

## London Advertiser.

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Managing Director John Cameron

London, Wednesday, Dec. 27.

## Ontario's Agricultural Progress

The annual report of the bureau of industries for Ontario for 1898 is packed with interesting statistics relating to the agriculture of the province. The total value of farm property in Ontario in 1898 is given as \$223,022,420, divided as follows: Farm land, \$556,246,569; buildings, \$210,054,396; implements, \$52,577,232; live stock, \$103,944,223. The total value of farm property in 1897 was \$205,092,612. Last year the value of farm lands showed the first improvement since 1886. The average value per acre last year was \$39.46, or an increase of 71 cents over 1897.

The rural area assessed in 1898 was 23,392,554 acres, or 22,156 acres more than in the preceding year. Last year there were 12,993,614 acres of cleared land, an increase of 140,533 acres. There were 7,294,026 acres of woodland last year, a decrease of 95,000 acres; 3,200,065 acres of swamp or marsh land, a decrease of 13,000 acres; 2,708,043 acres in pasture, a decrease of 49,793 acres, and 8,335,272 acres under crop, an increase of 133,567 acres. The comparative yield of field crops for '97 and 1898 is shown in this table:

	1897.	1898.
Fall wheat.....	25,158,712	23,988,051
Spring wheat.....	6,873,785	4,868,101
Barley.....	12,663,968	12,021,779
Oats.....	86,558,293	86,518,128
Rye.....	2,543,234	3,332,005
Peas.....	13,521,263	13,567,093
Buckwheat.....	2,373,645	3,646,186
Beans.....	759,657	981,340
Potatoes.....	14,558,625	13,100,797
Mangel-Wurzel.....	31,367,569	38,700,338
Carrots.....	4,312,861	4,433,628
Turnips.....	64,727,882	68,297,148
Corn for husking.....	22,442,593	24,663,998
Tons.....		
Corn for fodder.....	2,128,073	2,600,332
Hay and clover.....	4,390,063	3,511,518

The yield per acre in fall wheat was 14 bushels in 1898, or 3.5 bushels more than the average for seventeen years, although falling short by 1.2 bushels of the average for 1897. The Georgian Bay district last year showed the splendid average of 26 bushels. The average yield of spring wheat last year was 17.7 bushels per acre, being 2.6 more than in 1897. Barley last year showed an average yield of 23.9; oats, 26.6; rye, 16.2; peas, 15.6; corn, 71.0; buckwheat, 15.8; beans, 16.8; potatoes, 84; mangels, 458; carrots, 247, and turnips, 427. The hay crop averaged 1.73 tons to the acre. The area in flax dropped from 16,240 acres in 1897 to 10,720 acres in 1898.

In 1898 there were 1,187 cheese factories in Ontario, an increase of 25. There was a decrease, however, in the make of cheese of over nine million pounds from the great output of 1897, but the season of 1898 leads 1895, the next highest year, by nearly nineteen million pounds. The average price of cheese, too, dropped over half a cent per pound last year, so that the patrons received but \$8.47,555 as compared with \$9,709,004 in 1897. This is equivalent to 61.2 cents per 100 pounds of milk, or four cents below the average of five years. Hastings, with 96 factories, produces 11,505,082 pounds while Oxford, with 9,922,563 pounds in 43 factories comes next.

The number of creameries in the province last year was 282, an increase of 63 over the previous season. The output of the creameries last year was 9,068,992 pounds, an increase of 1,300,727 pounds. The patrons received last year \$1,294,220 for milk or cream supplied, being 60.6 cents per 100 pounds of milk.

The live stock is numbered as follows:

	1898.	1897.
Horses.....	611,241	613,670
Cattle.....	1,640,687	1,334,961
Sheep.....	2,215,943	2,192,326
Poultry.....	1,677,014	1,620,350
	9,084,273	8,435,341

Putting everything together the record is one of progress and promise in agricultural conditions. The upward tendency of land values, which began to be noticed last year, still continues. The present year has also witnessed a great expansion in the volume of agricultural exports. The farming interests will be the first care of the Provincial Government and much is expected from the policy outlined by Premier Ross.

## Municipal Reform.

Whether the legislative body would be improved by lessening the number of members sitting at the board, is a question of considerable debate. Some imagine that six men would be better qualified for the task than eighteen, or twelve, and that is a movement to reduce the number of wards for this experiment. There would probably be less agitation and dispute at the board, the lesser number brought in. The business would be apt to run along more smoothly with so few comparatively to talk. There is the possibility, in fact, that the legislative part of the work would be reduced to the barest formality. Suppose the six should agree among themselves to have no wrangling or misunderstanding, but merely at their public meetings agree formally to ratify that which it would be easy to canvass privately so near to the conclusion. I would that state of things be any better safeguard of the public interest than the present enlarged number of councilors? It is an old axiom that in the multitude of counselors there is safety. The more wrangling or discussion the better for the people. It is more calculated to lay daylight into passing affairs than the snug and "respectable" formalism referred to.—London Free Press.

The Free Press is not fully informed. There is no movement to reduce the number of wards; the electors will vote on the proposition to abolish them entirely. If the ward divisions are wiped out it is likely that the number of aldermen will be reduced. No one has proposed that the number shall be as low as six. If we mistake not, ten has been suggested as a reasonable quota. Ward abolition is intended not so

much to make fewer aldermen—although that is desirable—as to make better aldermen. There are some capable men in the field this year, but we do not hesitate to say that there are others who have proved themselves unfit to hold public office. These latter, or most of them, will be elected by virtue of their ward "pulls," but they would have little prospect of success if they had to appeal to the suffrages of the whole city.

The conditions of municipal government seem to be generally unsatisfactory. Complaints are heard from every quarter and schemes of reform are in the air.

The chief difficulty is the reluctance of the best class of citizens to serve on municipal bodies. Believing that part of the fault was in the system, several cities and towns in Ontario have given up the plan of electing aldermen by wards, and have reduced the representation, and in every case the results have been encouraging. London has nothing to lose and much to gain by the experiment.

Electors have still five days in which to think over municipal matters.

Mr. Clarke Wallace has succeeded in making himself ridiculous. It did not require much effort.

Under the present system the average elector can vote for only three aldermen. He has nothing to say about choosing the other fifteen.

The merchants of the city generally agree that the holiday trade has been the best in years. It would have been still better had the snow and cold weather arrived a few days earlier.

That Fenian raid story is a clumsy joke. The Fenian invaders of 1866 sincerely believed that Canada was crying for deliverance from British rule. They expected to be welcomed with open arms, and were met with fire-arms instead. If the Fenian order is still alive, its leaders must know better than did those of 1866.

## What Others Say.

## We Have All Kinds.

[Ottawa Free Press.]

The Canadian voyageur was found to be a necessity in the Egyptian campaign. It looks as though a few Indian or other prairie scouts would be very desirable in South Africa at present.

## Negative Virtue.

[Woodstock Sentinel-Review.]

It is sometimes said of a man, usually a weakling, and from a sort of post-mortem kindness, that he has not an enemy in the world. It is seldom that such a statement is to the man's credit and is not often spoken with truth. It is very rarely indeed that a strong character in this world avoids exciting jealousy, or making enemies.

## Their Personal Interest.

[Winnipeg Free Press.]

English journals are noting the fact that four leading Canadian ministerialists have sons fighting under the British flag in South Africa, namely, Major Robert Cartwright, son of Sir Richard Cartwright; Capt. Gustave Joly de Lotbinière, son of Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière; Lieut. C. M. Dobell, son of the Hon. R. R. Dobell; and Lieut.-Col. Oscar C. C. Pelletier, son of Sir Alphonse Pelletier, speaker of the House. Three members of the Dominion cabinet thus have the most direct personal interest in the war. Two out of the four names given, as the English papers do not fail to remark, are those of French-Canadians.

## Where the Boers Fail.

[Louisville, Ky., Courier-Journal.]

The war editor of the New York Times thinks that both Kimberley and Ladysmith are doomed, and he is almost sure that Kimberley is. The Boers, however, will have to adopt new tactics if they capture either of the towns. They cannot do it by lying off behind intrenchments and shooting at them. They must get out in the open and expose themselves in assaults upon fortifications. The Boers as yet have done none of this sort of fighting; and it would seem that if they had stomachs for taking the two towns, they would have made the effort in the first weeks of the war, before the approach of British reinforcements. Perhaps their recent successes will stimulate the Boers to a more offensive policy, also perhaps their occupation at Kimberley and Ladysmith will convince them of their mistake in attempting such a policy.

## Light and Shade.

"You don't mean to say you have had your cooks in three weeks?" "Yes; and that isn't the worst of it, either! One of them is still with us."

Customer (emerging from the bargain counter crush)—Help! My leg is broken.

Floor Walker—You will find the crutch department, sir on the fourth floor, in the rear.

Chollie—Are you fond of the water? Elsie—Exceedingly. At the mere thought of sailing over the bounding waves I can hardly contain myself.

Chollie—Yes; that's the way it affects me, too.

Caller (to little Bobby)—Bobby, what makes your eyes so bright? Bobby (after a little thought)—I suspect it's 'cause I ain't had 'em very long.

A. Conan Doyle says that for absent-mindedness he holds the world's championship, but we doubt if he could win out against the Colorado woman who put her baby in the oven to roast and sang a lullaby in an endeavor to soothe the sleep of the stuffed turkey she rocked in the cradle.

A DINNER PILL—Many persons suffer excruciating agony after partaking of a hearty dinner. The food partaken of is like a ball of lead upon the stomach, and instead of being a healing nutriment, it becomes a poison to the system. Dr. Parmenter's Vegetable Pills are wonderful correctives of such troubles. They correct acidity, open the secretions, and convey the food partaken of into healthy nutriment. They are just the medicine to take if troubled with indigestion.

## TALKED TO EAST ENDERS

## No. 5 Ward Candidates Appeal to Their Electors.

## Mayorality Candidates Also State Their Respective Claims for Support.

## Hall Was Too Chilly for Comfort, but Lively Speeches Kept Enthusiasm Above Freezing Point.

About 300 people alternated shivering with shouting in the east end hall last night, the occasion being the first ward meeting of the municipal campaign. A box-stove in a corner of the hall was the center of attraction. Those obliged to remain outside the small circle of its influence endeavored to keep warm by enthusiastic attention to the speakers. The fifth ward candidates for aldermen and school trustee, and the mayorality candidates addressed the meeting. All the speakers were accorded a fairly courteous hearing. The energetic attacks by the Socialist speakers and by Mr. Tom Sargent upon the existing state of affairs were received good-humoredly.

Ex-Ald. Jesse Welford was chairman, and called the meeting to order at 8:25.

## ALD. PLANT.

The first speaker was Ald. Plant. He was warmly applauded. After thanking the electors for returning him to the council, the speaker, as a member of the finance committee, dealt with the causes of the council's overdraft of over \$18,000. He said that the overdraft of 1898 was referred to a number of circumstances outside the control of the municipal authorities, such as causes of the present overdraft. These included an unlooked-for expense, and an unexpected decrease in revenue by reason of the Ontario Legislature's revenue bill, respecting the assessment of loan companies. The calling out of the militia was another large factor in causing the overdraft. The city auditors' recommendation regarding the annual redemption of debentures, was lucidly set forth by the speaker, and endorsed as a step to be taken by the incoming council. Ald. Plant announced himself as a labor candidate and read the platform of the labor party. Of the first plank—public ownership of the city's utilities—little need be said. The idea was spreading rapidly, and that plank nineteenth of the electors were now in favor of. (Applause.) Touching upon the question of the abolition of the engineering department, Ald. Plant characterized the system as "pernicious." As to the abolition of the contract system, he said it would be in the interest of all classes. The speaker was opposed to the engineering department in the city engineer's department. "If this were stopped," he said, "the city would be hundreds of dollars to the good." He also advocated union of the engineering departments under municipal control. (Applause.)

## ALD. WILKEY.

Ald. Wilkey reviewed the work of No. 5 committee, of which he was a member during the past year. He had attended about 50 meetings of the committee, and had done what he could. For some years the gravel put on the streets in No. 5 ward was not road gravel, but was a mixture of sand and gravel scraped off in the spring. The speaker objected to that, and in his objection had not had the support of his colleagues. One of them had gone so far as to say there was a "nigger in the fence" somewhere. "That was unfair," he said; "I would as soon see Mr. Baldwin put the gravel on as the Old Nick himself; for there is no difference as to their representation." Ald. Wilkey also referred briefly to his connection with the sewerage and hospital committees. He spoke highly of the new buildings, but added that the cost of maintaining the new hospital would be three times as much as the old building cost. The speaker was also a member of the sidewalk investigation committee. There was an impression in some quarters, he said, that something had been hushed up by that committee. But the committee had made a full report, that was fair both to the city and the contractor. They had found that one of the contractors did not live up to the specifications as fully as might have been wished, but the fault was with the engineer's department. Proper measures would be provided to correct the error. In conclusion, Ald. Wilkey advocated the abolition of the ward system.

## ALD. DREANEY.

Ald. Dreaney submitted a statement of the finances of No. 3 committee, of which he was the chairman. He had not been on so many committees as Ald. Wilkey. Ald. Wilkey had been anxious to get on all those committees, so they let him.

Ald. Wilkey. They wanted level-headed men on those committees, and Ald. Dreaney—Yes, you bet; they're the kind of men who fix up their own property. (Laughter.)

No. 3 committee, Ald. Dreaney went on to an account of an anecdotal, and kept within their appropriation. The other committees were not to blame, however, for their overdrafts. There had been unforeseen expenses. The calling out of the militia was one of the causes of this. But it was a great mistake. The speaker had said it was a mistake at the time, and he said so still.

## CONTRACTOR BALDWIN.

Contractor Baldwin arrived too late to hear Ald. Wilkey's reference to Old Nick, but someone told him of it. He then said there was a "nigger in the fence," he said. He was greeted with cries of "Platform," and complied. He had been on that platform before Mr. Wilkey was an alderman, and he would be there when Mr. Wilkey was out of the council. He was no weathercock. It would have been all right, he said, if he had drawn gravel to Mr. Wilkey's property. The speaker's sallies were received with jeers and laughter. Ald. Wilkey joined in the latter.

## NOT A CANDIDATE.

Mr. George Burdick stated that it was an error that his name should go on the ballot papers. He had declined Saturday evening, but was too late. However, he was present to say that he was not a candidate. He also wished to say something to the workmen of No. 5 ward. He urged them to exercise their power in the coming elections. He was opposed to the destruction of property. If they wanted legislation in their interests, they should attain it with the ballot. That was the only weapon they had in the struggle between capital and labor. Mr. Burdick was applauded loudly and frequently.

## JOHN TUKE.

Mr. John Tuke, a former street rail-

1899. ≈ THE RUNIANS. GRAY, CARRIE CO. ≈ 1900.

## Special Stock-Taking Discount Sale

Continues Till the 10th of January, 1900.

In addition to the above Discount Sale we'll have a general clearing up of odd lines remnants, etc., goods that we don't wish to inventory. These will be sold at special prices in order to clear, and will make interesting bargains for those who wish to save a dollar.

From now till the 10th of January we're at your service with the finest stocks in London and at the lowest prices you ever paid for the same class of merchandise. You can get nearly everything you want here, and when you're through buying you'll be dollars ahead. Read our Special Stock-Taking Discount List.

## Mantles and Furs

All Ladies' and Children's Fur Jackets and Fur-Lined Capes,

10 Per Cent Off.

## Ladies' Woolen Underwear

All Ladies' and Children's Vests and Drawers and Combination Suits.

10 per Cent Off.

## Staple Department

Wool Blankets, Comfotters, Elder Comfotters, Wrapperettes, Cotton Shirtings, Loch Lomond Flannellettes and Tickings.

10 Per Cent Off.

## Table Linens

Bleached and Unbleached Table Linens, Cloth Sets, Five O'Clock Tea Covers, Fancy Linens, Towelings.

Special Discount 10 Per Cent.

## China &amp; Crockery Dept

Tea Sets, Japanese Ware, Fancy Cups and Saucers, and all China Ware.

10 Per Cent Off.

## Millinery Department

All Trimmed and Untrimmed Hats, Wings, Fancy Feathers, Plumes and Ribbons—25 Per Cent Off.

## Gents' Furnishings.

10 per cent off all Men's Underclothing—10 Per Cent Off.

## Dress Goods Dept.

All Black and Colored Dress Goods, Velvets and Silks (except specially-reduced lines).

10 Per Cent Off.

## Clothing Department

25 per cent off all Men's Frieze Ulsters and Fancy Tweed Overcoats—25 Per Cent Off.

15 per cent off all Men's and Youths' Tweed Suits, also Men's Black Worsted Suits and Coats and Vests—15 Per Cent Off.

10 per cent off all Men's Fine Serge Suits and Men's Dress Overcoats—10 Per Cent Off.

10 per cent off all Children's Vestee Suits, Boys' Two and Three-Piece Suits—10 Per Cent Off.

10 per cent off all Men's Tweed and Worsted Pants—10 Per Cent Off.

20 per cent off all Boys' Reefers and Overcoats—20 Per Cent Off.

15 per cent off all Men's Waterproof Coats—15 Per Cent Off.

## Carpets and Curtains

Lace Curtains, Draperies, Cushion, and Carpets.

10 Per Cent Off.

## Hats and Caps

25 per cent off all Men's, Boys' and Youths' Hats—hard or soft—25 Per Cent Off.

25 per cent off all Men's and Boys' Fancy Tweed and Corduroy Caps—25 Per Cent Off.

10 per cent off all Men's Fur Caps—10 Per Cent Off.

## Shoe Department

10 per cent off all Women's Laced and Button Boots—10 Per Cent Off.

15 per cent off all Women's Oxford Shoes—15 Per Cent Off.

10 per cent off all Misses' and Children's Laced and Button Boots—10 Per Cent Off.

10 per cent off all Men's Laced and Congress Shoes—10 Per Cent Off.

10 per cent off Boys' and Youths' Shoes—10 Per Cent Off.

10 per cent off all Men's Rubbers and Overshoes—10 Per Cent Off.

## Runians, Gray, Carrie Co.

208, 210, 210½, 212 DUNDAS STREET, LONDON.

way employee, said he had been asked by a number of the workmen in No. 5 ward to be a candidate, and he solicited the votes of his hearers.

## J. W. BARTLETT.

Mr. J. W. Bartlett referred to his long residence in East London, and his connection with the town council before amalgamation, as reeve, deputy reeve and councillor. He promised to do all in his power to advance the interests of the electorate.

## FRED APPLETON.

Mr. Fred Appleton (Socialist) referred to Ald. Rumball as a capitalist, and said the workman who votes for a capitalist is voting against himself. He "threw" you in the mud this summer, and they'll keep you there a hundred thousand years if you let them. (Applause.) He assured the workmen that they would get the same dose from the capitalist class, whether in municipal office or in their own counting-room. He appealed to the workmen to choose one of themselves as their representative. Their bosses couldn't be their servants. In place of the ward system they should have proportional representation, he said. If there had been proportional representation last January there would have been two Socialists in the council. The speaker denounced exemptions, and advocated the franchise for women. In conclusion he said he had been accused of being opposed to unions. The Socialist Labor Party was out for the whole working class—union or non-union.

## THOMAS SARGENT.

Mr. Thomas Sargent was wildly applauded. He was puzzled to know where the citizens' money had gone. Some of the aldermen might find it. Why had Springbank Park been purchased? Was it not for the street railway company? The wool had been pulled over the eyes of the electors for years. People who would have been in league with the company, had heads that were not put on straight, or the right stuff was not in them. Ex-Mayor Little was the most expensive die the city ever had. If he had held office for a few more years the citizens would not have a dollar to call their own.

Mr. Sargent was frequently interrupted by calls of "Time," and "Give it to him." Once a pointed criticism caught the speaker's ear, and he retorted: "One fool at a time, my friend."

## FOR SCHOOL TRUSTEE.

Mr. E. W. Boyle, who is seeking reelection as school trustee, made a pointed speech. He had, while on the board, been as economical as it was possible to be, and not interfere with the efficiency of the teaching staff. The board had been called extravagant. I say the trustees were directly responsible to the citizens the expenses might not be so large. But the high school trustees were appointed by the council, and were not responsible to anyone. The speaker had been along the line of domestic science. The unanimous vote of the board to have a new six-roomed school on Chesley avenue had been turned down by the council. One of the aldermen for the ward had opposed the issue of the debentures. The aldermen thought the school good enough for years to come.

A Voice—He's not good enough for us for next year.

Mr. Boyle went on the speak of the

board's finances. There would be a surplus of from \$700 to \$1,000 of public school funds, and about \$200 of high school funds. By recent changes at the high school a saving of \$1,500 a year had been effected.

## MR. W. BURLLEIGH.

Mr. W. Burleigh held that there should be a change on the board of education. The expenses of the board ran up to some \$80,000 a year, and were increasing. The reason for these increases was largely due to increases in salaries. He knew for a fact that the board had increased a teacher's salary with the party ever asking for it. He was opposed to a fee being placed on the Collegiate Institute entrance.

"A capitalist dodge," interrupted a Socialist.

## THE MAYORALTY CANDIDATES.

Ald. Rumball was greeted with hisses from the Socialist section of the audience. He referred briefly to his experience as an alderman. He had been accused of being a capitalist. He wished he were one. "There are not many in this room tonight, who, if they could be one, would refuse." (Applause.) Where was the line to be drawn? If all who employed labor were capitalists his opponent, Mr. Darch, was in the category as himself. The speaker claimed to be a worker. He had worked on the bench and on the farm. What little money he acquired he put in factories to help build up the city. (Groans from the Socialists.) "If you would sooner have a man put his money in bonds or mortgages, then I don't know the citizens of London," he said.

He went on to speak of his work during the past year as chairman of the finance committee. Twice during the year aldermen were particularly sensitive—when the rate was being struck, and shortly before the elections. Some of those who kicked most about the rate being fixed as high as 23 mills had most to say about the over-draft, and were the most anxious to spend money in the fall fixing up streets for their friends. There had been a number of extraordinary expenditures this year, and it must be borne in mind that although \$360,000 was raised by a 23-mill rate, the expenditure of all but 6.1 mills was out of the council's hands altogether, and out of the 6.1 mills, salaries, hospital management, etc., had to come. A large portion of it was fixed. This year the militia had been called out, and the speaker was not responsible. He was out of the city at the time. This and other extraordinary expenditures accounted for the over-draft. The speaker then told of the part he played in bringing about the cement sidewalk bylaw. Referring to the last election, he said the Socialist candidate got 650 ballots. That he believed was now the full extent of the Socialist vote.

This caused an uproar, which the chairman succeeded in quelling.

The speaker had, and would continue to, act conscientiously. He would endeavor to do justice to one and all.

In reply to Mr. Ross, Ald. Rumball said he did not favor the abolition of the property qualification for aldermanic candidates.

## MR. FRED DARCH.

Mr. Fred Darch, the Socialist candidate for mayor, criticised Ald. Rumball for saying he would try to do justice to all. It was that same flim-flam,

sugar-coated thing the laboring men were always met with. But the laboring men would not make a mistake again. He said: "You're scabs of the worst kind if you don't go and drop your ballot in the box and say 'No more capitalism for me.' Ald. Rumball puts his money in factories for himself. There were no workmen at the meeting where Ald. Rumball was brought out. Not on your life!—not for a minute." In time, he claimed, the Socialists could control the council and wipe out the system that was oppressing them. The speaker said he was in favor of the abolition of the property qualification. It was an insult to the intelligence of the workmen of the city. He warned his hearers against political ward heeled, and said: "If one talks to you, give him to understand you are on to him, and he will do his sneak." Mr. Darch criticised the waterworks system as being responsible for consumers having to pay more than they should, and drew a bright picture of the municipal-ty of the city. The water, electric light plant, and other public works.

## "The Loss of Gold Is Great"

The loss of health is more. Health is lost by neglecting to keep the blood pure, but it is regained by purifying, enriching and vitalizing the blood with the great health restorer, Hood's Sars