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WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 1925.

Putting First Things First.

The question of building a dam at Springbank, or as some favor it even as far down as Byron, is before the people of London as a possibility. They will probably vote on it, and that is the proper way to decide anything where a considerable expenditure of money is involved.

Before an intelligent decision can be given on this point, Londoners would do well to consider a more urgent problem, one that from all points takes precedence—the completion of the sewage system and the cleaning up of the river, and these two can hardly be separated. Whether Londoners know it or not, the present sewage disposal in the west end is not functioning properly, and there are other large expenditures to be made before the river is free from raw sewage. A survey of the situation shows how far the plan for a complete system started a couple of years ago has been completed and what remains to be done:

The Wellington-High street sewer system provides for that section from Ridout street east to the L. & P. S., and also relieves the present London South outlet. Included in this system is also a pumping plant at the Wellington "V" to care for the low area from Hill street to the river and Clark street to the river on the other side. The cost of this work, which is practically completed, is \$250,000.

A new sewage disposal plant in the east end of Watson street serves Chelsea and Riverview Heights, and this work, now under construction, calls for \$60,000.

This will make certain that no untreated sewage can enter the river until a point below Ridout street and Carrae, where at present a section of some forty houses has no outlet for sewage in disposal works. The proposal is to syphon this east or west to the disposal plants, and the cost would be around \$5,000. There is no pollution from city sewage on the north branch of the river, and investigations are being conducted to determine whether there is contamination from any other source.

At the foot of River street there is an overflow of sewage from the Evergreen avenue syphon chamber; it runs into the river untreated because there is not enough capacity to take it to the west end disposal plant. The remedy for this, and it may be applied through a mandatory order, is to supplement the present 20-inch pipe with a 48-inch one, the units for which are now being made. This will cost \$60,000.

The big problem comes in dealing with this material when it gets to the west end disposal plant. This operates on the plan of sedimentation tanks and coke beds, but for some reason the tanks were allowed to become clogged, and a year ago they were practically inoperative. The engineering department had these cleaned out, but at present they are not more than 50 per cent efficient, and right now not 50 per cent of the sewage that will ultimately come there is being delivered, so it can be correctly stated that that plant is not over 25 per cent efficient for the work that will shortly be required of it. There is no use dodging the question—it means the renewal of this plant or a complete new outfit, and the engineer is none too sanguine of being able to do much with the existing plant.

A new one to handle the volume that will be directed there will cost around \$200,000.

Summarized, it means that the completion of the work to a point where no raw sewage will be entering the river which it is proposed to dam will cost:

Wellington-High street	\$250,000
East end plant	60,000
Syphon, Ridout-Carrae	5,000
Syphon, River street	60,000
West end disposal plant	200,000

Total.....\$575,000
Whatever may be spent on the proposed dredging and cleaning of the river bed will be in addition to this amount.

This is a large outlay of public money, and one that falls almost entirely on the public funds. In the logical order of events it takes precedence over a proposition to build a dam, because it would be very poor business to block up a body of water and then set about to pollute it because of the inefficiency of our sewage and disposal plants. It is simply a case of putting first things first.

What the Check-off Means.

The demands of the U.S. coal miners are summarized as follows:

1. A wage advance of 10 per cent for all general miners.
2. A flat increase of \$1 a day for all day workers.
3. The check-off system whereby operators will deduct union dues of the miners from their pay and turn them over to the union.

The check-off system is one peculiar to miners, in that they have actually succeeded in many agreements in having it included. Formerly the secretary of the local union used to collect the dues from the miners, but as they work three shifts in many mines it meant constant work to keep the funds coming in. By the check-off the company itself undertakes to deduct from the men's wages the dues and assessments levied by the union, and turn the amount over to that organization.

This caused a great deal of trouble in western Canadian coal fields. At one of the conferences there a mine owner put the case this way: "You ask us to take out of the men's wages an amount set by you in order that when this agreement

runs out you will be in better shape to demand a higher wage."

The refusal of a company to agree to the check-off system is not sufficient reason for a strike, nor could a strike be justified on union principles for that reason.

A union exists primarily to negotiate collectively for what it considers fair wages and decent working conditions, and recognition of it on these grounds is now generally conceded. When it has secured these it should attend to its own financing.

The Prince on the Job.

The Prince of Wales is teaching the world a lesson that should not be overlooked by a number of others, some of whom complain at times that they cannot get along with people. The prince has been visiting native tribes in South Africa. The most recent was one where the chief himself, decked in a gorgeous apparel of his own making, had come down the river 300 miles, through all manner of dangerous rapids, to meet the heir-apparent to the British throne.

It may not be a big thing in itself, but it's worth noting that the prince was right down at the edge of the river waiting to greet the tribal chief when he arrived. Imagine the effect of that little courtesy on that African chief and the impression he will take back to his people who gather their ideas of Britain from such meagre sources as the occasional contact of their leaders with some of her people.

In looking up all these people in what we call the out-of-the-way corners of the world the Prince of Wales is giving a practical demonstration of what can be accomplished by common courtesy, kindness, a willingness to lay aside his own preferences at times and to become appreciative of the things which even a lesser people consider great.

Blaming the Wrong Party.

The Toronto Telegram counts it a poor day's work when it cannot hang something on the King government. The latest is entire responsibility for the coal strike and subsequent riots in Cape Breton. The Telegram says:

"Dominion government had nothing whatever to do with the sending of troops to the troubled mining districts of Nova Scotia, according to G. N. Gordon, M.P."

"Dominion government admitted its responsibility for the developments which led to the use of troops when it sent Hon. James Murdock, minister of labor, to the Nova Scotia mining districts."

The visit of Hon. James Murdock to Nova Scotia had nothing to do with the sending of troops. Mr. Murdock went there as minister of labor, and he has no authority over the militia department, nor has he any connection with it. It was and still is his duty to use all the power of his office to bring about a settlement, and in that capacity he is answerable if his efforts have not been sufficient.

The government at Ottawa did not send troops to Cape Breton; it has not the power to do so even if it should so desire. The government of Nova Scotia, through its attorney-general, asked for the troops, and he did not go near the dominion government.

The government of Nova Scotia was and is primarily responsible. The government there is owner of the coal properties and leases them to the operating company, which has a provincial and not a dominion charter. The company in turn pays royalties to the government of Nova Scotia. The whole business is right there and not at Ottawa.

The fact that Premier-Elect Rhodes of Nova Scotia has pledged himself to go to Cape Breton and stay there until a settlement is reached is further proof that responsibility rests with the government of the province that owns the mines.

Note and Comment.

Burglar who tried to rob a store at Beamsville could get nothing but a bottle of vinegar.

Peterboro Examiner suggests that 4.4 no longer refers to the strength of the beer, but to the percentage of Ontario people who drink it.

Bootleggers in Cleveland laid in large supplies for the recent Rotary convention there, but lost heavily as the demand for their wares was very poor. Rather a neat compliment for the Rotarians, too.

There are now nine vacancies in the Canadian senate. Can this mean that the government cannot find nine more willing to go in, or are there so many applicants that it's hard to leave so many out?

Middlesex county jail fed its guests for the last three months on an average cost of 11.99 cents per day, against 11 cents in the previous quarter. The new figure means four cents per meal, or \$4.20 per week for a family of five. Governor Dawson should get out a book on "How I Put the Road Roller on the High Cost of Living." It should meet with a ready sale.

Premier-Elect Rhodes of Nova Scotia has made the following statement: "Immediately after I am called upon to assume the responsibility of administering the affairs of this province I shall be the first to remove myself to Cape Breton, and I shall remain there until this strike is settled." Whether Mr. Rhodes can succeed remains to be seen, but he has at least committed himself publicly to a plan that puts the duty fairly on himself, and that is a good point from which to make a start.

A report from Guelph tells of Major Meredith, at the age of 71, riding a white horse to Kitchener to take part in a 12th of July "walk." There was another incident there some years ago that did not cover as much distance but made up for it in other ways. The late Alex. Greenaway was to ride the white horse, but he couldn't get one to his taste. John McAtter had the ideal white horse, but John was a member of the Roman Catholic church. However, this did not stand in the way and John's white horse, decked with orange plumes, led the 12th of July parade in Guelph that year.

Always Learning

Since I got stalled upon the road when drivin' peaceful like one day, I harken to the handy man and note the things he has to say.

I never paid much heed at all to how my flivver should be run, nor squinted at the handy man or noted of the things he done. He'd dive beneath the hood sometimes and turn a nut six times around, the chariot would start and hum, 'twould make a sweet and pleasing sound.

And lots of times when I was there he'd want to tell me this and that, about the differential thing and where the timin' gear was at.

Another time he took apart the carburetor in my huck, but I was more concerned to see if he could put the riggin' back; he cleaned the spark plugs for me too and showed me how the thing was done, explainin' that the number four it shot ahead of number one.

Instead of takin' out a book and writin' down the things he said, his words they went a-sailin' through, nor found an anchor in my head.

I reckoned if I bought the gas and paid for gobs of oil as well, I didn't need to bother with the news this handy man would tell. I knew just how to start the thing and put my feet upon the gas, and go a-flyin' at a pace that none would ever dare to pass.

Well we was out one day last week to drive upon a country lane, where speeders don't go tearin' by nor shower the dust upon your frame. And I was lookin' at the crops and soakin' in the country air, just thinkin' it was pleasant like to be so quiet and peaceful there.

But somethin' happened to the works, there was a snort or two inside, and then there was no snorts at all, the engine she just sort of died.

So I got out and looked around to see what thing had come to pass, I squinted like-wise at the tank and found I had all sort of gas.

I crawled beneath the car as well, but that inspection did no good, and then just like the handy man I stuck my dome beneath the hood. I couldn't see a thing gone wrong nor figure what she'd stalled there for, the spark plugs stood upon the top a-lookin' like they did before.

The handy man drove sixteen miles to start me on that peaceful lane, me watchin' of the things he did and payin' likewise for the same.

Since when I watch the things he does and harken to his wisdom too, so when my flivver stops again, I'll know the proper stuff to do.—ARRK.

25 Years Ago Today

To let, frame house on Queen's avenue, 7 rooms, newly painted and papered, \$9 per month and water rates.

Editorial note: "Bobs" is a Baptist. The great British general, of course, takes water, but no backwater.

Red raspberries sold on the market this morning at 4 1/2 cents a box, while the black ones were in good supply at 5 cents. Spring chickens were plentiful and sold from 50 to 60 cents per pair. Eggs were from 12 to 14 cents per dozen.

Report from Shanghai says there can be little doubt that the foreigners in Peking have perished.

Dr. O. I. Cunningham, who recently graduated with College honors from the University of Dental Surgeons, Toronto, and the Chicago College, will open offices in London in a few days.

A Stratford despatch says: Rev. J. T. Kerrin, rector of Trinity church, Mitchell, has been offered and has accepted the parish of All Saints' church, East London.

Cream puffs, 20 cents per dozen at Friend's. Pte. George Graham of London has arrived at Quebec, invalided home from South Africa.

Wellington street Methodist Sunday school picnic was held at Port Stanley. The first ball game was between these teams: J. A. Croden (captain), Rev. R. D. Hamilton, E. Fleming, J. Rook, J. W. T. Park, H. Foot, J. Cox, R. Gray, W. Dickenson, F. C. Toon, Wm. Jeffrey's team—H. R. McDonald, W. Weir, J. Herrick, J. Luney, Mr. Nixon, A. Davis, T. Snell, Charles Ayres, Arthur Gorman. Another game was played by the Sunday school boys vs. a picked nine. Sunday school—C. Lang, P. Williams, J. Gilmore, W. Craig, W. Powell, H. Luney, J. Holland, J. Hutton, C. Shears. Picked nine—H. Ward, B. Graham, J. Simmons, J. Stewart, T. Atkinson, W. Bartlett, W. H. Grenfell, C. P. LeSueur, M. Tierney.

To the Editor

Another One Lonely.

Editor of The Advertiser:
Sir,—Being an ardent reader of The Advertiser, I was deeply touched as I read on July 7th the editorial concerning the lonely young man.

Very few know the real meaning of loneliness unless they have experienced it, the soul anguish, forlorn, forsaken feeling. I have experienced that feeling and can sympathize with our unknown friend. I also came from London, England, at the age of ten, leaving home and dear ones never to see them in this world again.

For the past fifteen years I have roamed this country, sometimes aimlessly seeking friendship. The feeling of loneliness has been to such an extent at times when in a city crowded with people I have felt forsaken and alone.

Often I have wandered (even in your city, London) the streets aimlessly at night, gazing into windows of homes whose occupants seemed happy and content, and the rooms looked so cosy and inviting. I have walked on and on till, too tired to go any farther, I would return to my lodgings, fling myself across the bed in a state of forlorn despair.

I believe that Sir John Howard Payne, author of Home, Sweet Home, composed it out of sheer loneliness.

I would appreciate very much if Dorothy Dix's solution could be published in The Advertiser. It might not only help our unknown friend or me, but also others who are lonely. O for a taste of loving kindness and friendship from recent people who could and would understand.

LONELY READER.

Ridgeway, July 10.

London Topics

Privy Council Meets in Office
That Would Not Be a Credit to a Country Lawyer.

By HENRY SOMERVILLE.

LONDON—Everybody who visits Downing street remarks upon the unimposing architecture of No. 10. There is another important address in the same street so unobtrusive that though everybody must pass it when they go to look at the prime minister's residence scarcely anybody notices it. It is that of the judicial committee of the privy council.

The most august legal tribunal of the British Empire is established in premises that would not be considered good enough for a small town lawyer. There is an entire lack of formality inside. Two or three newspaper reporters are generally lounging around, waiting for the judgments to be delivered or for the pleadings to become interesting. The court itself is a very small room and no one can enter it without being within a few feet of the law lords.

At the same time it is remarkably difficult to hear what is said by the judges because they speak in a very low, conversational tone. The law lords dispense with all the trappings of office and wear ordinary dress without wigs or gowds. Often they will sit through a long speech by counsel looking abjectly bored. At other times they do not allow counsel to speak for two consecutive minutes without questioning his veracity or his logic. Learned K.C.'s sometimes get as severe a grilling from the law lords as ever they inflict on witnesses under cross-examination.

Mr. Tilley, K.C., had a very stiff time today, though he bore it with his customary gallantry and ability. He was arguing for the Toronto separate school board against the city of Toronto in the case relating to the refusal of the city to allow a school to be built in a certain street. The judges were Lord Cave, Lord Haldane, Lord Carson, Lord Shaw and Lord Blanesborough. Lord Carson sits grim and immovable, with hard, sharp face as if he is opposed to all the world and especially to the counsel who is pleading at the moment.

Every now and then he snaps out a question like a blow, and if the answer grows too long he cuts it short as with a hatchet. He is a judge who never shows favor and much less fear. Lord Haldane is an opposite type. He beams on counsel and he is benign when he is tearing counsel's argument to tatters. Lord Cave, the lord chancellor, is a tall, healthy Englishman who has nothing of the legal manner about him and looks like a good-humored colonel of the Guards, though he is, in fact, as learned a lawyer as any body. Lord Shaw is a keen and very restless except when he closes his eyes and seems to be asleep. Lord Blanesborough is big and burly and resembles Lord Cave in many respects, though he shows signs of high tension. All the judges have the power of asking searching questions, and they are ready and of clearing away side issues.

Manchester Rejects U.S. Steel.
THOUGH Manchester is the citadel of Cobdenism with its maxims of buying in the cheapest market and selling in the dearest, it has decisively refused, after a long controversy, to buy tramway lines from the United States Steel Corporation, though the latter's tender was 6 per cent below the lowest English tender. Evidence was given from the latest report of the international labor office at Geneva that in the matter of wages of labor the United States steel trade is still a long way behind what are considered fair conditions in this country. In the middle of last year the average proportion of the employees of the U. S. Steel Trust were still working from 60 to 84 hours a week. The trust still denies the fact of collective bargaining to its workpeople, and only 25,000 out of 400,000 or 500,000 workers are members of trade unions. Manchester city council therefore decided to vote to let it, not to accept the U. S. tender.

The Scarcity of Clergy.
THE archbishops of Canterbury and York, appointed a committee to report on the question of the shortage of candidates for the ministry of the church of England. This shortage has been so pronounced for many years past that the average age of clergy on the active list is now 52 years, and fewer than 12 per cent of the clergy are under 35 years of age.

Those who are not closely acquainted with the life of the church have offered the easy explanation that the clergy are not well enough paid, and that the way to raise the supply of clergy is to increase the stipends. The archbishops' committee say that the trouble has deeper and more complex causes. They enumerate six causes, as follows:

Growing indifference to religion. Decay of religion in the home. Misunderstandings as to clerical life and work.

Development of other openings for social service. Intellectual difficulties. Financial difficulties.

In order to remove some intellectual difficulties, the committee recommends a new statement of the principles of the church of England in place of the Thirty-nine Articles. It does not recommend any rewriting of the creeds, but it says candidates should not regard perplexity as to certain clauses of the creeds as being necessarily a barrier to ordination.

The bishop of Gloucester, a member of the committee, adds a note to the report, saying: "I do not disagree with the report, but I do not think that it puts the matter in its right proportions. The real problem is: Why a large number of persons who have a certain amount of private means, and, therefore, are to a certain extent independent of the financial position, used to take orders and do not do so now? That is the problem before us. Now, the reason, I believe, is this: The secularization of our modern life generally and of our educational system in particular."

The bishop proceeds to say that the atmosphere of Oxford and Cambridge is "largely secular, and to a considerable extent even antagonistic to Christianity. I think the church should concentrate its attention much more than it does on religious work in our universities and in attacking the intellectual problems of religion."

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Save this form if you are not prepared to send your ad. today. You will find it handy when the need arises.

SESSION AND STEWARDS CHOSEN BY UNITED CHURCH

Special to The Advertiser.

Milvinton, July 14.—At a special congregational meeting on Monday evening of the United church of Milvinton and Milbank, the following officers were elected: Session—R. H. Coulter, J. E. Roulston, W. B. Struthers, D. Slautzauer, J. E. Whitney, representing Milvinton congregation; R. B. Hamilton, R. Magwood, representing Milbank congregation.

Stewards—F. Crawford, M. Taylor, M. MacBeth, W. J. Whitney, J. Ranney, for Milvinton congregation; S. W. Country, G. Wray, for Milbank. R. Magwood, Milbank, recording secretary.

BORDER CITIES SCOUTS BREAK WHEATLEY CAMP

Special to The Advertiser.

Wheatley, July 14.—The Border Cities Boy Scouts, who have been camping at Overholt park, left Sunday by motor truck for their homes.

The Boy Scouts played several softball games with the Wheatley junior boys' and junior girls' teams. On no occasion were the Scouts defeated, though the games were always keenly contested.

Many Scout accomplishments were shown in the entertainment, which the 10th Troop held in Put's hall. The willingness displayed by the boys when they contributed the evening music at Union church service was appreciated.

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