

London Advertiser

The Advertiser was established in 1862, and is published four times daily by London Advertiser Company, Limited. The subscription rates are: London, 15 cents weekly; By mail in Canada, \$5.00 yearly; in the United States, \$6.00 yearly.

The Advertiser is represented in Toronto at 25 King street east, and in Montreal at 317 Transportation Building, by J. B. Rathbone, in New York at 247 Park avenue, in Chicago at 122 South Michigan avenue, and in Boston at 294 Washington street, by C. H. Eddy, C. P.

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 1924.

Not a Fair Method.

Debates in the House of Commons at Ottawa are at times conspicuous for the fact that a speaker has to fight for a hearing. He is subject to so many interruptions that it is almost impossible for him to say what he wants to say.

On Thursday, March 6, Mr. Marler, of St. Lawrence-St. George, took up the debate on the speech from the throne. According to the official report, he was interrupted all the way through by Hon. Arthur Meighen, leader of the opposition.

To be exact, Mr. Meighen broke in 73 times with interruptions while Mr. Marler had the floor.

The Speaker of the House found it necessary to suggest that "it would be wise for the honorable members to stop the interruptions and the cross-examinations."

It was necessary on two other occasions for the Speaker to interrupt, and once to read the rules of debate showing that while a member is addressing the House no one has a right to interrupt him by putting a question to him, or by making or demanding an explanation.

A member will at times allow such interruptions through a sense of courtesy to another but it is entirely at the option of the member in possession of the floor to give way or not to an immediate explanation.

This is not a fair method of debate; it is not even good sportsmanship. Mr. Meighen, by interrupting 73 times, either with or without the permission of Mr. Marler, was seeking only one end, the breaking up of the speech, and its presentation in such a disjointed way that it would be non-effective.

Such a practice is not dignified; it is not resorted to by Robert Forke, the leader of the Progressives, nor has the premier ever resorted to any such practice. A member, once he is recognized as having the floor of the House, has a right to speak. If there is need or desire to answer any of the statements afterward, that matter can be arranged. Hounding a man when he has the floor should be stopped, and Hon. Arthur Meighen should be one of the first to observe the rules of debate.

London's Collegiate.

The finance committee of London city council will consider the request of the board of education for \$700,000 for two colleges, probably on Wednesday evening, after which the report of that committee will be passed on to the city council, where the matter will have to be dealt with before March 15, according to local bylaws.

The figure of \$700,000 is a tentative estimate; out of it will have to be provided a site for the east end college, that will cost from \$50,000 to \$60,000 if a fairly central place is secured. The site for the collegiate in the south is already in possession of the board.

The city is building a school in West London this year at a cost of \$180,000, so with the amount asked for it means a building appropriation of not much under one million dollars.

The question that comes to the front first is whether it is advisable to make provision for an expenditure of \$700,000 additional in one year. The city council is not bound to grant the request; it can refuse, in which case the matter will go back to the board of education for further consideration, or, if it is desired to press for the full amount, it can be taken to the people for a vote, and the people have a right to vote on expenditures of this size.

There is no desire on the part of Londoners to hold back on the expenditure of money for educational purposes. The way in which they have put up money in the last ten years is sufficient proof of this. The total school bill, including debenture payments for this period, shows the following:

Year	Amount	Per Cent.
1914	325,525	100
1915	333,897	115
1916	383,217	128
1917	398,587	140
1918	424,524	145
1919	489,297	160
1920	627,120	190
1921	779,270	270
1922	866,126	303
1923	938,146	323

Ten years ago London paid for collegiate and technical training, \$48,730; in 1923, \$303,772. In this period two new schools, the Technical and Central Collegiate, have been built. It is not claimed that the expenditure has not been a wise one, but it shows that London has spent generously for these purposes. In 1914 public schools cost \$218,187; in 1923, \$591,312. During that

period there was a very extensive building program. The public school situation is well in hand, attested to by the fact that London has built 120 new classrooms in the ten-year period, and the problem now is that of rounding out the secondary school equipment.

There is no argument about the need of putting secondary schools in London, but there is an argument about attempting to do it all in one year, especially at a time when the tendency is, and must be, toward a well-directed and careful policy of curbing the tendency toward large expenditures of money. We believe citizens would be agreeable to one school at present, with the construction of another within a reasonable period.

A Five-Year Extension.

Saturday, March 8, was the last day on which the city of London could have served notice on the street railway company of its intention to take over the property as a municipally owned business.

No name can be attached to the 1924 council for not serving such notice, because the ratepayers, who would have had to stand behind the transfer, had no opportunity at the last elections to express an opinion in the matter. Without such a vote, the 1924 council had no right to act, because they had no way of knowing whether they were carrying out the desires of a majority of the people or not.

The next thing is the five-year period that the company continues to hold the franchise. The fares charged in London now are the lowest of any place in the district. It would not be good business from any point of view to press for a reversion to the old standard of seven and nine tickets for a quarter. It would not be a fair thing to the men employed on the road to have them working in a state where the earnings of the company would be lowered to an extent where a decent wage would be in jeopardy.

The fact that the company puts a certain valuation on the road by reason of the fares charged has nothing to do with the price the city will have to pay for the property when the time comes—and it will come—to take over the business. The city will pay for the physical assets of the company, and for nothing more. The fact that it is making money or losing money does not enter into the case at all. It would be better for the city to take over an equipment that has been kept in a fair state of repair than to find that it has bought in something that will have to be scrapped in its entirety.

The city and the railway company should meet for the next five years on the basis of fair business dealings. The company on its part should make every effort to give increased service to the people; to meet any reasonable request for changes in its schedules; if possible to give an even better rate for rush hour tickets. The city, on its part, should deal fairly and firmly with the company, keeping in mind that it is a property which the citizens are going to own and operate at the end of the five-year period.

Caught in a Trap.

Residents living in a section such as we occupy in Western Ontario can have no idea of the horrors that surround the explosion in the mines of the Utah Fuel Company at Castle-gate, Utah.

In the underground workings were 175 miners; only seven have been taken out; a faint hope is held out for the remainder, but the history of coal mining accidents gives little on which to hang much encouragement for those who crowd around the pit mouths, waiting for word from rescue parties who take their own lives in their hands in carrying out their work.

An explosion in a coal mine is worse than an explosion in the open; if it is started by fire it feeds on the coal dust and the contents of the gas pockets of the mine, and in no time runs its wicked course through the property, hundreds of yards from the opening burning out all the life-giving qualities of the air. The miner, trapped, his safety lamp unable to burn in such an atmosphere, has not one chance in a hundred. He is not even given the chance to breathe. He is well, strong and knows every foot of the path out to the main tunnel, but he is struck down in his steps, overcome with a poison that does its work with a suddenness that is awful and a certainty that baffles rescue.

And all the time, wives, mothers, sons and daughters crowd the space around the pithead. The rescue party comes up, perhaps bearing the form of one who went on the shift only a few hours before; recognition follows and his humble home claims him in grief and desolation. That is exactly what will be going on around the property away out there in Utah today.

It's a long way from here, perhaps, but human sympathy is not measured in miles, nor hedged off by national

Tavish Mactavish

"ROSINANTE"

ARCHER M. Huntington, a millionaire lover of the arts and his wife who is a sculptress have purchased a yacht and are going on a trip of unfathomed distances over the face of the seven seas in search of hidden treasure.

I would doubt very much the truth of this press dispatch but for the fact that these adventures have christened their schooner "Rosinante" after the famous nag on which Don Quixote went forth to conquer the world. By this I know that Mr. Huntington and his wife are both artists and lovers.

Also I know instinctively that Mr. Huntington has inherited his million and not made it because no man who has been through the battle of dollars could by any possible stretch of imagination pay such a tribute both to Cervantes and to the spirit of youth. Perhaps though his wife named the ship. Still I am vindicated anyway for a man sacrifices a world of power when he allows anyone else to name his ship or his dog.

SHE SUCCEEDED.

"SUCCESS came too late" is the heading of an article before me. The story goes on to tell of a poor little girl in New York a would-be actress who toured the small towns in small parts in small plays. In between times she wrote books, which publishers with their usual precision sent back. After many years of hardships of the road with company of New York players Vallie Martin under the destruction of tuberculosis died in her bare third floor back.

Now these same publishers have found that there may be some profit derived from producing the book "The Musings of a Mislaid Maid" in man in distress and are bidding quite spiritedly for the manuscript. The illness were not withered on her grave before hands pages with the money in their hands that might have meant, sunshine, and life for Vallie. From an artist's view of point, she achieved success. Her book was written before the sands of life ran out. Success she has—reward she will find.

MAGNUS IS RIGHT.

AT LEAST one of Uncle Sam's senators has the courage to say what is on his mind, in words the man in the street can understand. Senator Magnus Johnston (the Minnesota "dirt representative" being but a poor farmer), in presenting the position of the agriculturist in his country politically and economically says: "Your manufacturer has his hand in the pocket of the wholesaler. The wholesaler has his hand in the pocket of the retailer. The retailer has his hand in the pocket of the farmer. What we want is to find someone whose pocket the farmer isn't in." It ain't there.

The voracious senator's frankness is as welcome as his logic is obvious. There is no pocket his followers can slip into of course, but his candour in summing up their position may perhaps bring home a great truth and an imminent danger in modern conditions to some of his readers.

Listenin' In

A FRIEND of mine, a wealthy lad, he called me on the phone to say, he'd got a radio in his house to holler at him night and day, and he would like for me to come and share the comforts of his tin, to spend an evenin' in his hut along with him at listenin' in.

I scraped my feet upon the mat and said, "I'm workin' all the while to get in to see you on his call."

Some feller says in plainin' tone that he has something brisk and new, bein' spead upon the frosty air from station numbered PDQ.

And sure enough along she came, a woman with a plaintive song, her voice a-trembling low at spells, then risin' up robust and strong.

And just as she was comin' to the spot where she would hit high C, some other station hollered out to harken unto M. R. E.

Whereat my friend got all het up, 'I've never seen him quite so sore and dollars to a doughnut cake he might have riz up then and swore, but 'long there comes another call, oh hit that boulder with a rock, for all that trickled in just then was one well-manufactured squawk.

Well, say, he turned some things around, explainin' that it weren't his fault, he worked much like a hold-up man who's spinnin' dials upon a vault. And then there comes a voice that yelled that wheat was sellin' two points low, whereat my friend he frowned some more, consigned this wheat man down below.

And I've been wonderin ever since about the dame that sang that song, whose voice got chopped off sudden like just when she was a-tillin' strong; I didn't want to hear the stocks, nor what the robbers lost or got, but I've been wonderin' ever since if she got to high C or not—ARK.

A REMARKABLE MAN.

Small Nephew—Tell us about the time you were frozen to death at the North Pole, Uncle Jack.

Small Niece—No, Uncle Jack; please tell us about the time you were killed by wild Indians.

boundaries. It would be hard to imagine a scene of greater desolation and more forlorn, abandoned hopes than will be enacted in that little Utah settlement right at this hour.

Note and Comment.

Seventy sacks of U. S. mail were found in a fish car at Prince Rupert, B.C. Evidently the stupidity of the people in addressing mail is not responsible for all the delays.

Brantford announced a short time ago that it was faced with a 41-mill tax rate, but now says it can get through on 38½ mills. These financiers are somewhat similar to the doctor who always tells his patients how sick they are in order to get credit for a recovery that he anticipated from the start.

The Guide Post—By Henry van Dyke

BELONGING.

God, whose I am, and whom I serve.—Acts xxvii, 23.

The sense of "belonging" is essential to our happiness.

We are never without this sense, and therefore we do not realize its importance.

But let us try for once to strip it away from us and then perhaps we may feel what it means.

You remember the story of "The Man Without a Country."

Endeavor now to construct in imagination the figure of a man without a world, without a fellow man, without a God.

Does not the mere contemplation of such a condition as that throw us back forcibly, almost violently, upon the truth that the joy of our life is a dependent joy, and that we can only come into true and happy possession of ourselves when we realize that we belong to something greater than ourselves?

As living beings we are part of a universe of life.

As intelligent beings we are in connection with a great circle of conscious intelligences.

As spiritual beings we have our place in a moral world controlled and governed by the Supreme Spirit.

In each of these spheres there is a law, a duty, an obligation, a responsibility for us.

A happiness lies in the discovery and acknowledgment of those ties which fit us and bind us to take our place, to play our part, to do our work, to live our life, where we belong.

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O'LEARY'S NINE REMEDIES

G RATTAN O'LEARY has been writing a series of articles on government expenses. He has the good taste not only to point to expense, but to take the next step and suggest how it can be reduced. Without commenting on their feasibility we give his nine suggested remedies as follows:

1. Retrenchment should begin with parliament itself. I would reduce the sessional indemnities of senators and members of the Commons by one thousand dollars—making the indemnity \$3,000 instead of \$4,000 a year. (Up to four years ago it was but \$2,500). As there are 235 members of the Commons and 96 senators, this would effect an annual saving of \$331,000 a year.

2. The cabinet should be considerably reduced in size; there being no satisfactory reason why the cabinet which governs nine million Canadians should be twice as large as the cabinet which governs one hundred million Americans. Railways and canals, marine and fisheries, and public works—all public works—should be under one department—public works—in charge of one, instead of three ministers.

The department of the secretary of state should be abolished. Its chief duties are the incorporation of companies—clearly a proper function for the department of trade and commerce. The departments of customs and finance should be merged into one. These departments are both concerned with fiscal questions; and there is no sound reason for two ministers or for two large separate staffs.

Finally, the office of the solicitor-general should be abolished altogether. In England the solicitor-general takes charge of court cases in which the government is concerned. In Canada the same work is performed by the deputy minister of justice; the solicitor-general rarely, if ever, goes to court; and there is not a duty or a task in his office which could not be performed by the officials of the department of justice.

Such an amalgamation, if carried out, would reduce the present cabinet of fourteen ministers to a cabinet of nine ministers. It would mean not alone the saving of salaries of five ministers; it would almost certainly save hundreds of thousands of dollars annually through the reduction of staffs and the greater efficiency and mobility that amalgamation of department would involve.

3. The civil service act should be amended to give (a) deputy ministers more control over their staffs and more voice in promotions, and (b) to secure some elastic system under which employees may be transferred quickly from one department to another; this to replace the present system under which, largely because of the red-tape in securing transfers, a department in need of extra help rarely seeks it from another department, but advertises for additional employees.

4. Some kind of board or committee should be established which would exercise the same control or check upon the growth of the staffs of departments that is exercised by the treasury board in England. The British treasury board from time to time compels heads of departments to appear before it and show cause why their staffs should not be reduced, or why extra help taken on in cases of special work or emergency cannot be dispensed with. In this way overmanning is prevented. A similar control should be and could be established in Canada.

5. Civil servants should be compelled to work at least seven and a half instead of six and a half hours.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Advertiser welcomes letters discussing matters of public interest. It is necessary that the name of the writer be sent as an evidence of good faith, but not necessarily for publication.

Old Barnardo Boy.

Proud To Be One of 6,211 of Them Who Served in the British Army Overseas.

Editor of The Advertiser:

Sir,—Re the letters I have read about "Home boys." I have a little note that will perhaps let "Kent County" know that Dr. Barnardo boys are as good as her boys. Did her boy she talks of join the army? Well, there were 6,211 Dr. Barnardo boys in the great war; 531 died. I am a Barnardo boy myself, and one of the 6,211, and served three years in France.

To tell the truth it was the worst

letter I ever read, and as to releasing Cox, I think he got off too easy.

OLD BARNARDO BOY.
London, Ont.

Upholds the Mayor.

Ratepayer Believes He Did the Right Thing When Dealing With the Relief Office.

Editor of The Advertiser:

Sir,—Could you please allow me a small space in your valuable paper, of which I have been a reader for years?

Just a little comment on "time for a change in city hall circles." I quite agree with Mayor Wenige in the suspension of Inspector McCallum, for in the first place he is past the age limit, and secondly, when any person

gets such large ideas in their "cranium" that if he quit the job they would have to get two men to fill the position, and then the work would not be as well done as he had done it. I consider it is high time to call a halt. That surely is sufficient to recall the old saying, "Blow your horn or you'll never sell your fish."

Then, he claims he did not ask for the position, and was sought after to take it, and now was sorry he accepted it.

There are people who would not want the position at all. I consider Mayor Wenige did the proper thing, although there are some people who oppose his sayings and doings. I, with lots of others, will say "three cheers for the mayor of London, for where will you find any better." Thanking you kindly,
A TAXPAYER.
London, Feb. 7, 1924.

SOMETIMES.

Teacher—"What is the plural of mouse, John?"
John—"Mice."
Teacher—"Correct. Now the plural of spouse?"
John—"Spice."

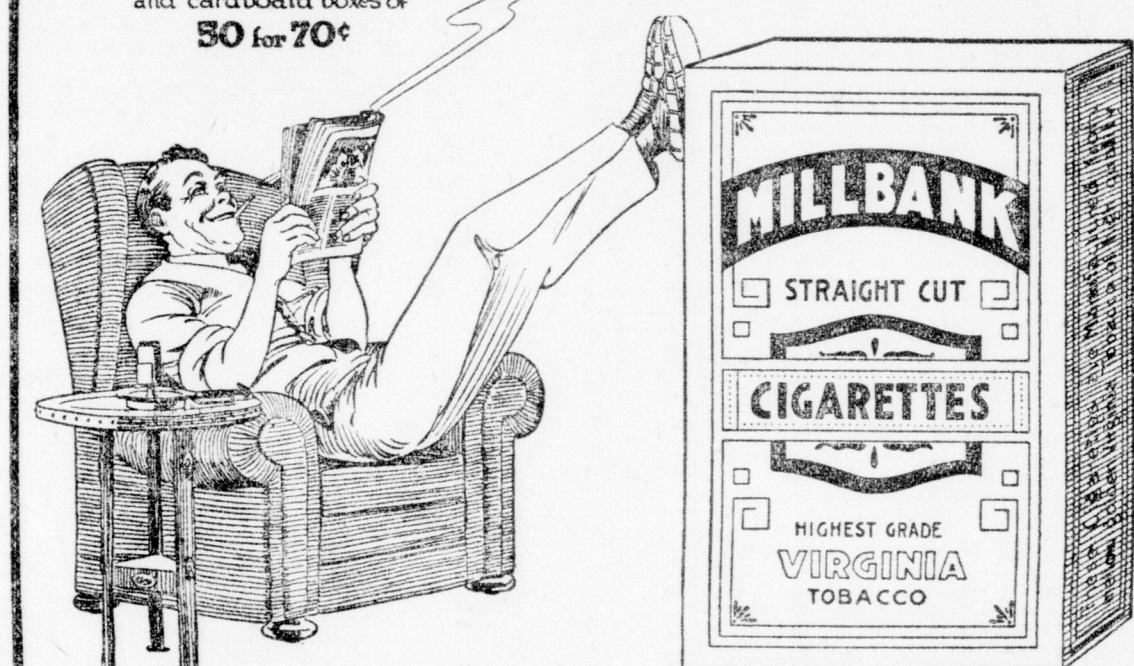
Buy yourself a pack of smokes and make yourself at home. Be sure and ask for MILLBANKS, for they really are "high toned"

Pick out an easy seat. Shed your coat and rest your feet. So buy yourself a pack of smokes and make yourself at home.

(To the tune of "Cut yourself a piece of cake.")

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ANCHOR-DONALDSON

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From Portland. From Halifax.

March 29...Cassandra April 1

April 12...Saturia April 15

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May 15, June 12...Caronia

Montreal, Plymouth, Cherbourg, London.

May 3, June 7, July 12...Andania

May 17, June 21, July 26...Antonia

May 24, June 28, Aug. 2...Ausonia

Montreal to Glasgow.

May 8, June 5, July 4...Athenia

May 15, June 13, July 11...Cassandra

May 22, June 20, July 18...Saturia

FROM NEW YORK.

To Queenstown and Liverpool.

March 15...Cameronia

To Cherbourg and Southampton.

March 15...Aquitania

April 29...Mauretania

To Plymouth, Cherbourg and London.

March 29...Andania

To Londonderry and Glasgow.

March 15...Assyria

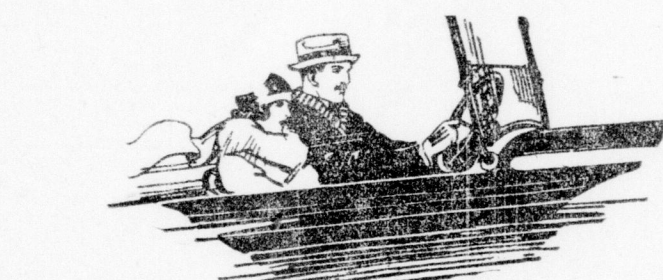
March 29...Columbia

June 7...Cameronia

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