

London Advertiser.

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Managing Director and Editor, John Cameron

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Welcome the Old Boys!

Tomorrow London will be the scene of friendly invasion from former residents of this city—London's Old Boys! The term is generic. The worthy divine, in his theological exposition, remarked that man embraced woman. The audience smiled. London's Old Boys' excursion to the old home-city will include many of the wives and daughters of former Londoners, and they will be welcomed with a glow even of additional enthusiasm.

Last year's visit to London was quite successful, especially for the first of the series.

The London Old Boys' reunion this year will be a record-breaker in numbers and interest. We predict, as the circle widens, and Old Boys from every point of the compass accept the invitation to join in with the Toronto headquarters contingent, that the anniversary will become the one most pleasurably anticipated.

Let the city in its corporate capacity, let our citizens individually, fling out such a welcome as will warm the cockles of the Old Boys' hearts! Fling out the flags!

The Normal School Site.

The Free Press finds fault with the site chosen for the Normal School. This was expected. The Free Press was prepared to find fault with any site chosen by the Government. It is well known the Government favored a central location between the two tracks, but it was found that it was doubtful if the Legislature would grant any additional money for the purpose. The Opposition members—at least the majority of them—would certainly oppose it. They do not want London to get the school at all. They do not want money would, therefore, cause a delay—perhaps a year. The Free Press today suggests that this would not have mattered, as the erection of the school in London was assured, whether the site was selected now or later on. Says the Free Press this morning:

"So far as London is concerned, however, it was not a question of getting the site at this moment or losing the school altogether. The policy had been determined on. The money had been voted, and remained at the credit of the Normal School account in London. There was no question of any failure to carry out that policy."

Here is a pretty somersault! The Free Press has suddenly become magnanimous. Less than a month ago it was attacking the good faith of the Government on this very matter. It ridiculed the Normal School grant as a mere election dodge. It was clamoring for the work to proceed. The following extract from the Free Press of July 6 reveals its aim and method:

"Mr. Ross should be now well aware that the frost is out of the ground, and the soil and the man in this city alike await the word 'excavate'—dig for the foundation. If this work is not speedily begun our people will think they have been hoaxed by Mr. Leys, as well as by Mr. Ross. If the Minister authorized the Grit candidate to make the promise which he did, he ought to make it good, or the Grit candidate should know the reason why. But perhaps Mr. Ross imagines he can fool all the London people all the time, the same as he fooled part of them some of the time."

We leave it to a subtle casuist like our contemporary to reconcile its two statements. Fair-minded people cannot. Reverting to the question of the site, it may be said that the City Council has no cause for complaint. Some years ago the Council offered a site to the Minister of Education, and recently he gave them an opportunity of selecting it, but they refused to even consider the matter.

It should be remembered that the erection of the Normal School is not by any means merely a civic question. The institution is a provincial one, mainly for the accommodation of students of the teaching profession from all parts of Ontario, and particularly Western Ontario. The Free Press charges Col. Leys, M.P.P., with exerting pressure on the Government. This is true. The colonel has undoubtedly exerted all the pressure he knew how to induce the prompt commencement of the work in London, but not in favor of any special site. Like the Minister of Education, he would have preferred a site between the tracks, if its price were within the appropriation, but this seems to have proved impossible. Everyone must admit that the very best property for the money has been secured, and also that it is not possible to please everybody, least of all our contemporary. The Minister of Education would have been pleased to accept a piece of ground for the erection of the building on Victoria Park. The Government would probably have

granted a sum of money to the City Council towards the purchase of property adjoining the park, so that the park area would not be reduced. These are matters that the City Council should have had the enterprise to face squarely.

Municipal Franchises.

Throughout the country, municipal corporations are inclined to indulge in experiments in order to get out of the control of monopoly supply of needful aids to civilization—particularly of public lighting and telephonic service. Where intelligently gone about, the granting of new franchises may be a permanent benefit, but where carried out in the happy-go-lucky manner too often following civic action, there is not likely to be any improvement. Ottawa's experience is a case in point. No city is better situated than the capital for the economic production of electricity. Ottawa is built on the banks of the fast flowing river of that name, and the magnificent Chaudiere Falls afford almost unlimited power for the production of the great force. It was natural, therefore, that attention should early be called to these advantages. Nearly ten years ago, the Ottawa Electric Company was formed to supply light for that city. The company made an energetic start, and its good fortune caused other capitalists to enter the field and ask for a civic charter. Many thought it undesirable to multiply charters, poles and wires, but the cry had gone forth, "No monopoly!" and it was argued that competition would be of great benefit to the citizens. The civic charter was granted. Some time afterwards, a third company, the Standard Electric, obtained a charter. The right to destroy the beauty of the city by still further augmenting the poles and wires was conceded. To all opposition the reply was "No monopoly!" When it was suggested that the three companies would have it in their power to pool their interests, as soon as they were placed on the equal basis that their aldermanic sponsors contended for, and could only hurt each other by failing out, the answer was that the feeling between the rivals would be so bitter that unity would be impossible.

The Journal, which supplies us with a narrative of this interesting experience, points out that, as certainly might have been expected, soon after all three charters were in operation, the companies each having something to sell to the other, promptly came to the prophesied understanding. They had no "bitter feeling" when money was to be made by pursuing a conciliatory course. The prophesied "combine" was formed, with the usual results. In 1895 all three companies amalgamated on the plea of "reducing working expenses," and in doing so they watered their stock. Already in the formation of the original companies there had been considerable stock given free to promoters. Thus when the companies amalgamated and further watered their stock the public burden became a huge one without proper value having been put into it, and upon that burden the public was called upon to pay dividends at the rate of 8 per cent a year.

Despite this experience, Ottawa is once more asked to grant franchises to another two companies, and in hope that the public memory is short, the same old arguments are adduced in favor of the move. It will be interesting to note what use is made by the civic managers of those new offers to exploit the streets of the capital and the pockets of its people. The subject is of general interest, because human nature and business sharpness are much the same in every center of population.

It seems to us that if the taxpayers of a city are not prepared to trust civic bodies to manage their lighting supply—and some recent developments in this and other cities are no doubt calculated to make taxpayers have grave misgivings on the propriety of such a course—the next best thing would be not to multiply charters, to be followed by an experience such as Ottawa has already gone through, but to first try the effect of bringing the existing company to the sense of its duty to the public. All cities are not as well fixed as the capital in this regard, for if Ottawa does not wish to buy out the company now lighting the city, it can practically impose any conditions of control it pleases. It can place a director on the company's board; it can secure civic audit of the company's books; it can exact a percentage of the company's profits; it can establish a standard for the company's lights; it can secure an agreement to bury wires and remove poles; it can make such an arrangement as Toronto has with her gas company, that the price of

lights must be reduced whenever profits exceed some fixed percentage. With opportunity to control an existing company, in the public interest, and with the past experience of rival company manipulation, independent aldermen should have no difficulty in doing the right thing for the taxpayers, who can never be expected to be in a mood to pay not only for public lighting, but for the removal of rival companies from the field.

Is there a Demosthenes or a Cicero concealed among the new Ontario M. P.'s?

It appears that in this war the American hospital ship was almost as destructive of life as was the American warship.

President McKinley has one great advantage in these delicate and difficult peace negotiations. Congress is now off his hands.

The Spanish and Americans agreed to cease hostilities in Eastern Cuba, but Garcia continues to fight the one and Yellow Jack the other.

It is to be hoped the projected race for the America yacht club will not impair the friendly relations between Great Britain and the United States.

There is said to be a movement in Quebec Province to bring back to public life Sir Hector Langevin. Sir Hector? Sir Hector? O yes, we think we have heard the name.

Some of the American newspapers fear that ordinary news will be very dull after the war, but perhaps those lively gentlemen Messrs. Garcia and Aguinaldo will remedy that.

The rush of importations to anticipate the new tariff rates caused a phenomenal increase of customs collections in July. The receipts last month are estimated at \$2,600,000, compared with only \$1,386,167 in July, 1897.

Zola has secured a verdict against the Petit Journal and is awarded 2,000 francs damages. No doubt the decision is right, but coming from a French jury it looks like a sop thrown to the Goddess of Justice, in atonement for previous injustice.

Lord Herschell is making a trip to British Columbia before the international conference meets. His lordship is acting wisely in deciding to see the great country whose interests he will aid in guarding. It is safe to say he will return with a magnified and clearer idea of his task.

Mr. Whitney, in his opening address, objected to the House sitting in the sweltering season, but intimated that the Opposition would try to prolong the swelter by obstructionist tactics. If the Opposition members can manage to sit long enough to draw their sessional indemnities they will probably be consoled for the heat.

The Kaiser dearly loves a spectacle, and saw a magnificent opportunity when Bismarck died. He had humiliated Bismarck living, but wished to glorify Bismarck dead by a state funeral. Doubtless Bismarck's son saw the contrast when he refused to gratify the Kaiser's passion. It was a quiet but effective rebuke. The son showed something of the father's spirit.

The reduction of rates in the carriage of grain by the C. P. R. means more money in the pocket of every grain grower in the Northwest. The Liberal Government wrung this concession from the C. P. R., and the Northwest farmers appreciate it. No tariff can raise the price of wheat in this country, but here is an instance of a Government enhancing its value without customs taxation at the expense of the rest of the community.

Some Opposition papers are freely quoting the Seattle press in its abuse of the Klondike administration. Returned American miners, some with fortunes, assail the Canadian Government for taxing the gold they were allowed to take from Canadian soil, and they even impugn the honesty and integrity of Canadian officials. The Conservative press which copies this should wait for Canadian testimony, and refuse inspiration from such a source as Seattle. Of course, it can plead that the Canadian Senate set the example.

The people of Ontario expect every member of the Opposition to do his duty.—Guelph Herald.

This is strong common sense. Let every member of the Opposition heed it. Let him be honest. Let him be just. Let him concede constables the right they have enjoyed for thirty years without protest. Let him clarify the statute on this point. Let him not intensify the heat by colorful con-

troversy. Let him not prolong the session by senseless obstruction. Let him get back to harvest operations as soon as possible.

Canada's new Governor-General is said to have had little experience of statecraft. That will not matter much. He will have statesmen in Canada to guide and advise him. That is more than Lord Aberdeen had when he first took office. Earl Minto will have no cabinet treachery or strife to worry him. He will have no such responsibility as the last ministry threw upon Lord Aberdeen in the Valleyfield murder case, for instance. He will find his lot cast in a pleasant place.

Copies of the London Post, News and Chronicle, just received, devote much space to Canada. Prof. Robertson, the Canadian dairy commissioner, now in London, is being industriously interviewed by the English press. He has set forth Canada's advantages in the most attractive form. A cablegram recently stated that Prof. Robertson had been talking preferential trade, and had ridiculed the Canadian belief that the British had a passion for free trade. There is no record of any such remarks in the papers we have received. The professor should handle such controversial topics very discreetly. Otherwise he may impair his efficiency as a brilliant press agent.

The offer of the viceroyship of India to Mr. George N. Curzon is a signal distinction for so young a man. It is probably true that he has accepted the post. He has traveled much in Asia and has made a special study of its affairs. As Governor-General of India he would play a leading role in the political theater which has so attracted him. The position also would be congenial to his ardent imperialism. From its social aspect, it is interesting to recall that young Curzon, two or three years ago, married an American heiress, Miss Leiter, of Chicago, sister of Joseph Leiter, the wheat plunger. As wife of the viceroy of India the former Miss Leiter would be on an eminence more dazzling than that of a duchess.

WHAT OTHERS SAY.

THE CHRONICLE APPROVES. This is the way the London Advertiser neatly describes the situation as regards Canada and the international conference: "Canada is in the happy position of being ready to trade, able to paddle her own canoe, according to circumstances may suggest."—Halifax Chronicle.

MEERIE TALK DOES NOT GO. Two years in office, and already the government at Ottawa have given, as contributions to imperial unity, preferential trade and imperial penny postage. Our Conservative friends had eighteen years to work in; they did an immense amount of talking, but their doing could be put into the shell of a humming bird's egg.—Winnipeg Free Press.

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION. The Australian colonies have as yet never been exposed to foreign aggression, nor have they been impelled to combine against oppression on the part of their mother country. They ought, however, to recognize how materially their situation has been changed by the concentration of European attention on the far east. They ought to foresee that in the event of war between England and the chief maritime nations of the continent, the naval forces of the latter, if temporarily preponderant in Chinese waters, would be checked against the flourishing seaports of Australia.—N. Y. Sun

AN EMPEROR'S SHAM GRIEF. Seldom has a man who created a modern empire been so humbled at the hands of the chief beneficiary as was Bismarck. The world could not wonder, since here was a monarch who honored neither his father nor his mother. It could only pity the great man who, in his old age, was forced to pluck such bitter fruit to poison his closing years. The affronts and humiliations put upon the ex-chancellor by the youthful and self-sufficient majesty hastened the death of the emperor's creator. And gazing upon the removal of a man who was a thorn in his side, both in and out of office, William talks of his "undying gratitude" to the deceased, and otherwise follows closely the dictates of royal etiquette. It is a royal sham that one could wish might be halted at the gates of Friedrichshagen.—New York Mail and Express.

GLADSTONE AND THE SWEEP. Success reminds us that little humble deeds of kindness and mercy were the commonplaces of Mr. Gladstone's life. He does not say, "I am great; therefore I may be absolved from the duties of lesser men." To him, as to every true soul who sees life as it is, the human was worth more than any mere intellectual attainment.

"Has anyone been to see you?" asked the Vicar of St. Martins-in-the-Fields of a poor crossing-sweeper who was lying ill. "Yes," was the answer, "Mr. Gladstone." "Which Mr. Gladstone?" "Mr. Gladstone," repeated the sick man. "But how came he to visit you?" asked the vicar. He could not understand why the Chancellor of the Exchequer, though he was then living in that parish, should call upon a crossing-sweeper. "Well," said the invalid, "he always had a word for me when he passed my crossing; and when I was not there he missed me. He asked my mate, who had taken my place, where I was, and when he heard I was ill, he put down my address in a paper. So he came to see me." "And what did he do?" "Why, he read to me out of the Bible and prayed."

LIGHT AND SHADE.

BY GREW.

An Irishman had one day to appear before a country magistrate for carrying a gun without a license. After being duly sworn, Pat was asked by the magistrate how long he had had the gun.

Pat O'Rafferty—Shure, yer honor, that same gun has been in our family, the bold O'Rafferty's, ever since it was a pistol.—Tid-Bits.

A SPANISH PRISONER.

High o'er his head the starry flag is floating. But on his breast he wears the saffron fold; Our prison bars securely close around him.

Though, Migo, friend, the name we have enrolled. But never once he seems to hear the cheering. That greets the story of a victory won; And cares no whit that we are all rejoicing. When news is brought us of a brave deed done.

He sits apart and sings, with sweetest cadence; The songs learned long ago in sunny Spain. We cannot chide him, for we love the rebel; Our gold canary from the Spanish Main.

—Lucy H. Thurston in Boston Transcript.

OF COURSE.

"What's that book you are reading, papa?" "The Last Days of Pompeii," my pet." "What did he die of, papa?" "An eruption, dear."—Tid-Bits.

ANOTHER HERO.

Very pathetic and yet thoroughly characteristic of the spirit of the man was the action of Captain Gridley, of the Olympia, at Manila. The hand of disease had already been laid heavily upon him, and it was from a sick-bed that he rose to fight his ship. Suffering in silence untold agony, he remained on duty for 24 hours continuously. Afterward, on being told by the ship's surgeon that his disease was fatal, and that he had fought his last fight, Captain Gridley remarked: "Going to Manila killed me; but I would do it again if necessary." Such devotion and courage remain as a splendid heritage for future generations.

THAT GRAND AIR.

"Papa, I want a pug dog; they're so 'ristocratic looking'." "Papa, what do you mean by aristocratic looking?" "Why, they look like they'd git hop-pin' mad if they had ter git acquainted with anybody."—Brooklyn Life.

A BRAVE DOCTOR

In the Battlefield in India—Saved a Soldier From Death.

The spectacle of a doctor in action among soldiers, says the author of "The Malakand Field Force," in equal danger and with equal courage, saving life where all others are taking it, allaying pain where all others are causing it, is one which must always seem glorious, whether to God or man. It is impossible to imagine a situation from which a human being might better leave this world and embark on the unknown.

The deed which calls forth this remark was performed last year in India, and indeed was a noble one. It occurred after night had fallen upon a hotly contested battle-ground. The British had, with great difficulty, repulsed an enemy overwhelmingly superior in numbers, and had withdrawn into their defenses. The deadly hollow some distance in front of their lines, called the Cup, was commanded from several directions by the fire of the natives, and swept at intervals by their swordsmen.

Lieutenant Ford had been seriously wounded in the shoulder. The bullet cut the artery, and he was bleeding to death when Surgeon-Lieutenant V. Hugo came to his aid. The fire was too hot to allow of lights being used. There was no cover of any sort. It was at the bottom of the Cup. Nevertheless, the surgeon struck a match at the peril of his life and examined the wound. The match went out amid a sputter of bullets, which kicked up dirt all around, but by its uncertain light he saw the nature of the injury. The officer had already fainted from loss of blood. The doctor drew the artery, and as no other ligature was forthcoming, he remained under fire for three hours, holding a man's life between his finger and thumb. When at length it seemed that the enemy had broken into the camp, he picked up the unconscious officer in his arms, and without relaxing his hold, bore him to a place of safety.

For many hours after this feat—as remarkable for the strength displayed as for the heroism which inspired it—the gallant surgeon's arm was paralyzed and useless from the strain. Little wonder. Not every man could carry another away, using one arm only, and with the other hand retaining a grasp, which had already lasted two hours, upon a severed artery. "Had he not had the strength to do so, Lieutenant Ford must have died," is the way his commanding officer put it when he narrated the act in his dispatches. In the same dispatches it is pleasant to know also that he had reason to commend the rescued as well as the rescuer, since but a day or so before he was himself wounded, Lieutenant Ford had brought off a wounded sepoy under a terrible fire from the enemy.

THE municipal authorities of Venice have petitioned the Italian Government to take diplomatic steps to recover 6,000 pictures which were carried off by Bonaparte between 1806 and 1810, and which were appropriated by various powers after his fall. The city also desires that a demand shall be addressed to Austria for the return of 135 pictures which were carried off by Emperor Ferdinand in 1858, in time of peace, for the galleries of Vienna.

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