

London Advertiser

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TORONTO REPRESENTATIVE.

F. W. Thompson, 56 Madi Building.

The London Advertiser Printing Co.,

Limited.

LONDON, THURSDAY, FEB. 26.

Mr. Carnegie, chain up your dog, or

have him removed!

Lent is the season to hit the H. C.

of L. a few lusty blows.

The Lenten season opens. It is the

real time of prayer for our bountiful

harvests.

The wind is getting in the south, but

the fly-fishing season can scarcely be

said to have opened.

It's a safe wager that General Villa

barred the "movies" man from the

execution of Benton.

It may be "Lefty Louie" and his

crowd who will take Becker's place

in the death chamber.

It is reported that Jack Johnson

is to join Billy Sunday's evangelistic

force. They might use him as a

horrible example.

Great Britain is afraid to trust its

investigating consul in Mexico. Feel

the blood of an Englishman!

London tailors are planning blue

dress suits. That's the color it makes

a good many of us feel when we are

compelled to do up one of the black

ones.

"Mr. Allan Studholme votes with the

Opposition," in Ontario Legislature.

The natural ally of a labor representa-

tative is the Liberal party. The work-

ingmen of Ontario will have to look

to Mr. Rowell.

An occasional Bordenite paper still

keeps up a sporadic barking about the

N. T. R. We know the pup that will

make a noise at midnight for an hour

after nothing went by. If the Liberals

take the matter up in caucus, it is

more to quiet the pup than to in-

vestigate the N. T. R.

Ontario education's debt to Sir

George Ross is a heavy one. The

doughty statesman did more to refine

and advance the provincial school

system than any other living man.

For years he has had impaired health,

and yet the stormy periods of his life

have not passed. A genuine feeling

of concern is felt by his old constitu-

ents in West Middlesex, and the whole

country hopes for his recovery with

the coming of spring.

HOME OR FLORIDA?

It is not often you hear of young

people coming south to live. They

come to die.

What a tribute to our red-blooded

Canadianism is this sentence in the

letter of a former resident in the

south! The men of the northern zone

have been sung as giants in physique

and endurance, but several rather in-

spid winters have made us feel al-

most like semi-tropical denizens. It

took this real old-fashioned Canadian

winter to tone us up and start our

whole constitutional machinery ting-

ling.

There are few weather cowards liv-

ing in Canada. From our childhood

we have rushed out into the open

spaces and romped with King Boreas

and Jack Frost to our heart's con-

tent. Most of us have had our ears

frozen, yet our longevity statistics

would compare favorably with those

of torpid Florida or any other invalid's

paradise. You don't see many of our

young people striking for Mexico or

Arizona unless it's lungs, and the

stronger stick it out up here in the

pine woods and beat it out.

It has taken this good solid stretch

of ice-bound February to make us feel

right. The snow is packed until it

clings like metal. There is thine seen

in sun or moonlight, and the merry

shouts of those who are renewing the

good old sleighride parties sound

through the city. The hills beyond

invite the blanket-coated snowshoer or

tobogganist. The local color gets back

to its style of twenty years ago. It

is good to be alive in Canada! Much

better than to die or be exiled in

Florida.

THE ART PLUNDERBUND.

A Raphael Madonna was this month

bought by Mr. P. A. R. Widener, of

Philadelphia, "the Trolley King," for

\$700,000, according to announcement.

This would be the highest sum ever

paid for a painting.

The "Cowper Madonna," as it is

called from a former owner, was offer-

think the picture, on the whole, worth

the figure proposed.

The Philadelphia magnate will be

remembered as the father of a Titanic

victim, and as the purchaser of Rem-

brandt's "Mill," a year or so ago for the

sum of half a million dollars.

In that instance also he beat out the

National Gallery. It would be in-

teresting to know whether Mr. Widen-

er would be as skilful in selecting a

work of genius from an exhibition of

last year's paintings as in placing the

seal of his august sanction upon the

works of the Renaissance. But at

any rate, the world has not been so

much with him that he should lose or

never feel the desire of beauty and

light.

The British rich who have paintings

to sell may incur some criticism for

exporting objects of art from their own

country. But no doubt they may re-

fect that the masses of their poorer

fellow citizens will be as much benefi-

ted by some parings from the American

dollars as by a painting that only a

few artists and antiquarians really can

appreciate. There are as good fish in

the sea of British and European art

as ever were caught. The main thing

is not to have a stock of ancient works

in a public safe, but to continue in

the power of artistic production.

By the time American princes have

the paintings of older centuries cor-

roded in their private palaces, they

will have lost their market value, and

the new harvest of a later age will be

ready to cut. Meanwhile it is

amusing that the Raphasias and Rem-

brandts should have to fill, after

many days, the pockets of titled shop-

keepers, and the halls of the untitled

"nouveaux riches."

ANOTHER AUTHORITY.

THE Toronto News in a recent

editorial tells us what it knows

about blasting. The News has blasted

at the Liberal Rock of Ages for

many a day and should know some-

thing about the handling of journalis-

tic dynamite, but when it comes to

giving expert evidence such as one

might expect from an engineer or a

"nitro" man, one realizes that the age

of specialization has been reached in

newspaper work, and that if the

editor of The News is not himself

competent to write on the subject, he

has an engineering graduate at his

elbow to prompt him.

The News is talking of "overbreak"

in this instance. "Overbreaking," the

expert tells us, is the gentle practice

of blasting out 80 or 100 feet of rock

for a roadbed when the specifications

say that only 65 feet should be cut

through. The News says that the

contractor saves time and money by

cutting out more rock, and that the

late Government's inspecting engi-

neers have passed this kind of work

excessively.

How much more dynamite would it

take to blast out 100 feet of roadbed

through rock than through 65 feet?

How much more shovelling would be

required in the removal of the blasted

rock where 100 feet had been blasted?

Can a contractor gauge the action of

his dynamite so closely that he can

keep within a ten foot limit either

way?

And how does he save time by blast-

ing out and carrying away so many

extra hundred tons of rock?

The News' engineering specialist

may tell us that the contractor made

extra money by charging up such

work as solid rock excavation, but can

he expect us to believe that the con-

tractor did it to save time?

PUBLIC LANDS IN THE NORTH-

WEST.

WHEN the provinces of Alberta, and

Saskatchewan were constituted

under the Liberal Government, their

public lands were retained by the

Dominion, as was the case with

those of Manitoba. It was held that

the control of these lands was neces-

sary to the Dominion Government in

carrying out its immigration policy.

In lieu of these, however, the new

provinces received better financial as-

sistance than the older provinces.

Objection was raised by some of the

people in the Northwest to this ar-

rangement, and that objection has

been growing stronger with the lapse

of time. Whether or not under pre-

sent circumstances, with their great in-

crease in population, it would be ad-

visable to restore the public lands and

other natural resources to the prov-

inces, is a proper subject for inquiry

and discussion. The Liberal Govern-

ments of Alberta and Saskatchewan,

which accepted the original agree-

ment, now think they should have the

lands. The Conservative Government

of Manitoba joins with them in their

demand. And the Liberals in the

Dominion Parliament are quite pre-

pared to consider the question fairly,

and treat the other provinces justly.

But the position of Mr. Borden and

his colleagues is not creditable nor

honorable. When in Opposition, in

issuing what was called the Halifax

platform, Mr. Borden declared himself

members from the Northwest join

with the Conservatives from the same

section in asking Mr. Borden to fulfil

his pledge, his only answer is that Sir

Wilfrid did not do it. That is a

poor excuse. He condemned Sir Wil-

frid for not giving the western prov-

inces their lands, and promised he

would do it. Now he does not do

what he promised, and pleads Sir

Wilfrid's example as an excuse. To

restore these lands now, he tells the

people, would not be right without a

re-arrangement of the financial terms.

But he did not say that when in Op-

position. Sir Wilfrid said it; and Mr.

Borden now says exactly what the

Liberal leader