

The London Advertiser

Founded 1844
London Advertiser Company, Limited,
Publishers and Proprietors, London, Ont.
JOSEPH E. ATKINSON, President.
JOHN R. BONE, Vice-President.
H. B. MUIR, Managing Director.
CHARLES VINING, Managing Editor.
Morning and Evening Editions.
Subscriptions: Delivered, 15 cents weekly; 62 cents monthly; 12 months, \$5.00 yearly; foreign subscriptions, \$12.00 per year.
Special Representatives:
J. B. RATHBONE, Toronto, 114 Church street.
Montreal, Canada, 114 Church street.
C. H. EDDY, C.M.A., New York, Park.
Chicago, 114 Church street.
Boston, 114 Church street.
The Advertiser is a Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulation.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1925.

Canada's Sound Position.

Trade figures just issued from Ottawa show an expansion of business at a rate that has not been previously equalled in Canadian history. For the year ending with October, Canada's exports and imports were:

Exports \$1,198,546,389
Imports 865,239,383

Favorable balance \$ 333,307,006

These figures recording the greatest favorable trade balance Canada has ever known, are the logical working out of a development that has been gaining strength for some years. It is exactly what Hon. W. L. M. King has been planning for since he became prime minister of Canada. His idea was national development, whereby every section of the country would supply its share of an exportable surplus. He worked deliberately toward that end, sent trade agents looking for new world markets, made it easier for those who were engaged in the development of natural resources, whether it was fishing, mining, lumbering or in farm pursuits, to secure their implements of production. The result is shown in the record trade balance just announced.

It is worth noting just how Canada has made this remarkable recovery. In 1921, the last year of Mr. Meighen's government, Canada had no favorable trade balance. We were buying from other countries \$29,000,000 more than we were selling to them. One very pertinent result of this was that New York discounted the Canadian dollar as much as 17 per cent. The story in figures is told here:

1922, favorable balance \$ 6,122,677
1923, " 142,716,593
1924, " 165,396,430
1925, " 284,429,106
Today, " 333,307,006

The reason for giving two 1925 figures is that the first represents the showing as at March 31, the end of the fiscal year, and the second the comparison at the close of October as compared with a similar period in the previous year.

There has also been another step taken toward evening up trade with United States. In Mr. Meighen's last fiscal year, 1921-22, trade with United States was as follows:

Bought from U.S. \$515,968,196
Sold to U.S. 222,588,643

Adverse balance \$293,369,553

According to the figures showing the trade as it stood at the end of October, 1925, the following is the standing:

Bought from U.S. \$539,069,782
Sold to U.S. 456,572,656

Adverse balance \$ 82,497,126

This shows that Canada in the last four years has made an improvement in evening up U.S. trade as follows:

1921, adverse balance \$223,369,553
1925, Oct., adverse balance 82,497,126

Improvement \$140,872,427

These figures show a marked change, both regarding total trade and that with United States. What is of even more importance, they indicate that the trend is still very strong in the direction of still greater trade returns.

Spite Fences.

A resident of a village east of London has had trouble with his neighbor, and the result has been the erection of a very high fence up against his property, commonly, and very properly, known as a spite fence. The man whose property is injured wants to know if there is anything he can do to force the removal of the fence.

This is not the first time a similar question has been asked, so there must be more than one of these evidences of modern civilization in existence in the district. As the law stands now, there is nothing that a person whose property has been harmed by the building of such a fence can do. His one best chance is to try and arrive at some amicable settlement with the neighbor and see if it cannot be removed in that way. If he goes to law about it he will find little assistance.

There have been some notable cases of this spite fence episode, and the wonder is that the law allows the practice to continue, because it is a more serious injury to property than can be worked in any other way outside of actually coming on the premises with the idea of wrecking actual damage.

As one thinks over the list of Ontario cities there are some cases where there is not a spite fence in existence while in others there are numerous instances, some of them spilling the appearance and the sale of otherwise very desirable properties. The law that permits such erections may be very well founded in legal schooling, but it is woefully lacking in elementary justice or common sense.

Russia Reinstates Vodka.

Raising national revenue by selling vodka to the nation is a move by the government of Russia that has caused wide comment and speculation on the part of the European press. The manufacture and sale of vodka of 42 per cent alcoholic content is now a government monopoly. The reason for its return was that the government needed the money and knew of no other way to get it.

The move toward government encouragement

of national drinking is a sharp departure from the plain ground on which Leon Trotsky fashioned the structure of his revolution which overthrew the Romanoff dynasty and led to the complete obliteration of every member of it. In his book "Problems of Life" Trotsky wrote:

"Vodka and the church were used by the czar's regime to enslave the working classes. There are two important facts that have set a new stamp on the life of the proletariat in Russia. One is the establishment of the eight-hour working day, and the other is the prohibition of the sale of vodka. The abolition of the system by which the country encouraged people to drink is one of the iron assets of the revolution."

The scrapping of this high-sounding doctrine has caused a flow of sarcasm that finds expression in cartoon and comment in many papers. Rul (Berlin) pictures a great crowd of Russian people waiting to gain admission to a vodka house over which floats the flag of the revolution, and uses the explanatory wording, "Workers of the world unite—at the saloon." The Moscow Pravda says Trotsky's "iron asset of the revolution has been exchanged for so many gold rubles," and proceeds to describe events of the first day of vodka selling, where long lines of people stood in front of the liquor stores of Moscow, while toward evening all the cells and even the corridors of the police station were packed to capacity with drunken persons, including a number of women.

The official excuse for this departure is (1) that the government needed revenue, and (2) that home-brewing by the peasants resulted in the loss of valuable grain by the seizure of the revenue that existed in czarist days when Count Witte capitalized on the debauchery of the Russian people to the extent of \$500,000,000 a year. In that way, according to a despatch to the Manchester Guardian, there was built up a system whereby the peasant became a slave of the vodka seller, who was not only publican, but moneylender, pawnbroker and even employer, to square debts incurred for the purchase of vodka.

The soviet explains that it will allow vodka to be sold only within certain limits, according to the need for revenue, which means that the sky will be the limit. The czarist government said the same thing, starting with 44 million gallons per year and increasing in fifteen years to 250 million gallons, by which time the country was so unspeakably debauched that the Duma implored the government to seek for a source of revenue that would not ruin the people.

Moscow may claim to have released the people from Romanoff oppression, but it has made public admission that for the purpose of revenue it is prepared to soak the people in vodka, a habit described by Trotsky as "one of the means used to enslave the working class." The only difference in Russia is that there has been a change in the personnel of the slave-drivers.

What a Teacher Notices.

John R. Littleproud, assistant principal of Simcoe street school, used present-day vernacular to convey his message to members of the London teachers' institute when he spoke of the difficulty of getting the child to tune in on the wave-length used in the schoolroom.

The speaker claimed that the young mind is often dazzled by the things it sees outside of school, modern entertainment and methods of pleasure; the plastic brain is fired in ways that are often unnatural, so when the routine of school work is attempted it is flat by comparison.

Mr. Littleproud stated what other teachers have felt and observed. The teacher cannot control the child out of school hours, but the parents can, and they should. There is scarcely anything more pitiful than the child mind becoming obsessed with wild dreams when it should be the planting-ground for simple, wholesome and helpful facts.

Spread the Good News.

Quebec election worker has taken his oath that he was paid one dollar for cheering a politician. This news should be given fairly wide circulation, for it shows that a source of revenue exists of which few people were aware.

Just think of the number of times we've walked in a procession carrying a flaming broomstick or sat in a hall, clapping hands, now and then crying out "Hear, hear," again whistling or stamping our feet on the floor, and never got a five-cent piece for it.

If this rate of \$1 per cheer becomes standardized a man with a good-sized mouth and a set of hobnailed boots could clean up a tidy sum per sitting during a political campaign.

Note and Comment.

Wheat crop in Russia is short, but no so with the whiskers.

The wise Christmas shopper is attending to it in the mornings.

Of course, no one will take any offence when we refer to a chiropodist as somewhat of a corn-borer.

Krupp plant used to make big Berthas, but now will turn out baby carriages for little Berthas.

At a box social, the admission charge was worked out according to the waist measure. Before or after?

This business of comparing Mussolini to Caesar may be complimentary, but not encouraging. "If you have tears prepare to shed them now."

Toronto controllers and aldermen are a fine lot of squabblers. From a report of a recent meeting: Con. Hacker—"Why didn't you want to sit on the committee?" Ald. McBride—"Because I didn't want to sit with you on the same board." Con. Hacker—"If you resigned, why are you sitting on it?" Ald. McBride—"I am here to watch you." And so on, all in the interests of the discriminating electorate.

He Can't Stop

By ARK.

John Henry figured long ago a scheme to make ten thousand bones, and have his name and picture, too, hung muddy inside the people's homes. One time he looked around a spell and scanned the field of human woes, he noted how so many had great corns and bunions on their toes.

John Henry fixed a mixture up and put it in a little box, 'twas strong enough if put on thick to heave the horns from off an ox. He didn't know himself just what the stuff was liable to do, but reckoned if the sales was good why he'd be rich before he's through.

John Henry started door to door and sold his corn cure by the way, it looked as though his luck had changed and ducats come to him to stay.

Well, one big bruiser used the stuff, his foot it was a number ten, and he could fight to beat the band, one day he'd licked eight six-foot men. Yes, he put on John Henry's cure, his foot it turned from green to blue, it well nigh took his big toe off before his treatment got half through.

So he went lookin' down the street to see just where John Henry was, he wanted to bust in his jaw and scratch him with his mighty.

John Henry tried to skip the town, but took the corn cure on the train, and every place where he would stop his corn cure worked about the same.

Well, he's kept goin' on ever since, he's been in Iceland and Japan, he's sold his corn cure on the Nile, he hawked it to the Chinaman.

He used to be a lazy guy, I guess he's cured of that by now, for if he ever stopped a spell they'd feed him to some sacred cow.

The Once-Over

FAVORS NEW BRIDGE.

In an exclusive interview in the London Lyre today Hoax N. Spooftis, independent candidate for mayor, came out flat-footed in favor of a new bridge at Ridout street. "I will certainly get under this bridge and help to support it," he said. "I think that if enough men like myself will put their heads together we can build a fine concrete bridge. The only difficulty will be to get it across."

"I favor a structure with sides twenty feet high so that there will be plenty of room for signs. One of the reasons for the weakening of the present bridge is the number of signs it has had to carry. The new bridge should display friendly messages to departing tourists, such as 'You are now leaving London, Ont. Congratulations!'"

"What about the river?" asked the reporter. "Oh, dam the river," replied Spooftis.

Bandits stole \$1,000 from a Hamilton dairy, but overlooked a package containing \$7,000. The milk but left the cream, so to speak.

"Chapman Gets More Time" says a headline. Judges are generous. It seems only a while ago that he was given twenty-five years.

Everything in season. Now that hunters have ceased to shoot each other by mistake, we read of the skaters who ventured on thin ice.

A Windsor despatch says "one-man cars may go." Yes, possibly. But not very fast.

Santa Claus attended the bursaleque Saturday. Let's hope he'll bring the poor girls some clothes, after seeing the need.

Provincial entomologist says the corn-borer is sticking to the cornfields. So would anybody else who tries to cross one this weather.

IT'S A GREAT IDEA.

"The dream of a new roundhouse for St. Thomas almost came true today when a fire occurred in the present structure." Think what overheated stove might do for London's station problem.

Parachutes are now used to drop mail from aeroplanes. Judging by a package received recently, we think its parachute failed to open.

A French aviator made a test to see if he could land at 100 miles per hour. He found he couldn't. The funeral was largely attended.

E. J. P.

Isn't It the Truth?

A man is known by the people he thinks unnecessary.

Still, the morals of the stage aren't any rot-tener than the acting.

Savage people are those that wear few clothes, only when it's hot.

Soft coal isn't really soft. The adjective fits only the clench it now has.

Enemies aren't such bad scouts. They don't tell you what to do for your cold.

You can tell, if it's a blowout instead of a pistol, the next sound is profanity.

People might stay up on election night, as of yore, if somebody would set 'em up as of yore.

Good times are those in which people make the debts that worry them in bad times.

Wouldn't it be awful if an alarmed and beneficent nature should make knees hairy?

There's no justice. When fellows like that get where they're going, it won't be necessary to say: "Gotta match?"



Among the many important things in the world is an important citizen fifty miles from home.

What will it matter if evolution is taught in the schools? Do you remember any of the algebra taught in schools?

How funny that alchemists tried for ages to make gold of base metals and never thought of swamp water.

If Oxford really invented the Oxford bag, England is adequately avenged for American comedy reels.

And yet, if you are good enough to win in a boom country, you can do it right where you are.

Correct this sentence: "The men all think her wonderful," said the gossip, "and the women never knock her."

R. Q.

Editorial Opinion

TOO LATE NOW.

From the London Spectator.
SENTENCED to a four-year term in Kingston penitentiary, W. W. Dunlop, former inspector of prisons, doubtless regrets that he did not effect more reforms for the comfort of the inmates of penal institutions, while in office.



THE LIGHT THAT FAILS

—Harding in the Brooklyn Eagle.

Moving Into the City

By OBSERVER

THIS story is not a recital of disappointment nor an admission of defeat, but more a statement of actual experience. It is not intended even as a warning that people from the farm should be careful about a move to the city, because people from the city who have moved to the farm have had experience in farm work have had experience almost similar.

It was told to me a few days ago by a farmer who used to live some miles west of London, and six years ago left there to take up his residence in the city.

"I was born on a farm and never left it, but as I grew older and the family became of age they wanted to do something else, and they heard of the pleasant work they had secured, and our young people could not see any reason why they should not do the same thing. They were all certain that I could find something to do as well, and so the case was presented a good many times."

"As I look back on it now we would have been better off to have let the young people go if they wanted to, and stayed on the farm ourselves, for in less than a year and a half from the time when we came to the city they had left for other cities."

"During the years around war time we were doing fairly well on the farm, better in fact than we had for some time before. With what I was able to make then I went in for the purchase of more machinery at high prices, and the prices for that were also fairly well up. The payments on the machinery were spread over a few years, and I was able to meet the first ones all right."

"I guess I made the mistake that a number of other farmers made of buying too much when prices were high, not stopping to think that what I had to sell would come down in price and what I had undertaken to pay would remain about the same. Shortly after the war came to an end prices started to drop, and I was in trouble in trying to keep up the payments. It may have been that that had something to do with the decision to pull up from the farm where I had lived for years, and try things in the city. I couldn't see where I was making any progress, and although I knew I was trained in nothing else than farm work I decided to take a chance."

"I know now that I was wrong because I used to often figure it out that if I could make a thousand dollars a year I could get along in the city. I didn't have any real basis for making such a calculation, but figured it out from what I had experienced in the way of living on a farm."

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To the Editor

The Crossing Case.

Editor of The Advertiser:

Sir,—I fall to see why the papers should make such a case out of the slight accident in which the bus and the C. N. R. locomotive figured, and in this way encourage people to use the L. S. Ry. in preference to the buses.

The L. S. Ry. has been doing, and still does, just as it pleases with our civic governing body and promises to use the approach crossings very carefully, for which they should be complimented and buses encouraged.

I am not the only one to consider this crossing the most dangerous in the city. I cross it several times in a day, and although very careful, have had several narrow escapes, and have seen several accidents and a number of deaths at this point. I think the C. N. R. is entirely responsible and should pay all damages, and be forced to protect this crossing now, as it has been in the past, by a serious accident and people killed.

The chief of police could do more good in working to this end than by preparing a case against the bus owners.

London, Nov. 25. THINKER.

No Affiliation Talk.

Editor of The Advertiser:

Sir,—It has just come to my attention that your issue of Monday, November 23, contained a new item from Alvinism, referring to a meeting of Liberals and also one of Progressives there on Saturday, November 21, referring to them as a step towards union of the two, and stating that the Progressives decided to lay the matter before a convention on December 17.

As far as the Progressives or United Farmers are concerned, we want to most emphatically state that the matter of affiliation with the Liberals was not even discussed, and also that the convention called for December 17 is for the sole purpose of selecting candidates for both provincial and federal campaigns.

Also that there was no connection whatever between the two meetings on the 21st. It was merely a coincidence. Hoping that this will place the matter in its true light, I remain

Yours truly,

ARTHUR E. VANCE,

President East Lambton United Farmers' Political Association.

R. R. No. 3, Forest.

The Spite Fence.

Editor of The Advertiser:

Sir,—I am living in a town some distance east of London, and I have seen questions answered in your paper before. My neighbor as I had a dispute some time ago over a trifling matter that could have been very easily adjusted at the time, but was not. Since then he has built a very high fence right up against my house, and it shuts off all the light and sunshine from that side and has been a very serious matter for us.

Hoping that this will place the matter in its true light, I remain

Yours truly,

INQUIRER.

November 27.

Answer.—According to the law, there is nothing you can do to make your neighbor take down the fence, and he can build it as high as a fence can go. Your one chance would have been to have had an agreement with him before he erected his fence, and if he would not agree to that, you would have to sue him. It is unfortunate that such a case is so common.

INQUIRER.

LIST OF CANDIDATES

For Municipal Offices in the City of London—1926.

FOR MAYOR.

JOHN McKENZIE MOORE, 478 Waterloo Street, Architect.

GEORGE ALBERT WENIG, 27 Erie Avenue, Merchant.

FOR ALDERMEN.

WILLIAM JOHN ASHTON, 17 Kitchener Ave., Conductor, L. S. Ry.

HORACE HARRY BOTTRILL, 248 Wharncliffe Rd. N., Merchant.