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Managing Director and Editor, John Cameron

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Canada's Attractive Future.

Hon. Clifford Sifton made some timely remarks on the greatness of Canada's resources at the recent conference with members of the Toronto Board of Trade. As showing the possibilities of the development of the Dominion, the Minister pointed out that in the Northwest, including Manitoba and the Territories immediately beyond, but excluding British Columbia and the Yukon gold lands, only 4,500 square miles are under cultivation, while the area of Manitoba alone is 75,000 square miles. We have also the undeveloped Northwest of this Province, both in its cultivatable land, in its immense timber belt, and in its undoubted mineral wealth. The possible development, as Mr. Sifton pointed out, is almost limitless. Then, as to the quality of the virgin soil of the Northwest, so far from its being inferior to that of the Western States, it has been proved to far exceed it in fertility. If we enter the mineral belt, and take stock, the contrast is even more marked. The annual product of the State of Montana, so often talked about as the greatest mineral producing territory in the world, has been about \$50,000,000 for some years past. The Kootenay district easily exceeds Montana in point of productiveness, and with the facilities provided by the Government railway policy for the economical handling of the ores, will soon have an annual output of between \$50,000,000 and \$60,000,000.

It is the duty of the Government to see that the affairs of the Dominion are so directed as to enable our people to take full advantage of their great opportunities, and to have diverted to our seaports all the trade that is certain to arise from the intelligent development of the great resources of the Dominion. Our preferential tariff has been devised not only to favorably advertise Canada and her products in the motherland, which has always provided the best market for our staple products, but to add to the quantity annually marketed in Great Britain. When we talk of our immense wheat fields, we do not always realize the opportunities presented in the British market for a constantly increasing supply of our No. 1 hard to meet the demands of the busy hives of industry in Great Britain.

It is not generally known that at the present time, for every 50 bushels of wheat grown in the motherland, 85 are imported from the United States, 49 from Russia, and 70 from all other countries, of which a comparatively few come from this country. The table below shows the number of bushels consumed in the United Kingdom in one year, and the countries from which the supply was derived:

Home-grown	50,000,000 bu
United States	85,000,000 bu
Russia	49,000,000 bu
Other countries	70,000,000 bu

Great Britain therefore obtains from other countries more than four times as much wheat as is produced in the United Kingdom; but it is noteworthy that as yet but a very small proportion of the supply is received from Canada. If by any chance the supply from abroad were stopped, there would only be sufficient wheat grown in the British Isles to feed the population for one-fifth of the year, or less than two months and a half. This certainly gives much point to the question which has been brought forward several times of late, that if war broke out between Britain and almost any of the European nations, Great Britain would be in difficulties for her food supply unless she were able to keep a clear waterway.

With regard to butter and cheese, the foreign imports of Great Britain are also very large. In the last year for which we have complete returns (1896) the supply of butter and margarine was made up thus:

Butter, Margarine.	Tons.	Tons.
Home produce	95,000	Nil
Foreign	151,000	46,999

Of the foreign butter 65,000 tons came from Denmark, while of the margarine 95 per cent of the entire supply was manufactured in Holland. Reckoning the butter and margarine together, we have 95,000 tons produced in Great Britain and 197,000 tons produced abroad. Thus for more than eight months in the year they are eating foreign butter and margarine, of which the supply for two and a half months is Danish butter, and for nearly two months it is margarine. An increasing supply of the butter used by the British is now obtained from this country, the very best butter on the market being now sent from the Dominion in cold storage, thanks to the thoughtfulness of the Dominion Minister of Agriculture, whose efforts have been ably seconded by the producers. Of margarine, Canada has of course no exports, our legislators very wisely prohibiting the manufacture of that substitute for butter, on the ground that its production would be detrimental to our sale of the real article in the British market.

Great Britain imports something like \$600,000,000 worth of farm products yearly, and her consuming population is constantly increasing. With our preferential tariff and with means adopted by the Government to get our products to the seaboard at the smallest possible cost, the opportunities for our producers ought to be greatly increased. We have the raw material; what we must see to is that it shall be economically worked, in a manner that will command the attention of our

customers, and be conveyed to them by the cheapest possible route. The outlook for Canada is indeed cheering.

The Modern Vandals.

The possibility of the beautiful Lakes of Killarney being sold to the highest bidder, and perhaps turned into a private fishing preserve, is enough to make every true Irish heart throb with indignation. Think of the loveliest spot of the loveliest isle of the sea being hung up at auction like a job lot of second-hand goods! The next thing the people of Ireland know, some fiend will try to prohibit the kissing of the Blarney stone, on the plea of danger from microbes. Modern spirit and modern practices are everywhere blotting out the most cherished sentiments and traditions, and drying up the springs of imagination and poetry. The vandal hand of utilitarianism is razing the most consecrated objects. It is even defiling the antiquity of the pyramids with a trolley line. No man with a soul would think of riding thither on anything but a camel or a donkey. By and bye the pyramids will be equipped with elevators. The wave of desecration now threatens to roll over Venice—Venice, the one city in Europe on whose azure brow time has written no wrinkles; Venice, still radiant in the twilight of the past; Venice, where the poet may yet breathe the atmosphere of romance—but Byron has already said something to the same effect. It is proposed to substitute electric launches for the immemorial gondolas. This is monstrous and not to be endured. Banish the gondolas and the gondoliers, and Venice loses half her charms. Some day the Venetian board of health will discover that the water breeds miasma and they'll drain it off and put in a modern sewerage system. A sewerage system in Venice would be a crowning outrage. It is reported, also, that the Doge's palace is tottering, and may have to come down. The Bridge of Sighs is just opposite, and no doubt when it gets shaky, too, it will be jacked up with concrete abutments. Similarly we may expect someone to spring a plan for straightening the leaning tower of Pisa. In Florence a few months ago the local authorities set out to demolish a row of ancient buildings, around which the memories of famous men and famous events have clustered for centuries. The crime was only prevented by the protest of English residents, who prized the relics of Florentine greatness more than the Florentines themselves. The genius of medieval Italy illumined Europe, but the soul of modern Italy refuses to kindle even at the recollection of former triumphs.

Despite the claim that Canada's history only began with Sir Charles Tupper, we Canadians place some value on the storied past, but the iconoclast is at work in this country, too. He has not spared the sublimity of the eternal Niagara. The cataracts are no longer the gifts of nature, intended to give delight and awe. Their value is now estimated in horse power. Then there are the Plains of Abraham, the most precious and far-famed spot on Canadian soil, liable to be carved up into building lots unless the Government interposes. Verily the Canadian Historical Society has a field of usefulness in seeking to reserve and inculcate the spirit of veneration for the memorials of the past, to which the present age owes so much. The society purposes holding an exhibition of historic relics in Toronto next month. It is gratifying to know we still have some relics. There's Black Rod, for instance.

The School System Again.

The assailants of the Ontario school system should get on common ground if they hope to effect anything. Hitherto the public schools have been the principal object of attack, at the hands of professional politicians. Professor Robertson, who can be acquitted of partisan motives, is censorious particularly of the secondary system. Now we have a fling at the kindergarten, originating, we believe, in the Belleville Intelligencer. The contention is that the entertaining exercises of the kindergarten make the child mind adverse to the more prosaic methods of the public schools. As between the intelligencer and the late Mr. Froebel, it is certain that the consensus of intelligent opinion is still with Froebel.

Professor Robertson, in his address before the Ontario Educational Association, attacked what he termed the rigid uniformity of the Ontario school system and advised that the secondary system of England be studied as a model. The Advertiser and other papers pointed out that Professor Robertson's argument against uniformity found no support in the English secondary system, which was so chaotic that a bill to render it more uniform was then before the House of Lords. Professor Robertson explains that he had reference to the principles embodied in this legislation, and not to the English system as it exists today. That puts another face on the matter, and we regret having misinterpreted, like others, the professor's remarks, as they first appeared in print. Our extracts from speeches delivered by Mr. Clancy and Professor Jebb, alluded to by Professor Robertson, were taken from a summary in the tri-weekly edition of the London Times, and there was nothing in the context contradicting the impression conveyed by the paragraphs which we published. Professor Robertson quotes from a prior speech by Professor Jebb, wherein the latter speaks of "the large discretion which must be left to the local authorities, enabling them to deal with the varying needs and circumstances of their respective localities." This is probably the genesis

of Professor Robertson's criticism at the teachers' convention. When he spoke of allowing our secondary schools to "grow up from local conditions," he was paraphrasing Professor Jebb. We can quite understand the idea of schools "growing up from local conditions" in England. Many communities there are sharply differentiated in numberless ways—by customs, traditions, usages, social discrepancies and innumerable idiosyncracies. Various counties produce various types. The distinction between the people of Yorkshire and Cornwall, for instance, is decidedly broad. The lake school of poets is often cited as showing that genius is peculiar to certain localities. The moors of Yorkshire are reflected in the Brontës. Illustrations to this effect might be multiplied. But in a country like Ontario it is different. The conditions here are uniform. Each man is pretty much like his neighbor and each locality like any other. This is typical of every new democratic community—people are of the one mould. As there is little social analogy between this Province and the old country, so an educational system, or any other institution adapted to England might be wholly incongruous in this Ontario. The local conditions out of which Prof. Robertson would have schools grow are in England the development of centuries. We have nothing corresponding to them here, though we may evolve them in time. We know there is a contrast in the characteristics of Ontario and Quebec, but in this Province alone there is not the variety of local conditions necessary to Prof. Robertson's theory.

The Imperial Government's coolness toward the Pacific cable is strongly suggestive of wire-pulling somewhere.

Mr. Foster's attack on the budget was clever, if artificial. Only a clever man could manufacture an attack on such a budget.

The last toll gate in York county has been abolished at a cost of some \$25,000 to the York and Ontario County Councils. Middlesex should take the hint.

We hear a great deal about the serious effect of American iron competition in Great Britain. One of the effects is an increase of 15 per cent in wages granted by Scotch ironmasters.

An Italian professor is now blazoned as the discoverer of a cure for consumption. The persistence of medical science will some day overcome the scourge; but in the meantime fresh air is the best remedy yet found.

The Hamilton Herald slyly remarks: "Among the distinguished personages present at the installation of the new Roman Catholic archbishop at Toronto yesterday were Sir Mackenzie Bowell and E. F. Clarke, M.P. Where was M. W. Grand Master N. Clarke Wallace, M.P.?"

The grand jury of Jefferson county, Kentucky have denounced the charges of the Ohio Valley Telephone Company and advises that the rates be reduced by enactment. Failing that they recommend municipal ownership. Sweden charges only \$10 annually for telephones, and Switzerland \$16. The systems there are state owned.

Hon. Dr. Montague, who has just returned from British Columbia, reports the brightest prospects on the Pacific coast. "By most every train," he says, "English capital is pouring into British Columbia for investment in mining property, and without doubt the present year will see the largest development in the history of Canadian west."

The citizens of Strathroy of all classes and creeds have united in honoring Rev. Dr. Jordan, who has been appointed to a professor's chair in Queen's University. Strathroy has been the home of some of the foremost men in Canada, and may well feel proud of her "old boys." The people of the town honor themselves in paying tribute to Prof. Jordan, whose distinguished intellect is reinforced by character and by the best qualities of the heart.

What Others Say.

A Bachelor's Concoit.

[Guelph Advocate.] There are 5,000 vocations open to women. One is marriage—the others are of minor importance.

Handicapping the System.

[St. Thomas Journal.] There is one trouble about all the methods proposed to secure longevity. A great many people will not follow them until the system has been broken down by a violation of the laws of health, and then it is too late.

Our School Critics.

[Brantford Expositor.] Conservative organs are very persistent in their blundering accounts of how public education is administered in England. They have for years alleged that there was an "advisory council," and when it is pointed out that this council is made up of cabinet ministers, they drop the contention and allege that there is going to be one created. When it is established it will be time enough to explain its character; meanwhile there is none in existence.

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News of remarkable purchases of Lace Curtains, handsome goods, in Nottingham Lace, Swiss Net and Bobbinet. We bought these goods out of the regular channels of trade, and at prices that enable us to mark them much below their regular value.

At \$1—Nottingham Lace Curtains, newest designs, beautiful goods, 3½ yards long, and some are 60 inches wide; extra special at \$1.

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Light and Shade.

No Need to Announce It. "No, sir," said the rabid free-thinker, "the idea that there is a God never for a moment has entered my head." "Same way with my dog," replied the deacon, "but he doesn't go round howling about it."—Exchange.

He Would Try.

"I will be a sister to you," she said. "No," he replied, sadly, "I have one sister, who wears my neckties, borrows my car fare, loses my hair brush, puts tidies all over the furniture in my room, and expects me to take her to the theater twice a week. I think I will go out into the cold world and try to forget you."

Opinions Are the Trouble.

It is not things, but opinions about the things, that trouble mankind. When, therefore, we are worried, or troubled, or grieved, never let us blame any other than ourselves, that is to say, our opinions.—Epictetus.

Natural-Born.

He—I want you to understand no woman ever made a fool of me. She—Indeed! Who did it then?

The Useful Fool.

Let us be thankful for the fools. But for them the rest of us could not succeed.—Fudd'nhead Wilson.

NORTH WATERLOO ELECTION.

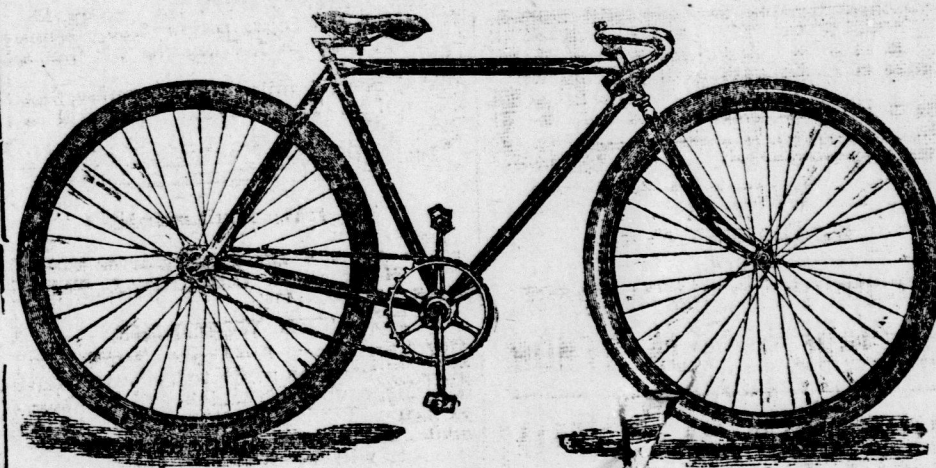
Toronto, May 5.—The bye-election in North Waterloo to fill the vacancy in the legislature caused by the unseating of Dr. Lackner, the late Conservative member, will be held May 23 and nominations on May 16.

WHISKY FOR A MURDERER.

Hamilton, May 5.—The nervous system of Ben Parrott, the condemned murderer, is beginning to break down, and the jail surgeon has ordered that he be given a large horn—a half-pint—of whisky every evening. Parrott used to be a hard drinker, and he has a craving for whisky since his incarceration. He has seven weeks to live yet.

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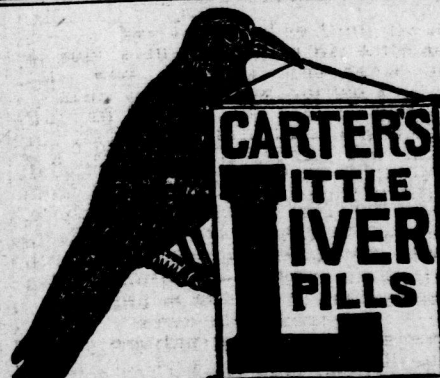
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