

## The London Advertiser

Founded 1863.  
London Advertiser Company, Limited.  
Publisher and Proprietor, London, Ont.  
JOSEPH E. ATKINSON, President.  
JOHN R. BONE, Vice-President.  
H. B. MUIR, Managing Director.  
CHARLES VINING, Managing Editor.  
Morning and Evening Editions.  
Subscription rates: Delivered, 15 cents weekly; 65 cents monthly. By mail: In Canada, \$5.00 yearly; in the United States, \$7.00 yearly; foreign subscriptions, \$12.00 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.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1925.

### The Premier and the War Years.

When Premier King was speaking at Winnipeg he was interrupted by a man who wanted to know what his war record was. The prime minister answered that he would gladly compare his record with that of the man who had asked the question, and told briefly of his age and family obligations. From another part of the hall came another question, reported by the Canadian Press as follows:

"What did Mr. Meighen do in the war?" shouted another heckler. "He took a portfolio," called a third.

The reply of Premier King to these references to Mr. Meighen was:

"I think Mr. Meighen did his full duty in the light in which he saw it."

The circumstances which Mr. King faced during the years of the war were such as few men have ever been called upon to meet. His father, John King, K.C., who had been a lecturer at Osgoode Hall, became totally blind in 1913, and was a helpless charge upon his son until his death on August 30, 1916. His sister, after a protracted illness, died during the early months of the war in 1915. His brother, Dr. Macdonnell King, became a sufferer from acute tuberculosis and was obliged to give up his practice. A wife and twin sons were dependent on him, and during the whole period of the war this trouble was added to the family cares of Mackenzie King. His brother's illness was the result of exposure and hardship during the South African war. In December of 1916, after the death of his father, Mr. King took his mother to live with him at his home in Ottawa, and, added to the grief from the death of sister and father and the calamity that had befallen his brother, his mother passed away on December 17, 1917.

The premier was caring for a blind father, an ailing sister, an invalid brother and family, and an aged mother. Had the man who asked the question at Winnipeg about his war record known of these events he probably would not have spoken, for it was a chapter of suffering that, even in the heat of political controversy one would hesitate to reopen.

In order to meet the obligations which circumstances had placed upon him Mr. King accepted a position in the Rockefeller Foundation, which is not a business institution but works entirely for the promotion of investigation to promote human welfare. When the war broke it was the first organization in United States to come to the relief of the Belgians in the matter of food and clothing. Its funds went to the relief of starving people in Poland, France, Serbia and Armenia. It gave millions for Red Cross work.

Mr. King did not take up his residence in United States, as has been charged. He made it a condition of his employment that he was to remain in Canada. The only time he went to United States was to make a study of conditions in areas where strikes threatened, many of them as a result of anti-alley propaganda which aimed at close up shops where munitions were being made for Britain and France. It is a matter of record that he was signally successful in this work.

Political opponents in 1920 brought up the charge that Mackenzie King had not done his full duty in the war period. In the house of commons during that year he made his answer, and it was of such a nature that it drew from the Ottawa Journal, a paper that is frankly opposed to Mr. King politically, a remarkable tribute. It described his speech as a fine example of restrained eloquence, and said:

"There was genuine passion and not a little contempt in his declaration that certain of the charges of his critics were 'as utter a slander and as undoubted a criminal libel as any statements could be'; his detailed description of the work he performed in maintaining co-operation of capital and labor, thereby greatly aiding the allied cause, made a good impression, and his frank explanation of family circumstances which limited the character of his war services was heard with sympathy."

It is because he faced his duty fairly and honorably, discharged well his obligations as son and brother, and at the same time made a signal contribution to the cause of the allies in a role for which he was admirably qualified, that he can refer so generously to Mr. Meighen's record during the years of the war. His answer in Winnipeg was an exhibition of political sportsmanship and fair dealing with an opponent such as Canada has a right to expect from her public men.

### London and Its Music.

"The man who hath no music in his soul, And is not moved by concord of sweet sounds, Is fit for treason, stratagems and spoils."

London's school bill is about \$1,000,000 per year, and the fact that it has increased to that figure is a topic on which has hung no small discussion. From figures compiled by Mr. Quantz, director of music in the schools, London spends from 25 to 50 per cent more than that a year on music. His figures take in sales of pianos, phonograph records, musical goods and music, musical instruction, church choirs and concerts, and his data was so carefully collected as to leave no doubt that when he placed the annual outlay between \$1,250,000 and \$1,500,000 he was approximately correct. These figures do not, of course, include the output of an establishment such as the Sherlock-Manning Company.

It is well that Mr. Quantz took the trouble to prepare these statistics, because they show in a very emphatic way the interest London has in music and the musical education of her children, and it also explains as nothing else could why London is the musical center of Western Ontario. London is a city of homes—good, wholesome homes—and music in these homes, its study by the children, and its enjoyment by the parents, is a clean, healthy symptom that we can gladly speak of to the rest of the province.

### The Evidence Is Before Him.

Hugh C. McKillop, Conservative candidate in West Elgin, said in his nomination address at St. Thomas:

"When Mr. Meighen returns to power and starts the wheels of industry throughout this country and stops the coming into this country of millions of dollars' worth of produce from a foreign country and the sending out of millions of good Canadian dollars to enrich a foreign nation, I have not a doubt prosperity will again settle over this country and Canada will go on and take her place among the first nations of the world."

If Mr. McKillop will look squarely at facts he will find that it has not been necessary to await the return of Mr. Meighen to power to bring about the business betterment of which he speaks. Here are some of the things that have actually taken place in Canada during the last four years:

An unfavorable trade balance in 1921 under Mr. Meighen has been changed to a favorable trade balance of very large proportions. The figures were available for Mr. McKillop to use had he cared to tell the whole story. They are:

| Fiscal Year. | Unfavorable Balance. | Favorable Balance. |
|--------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1921         | \$29,700,000         |                    |
| 1922         |                      | \$ 6,100,000       |
| 1923         |                      | 142,700,000        |
| 1924         |                      | 165,300,000        |
| 1925         |                      | 284,400,000        |

Later returns from the department place the figure at over \$300,000,000 today, and it means that Canada is actually selling that amount in excess of what she is bringing in from the outside. That is the answer to Mr. McKillop's plea that this country is sending out its millions "to enrich a foreign nation." Canada is taking in from outside countries under the King government \$300,000,000 more this year than she is spending with them.

Under the King government the adverse balance of trade between Canada and United States has been brought down each year. In 1921, when Mr. Meighen was in office, Canada bought from United States goods to the value of \$15,958,196, and sold to United States \$292,588,643, leaving us with an adverse balance of \$223,359,553. Since then Canada has increased her sales to United States and at the same time decreased her purchases in that market until it is possible to make this comparison:

|                             |               |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Adverse U. S. balance, 1921 | \$223,359,553 |
| Adverse U. S. balance, 1925 | \$2,778,586   |

That is exactly what Mr. McKillop was talking about. His error was in stating that it was something that "was going to take place in the future. It has actually been accomplished, and Mr. McKillop has been in an excellent position at Ottawa to have seen it.

Official Conservative advertisements seek to discount these figures by saying they are made up of raw material being shipped out of this country; a drain on our natural resources. They stress the depletion of our pulpwood areas and say Conservative policy will stop this and cause more to be manufactured in Canada.

In 1921 Canada exported 1,615,467 cords of unmanufactured pulpwood. In 1924 Canada exported only 1,444,693 cords. The export of raw material was higher in 1921.

In 1921 Canada exported 13,376,836 cwt. of manufactured newsprint. By 1924 these exports had risen to 23,221,367 cwt. The export of the manufactured article was higher in 1924.

The 1,444,693 cords of pulpwood exported in 1924 represented only six per cent of the pulpwood cut in Canada. The rest was processed in this country, part as ground pulp and sulphite and the rest as paper, a finished product. To go a step farther and prove that the finished article was of far greater value than the semi-finished, the semi-finished ground pulp sold for \$42,690,827, and the exports of finished paper were worth \$96,677,782.

These figures of trade balances, unfavorable under Mr. Meighen and favorable under Mr. King, of more finished product and less raw material being exported, all point in the one direction—a steady but very definite trade revival. If Mr. McKillop refuses to see it and be encouraged by it, then it is his own fault. The country at large has noticed it and felt it, and is willing to acknowledge it as a real factor in Canadian development.

### Note and Comment.

A woman whose husband ran off with a neighbor's daughter is now suing her on the ground of petty larceny.

A New Yorker back from Germany lost his wife in a crowd and he asks the police to find her. They'd probably been married a long time.

Board of health is looking into the shipment of old mattresses from Montreal to this city, and may stop it, showing they're not asleep on the job.

There was an item on the front page yesterday about two Chicago murderers being sentenced to be hanged. That's probably why it got on the first page.

Ten thousand Chinese went on strike because there was to be an investigation into riots. It may be that the Chinese have watched the course of other investigations.

Workmen dug up bones in Washington of some animal that was 80 feet long. It's a good thing it lived years ago, for it could never find a place to park now.

The Dutch are seeking some sort of a remedy to prevent colds. There are plenty of men around here who welcome a cold as a reason for telling the doctor they need a good stiff drink.

## Hank Has Learned

No more he fights on politics, nor cusses at his neighbors then, so now he's listened to at times when reason in' with his fellow men.

I'm always pleased to meet with Hank and harken to his logic too, because he's even in his ways and wholesome in his reason too. Just now there's lots of men around who talk of politics at night, and if a man don't see with them they're ready for a village fight.

One chap I know he lives near me and when he touches politics, it's like as though he started out to leave great rocks and broken bricks. His eyes they start to bulge right out, he pumps fresh hate from out his lung, and words and cussin' fly about when he starts wiggin' of his tongue.

I always dodge that jay, I do. It takes him seven hours to cool, and come once more unto the spot where he can argue by rule. Not so with Hank, he knows much more, and stores much logic in his brain, nor does he sound like summer storms that tell of comin' showers of rain. I asked of Hank how come that he could argue, reason and debate, and never get het up at all or chant his little hymn of hate.

Well Hank he told me years ago he used to let his temper run, and politics they meant to him the totin' of a sword and gun.

"But I found out," says Hank to me, "that folks would look at me and groan, and say that I was votin' mad and gears was strippin' in my dome. So I found out you can't get far by cussin' at the folks you see, nor cleavin' neighbors with an axe because for once you disagree."

"And I have found it's better, too, and easier on my fallin' health, to recognize some other guy may know more than I do myself."

—ARK.

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## 25 Years Ago Today

(From The Advertiser, Oct. 12, 1900.)

A rugby club has been formed in St. Thomas with James Ferguson as manager, J. Smith, captain, H. Ferguson, secretary-treasurer, and Messrs. Killingsworth, Molson and Beecroft as managing committee. The club will have a first and second team.

Glencoe Transcript: While Mr. William Newport was boring a well on the farm of Alex. D. McKellar a couple of miles north of Glencoe, a gas vein was struck at a depth of 101 feet. Gas, water and gravel belched forth to a height of 40 feet or more and continued to spout with more or less volume for about 15 hours, when the gas gave out.

High Constable McLoud, Constable Northgreaves and Edgar Morden (crown's chief witness in the Sifton murder trial) attended the fair at Oneida yesterday. During its progress some trouble arose among some of the Indians and in the course of it the two constables were somewhat roughly handled, while Morden had to lay sturdily about him to escape like treatment. The two constables went back to Oneida today and arrests are expected to follow.

The annual meeting of the Sextet Debating club of this city was held Wednesday night. Officers were elected for the ensuing year as follows: President, Mr. George Phelps; vice-president, Mr. Walter Thomas; secretary-treasurer, Mr. E. H. Nelles. The former editor of the club paper, Mr. J. N. Langridge, was reappointed. The club is looking forward to a very prosperous season.

Detective Egleton has returned from his holidays spent in Detroit, Toledo and Cincinnati.

## To the Editor

Wants Book On Canada.

Londoner Surprised At Some of the Material Found on the Shelves of the Public Library.

Editor of The Advertiser:

Sir,—During recent visits to the public library I have attempted to get an up-to-date book on Canada, giving an account of our country's resources, transportation systems, manufactures, and so forth, but I have been very much surprised, on looking over the books on Canada, to find that such a book was not to be found.

A rather brief account of the subject is given in a book on the British Empire and several American books devote a few pages to it. These latter, however, are so full of U. S. that the Canadian part of the book is usually both pinched and twisted. Take, for instance, a book published this year, entitled North America. The author states that the power developed on the St. Lawrence should be exported to the valley of the Hudson, as conditions for manufacturing are much better there. He tells of the canal which has "to be" dug for the "new" hydro plant at Chippewa, and under a map showing the H. E. P. C. lines in Ontario, and lines in New York state, says that these are the lines of one "company."

With the exception of a short section on Mexico, Central America, and the West Indies, the remainder of the book is largely filled with praises of "God's country."

Why should books such as this, as well as numerous histories of the American revolution and dozen of books on the lives of American presidents (there are at least eighteen on one alone) fill the shelves of our library, while we go without good books on our own country? CANUCK.

London, Oct. 12.

## Editorial Opinion

THE POSITION OF THE FARMER.  
(From the Toronto Star)

THE farmers are compelled to look askance at any policy that increases the prices of what they buy. They must economize. They can't put up the prices of what they sell. They can't shift any tax or cost on anyone else. They find that the transportation cost on what they sell is deducted from the price they get, while the transportation cost on what they buy is added to the price they pay. They have argued and talked and adopted resolutions, but they find they can't get away from this position, and they know that higher protection means higher prices for what they buy, and means nothing else whatever, so far as they are concerned. The suggestion that those who want a higher tariff tax can make it the main election issue in politics, and that those who don't want it should not make it the issue in the country at large, is one that will not work.

## ARCTIC DOGGED ROUTE OF MACMILLAN'S PARTY

Canadian Gov't Ship Watched U. S. Explorers in Far North.

### NO IMPEDIMENT

Dominion's Claim To Polar Regions Unchallenged by Northern Expedition.

Canadian Press Despatch. Quebec, Oct. 12.—The declaration during the last session of the house of commons of Hon. Charles R. S. Stewart, minister of the interior, that Canada claimed Arctic lands converging to the North Pole, and that explorers must apply to the Canadian government to work in the claimed territory, has been brought again to the fore with the arrival of the exploration ship Arctic and by rumors, uncounted on by members of the expedition, that the meeting of the Arctic with the Donald McMillan

expedition in the far north had more than ordinary significance. It is pointed out by those discussing the question that the Arctic, instead of going to Canadian outposts first, after leaving Godhavn, on Disco Island, made straight for Etah, in Greenland, where the McMillan party was.

Members of the Canadian expedition are attributed with saying that while flying weather had been bad before the arrival of the Arctic at Etah, perfect conditions followed; but, nevertheless, air work was abandoned. Visits were exchanged, it is said, between the two expeditions, each entertaining the other. The United States expedition were shown pictures of Canadian explorations and occupations last year, and were presented with a copy of an official report of an expedition made several years ago; charts of the eastern Arctic were also shown.

The McMillan party did not apply to the Canadian government for an exploration permit, so far as known, although it was intimated that such would be readily granted. Captain J. E. Bernier, commander

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of the Arctic, would only say concerning the United States expedition that it was not practicable to make explorations with aeroplanes such as they had.

"The only way is by dirigible," he said. "Let them go by whaler to Point Barrow, which would make a fine hopping-off ground, because the shore is always free of ice and temperature conditions are thoroughly known. The ice fields are too rough for aeroplane landings."

### AYLMER DISTRICT UNITED CHURCHES TO HAVE RALLY

Special to The Advertiser. Aylmer, Oct. 12.—A rally of all the churches in this district of the United church of Canada will be held in St. Paul's United church, Aylmer, next Thursday afternoon. The circuits to be represented are Corbin, Richmond, Springfield, Lyons, Yarmouth, Malahide and Aylmer.

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