paul Greening, a splendid type of American sailor," said the mayor. "I am happy to greet you as a product of our city. You went forth upon the seas. You worked your way up from the bottom."—New York Herald.

HE NEEDED AIR.
Young Lady (after violent dance)—"There! My feet's gone! That's done for me for this evening."

YOUTH—Oh, bother! Don't you carry spare parts?

ALL CUT UP.
"I Want To Be a Lady" (in six parts).—Table of contents of the Saturday Evening Post.

CARELESS OF HER.
Young Lady (after violent dance)—"There! My feet's gone! That's done for me for this evening."

YOUTH—Oh, bother! Don't you carry spare parts?

HE NEEDED AIR.
"The city of New York is very proud of Capt. Paul Greening, a splendid type of American sailor," said the mayor. "I am happy to greet you as a product of our city. You went forth upon the seas. You worked your way up from the bottom."—New York Herald.

HE NEEDED AIR.
Young Lady (after violent dance)—"There! My feet's gone! That's done for me for this evening."

YOUTH—Oh, bother! Don't you carry spare parts?

25 Years Ago

From the Advertiser, Dec. 16, 1900.

The municipal council of 1900 held its last regular meeting last night. It is announced that no legacy of deficit is left for the new council.