

Cook's Cotton Root Compound
Is the only safe, reliable
monthly medicine on which
ladies can depend in the
hour and time of need.
Is prepared in two degrees
of strength.
No. 1 for ordinary cases
is by far the best dollar medicine known
—sold by druggists, one dollar per box.
No. 2 for special cases—10 degrees
stronger—sold by druggists. One box,
Three Dollars; two boxes, Five Dollars.
No. 1, or No. 2, mailed on receipt of
price and two 3-cent stamps.

The Cook Company,
Windsor, Ontario.
No. 1 and No. 2 sold in London by C.
McCallum & Co. and Anderson & Nelson,
Druggists.

The Free Press,
LONDON, ONT.

Tuesday, March 1, 1898.

A PUBLIC AWAKENING.

Unless all the signs fail, to-day's polling will tell the Hardy Government to stand aside, and usher in a new order of things for Ontario. There has been an awakening in the West such as to fill the friends of Mr. Whitney with hopeful anticipations. The meetings held in his behalf have been attended by hundreds, where in previous election campaigns the attendance has been reckoned by tens, and the speeches on the Opposition side have been listened to with earnest attention, while the old, old recital of their peculiar virtues by Government members have evoked but a languid yawn.

It is quite in the nature of things that a change should take place in the administration of public affairs. The time is overdue for a fresh turn of the wheel and that new hands should be set to the public house-cleaning. Twenty-six years is far too long for one set of men to be in office. They find it impossible to keep abreast of the times, from the very timidity which over long service and the fear of dismissal produces. They fear to move out of the rut in which they found security a couple of decades ago. They are forced to do many things against the public interest, and mayhap against the promptings of conscience in order to satisfy friends and supporters, who are clamorous for reward and permanent provision. They have to give offices to people who are unfit to fill them, and of no earthly use to the public, to stop their mouths and tide over each passing difficulty. They must create unnecessary works to give contractors opportunity for pickings, and shape affairs so that each election time will raise up friends who have benefited in a way to enable them to contribute. They have necessarily to cover up many transactions under specious disguises to prevent criticism and public alarm. If they urge the danger of giving what every needy follower solicits they are reminded that they have been so long in power and appear to be so invincible, that their hesitancy can only be a pretence. They must yield to all such demands or incur the penalty of the "crossness" which Mr. Dryden has been at such pains and perils to mollify. The result is that the party leaders become but so many chips floating on the corrupt and turbid stream which they have created, and from which they dare not emerge in fear of widespread rebellion, and of public discovery.

The Ministers are in the situation of a municipal or financial corporation that has gone on from year to year with loose, haphazard methods, with pilferings here, and false entries there, and mismanagement and irregularity at every stage, until some death occurs or rival strength prevails, and there is a revelation and a cleansing of the departments by new hands.

Why have the Mowat-Hardy-Ross administration refused for so many years to allow a proper audit of the Public Accounts? Why is the House Committee of Finance systematically hindered and thwarted in their efforts to pick out the why and wherefore of certain sums that are lumped together in the published report by tens of thousands of dollars? Why does every Minister in his speeches, and every statement put forth by the Hon. Treasurer contain confused and conflicting versions of the public finances? There has not in twenty years past been put forward a trial balance sheet, which would stand an hour's examination by a chartered accountant?

This is what Mr. Whitney and Col. Matheson, the Opposition financial critic, say of the general accounts. It is what Mr. McPherson, the Patron member, has stated very emphatically in respect of the Model Farm book-keeping. All is lax, at loose ends, and muddled, while year after year sees the charges multiply, and the number of offices increase.

The eye of public suspicion has for many years been directed upon this state of affairs with growing curiosity

and awakened interest and intelligence. So long as the people were kept free from Direct Taxation, so long as they had not to take the actual money out of their pockets to meet this growing expenditure, so long as the money came out of the standing trees and the mines, the interest was almost criminally languid; people attended to their personal affairs, and took little note of the procedure of their stewards. So long as they did not "pay the shot" to the ordinary tax gatherer calling at their doors, they were content to take the word of these gentlemen that all was going well, and they were honestly minded.

But the time is near when even the levies upon the forests and mines are to be found inadequate to the increased and overgrown obligations. The Province is seen to be going into debt, despite the largess of timber. It is observed that every curtailment of these valuable reserves depletes by so much the public capital, and we are even now perilously near to the direct taxation, which, were it enforced, would bring the people of Ontario upstanding with a bound and furious with resentment.

These changes and advances toward a perilous condition have dawned but



MR. ADAM BECK, CANDIDATE FOR LONDON.

slowly upon the public consciousness, but they have dawned. The eye of suspicion, for so long only mildly curious, has in this campaign darted sharp and stern as to the matters which affect the people more and more nearly as time ripens. They now see that the affairs of Ontario demand careful watch and attentive skill to avoid breakers in the early future. They are no longer content with the stereotyped and conventional statements as to the public storekeeping. They are for an immediate stock-taking and a general overhaul of the assets and liabilities to see if their stewards have been really as faithful as their professions, and are inclined to know independently the condition of their estate.

It is usual when a business firm would hold such an inquiry to send the over-attentive cashier for a six weeks' holiday, and while he sports in woodland or by waterside, the industrious expert, who has been called in, is auditing his books and checking the vouchers. The Government of Ontario have been keeping strict guard over their bureau drawers and pigeon holes for over twenty-six years. In all that time there has been no "new hand at the bellows," and the firm, that is, the people at large, have had to be content with the same stereotyped and imperfect, unaudited reports and assurances. Is it not time that the hard and overworked Ministers, so constantly drugging at their desks for a quarter of a century and over should be given a rest of four years at least, while younger, sharper, stronger, more buoyant, capable and adaptable men attempt the task of modernizing the old methods, or at least of verifying the old accounts to the public satisfaction?

This is what the people are thinking about. The time is ripe for a change of stewards to the extent of furnishing an assurance of the correctness of a quarter of a century of unchecked and unaudited business statements. And the signs are that to-day this inquiry will be ordered by putting in power the set of men who have been going about the country, making charges of wrong doing, and sounding alarms with a force and fearlessness that cannot be longer disregarded.

CASTORIA
The famous
signature
of *Dr. H. H. Hutchinson*
by *Dr. H. H. Hutchinson*
WRAP

ELECTION NOTES.

There is every prospect that the Minister of Education, Hon. G. W. Ross, will be defeated in the West Riding. The feeling is strong that he has been in office long enough. Old and faithful supporters have wearied with the long list of his shortcomings. But Mr. Ross will not be downcast in defeat, no matter how overwhelming the vote may be. He is to be safely lodged in the Senate until a seat in the Government can be made for him. No one need waste any sympathy on Mr. Ross, therefore. No one who disapproves of his school policy or of the acts and shortcomings of the Government generally need imagine that Mr. Ross is in any danger of suffering by defeat in West Middlesex. He has already well arranged to take care of.

It is the same with the Premier, Mr. Hardy. He has taken such good care of his relatives at large that he cannot be suspected of leaving his own future in neglect. He repealed an act of the Legislature regarding Junior Judgeships in order to provide a Junior Judgeship for his brother in the County of Brant. He can be safely trusted to look out for himself. And as a matter of fact, the Premier has his political grapple with a Superior Court Judge, in case of the defeat which is impending.

The people at large are so filled and satiated with Mowatism and Hardysm and Rossism that they will welcome

first of all of Michigan labor. He rafted his logs from Ontario to be cut into lumber in Michigan, while our own saw mills are rotting down on the north shore of Lake Huron. Mr. Leys is a Michigan mill owner.

Dr. McWilliams has one good reason for coming from Oxford to contest East Middlesex. If he is defeated, he will have a claim to be appointed surgeon of the Boys' Reformatory which is coming from Penetang to Woodstock. That will be worth to him as much as the sessional allowance.

The same set of business men in this city have been furnishing supplies to the Asylum for the past twenty years. In that course of time several of these merchants have received from fifty to eighty thousand dollars in the way of business, without tender. It is time for a change of that system—time for the business men of the city at large to have a chance. It is too long for favoritism to have its innings.

From all along the line comes the cheering news that Tuesday's vote will ring the death knell of the long one-party rule in Ontario. Vote for Whitney and Adam Beck and share in the victory.

Down with Mr. G. W. Ross's school book monopoly! Vote for publishing by tenders, and save 60 per cent. in the price of school books to the people.

Woe unto him that offers a bribe for a vote, as well as to him who takes it. Both will have to answer to the law.

CARDINAL GIBBONS SPEAKS.

Praises the U. S. Cabinet and Congress for the Calmness and Self-Possession Displayed During the Present Crisis.

Baltimore, Md., Feb. 28.—Cardinal Gibbons delivered an address this morning before a large assemblage called for the purpose of offering holy sacrifice for the officers and men who lost their lives on the battleship Maine. The Cardinal said:—"We have assembled here to-day to assist at the holy sacrifice offered up for the souls of the brave officers and men who have lost their lives at sea in the discharge of duty. We are also called together to give expression to our heartfelt condolence and sympathy for the bereaved relatives of those faithful defenders of their country whom the nation mourns. I see before me representatives of the United States army and navy, and of our fellow citizens at large. You represent a sorrowing nation, for every home in our broad country feels the loss as a personal one. Too much praise cannot be bestowed on the President, on the members of his Cabinet, and particularly on the Secretary of the Navy and his able assistant, as well as on the House of Congress, for the calmness and tranquility, the self-control and the self-possession which they have exhibited during the fearful ordeal through which the country has been passing in the last few days. It needed only a spark to kindle a great conflagration, which might have borne the bearing of the executive and legislative bodies are all the more commendable in view of the mischievous and intemperate utterances of some sensational newspapers. They who have endeavored to engage in an unrighteous or precipitated war. Let us remember that the eyes of the world are upon us, whose judgment we cannot escape, and that we will win more respect and credit for ourselves by calm deliberations and masterly inactivity than by recourse to arms. Thrice is he armed who hath his quarrel just; I hope and believe for the honor of humanity, that the destruction of the Maine was caused by an accident, and in that case Spain cannot be responsible. The only circumstance which would warrant active hostilities would be the evidence that the Spanish Government connived at the placing of torpedoes or explosives in the harbor of Havana, which would have been a deliberate act of war. But I do not believe, and no sane man can believe, that a chivalric nation would be guilty of such inhumanity. An able commission has been appointed by the Government to investigate the cause of the disaster. Let us calmly and dispassionately await the result of their verdict and not anticipate their judgment. One thing is certain, this country knows how to address emergency to defend her honor and protect her interests. I earnestly hope that the day is not far off when a grateful nation will show her appreciation of the services of those brave and faithful public servants by erecting to their memory a suitable monument. 'Dulcet et decorum pro patria mori.' (It is sweet and honorable to die for one's country.)"

In no single instance since Confederation has the Conservative cause in London turned on the illegal expenditure of money. In the only case ever brought into court, the judge pronounced the election "absolutely pure."

The canvass made by the two party-nominated candidates in this city has been strikingly different in methods. Mr. Beck has exacted no pledge from any man. He has reminded no one of any obligation to vote for him. He has recognized the perfect freedom of every man. "The Government candidate," on the other hand, has been recalling every little hand's-turn that he ever did as a reason why this one and that one should vote for him. And he has not been satisfied with having asked, and leaving each man to his own free will. He has exacted a hard and fast pledge. And when he has met with refusal, or only a half-hearted promise, he has threatened the elector. "I'll remember you for that!" he has been heard to say in many instances. He wants serfdom, or nothing. The independent electors will "remember him for that!"

The man who counts on his money power to win an election, by putting temptation in the way of a voter, should be taught a lesson by the free and independent electorate. He is not in politics for the public good, but has personal ends to serve.

No man who has an interest in Michigan saw mills is a fit representative of Ontario labor. He is the friend of all of Michigan labor. He rafted his logs from Ontario to be cut into lumber in Michigan, while our own saw mills are rotting down on the north shore of Lake Huron. Mr. Leys is a Michigan mill owner.

Dr. McWilliams has one good reason for coming from Oxford to contest East Middlesex. If he is defeated, he will have a claim to be appointed surgeon of the Boys' Reformatory which is coming from Penetang to Woodstock. That will be worth to him as much as the sessional allowance.

Those who have tried it like it Electric Metal Polish.

PEOPLE WHO HAVE USED THEM SAY
Liver Pills
are a pleasant and natural remedy, clearing away all effete and poisonous matter from the system, without any griping or weakening effects.

MARGARET BRENNAN, 5 Granville Street, Halifax, N. S., says: "I have used Laxative Pills for Constipation and Sick Headache, and found them excellent."

HE CHASES WOMEN.
Mania of a Colored Man Now in Jail—Furnished a Number on Saturday Night.

Frederick Johnston, a colored man, was yesterday remanded for a week by Police Magistrate Parke on charges of indecent assault and vagrancy. In the first place, Johnston is said to have no particular place of abode, or any regular way of making a living, and in the second place, he is said to have a mania for frightening women. On Saturday night he chased a lady on Queen's avenue, and three whom he also pursued on William street avoided him by running into a store. Johnston is known to the police, as he was arrested here three years ago for indecently assaulting a woman on Maitland street south.

DEATH OF LADY CARTIER.
The Widow of the Famous Canadian Statesman Passed Away at Cannes, France, Yesterday.

Montreal, Q., Feb. 28.—A cablegram announces the death yesterday at Cannes, France, of Lady Cartier, widow of Sir Geo. E. Cartier. Lady Cartier was a sister of the late Archbishop Fabre, and was 70 years of age, to-day being her birthday. She was also a sister of Mr. Hector Fabre, of Paris, of Mr. Gustave Fabre, and of Mrs. LaSuroy, of Montreal. Her aged mother still lives. On his recent visit to Europe, Archbishop Bruchési paid Lady Cartier a visit and found her still hale and hearty, but that her end was near. Lady Cartier survived her distinguished husband, Sir George Cartier, Bart., twenty-five years, and had been in receipt of a pension of \$1,200 a year voted by Parliament in appreciation of the services to his country rendered by Sir George.

KINGSTON.
Locomotives for the C. P. R.—Death of an Old Resident—The Dead Prostate.

Kingston, Ont., Feb. 28.—Mr. Lee, manager of the Canadian Locomotive Works, telegraphs that he has closed a contract with the Minister of Railways for the construction of seven engines for the Intercolonial Railway, the patterns of which arrived here on Friday last.

Thus, Mesager, aged 74, a native of this city, and a customs officer for over 40 years, died to-day. He was superannuated about six years ago. In his younger days he studied law in the office of the late Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir Alexander Campbell and Sir Oliver Mowat.

The dignitaries of the Catholic Church are here in numbers to attend the funeral of the late Archbishop Cleary. The remains are lying in state in the cathedral, and are being viewed by thousands. The edifice is grandly draped. The Catholic societies assisted in the transfer of the remains to the cathedral, and a brief service was conducted by Mgr. Farrelly, administrator of the arch-diocese. The service to-morrow begins at 9 a. m.

NEWFOUNDLAND SEAL FISHERY.
St. John's, Nfld., Feb. 28.—A fleet of 80 schooners will sail from various ports of this island to-morrow to prosecute the seal fishery, largely stimulated by the bounty of \$4 per ton granted by the Government. On March 10 twenty-four steamers will sail.

When Lady Marie Wortley Montague visited the household of the Sultan, she wrote home to England that the ladies of the harem were smothered with laughter to discover that her ladyship wore an inner vest of steel and chainmail, tight, impenetrable and stifling, in other words, a corset. The ladies of the harem would no doubt have been equally astonished, though perhaps not disposed to laughter, had they known that the women of western nations, through false ideas of delicacy, suffer in silence untold agony, and sometimes death, through neglect of their health in a womanly way. Women, who suffer in this way shrink from the embarrassing examinations and local treatment insisted upon by the majority of physicians. If they only knew it, there is no necessity for these ordeals. An eminent and skillful physician long since discovered a remedy that women may use in the privacy of their own homes. It is Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. It acts directly on the feminine organism, giving it strength, vigor and elasticity. It stops all debilitating drains. It is the greatest of all nerve-tonics and invigorators for women. Thousands of women who were weak, sickly, petulant and despondent invalids are to-day happy and healthy as the result of the use of this wonderful medicine. Good druggists do not advise substitutes for this incomparable remedy.

"I have used Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription," writes Mrs. G. A. Corner of Allegheny Springs, Montgomery Co., Va., "and have found them to be the best medicines that I ever used."

Send it one-cent stamps, to cover cost of mailing, and customs duty, to the World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y., for a paper-covered copy of Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser;—Cloth binding, 50 stamps. A whole Medical library in one 1000-page volume.

DIED FROM SUFFOCATION.
Inquest on the Victims of the Recent Fire at Blenheim Accidental Death.

Chatham, Feb. 27.—An inquest on the bodies of Mary Bloom and her infant child, victims of the recent fire at Bothwell, was held last night. Mr. George L. Taylor, police magistrate, sat in chief of the Court, while Mr. W. R. Hickey looked after the interests of Landlord Gurd. Mr. Lou Rycraft, of Ridgeway, watched the proceedings in the interests of Mr. Middleton. W. H. Anthony, in whose house the fire is supposed to have originated, and where the two lives were lost, was the principal witness. Thomas Reynolds, Leonard Anthony, W. R. Davey, Mrs. Jas. Davis, Mrs. Clinkersmith and Miss Bertha Bloom, daughter of the deceased woman, also gave evidence. Messrs. Hickey, Rycraft, Taylor and the coroner addressed the jury. The verdict returned was that Mrs. Bloom and her infant child came to their death through suffocation from fire. Origin of the fire unknown.

THE BRAZILIAN ELECTIONS.
Rio Janeiro, Feb. 28.—Vice-President Perotta has issued a long address, strongly protesting that he is innocent of complicity in the attempt made to assassinate President Moraes last year. He refuses to appear in court, invoking Parliamentary immunity. The general elections take place to-morrow. The election of Senors Compositos, from Sao Paulo, and Tezasilva, from Pernambuco, as President and Vice-President, for the term of four years, beginning in November next, is regarded as assured.

Those who have tried it like it Electric Metal Polish.

Dry Goods, The Largest in London. Millinery and Clothing, Dundas St. **Kingsmill's.** Carpets, Curtains and Rugs, Carling St.

For Over a Quarter of A Century

we have been in the general

dry goods business in London, and to-day are known as the largest "Strictly Dry Goods House" in Western Ontario. Of course being the largest necessarily means the best; and to secure good reliable goods people invariably go to Kingsmill's.

During the past month we have been making extensive alterations to our Dundas street stores, and to-day we boast of having the best lighted and up-to-date Dress Goods Department in Canada.

High-class Dress Goods have always been a specialty here, and with greatly improved stores we are in a position to serve you as never before.

Black Dress Goods.

Silk and Wool Mohair, 44 inches wide, the correct thing for skirts, special, \$1.00.
Silk Warp Henriettas, Fine French Twill, 50 inches wide, special, at 55c.
Storm Serges, all-wool, special, at 32c, 35c and 40c.
Figured Alpaca, 42 inches wide, extra value, at 25c.
Figured Alpaca, 44 inches wide, good value at 55c, for 40c.
Two Pieces English Worsted, 42-inch, special, at 50c.
Regina Cords, 44 inches wide, special, at 50c.
Plain Alpaca, 27 inches wide, very special, 22c.
Special Value in Jet and Blue Black Henriettas, at 50c, 55c, 60c, 65c, 70c and 80c.

Silks and Velvets.

Special Line Black Brocade Silks, suitable for skirts, in small patterns, at 75c, 85c, 95c and \$1.00.
Pretty for Waists, Light Ground, Small Figured Silks, original price 60c, now 45c.
Seven Pieces Bright Mixed Satin Effects, in white, cream, heliotrope, burnt orange and gold, 45c.
Black Silk Velvet, special, at 60c.
Colored Silk Velvets, all shades, special, at \$1.00.

Colored Dress Goods.

New Scotch Tweed Mixtures, 55c.
New Scotch Cheviots, 6-yard lengths, special, at \$3.00.
New Costume Cloths, special, at 85c.
New All-wool Granite Coating Serges, in all the new shades, special, at \$1.00.
Drap d'Paris Cloth, in all the latest colorings, at \$1.25.
Fine Broadcloths, in all new shades, from 75c to \$2.25.
All the New Colorings in French Serges and Henriettas, special, from 25c to \$1.00.
New Plaids, in light colorings, for spring, at 60c, 72c and 87c.

Dress Trimmings.

Fancy Bead Trimmings, at 8c, 12c and 14c.
Fancy Silk Gimps, all colors, from 5c to \$1.00.
Black Jet Points, 10c and 12c.
Black Jet Insertions, 80c.
Black Jet Gimps, from 10c to \$3.00.
Pearl Gimps, in white and fancy.
Black and Colored Braids, from 2c to 35c.
Belt Buckles and Fancy Pins.

We keep the Butterick Patterns because they are the best. Subscriptions taken for the Delineator, a journal of fashion, culture and fine arts; \$1 00 per year; single copies, 15c. Glass of Fashion, up to date, 50c per annum by mail, or 25c if called for. March numbers now on sale at the pattern counter.

Men's and Youths' Made-to-order Clothing

The Men's Outfitting Department in connection with this gigantic dry goods business is conducted on the same principle as the various other departments, viz.: The best possible value for the least possible price. Is it any wonder our staff is kept constantly working? There's a saving here whatever price you pay. The styles, the cloth, the fit and the prices all command interest. Your overcoat saving will nearly pay for a suit here.

There's a Price-Surprise in Values Like These:

Men's Tweed Suits, mixed effects, special, \$15.00.	Men's Fine Black Worsted Spring Overcoats, special, \$17.00.
Men's Bannockburn Tweed Suits, special, \$18.00.	Men's Fine Tweed Trousers, to order, \$3.75.
Men's Extra Scotch Tweed Suits, special, \$20.00.	Men's Fine Tweed Trousers, to order, \$4.50.
Men's Fine Venetian Spring Overcoats, 10 colorings, \$15.00.	Men's Fine Tweed Trousers, to order, \$5.00.

New Tweeds New Tweeds

Special purchase of Tweed Suitings, suitable for youths' and men's wear, which we will cut for you, FREE OF CHARGE, at 35c, 45c and 50c. Needless to say we guarantee a perfect fit in every instance.

N. E.—Special importation of Men's Cashmere and Tweed Waterproof Coats. Ask to see them.

KINGSMILL'S

Dundas and Carling Sts., London.