

The Advertiser

Founded by John Cameron in 1863.

THE DAILY ADVERTISER.
Daily by mail, per year (8 to 12 pages).....\$4 00
Daily by mail, for three months.....1 00
All subscriptions payable in advance.

IN LONDON:
Morning Edition, 26 per annum; Evening Edition, 10c per week, delivered.

THE WESTERN ADVERTISER.
(OUR WEEKLY EDITION.)
By mail, per annum.....\$1 00

JOHN CAMERON, President and Manager.

ADVERTISING RATES
Made known on application at office. Address all communications to

ADVERTISER PRINTING CO.,
LONDON, - CANADA.

THE ADVERTISER
Is not and does not propose to be a partisan paper. It is not an "organ." Its opinions are its own. The ADVERTISER alone is responsible for opinions expressed in these columns.

THE ADVERTISER
Advocates Free Trade—British free trade, Continental free trade, free trade with the whole world.

THE ADVERTISER
Looks forward with hope to Canada's future as that of an Independent Canadian Republic, in equally friendly alliance with the United States and with Great Britain, believing that such a status would be best for Canada, best for Great Britain, and promotive of the best attainable relations with the United States. Meantime, everything is to be gained by cultivating cordial relations between all English speaking peoples. Those who take an opposite course should be regarded as enemies of mankind.

THE ADVERTISER
Advocates Prohibition of the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquor; and all expedient general legislation and persuasion in the meantime.

THE ADVERTISER
Is an advocate of Equal Rights for women, whether as regards the franchise, or equal wages for equal work.

THE ADVERTISER
Is a believer in Christian Union, and considers the time has come when the various Christian denominations should come closer together. Those bodies which are now nearest should unite first. Under the present system there is an unjustifiable waste of men, means and effort. The differences between most of the existing denominations are no greater than the differences, natural to thinking men and women, to be found in every congregation. Even those Christian bodies supposed to be the farthest apart, the Protestant and the Roman Catholic, have more of belief that is common than of belief that is antagonistic. To the laity the differences between the various Protestant denominations are microscopic. For various reasons the clergy, even when, as is true of the best of them, they favor Christian Union, are not in a position to be as outspoken as the laity.

THE ADVERTISER
Advocates Obligatory Voting. Most of the electoral corruption centers around "getting out the vote." Let the duty be laid on every elector of getting out his own vote.

THE ADVERTISER
Advocates the more general use of the Plebiscite, the Initiative and Referendum, etc., believing that the interest of the people in public questions, apart from persons, would thereby be done to promote independence of political thought, as opposed to excessive party spirit.

God's in His heaven,
All's right with the world.
—(Browning.)

London, Monday, Feb. 27.

INTERNATIONAL RAILWAY TRAFFIC.

Some idea of the immense business done by Canadian railways in carrying United States cattle from west to east may be gathered from the report of Inspector Slater, the inspector of east-bound live stock for the Grand Trunk, Southern division and Michigan Central, Canada division. Last year Mr. Slater inspected no fewer than 10,559 car loads of cattle, 3,840 car loads of hogs, 2,692 car loads of sheep, 343 car loads of horses, 2,622 car loads of mixed live stock, 4 car loads of mules, 12 car loads live stock and other goods, and 3 of other animals. By way of Windsor alone 53,241 cattle, 116,372 hogs, 118,643 sheep, 3,449 calves, 657 horses and 45 mules were carried through Canada to Eastern States markets. Trade restrictionist advocates have urged that Canada would get along all right without this large and ever-increasing international railway traffic, which is by no means confined to cattle. They either do not know what they are talking about, or what is more probable, they desire to foment difficulties and to prevent close trade relations with our neighbors, in order that a few monopolists may profit thereby. The more trade between the two countries is curtailed, the less business there is for railways, the less business for railways the higher the

charges on Canadian freight, the less wages fund remains for the railway workmen, and the smaller sum remains to spend with the merchants and manufacturers of Canada.

REVOLUTION IN A WESTERN WATERWAY.

One of the most important projects now before Parliament is the bill for the construction of the St. Clair and Erie Canal, which is being promoted by the Tilbury Canal Company. The intention is to construct a canal from near the mouth of Baptiste Creek on Lake St. Clair, southerly, taking advantage of the low levels of Baptiste, Tremblay, and two creeks past Tilbury Center and Wheatley, to the mouth of two creeks on Lake Erie. This line gives almost a straight run from Lake Huron to Lake Erie, effecting a great saving of time and distance, which may briefly be shown by referring to the company's prospectus. Therein it is stated that the distance from Sarnia to Welland canal and return by present route is 610 miles, which by the proposed canal is reduced to 498 miles, making a saving of 112 miles. The physical characteristics of this route do not involve any engineering difficulties, as the twelve or thirteen miles of cutting necessary, consists of clay loam with possibly some sand in the neighborhood of the summit, and these materials, the engineer contends, can be handled cheaply and expeditiously with the improved machinery of today. The deepest cut at the summit will be 40 feet, or an average cut of about seventeen feet throughout, and difference of level between lakes St. Clair and Erie is five feet ten inches.

As the estimated cost is but \$800,000 for a canal fourteen feet deep and thirteen miles long, it is probable that the charter will be granted, and the work proceeded with at an early date. The successful initiation of this short cut would be a boon to western shipowners, but the Lake Erie and Detroit River towns will find it hard to reconcile themselves to the revolution that the change would effect.

MORE TREASON.

Mr. O'Malley, a Conservative M.P.P. in Manitoba, expresses himself of the opinion that the office of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province should be abolished. He believes the chief justice could do the necessary work. We do not wonder that the democratic spirit of the Northwest rebels against all unnecessary red tape in government. If he had been in the House of Commons on Friday night, when the item to pay for a portion of the cost of the new residence for the Lieutenant-Governor of the Northwest Territories at Regina came up, then he would have learned that, by instalments, before the House was generally aware of the fact, the Dominion Government had spent \$53,000 for a residence for Governor Royal, of which sum \$8,000 was for furniture. Surely this is an extravagant sum to pay for a governor of so sparsely settled a territory. When the money is thus squandered like water for the special enjoyment of broken-down politicians like Mr. Royal, in the Northwest Territories, and Mr. Schulz, in Manitoba, it need surprise no one to find even Conservatives beginning to agitate for retrenchment. Our law-makers and law-dispensers cost us altogether too much.

CHEAP GOODS AND BARBAROUS CANADIANS.

In his somewhat disjointed speech the erudite member for Center Toronto in the House of Commons the other night laid it down as a principle that Canada must be made a cheap country to live in if it is to retain its prosperity. On the other hand, the Toronto World, also a protectionist authority, tells us that "the cheaper a country is to live in the nearer it approaches barbarism."

The member for Center Toronto and the member for East York, who controls the Toronto World, should get together and establish a modus vivendi. They teach an exactly opposite view on an essential principle of political economy.

By the way, is it not reasonable for a superlatist like the Toronto World editor to pronounce Great Britain as a country nearer barbarism than France or Germany? Everyone knows that the motherland, because of her free trade policy, is a cheaper country to live in than either of the continental nations named, and what is of equally great moment, the wage-earners of England get better pay than is paid to the workmen of any protectionist nation in Europe, and at the same time work shorter hours than their continental brethren.

We do not call for cheapness for cheapness' sake; but we do affirm that protective tariffs, imposed for the benefit of a few, and collecting tribute from the many, are indefensible and unjust. A man has just as much a right to choose how he shall dispose of his earnings, after paying a fair and equitable share of the necessary expenditures for honest and economical government, as he has to decide where he shall have his domicile.

But if cheapness is a fault, how comes it that when even one little twig of the National Policy decaying tree is lopped off, and the result is a cheapening of the article taxed, there is loud rejoicing even among the advocates of dear goods? They do not consistently gloat over the system that makes what a man has to buy dear, and at the same time go into paroxysms of delight when a reduced tax cheapens the article affected.

The Quebec Legislature is asked to enact that lager beer is not intoxicating. They may do so, but they do not alter the fact that it is an alcoholic liquid, and that even seasoned imbibers have been known to get drunk on it. To license a man to sell this class of liquor as a non-intoxicant, as the Quebec law proposes, is to give him opportunity to conduct a business that will do more harm in the community than a regular saloon, because managed under false pretences.

TOPICS OF TO-DAY.

Bishop Brooks has gone to heaven, said a Boston lady to her little five-year old daughter. "O, mamma," replied the little girl, "how happy the angels must be." That was perhaps the highest eulogium passed upon Bishop Brooks.

The January Century has been out of print for some time, and of the February number the publishers now have unfilled orders for more than 5,000 copies awaiting a new addition. A large first edition of the March Century, containing the Reminiscences of Napoleon at Elba, will be ready on the first day of March.

Many New York clubs make special inducements to naval officers, but few men in the service belong to any club in the city, and the larger number of those included in club membership are staff officers. The average line officer is too busy a man to see much of clubs, since his duties go on whether his ship be at sea or tied up at a wharf in the navy yard. At such times, however, the staff officer is a man of leisure, and may, if he will, visit the club almost every night.

The North American Review for March contains a number of important articles upon subjects that are engaging public attention at the present moment. The Hon. J. M. Rusk, Secretary of Agriculture, contributes an interesting paper on "American Farming a Hundred Years Hence," a subject on which he is peculiarly well-fitted to write. The question of Hawaiian annexation is authoritatively treated from two different points of view, first by Lorin A. Thurston, ex-Prime Minister of Hawaii and chairman of the Hawaiian Annexation Commission, who points out the "advantages of Annexation" in an able and forcible manner, and, secondly, by George Ticknor Curtis, who sums up the case against annexation in a concise article entitled "Is it Constitutional?" Under the title of "Fads of Medical Men" Dr. Cyrus Eaton, sanitary superintendent of the New York Health Department, writes entertainingly of the different fads and patent medicines which have from time to time enjoyed an ephemeral popularity. "Modern Insurance and its Possibilities" is discussed respectively by the presidents of the Mutual Life Insurance Company, the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company, the Provident Life Insurance Company, and the Trust Company. The Comptroller of the Currency, Hon. A. B. Hepburn, treats the subject of "National Banking and Clearing House." Archdeacon writes on "Conceptions of a Future Life," and Madame Adam contributes some interesting "Recollections of George Sand." The "Claims to Statehood" of New Mexico and Arizona are set forth with much lucidity by the Governor and ex-Governor of those territories. The nature and extent of the Spanish exhibit at the World's Fair is described in an interesting article by Enrique Dupuy de Lome, the Spanish Minister at Washington and Royal Commissioner-General. The important subject of "High Buildings and Earthquakes" is treated in a most thoughtful and suggestive manner by Prof. N. S. Shaler, of Harvard University. In "England in the Orient," Prof. Arminius Vamberg, the well-known Oriental scholar, points out the beneficial results of British rule in Asia. Other interesting articles are: "The Cause of a Question," by George Stewart; "A Reply to America," by Bertha Monroe Rickoff; and "Migrations of the Brahman," by Titus Munson Coan.

MONEY MISAPPLIED.

(The Week.)
The announcement that there is to be a revision of the voters' lists this year has again called public attention to the enormous burden which is entailed upon the country by this most cumbersome and expensive system. A significant and hopeful indication is the fact that some conservative municipal bodies are protesting against the act and calling for its repeal. It is to be hoped that the Government will include this most indefensible measure in the list of Government devices which they can no longer support. A contemporary has hazarded the statement that the quarter of a million, or thereabouts, of dollars which the Government will have to compensate the revenue for the loss that would ensue from a reduction of letter postage to two cents, which would be a great boon to the country. According to the Postmaster-General's calculation the loss would be about \$700,000. But do these figures include a reasonable allowance for the great increase in the number of letters which would result?

PROTECTION IMMORAL.

(The Week.)
Nothing in the indications of Providence can be plainer than that it is for the benefit of mankind in every way than that they should freely trade and exchange commodities with each other, and so the abundance of one part of the human family make up for the lack of some other part, and so the happiness of all be promoted. A protective tariff raises up barriers in the way, and so counteracts this clear design of the Creator, and the more protective it is the greater the number and difficulty of the barriers which it raises. These tend to multiply indefinitely and greatly to aggravate the causes of irritation and ill-feeling between nations and to lead to war and bloodshed. Surely everything which tends to alienate nations from each other, to increase mutual hatreds and the risks of strife and war, is to be not only deplored, but must be wrong and dangerous in its moral character. If there is any connection whatever between morality and patriotism, it would be a libel upon patriotism to say that a protective tariff is a patriotic thing.

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THE NEXT MORNING I FEEL BRISK AND NEW AND MY CHILDREN ARE BETTER. My doctor says it acts gently on the stomach, liver and kidneys, and is a pleasant laxative. This drink is made from herbs, and is prepared for use as easily as tea. It is called

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Box Cloth Suiting, 42 inches, exceptional value at our price; for this desirable line, 25c yard.

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White Cottons, 36 inches; see our value at 6 1/2c.
Gray Cottons beginning at 3c, and at 5c, 6c, 6 1/2c, etc.
SHEETINGS—Bleached and unbleached, plain and twilled, in all widths. We invite a close and critical inspection of our values and, ask you to see our 72-inch Sheeting at 22 1/2c yard.
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Millinery at half price is all we need say for these last two days.
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