London Advertiser. ESTABLISHED BY JOHN CAMERON IN 1863.]

Managing Director John Cameron and Editor,

London, Tuesday, Oct. 11, 1898.

The New American Aristocracy. "The New American Aristocracy" is sketched in racy off-hand manner by Harry Thurston Peck in the October number of the Cosmopolitan. Mr. Peck writes in a humorous strain, but with a thoughtful undertone and a serious motive. He does not forget to point the moral while adorning the tale. He starts out by illustrating the American genius for improvisation. As they had ready-made statesmanship, ready-made soldiery, ready-made science and ready-made literature, why not also a ready-made aristocracy? He says it may be set down as an axiom that no people ever reached a high degree of political power and national prosperity without developing some form of class distinction. The United States never wholly lost the aristocratic tradition it got from England. In colonial New England there long prevailed a sort of theocratic aristocracy, which gradually broadened into a professional caste. In the iddle and northern, the rich patroon,

h his manor house and vast estates, the master of a great plantation his many slaves, were no bad esentatives of the English squire. h in the north and south the social ne was very strictly drawn. Hence comes that the early annals of the republic were filled with the names of the American aristocracy of that day-Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Calhoun and Pinckney in the south, and Hamilton, Adams, Jay, Livingstone and Kent in the north. The sudden expansion of national

territory and the enormous growth of immigration rendered the perpetuation of this aristocracy-an aristocracy of intellect and public service-impossible. The rude and raw western pioneers defied all the graces and refinements of an old civilization-they hooted at conventions; they put their cowhide boots, so to speak, upon the mantel and spat tobacco juice upon the floor. When this population became so large as to be a serious factor in national life, the doom of early American aristocracy was sealed. To use Bishop Potter's phrase, Washingtonian dignity gave way at first to Jeffersonian simplicity, and in the end was swamped beneath Jacksonian vulgarity. The aristocratic element was gradually eliminated from public life; a greasy, prosperous smugness settled down upon the people; they had lost the early dignity and simplicity, and had not yet developed elegance; the crude and commonplace became conspicuous in statesmanship. Then the civil war swept away a host of lingering traditions. When it ended, the social, as well as the political fabrics of the country had to be reconstructed under new and strange conditions. The war created the American millionaire. Army contracts, bond issues, cotton speculation, the protective tariff, the sale of shoddy goods-all these tossed enormous fortunes into expectant laps. These war-made millionaires went in search of splendor; they bought city houses with brown-stone fronts; they procured horses and carriages and gorgeous harness. They stocked their cellars with champagne. They built country mansions of fantastic designs. But the millionaire became sated with these splendors; he was bored, discontented; he generally went back to money-making again.

Meanwhile millionaires continued to multiply. But the later millionaire traveled and learned things. He went to Europe, and it was a mighty educator. His sons and daughters went to Europe, too, and the effect on them was even more far-reaching. They became imbued with the desire for an aristocracy after the English model. They set about it with infinite care and patience. They built and equipped town and country houses after the English pattern. They imported English grooms and butlers, and put coatsof-arms upon the panels of their carriages. The young men got their clothes in London, and each of them had a man to keep the creases in his trousers. The young women had maids, and played lawn tennis. The household labored to acquire the English accent. The whole thing was admirably carried out. In a few short years a new aristocracy had been evolved. They had all the externals of the English prototype. But even here there was a fly in the ointment. The ready-made patricians got no general recognition from the common herd; they were not taken seriously. This was fatal to the aristocratic ideal. In England the word "gentleman" has a legal definition, and there exist the precedents of centuries now erystallized into a definite and systematic code. But in a democratic community certain difficulties arise at once. The American plutocrats could not put a sweeping and consistent social ban on trade, for this would decimate their ranks at once. Hence they are obliged to qualify and make distinctions. Banking and stock-broking are entirely respectable, as in England. Railways, iron, gas and coal are also highly thought of. But pork and oil and drygoods require at least one generation to make them respectable. Patent medicines are doubtful, and boots and shoes quite impossible; but leather and soap have been let in, and tobacco is all right. And so on the lines of cleavage run. Another diffi-

that it is hard for any set of persons to be more than local in their prominence. There is the New York set, the Chicago set, the New Orleans, Boston, St. Louis and San Francisco sets, etc. But the really great fundamental difficulty is the essential difference between a ready-made aristocracy, like America's, and a historic aristocracy like England's. An aristocracy, to be real, to be known and recognized, must represent something more than luxury, magnificence and pleasure-seeking. It must represent to everyone a mighty factor in the development of national greatness. The names upon its roll must be written first in the records of every supreme achievement, which the people have wrought out, alike in peace and war, in statesmanship, in diplomacy, in the evolution of law, in the battle for political purity and constitutional freedom. Only in these ways can an aristocracy expect to be something more than an artificial incongruity among a people where it exists. Too often in the past the ancestors of the American ready-made patricians of today, instead of making laws and guiding the destiny of the nation, were rigging the market and shaving notes; instead of fighting battles they were bribing legislators; instead of building up new states they were gutting railroads. Here Mr. Peck turns from the darker

side of American aristocracy to the brighter. He sees promise in the future. He says that to men of wealth and leisure the field of politics seems to have become of late far more attractive than it appeared some years ago, and the rough-and-tumble of partisan strife will do them good and give them an enlarged horizon. The outbreak of the recent war with Spain found many of the same class willing and even eager to see hard service at the front. There was at first much popular ridicule excited by this fact, and afterward there was much popular criticism of the way in which commissions in the army came so easily to certain of these individuals. But it was in reality a most encouraging and healthy sign. No country in the world, the writer thinks, could gain so much as the United States from the existence of an aristocracy in the best and highest meaning of the word. For such an aristocracy could give the state a class of public men disinterested, highly cultivated and intelligent. Its wealth could foster art and learning, and establish noble charities that would be administered with honesty and wisdom; and its influence and example might gradually smooth away some of the angularities of the national character, impart a certain grace and dignity that are lacking now, teach them as a people the value of urbanity and courtesy, give a much higher tone to social life in general, and thus confer a lasting benefit upon the nation.

Our Municipal Defects.

The agitation for municipal reform in Hamilton, Ottawa, Montreal, Victoria, B. C., Stratford, Belleville, Lindsay, Peterboro, Galt, and other representative cities and towns indicates that there is some defect inherent in the prevailing system.

Over a dozen cities and towns in Ontario have this year sought to improve matters by abolishing the ward divisions. In these places next January the councilors and aldermen will be elected by the entire vote of the people, as are the mayors.

In other places even more drastic remedies are proposed. In Ottawa, the newspapers advocate the appointment of a paid commission to undertake work which the city council has botched. The Montreal Star favors the payment of an indemnity to Montreal aldermen so as to "put a check on their acquisitive spirit." This is a reflection on aldermanic honesty which cannot with justice be applied to our own civic representatives whose average integrity is far less doubtful than their average ability. Our esteemed contemporary, the Hamilton Herald, also favors the aldermanic indemnity on the principle that the community has no more right to demand gratuitous service from individuals than one individual has to demand gratu-

itous service from another. We do not think the indemnity plan would improve the personnel of municipal councils. It certainly would not if the ward system were retained, because it would merely sharpen the ward heeler's appetite for the loaves and fishes. We believe there are many men of the best class in this city, successful in their own occupations, and possessing the respect and confidence of the community, who would willingly enter municipal life if they were not deterred by the hurlyburly and demagogism for which the ward system is chiefly responsible. A small indemnity would be no inducement to such men, but it might be to men of a less desirable type. A better plan would be to put the municipal government in the hands of a few well-paid commissioners, elected by the people to devote their whole time to civic business. Washington, which is the most efficiently and economically governed of all American cities, is ruled by a commission which is not even elective. But the commission scheme involves too radical a change to have any prospect of success at present. The municipal problem will be solved when the best cit-

be a long step in that direction. The aldermanic one-year term is another objectionable feature of our

izens are attracted to the civic arena.

The abolition of the ward system will

ground for all the social elements, as London is in England. The result is to thoroughly acquaint an alderman to the fortunes of persons with his duties, and the fortunes of needed, and an effort should be made war may deprive the city of his services when he is beginning to be most useful. Besides, many men drop out at the end of the first year, rather than face the ordeal of another election. Under the two-year term half the aldermen should retire every year. The principle has worked well in the Board of Education, and there are no special reasons why it should not apply to the council. The present number of aldermen might, in the event of ward abolition, be reduced to fif-In the multitude of counsel there is oftener more confusion than

The abler members of the present council are no friends of the ward They realize from experience the mischief it works. They should see to it that the ratepayers have a chance to pronounce upon it.

Canada Discovered.

The London Times' correspondent who recently crossed Canada by the Canadian Pacific Railway, refers to the Dominion as "a land of clover and roses, of odorous woods, and ripening crops," and a most appreciative reference is made to our noble waterways and magnificent mountain ranges. Editorially referring to its correspondent's graphic description of Canada as a land for the British settler and the tourist, the Times says that "its vast area is yet scantily occupied, and its potentialities of growing rich are beyond the dream of avarice."

This is none too flattering a picture, and it is all the more pleasing to Canadians because it is drawn by a hand thoroughly unprejudiced. Canada, under the careful Administration which now holds sway at Ottawa, has indeed a bright future before her. She is bound to go ahead in the next decade as she has never before done. This is Canada's day; the marvelous resources of the country are being noted throughout the world. In Great Britain, our preferential tariff in favor of the motherland has given the Dominion a standing that has won her many friends, and has brought her products into increasing favor with British consumers. We can look for an ever-increasing commerce with Britain as a result of the new departure, as well as a large influx of new settlers for our prairie lands, and a steady advancement in the investment of English funds to develop our mineral resources.

Commissioner Ogilvie's first act in the Klondike was to fine the gamblers \$10,000. These Government officials are bound to be unpopular.

The international conference is not alone in adjourning from Quebec to Washington. The great international lobby will accompany it.

The blue book on the Fashoda affair shows that Lord Salisbury has got his back up at last. Which means that the other fellow must back down.

Miss Flora Shaw, of the London Times, seems to have been surprised that there were no trolley cars or asphalt pavements in Dawson City.

The mere announcement that Mr. Hardy is to be given a banquet by his friends seems to enrage Conservative editors. They should understand that everybody cannot be invited.

Belleville's tax rate is high this year, and, unless all signs are astray, the deficit on Jan. 1 will reach highwater mark, too.—Belleville Sun.

No wonder Belleville has decided to abolish the ward system.

In compelling British subjects to render military service in the Transvaal, Oom Paul may impel other British subjects to render military service against the Transvaal. And next time it will be no Jameson raid.

Omaha has decided that Spanish shall not be taught in her public The idea out there is that piain, vigorous, Americanized English is good enough for anybody - New York Mail and Express.

Americanized English, eh? Better teach them Spanish than that.

And here is W. D. Howells writing in Literature of "those young Canadian poets, like Mr. Lampman, for one, who have so far surpassed other Americans of late in verse"! Coming from the foremost American critic-an Anglophobe at that-this is praise, indeed. Our neighbors may excel us in some qualities, but in poetry and cheese they must give us first place.

WHAT OTHERS SAY.

Another Municipal Botch. [Montreal Herald.]

How long is Montreal going to put up with such juggling with the finances of the city by officials and aldermen as is being revealed on every side at the city hall?

Ward Influence Poison.

[Ottawa Journal.] With a small permanent commission elected by vote of the whole city-ward influence would be poison-the taxpayers will get better value for their money than by any system of control subject to ordinary electoral changes and influences.

Want New Blood.

[Victoria, B. C., Colonist.] The truth of the matter is that someone must make a sacrifice for the public welfare and agree to devote his attention for a couple of years to the municipal service. What is true of the mayor is equally true of the aldermen. New blood, and blood of a difculty is the lack of a common meeting- present system. The term should be ferent strain, is wanted at the coun-

Our Aldermanic Pleasantries. [Ottawa Citizen.]

At a meeting of the London city council on Monday evening one alderman called another a "molasses bar-This must be an ingenious term of reproach, because the context of the report makes it plain that the speaker was not stuck on his confrere.

How the Ward Heeler Thrives. [Hamilton Herald.]

ward system is the mother of petty, hole-and-corner municipal politics. Under it the ward heeler thrives, By means of it the tricky, mercenary and self-seeking politician gets his "pull." It has had a very long trial, and it has been found wanting.

> Better Things in the Yukon [Montreal Gazette.]

Mr. Ogilvie has begun his work at Dawson City by rounding up the crooks, giving them a first lesson that vice may be made unprofitable. This is in keeping with what is known of Mr. Ogilvie's character, and is probably a promise of better things in the Yukon country.

LIGHT AND SHADE.

All Wool.

Customer-What's the difference between these woolen undershints? Dealer-One is half-cotton, and the other is all cotton.-New York Weekly.

Two Kinds of a Hug.

A little boat is seen affoat Unon the moonlit water, In which a youth doth sit, forsooth, With his neighbor's daughter. He hugs the shore a mile or more. Along the laughing water; Then lets the boat serenely float And hugs his neighbor's daughter.

The Difficulty Met.

"Bridget, you've broken as much china in a month as your wages amount to. Now, how can we prevent this occurring again?" "I don't know, mum, unless yez raise me wages.

-Chicago News.

Natural Philosophy.

Twilight come an' de day turn red, Whah de sunshine gone to? Time foh de li'l boy go to bed. Whah de sunshine gone to? De sunbeam happen along, he did, In de li'l boy's eyes he's safely hid, He creep inside, an' he set de lid-

Dah's whah de sunshine gone to. Oh, de hill is bright wif de mornin'

glow, Whah de sunshine cum f'um? De clock she strike an' de rooster crow, Whah de sunshine come f'um? De sunbeam's ready to staht his race, He open de lid an' he leave de place, And de li'l boy laugh in 'is mammy's

Dah's whah de sunshine come f'um. -Washington Star.

A Collection Mania.

"Did you get back that gold \$5 which your little boy swallowed?" 'No, the doctor said he would keep it in memory of one of the most remarkable cases that have come under his observation."-Gotebergs Aftonblad.

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White Wool Blankets, 60 x 80 inches, pink and blue borders, very special at \$2 40 per pair. White Twill Blankets, pure wool, 68 x 84,

special price, \$3 25 per pair. Bale of Soiled Blankets to clear at special Quilted Comforters, large size, \$1 25, \$1 75,

\$2 and \$2 50. Eider Comforters, satin and sateen, from \$4 50 to \$20.

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Hose, all sizes, very special at 19c

Ladies' Cashmere Hose, samples, plain, sizes 81, 9 and 91, worth 35c and 40c, very special at 25c Our 35c Ladies' and Boys' 4 x 1 Rib Full assortment of Ribbed Cashmere

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Gents' Silk and Wool Underwear, all sizes, special at \$5, \$5 50, \$6, \$6 50 and \$7 per suit.

tents' Arctic or Fleece-Lined Underwear, full range of sizes, special at \$1, \$1 50,

\$2 and \$2 50 per suit. Wright's Health Brand Underwear, all sizes, shirts and drawers, special at

\$1 75 each, or \$3 50 per suit. Men's All-Wool Underwear, extra finish, fall and winter weight, special at \$1,

\$1 25, \$1 50, \$2 and \$2 50 per suit. Men's Fancy Striped Union Underwear, special at 75c and \$1 per suit.

Ladies' Underwear.

Ladies' Cotton Vests, very special at 2 for...... 25c Ladies' Cotton Vests, regular 25c, special, each...... 19c Ladies' Extra Fine Natural Wool Vests, worth 65c, very special...... 45c Ladies' Cotton Fleece Vests, lovely goods, special at 25c...... 40c

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