

London Advertiser.

(Established by JOHN CAMERON, in 1863.)

THE LEADING DAILY IN WESTERN ONTARIO

8,688 Sworn Average Daily Circulation for 1900.

Advertising and subscription rates furnished on application.

Address all communications—
THE LONDON ADVERTISER COMPANY
(Limited),
LONDON, ONTARIO.

London, Wednesday, March 27.

The H. H. Cook Charges.

No Liberal need be disturbed over the charges made by Mr. H. H. Cook before the Senatorial Committee, which began its sessions at Ottawa on Tuesday forenoon. The charge, it will be remembered, was that Mr. Cook was asked for \$10,000 for a seat in the Senate.

Under Hon. S. H. Blake's cross-examination, a considerable part of the superstructure of accusation at once fell away. The area of indictment was narrowed at the outset. The name of no Minister of the Crown other than one, namely, Sir Richard Cartwright, was connected with the accusation by Mr. Cook, so that the charge does not take a very wide range. And even with regard to the mention of the name of Sir Richard Cartwright, the endeavor to do so rests solely on Mr. Cook's allegation.

The confidential letters from Sir Richard Cartwright to Mr. Cook, read before the committee, do not contain one sentence that savors of anything corrupt. It is well known that Sir Richard was, during the period of this correspondence, thoroughly friendly to Mr. Cook's appointment to the Senate, and that nothing in the shape of mercenary inducements was needed to add to Sir Richard's friendliness. For that friendliness verily Sir Richard Cartwright has his reward.

Sir Richard denies Mr. Cook's charges in toto, and the denial will be accepted by the public. The same is true of Mr. W. T. R. Preston, who is charged by Mr. Cook with having hinted money to him. It may appear, before Hon. S. H. Blake is through with the cross-examination of Mr. Cook, now in progress, that any suggestion of an improper character, if any such were made, came not from Sir Richard Cartwright, not even from the late Lieutenant-Governor Cameron, but from Mr. Cook himself.

Toe the Mark.

If the Canadian tariff does not impose sufficiently high taxes on the consumers, as nine out of ten of the Conservatives who have participated in the budget debate more than insinuate, why do not their leaders have the courage to point out the articles on which they wish to add to the tax? This perpetual wail about it being necessary to prevent the Canadian consumer from paying too little for what he buys is in strange contrast with the Opposition outcry in many parts of the country at last election, that the tariff had not been reduced to any appreciable extent.

Since the death of Sir John Macdonald the old Conservative party has had a sad time of it, trying platforms on which to stand, and finding all equally unattractive and rickety.

Military vs. Civil Responsibility.

Mr. Labouchere, M.P., gets off some good things. In a speech on the complaint of Lord Wolseley, late commander-in-chief, that he did not have enough of power in managing the War Office, the member for Northampton said that Lord Wolseley was like a stray dog wandering about the War Office, and occasionally thrown a dispatch to read, just as a dog was thrown a bone to sharpen his teeth on. This is no doubt a smart saying, but it does not describe accurately the real condition of affairs. Lord Wolseley, like some other managers of soldiers that we have heard of, undertook to regard himself as the entire machine, and to resent the interference of the responsible Secretary of State for War. But it was clearly established by the discussion that took place in the House of Lords that the Secretary of State is and must continue to be the head of the military organization of the country. He, and not the commander-in-chief, is responsible to Parliament, and Parliament is responsible to the people who pay the bill. The commander is the superintendent of the forces. He is the organizer, the administrator, and he has charge of the discipline of the force; but he is an officer acting under the Secretary of State for War, and to be an efficient chief of staff he must cordially co-operate with the parliamentary head. As Lord Spencer put it most forcibly, if the theory that the commander-in-chief is to be predominant, and not the Secretary of State for War, were to prevail, it would be impossible to carry on the business of the country. If this view had been laid to heart by more than one general of the Canadian militia—notably Gen. Hutton—they would have saved the Government of the day a great deal of trouble, and themselves some humiliation.

The Young Women's Christian Association Building—The Free Press' Reference to It.

It is difficult to reply to such an article as that which appeared in the Free Press with reference to the building contemplated by the Young Women's Christian Association. It apparently with deliberation misrepresents The Advertiser and accuses it of throwing cold water on the proposal.

Nothing was further from our intention. At the outset we stated the object was a very worthy one, and we hoped would be successful. It does not follow that because we are in favor of the success of the young women that we approved of the article in the Free Press, which we thought wrong in two respects.

The Free Press seemed to think it helped the cause of the young women by throwing stones at the "Old Boys." We pointed out that this was unnecessary, that both were worthy objects and both should be helped. We claimed that the sentiment at the bottom of the Old Boys' excursion was one of the best in our nature. It is the same as that contained in the old familiar words, "Should Auld Acquaintance Be Forgot?" Surely not. Surely we can welcome gladly all the Old Boys who still have a fondness for their old home.

"I sat me on the fence, John. That lies as in old time. The same half-panel in the pair. We used to go oft to climb—And thought how, over the bars of life, Our playmates had passed on, And left me counting on the spot. The faces that were gone."

If the visits of the Old Boys and their thoughts of home stir up in them the proper sentiment, they will do much good, and while this is so it is surely not necessary to follow the line taken by the Free Press. Surely the young women do not grudge the Old Boys their celebrations.

We took exception to the statement of the Free Press that the time had come when the erection of a building for the young women should be assumed as a municipal duty and responsibility. We said the Free Press was on thin ice. So it is. When did the municipality ever incur such a responsibility, and when did it become a municipal duty? The Free Press knows better. It knows it was wrong when it attacked, in an article favoring a building for the young women, the celebration of the Old Boys. It knows it was wrong when it asserted any such municipal duty. It knows it was wrong when it asserted that The Advertiser was throwing cold water on the proposal and antagonizing an amiable proposition.

Law Reform.

The bill introduced by the Attorney-General will not increase the jurisdiction of the Division Courts, and we think this will be approved by everyone familiar with the transaction of the business of these courts.

It increases the jurisdiction of the County Courts in some directions considerably, and there is not so much objection to this, although we would have left it alone. While it adds business to the County Court which necessarily belongs to the county, and while the business of the Surrogate Courts, which, like the County Courts, are local, is increasing annually, and while each of these courts has a practice of its own, no provision is made for the appointment of a guardian ad litem for infants, lunatics, etc., in each county. This is an omission which cannot be remedied too soon. It is not right that one man should be sole guardian of infants from Ottawa to Windsor and from Lake Erie to the North Pole. We do not believe in combines, and least of all in such a combine as that.

Roughing It On the Veldt.

The British soldiers who have recently been operating in South Africa have, as a result of the style of campaigning which it was necessary to pursue, been subjected to even greater hardships than fell to the lot of the Canadian soldiers who aided in the earlier part of the war. A correspondent informs us that lately the campaigners have been often drenched day after day and night after night, by thunderstorms, from which the common tent gave them little or no protection, when they were not on the move. They have often been many miles away from their baggage and food supplies. They have been compelled to subsist on half rations or no rations at all, while always making long and weary marches, and doing heavy outpost duties. As an instance of the enormous distances covered, it may be mentioned that some columns marched over 800 miles last month, seldom doing less than 25 miles a day. All the commanders report that the work undertaken under so many difficulties and disadvantages has been accomplished heartily and willingly.

Tommy Atkins is the mildest grumbler of them all, yet he works for miserably small pay. If his numbers are to be increased, or even kept up, he must be better paid.

The Electric Railway to Port Burwell.

This electric railway from London to Port Burwell, if built, ought to be of very great local convenience.

The Aymer men are pushing the project vigorously. Mr. W. E. Stevens, Mr. Case and Mr. Moore, now residents of Aymer, are former Londoners, active in the enterprise and anxious that the charter should be granted. We believe a liberal policy should be the one adopted by the Government. There will yet be many electric railways traversing our highways, and as the times move we should move with them. London is a railway center, and its policy should be to be also an electric railway center. We hope to see the charter granted and the railway built.

The Battle of the Options.

In educational circles there is always friction and controversy, a proof that the subject is a living one. When things are dead and done with they create no controversies. There is always the old "battle of the books," that is the battle between ancient and moderns. There are always some who maintain that we are the ancients, and are prepared to let the real ancients go to Jericho, or some other place equally remote, and there are never wanting able men to remind us that the great voices of the distant past have still a living power and a kindly influence. This battle will, we suppose, continue with varying fortunes, and while it may be that "science" and the moderns seem in many places to be getting the best of it, we trust that they will not push their victories too far, as it is not good to be overdone.

There is, however, another conflict, which is to some extent another form of the same battle. It is maintained by many able thinkers that the matter of options has been carried too far. One American writer says it looks as if it was going down as far as the alphabet. A gentleman of a mathematical turn of mind has calculated that in some universities you can take your arts degree in two thousand different ways. In some quarters this tendency is still growing, but in others it is felt that the tide ought to be stemmed and that a certain common standard should be insisted upon all round before the student is allowed to specialize. The "specialist" who has not got a good all-round training cannot understand his own subject thoroughly. The great body of organized knowledge is a whole, and before a man devotes himself to one special thread he should know something about the structure of the whole fabric.

There is, we think, much in this kind of argument. It is painful when a man who has much knowledge and skill in a small sphere creates the impression of being illiterate. There is a sense, not only of roughness, but of disproportion, want of harmony. A German writer has likened the optional system to a man ordering his dinner from a French bill of fare, when he does not understand the language; he might get plenty of soup and sweets, and miss the solid food. The moral seems to be that options should not be in too soon, and that when they do come in, they should not be arranged so that the student seeking the line of least resistance can pick up a lot of disconnected fragments.

Phenomenal Railway Development.

In 1855, the Illinois Central Railway, with its 771 miles, including branches, was the longest railway line in the world! Now we have a Canadian line over four times that length, stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, with many branch lines hundreds of miles long! And still we have immense tracts of fertile territory, far removed from railways, that in due course must be provided for, as they will all be settled by a prosperous people, whom it will pay the older settled portions to have close communication with for the purposes of trade and commerce.

There is a bill before the State Legislature at Albany to incorporate another company, with a capital of \$5,000,000, to develop electrical power from Niagara. It will be a rival of the Cataract Electric Company. Yet the enormous power on the Canada side is allowed year after year to go to waste, owing to the stagnation and incapacity—or worse—of the Ross Government.—Free Press.

What does the Free Press mean?

The Ottawa Commonwealth puts forth a strong plea for the suppression of the trashy Sunday editions of the American "Yellow Journals." These hideously inartistic sheets take the place, especially in the minds of the young, of good reading, and the inevitable result will be a general deterioration in the standards of life in the coming generations, unless something is done to retard the traffic in these periodicals.

A Logical Policy.

[St. Thomas Journal.] The Liberal policy is logical. It has moved in the direction of free trade within the empire. British goods are now admitted at one-third less than the ordinary tariff on the same class of goods from other countries. We must have a revenue, and the Liberals believe that protection should be incidental to a revenue tariff as is the case with the present tariff. The direction of the present voluntary preference is towards that point where we might hope to obtain a preference from Britain. A time may come when we can remove the tariff wall entirely against Britain, but it is not yet. All we can do is move that way, which we have been doing.

Glimpses from Press Gallery.

House of Commons.
Ottawa, March 26, 1901.

Good speaking has for centuries been a power in Parliaments. Not the only power, by any means, but a great power, and a means of political advancement. The British Parliament has always been proud of its great orators—its Gladstones, its Brights and Beaconsfields—irrespective of party; and in the old land, with every incoming Legislature, there is no small interest in watching for the first signs of oratorical or debating ability in the new men. It is the same in the Parliament of Canada. Without just now mentioning names, it is probably within the facts to say the present House is a promising one as to the speaking ability of its new members on both sides.

One notices this more in the unpremeditated and unreported speeches in committees, where real debating is more likely to be heard than in the House. The set speeches are prepared for the House, whereas in committee the speaker is apt to be full of his subject, thinks little of himself or of his sentences, and aims solely to carry his point. Many a man is effective and influential as a speaker in committee, who would make only a moderate showing in "a big speech" in the House. All the same, the ability to make a speech, manifesting both oratorical finish and power, has never failed to be appreciated in all civilized Parliaments.

The other day, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, himself the parliamentary orator of the day, was asked in conversation to name a few speakers, among those not now in Parliament, who had impressed him in days gone by as orators. Among these, he gave prominence to the names of Blake, Chapleau, Huntington and Macdougall. These men varied much. Edward Blake, the intellectual giant, whose style is that of Edmund Burke; Chapleau, the French-Canadian, eloquent and rhetorical to a degree; William Macdougall, whose periods in his palmy days could hardly be excelled; and Hon. L. S. Huntington, whose great speech in preferring the charges connected with the Pacific Scandal, is spoken of to this day. Among the old habits, I find the palm for attractiveness of utterance, combined with power, is usually given to Mr. Huntington, now long since dead. He was a master of smoothly-flowing sentences and liquid English; had a fine presence and eloquent gestures; the most musical voice ever heard in Parliament; always an impressive speaker, whose ideas were presented in the most attractive manner possible. In a speech in which he made a reply to Sir Francis Hincks, while defending his views on the Zollverein between Canada and the United States, he referred to the early connection of Sir Francis with the politics of Canada. That early connection of Sir Francis



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was to him a reminiscence rather than a reality. The honorable gentleman had been many years away from the country, and did not seem to realize the great changes that had taken place in his absence. He seemed to think that the events of today were to be joined on to those which had happened when he was in the country before; all that had intervened was unknown to him. He was like Rip Van Winkle, in Sleepy Hollow, who slept for a generation, and then awakened, and reached for his gun, which had been eaten up by the rust; and he called for his dog, which had long been dead.

To come back to the present House, one of the younger of the new members recently received from Principal Grant, of Queen's University, a note of friendly advice and commendation, which I had the privilege of being allowed to read. Principal Grant is noted for the kindly interest which never loses sight of a student after he leaves college, and there are few shrewder critics and advisers. The principal's advice to the younger member contained the following pointers: "Don't be afraid of speaking in the House. Speak often, but briefly, till you get familiarized with the chamber, the audience, the atmosphere; and never speak without having something to say; and when it is said, always with good temper, sit down." Were these golden words hung up before the eyes of every speaker, and by no means of parliamentarians alone, it would mean a considerable diminution in the burden of human happiness.

From reference to parliamentary speeches, it is an easy transition to those who report them or make comment from the Press Gallery. The annual dinner of the Gallery took place in the Senate Restaurant on Saturday night. It has grown to be, as Sir Wilfrid Laurier, one of the guests, described it, the most pleasant little banquet of the year, and invitations to it are coveted. Not partisanship, but comradeship, is its object, and perhaps no reunion does more, indirectly, to allay political animosity and promote pleasant personal relations even among opposing members of the House. With speakers like the Premier, the leader of the Opposition, the Minister of Justice, the Speakers of the two Houses, Nicholas Flood Davin, D. C. Fraser, and others, there would not be likely to be lack of bright talk. One of the amusing features of the evening was the unheralded appearance of a representative of Mrs. Carrie Nation. "She," or her representative, came in, axe in hand, and marching up the central aisle between the guests to the president's table, presented him with the axe wherewith to smash any person who should speak longer than five minutes. The hint

proved effective. It was suggested the axe should be passed on to the Speaker of the House of Commons to employ it on long-winded members.

During the evening, generous recognition was given by the parliamentary speakers to the services rendered by the Gallery in giving forth the members' speeches in presentable shape. One is reminded of Dr. Johnson's famous parliamentary reports, in the days of Sir Robert Walpole's Administration. About 160 years ago, Johnson reported the debates in the British Parliament, under the name of "The Senate of Lilliput," with feigned names, but not so far off as not to be recognized. Parliament then kept the press in a kind of mysterious awe, which made these devices necessary. The debates appeared in the Gentleman's Magazine of that day. Now here is the remarkable thing. Johnson made these famous reports largely out of his own imagination (though always with a general ground work of accuracy), and without having himself been present at all! As the facts have now become known, Cane, the publisher of the Gentleman's Magazine, had interest with the doorkeeper of the House. He and the persons employed under him, gained admittance, they brought away the subject of discussion, the names of the speakers, the side they took, and the order in which they rose, together with notes of the arguments advanced in the course of debate. The whole was afterwards communicated to Johnson, and he composed the speeches. Johnson, as we know, was a good hater, though on the whole a grand and sturdy character. Being praised for the impartiality of his reports, in dealing out reason and eloquence with an equal hand to both parties, "That is not quite true," said Johnson; "I saved appearances pretty well; but I took care that the Whig dogs should not have the best of it."

Of an important debate towards the end of Sir Robert Walpole's administration, in a party where Johnson was present, one of the printed speeches of Mr. Pitt was highly praised; whereupon Dr. Johnson said, quietly, "that speech I wrote in a garret in Exeter street." Two splendid speeches attributed to Lord Chesterfield were written entirely by Johnson; "and the best of it was," said Johnson, "they found out that one of them was like Demosthenes, and the other like Cicero."

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IMPERIAL REMOUNT STATIONS IN CANADA

Likely To Be Established by the Imperial Government.

Toronto, Ont., March 27.—Hon. George W. Ross, premier of Ontario, has received a letter from Lord Strathcona, dated at London, March 14, which shows that the British Government has at last seriously taken up the question of establishing permanent remount stations in Canada. Lord Strathcona says: "As the result of my interview and correspondence with Right Hon. W. S. St. John Brodick, secretary of state for war, the army remount department are forthwith sending an officer to Canada to purchase horses. The officer selected is Lieut.-Col. Dent, who has visited Canada on similar missions previously, and he will sail by the Tonic on the 20th inst. I am informed that he will purchase in the first place 500 horses for cavalry purposes, and 500 cobs for the use of mounted infantry, and that he will also visit the Northwest, as well as other parts of Canada. Col. Dent will, I believe, also look into the question of establishing two or three remount depots in different parts of the Dominion."

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