

London Advertiser.

(ESTABLISHED BY JOHN CAMERON IN 1863.)

Managing Director John Cameron
and Editor.

London, Wednesday, March 29, 1899.

No Gerrymander-The British Precedent.

Much interest has been excited throughout the country by the measure which will be introduced by the Dominion Government at the present session of Parliament to undo the gerrymander. Though the Opposition politicians profess surprise and exhibit chagrin because the bill is to be brought in, the general public who have studied the trend of events cannot be in any doubt as to the matter. The duty of the Administration has been clear. Everybody conceded when the gerrymander bills of 1882 and 1892 were passed that they were rascally devices to secure advantages for the party then in power, and nothing was more forcibly and openly declared at the last general election than that the gerrymander would be undone in the event of the Liberals succeeding to power.

They did succeed, and in now proceeding, in plenty of time before another appeal to the people, to "unload the dice," to restore the equality of both political parties, the ministers are carrying out the decree of the people that county boundaries must be observed, and that the disgraceful emasculation of the constituencies shall be remedied.

A pretense has been made by some of Sir Charles Tupper's followers that the undoing of this great wrong at the present time is unconstitutional. How these persons rush to the defense of the constitution when their pet inequities are assailed! They say: "You cannot touch the gerrymander till after another census, anyway." This attempt to postpone justice has been shown to be without warrant. The Minister of Justice has so demonstrated, and his facile principles in constitutional interpretation. He has been ably corroborated by Mr. Britton, M. P. for Kingston, an eminent authority, in a recent speech in the House of Commons. Mr. Britton said:

"Let me refer to what the British North America Act says upon the subject:

"Section 40—Until the Parliament of Canada otherwise provides, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick shall, for the purposes of election of members to serve in the House of Commons, be divided into electoral districts as follows."

"Then it gives the electoral districts, and that section is entirely in reference to the representation of each province in this Dominion Parliament. Section 51 has reference to the adjustment of representation in the different provinces. The two sections are entirely different—one having reference merely to the territorial limits of any constituency, and the other having reference to the representation of different provinces based upon the unit of 65 members in the Province of Quebec. So there seems to be nothing in the constitutional question, and it only requires to call attention to these two sections in order to have that satisfactorily settled in the minds of any honorable members in this house. But we do not need to rest merely upon the interpretation one may put on these sections, for we have a precedent to go by. In 1881 the census was taken, and in 1882 we had a representation act. In 1891 another census was taken, and in 1892 another representation act was passed; but having passed that act in accordance with section 51 of the British North America Act, it was not left alone, for in 1893 the act of 1892 was amended, and in that act of 1893 this parliament, under the control of the Conservative Government, changed the limit of the following constituencies: Nipissing, Ottawa City, Hochelaga, Rouville, Bagot, Richelieu, and St. Hyacinthe. They changed the limits of each one of these by the amending act of 1893. All that is suggested as I understand in the speech from the throne is, that that act of 1892, amended in 1893 by honorable gentlemen opposite, shall now be amended again, and surely in this Parliament had power to amend it in 1893. There is, therefore, nothing in the constitutional question, as any lawyer on the opposite side will admit, on reference to the statute."

So that neither by constitutional enactment nor by precedent is the Government stopped from proceeding to do justice in the matter of repealing the gerrymander. That being so, the question arises, How is the work of recasting the constituencies to be proceeded with? Now that they are no longer able to gerrymander and bedevil the country, we observe that there is a disposition on the part of the Conservative leaders to be extremely careful of the "rights of all parties," and they tell us that the only fair way is for Parliament to abrogate its claim to control these matters, and to hand the work over to a court of judges. Why did they not provide for a judicial review of their division of the constituencies? If they had done so we are afraid that the authors of that atrocious measure could have fairly been sent to jail for a long period on a well-sustained charge of "falsehood, fraud and willful imposition."

It has been contended that the delimitation of boundaries by judges would be to follow out the British plan. This is not the British plan. The redistribution of constituencies in 1884, which is the last that has been made in Great Britain, was not under the charge of the judges, but was undertaken in part by persons designated by the Government of the day, and in part by the House of Commons itself. In England, for example, the names of the commissioners who laid out the new boundaries—always with regard to county lines, as is proposed in Canada—were Sir John Lambert, Sir Francis Sanford, Mr. Pelham, Mr. J. J. Henley, Colonel Owen Jones and Major Hector Tulloch. These gentlemen, we believe, were mostly civil servants, employed in the Ordnance Survey Department, but they did not have all the work of redistribution assigned to them. The Government remitted the question of the re-grouping of the boroughs to the House. Mr. Gladstone said that question was too large, too delicate, and too important—not merely a statistical one—to be entrusted to commissioners. In Canada we have not a large number of experts in matters of this kind in the permanent government employ, and therefore the redistribution will take place under full Government responsibility. It may be that some people would have liked to see judges appointed to do the work, and for ourselves, we would have no objection, so long as they were men in whom the people could have confidence, but we in the west know that in political questions, or kindred matters, some judges have been known to be no more than very ordinarily human. It may be just as well to throw the entire responsibility on the Parliament. The task which has been assigned to it is not to create a fresh gerrymander, on the principle that two wrongs make a right, but to do justice by all parties, and to maintain that community of interest in the constituencies that flows from the observance of the county boundaries.

We Cannot Lose the Klondike.

American dispatches insist on the truth of the report that a chain of mounds marking the original boundary between Russian and British possessions in the Yukon district has been discovered, and that it shows Dawson City and its golden suburbs to be in Alaskan territory, and therefore under Uncle Sam's dominion.

Experience has shown that the Klondike is opulent in fairy tales as well as treasure, but whether the story of the mounds is fact or fiction, it need not concern Canada in the least. Our neighbors have given us a precedent which we can follow to our own advantage in this particular case. Acting on their example in the recent negotiations over the Alaskan boundary, we can refuse to submit the question to arbitration; or if we do consent to arbitrate, it must be on the condition that Dawson City and the gold-bearing area shall remain within Canadian jurisdiction.

It's a game of heads-I-win-tails-you-lose, but Uncle Sam has taught us how to play it.

Sank All Differences.

That was a unique occasion in Toronto last week. Denominational differences were put in the background, and the clergy of the various Christian bodies mingled in friendly fashion and in a common cause. The genial Father Ryan rubbed shoulders with the Methodist parson, and the Anglican Bishop of Toronto fraternized with the Wesleyan, Presbyterian, and the other evangelical brethren. Protestant and Roman Catholic, Churchman and Non-conformist—this rapprochement was truly inspiring. "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

It may be mentioned that the cause of this unanimity was a fellow-feeling against Mr. Marter's bill, which called for the taxation of church lands. It shows what can be done when the churches get together, as the bill was knocked out in the first round by the municipal committee!

The Iron Duties.

Referring to Canadian purchases of pig iron in the United States, The London Advertiser sneeringly remarks: "To spite the United States why not stop buying raw material in that country and close up some of our factories?" If we stopped buying pig iron in the United States it would not be necessary to close up any of our factories, because pig iron can be made just as well in Canada as in the United States.—Montreal Star.

Canadian manufacturers bought \$350,000 worth of pig iron in the United States last year. The presumption is that they knew their own business best, and purchased where it was most advantageous. Our great iron-using and steel-using industries are competing abroad, and to make headway or hold their own they must be allowed to buy their raw material in the cheapest market. The reduction of the iron and steel duties by the present Government has admittedly been a great help to them—in fact, one Conservative paper, the Toronto News, declared that the recent increase of 10 per cent in the wages of the Massey-Harris employees was due to this scaling down of the tariff. The Advertiser hopes and believes that the time will come when our manufacturers can buy all their iron as cheaply in Canada as anywhere else, and that only Canadian ores will be used by Canadian smelters. But to attempt to develop Canadian iron production by a high or prohibitory tariff would be a fatal handicap to our iron-using industries, and an intolerable tax on the public. The system of bounties adopted by the Dominion and Provincial Governments is much less open to objection. It does not increase the price of raw material, and a subsidy may be reduced or withdrawn more easily than a protective tariff, when no longer necessary.

The Montreal Star, dealing with another topic, in a subsequent issue, makes the remark that "pig iron being the raw material in so many lines of manufacture, any increase in general prosperity is quickly shown in an increased demand for pig iron." That exactly confirms the statement of The Advertiser, which was objected to by the Star—namely, that the increased importation of pig iron from the United States last year was a result of the flourishing condition of Canadian industries. The critics of the Government must have been pointing to Canada's enlarged purchases from the States, as though it were something to be deplored. It so happens that most of the

increase consists of raw material for Canadian industry, so that the complaint is positively foolish.

The Montreal Trade Bulletin and the Hamilton Spectator advocate a higher tariff on sugar. So does the Canadian sugar ring.

A British society will send a shipload of Bibles to the Philippines. Meanwhile the Anglo-Saxons are giving the natives bullets.

In 1790 the total foreign trade of the United States, including specie, was \$43,000,000. In 1898 the total trade in merchandise alone was \$1,847,000,000.

It is "a growing time" for the Opposition, as well as for the country.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

That is so; while the country grows in prosperity, the Opposition grows beautifully less in numbers and influence.

In the trade article in yesterday's Advertiser reference was made to "the excess of imports to the extent of over half a million dollars in the 25 years succeeding Confederation." This was manifestly an error. "Half a billion dollars" was intended.

Mr. E. B. Osler, one of the ablest lawyers in Ontario, speaking in Parliament on the proposed interference with the Senate, declared that it would be well if Ontario, like Quebec, had a second chamber.—Kingston News.

Mr. E. B. Osler is no lawyer at all, but a broker and a C. P. R. director. The News had B. B. Osler in its mind's eye. If the News would consult that great lawyer it would find that he believes the Ontario Government to be one of the best in the world.

Sir Charles Tupper declares that Canada was a pauper nation before the bargain with the C. P. R. syndicate was agreed to. This is a sample of the nonsense paraded by the Opposition leader in his five hours' parliamentary gabfest. As a matter of fact, Canada grew more rapidly before the eighties than she has done since, although she has now begun to make up for lost time.

The Brantford school board purposes introducing a savings bank system into the public schools for the inculcation of thrift. The Brantford Examiner names a large number of American educational authorities, whose opinions are highly favorable to the practice. Among the cities where it has been tried successfully are Grand Rapids, Mich., Chester, Pa., Atlantic City, N. J., Norriston, Pa., Camden, N. J., and Pittsburg, Pa. The United States Commissioner of Education, Dr. W. T. Harris, strongly recommends it. Brantford's system goes into effect on April 10 and the experiment will be worth watching.

Mr. L. J. Demers has been elected by acclamation in Levis. He is a Liberal, and succeeds Dr. Gray. Levis is a constituency where it pays the Conservatives to be discreet rather than vainglorious.—Montreal Gazette.

From this ingenious explanation of the recent Liberal victory in Quebec Province, it is easy to see how little truth there is in Sir Charles Tupper's boast that Quebec electors are pining to record their votes in his favor. Anyone not acquainted with the political history of Levis might be led to suppose from the statement of the Gazette that the county was a Liberal stronghold, in which there was no chance for a Conservative, under ordinary conditions. That is probably what has become, now that the country as a whole is strongly in favor of giving the present Administration a fair show, but it has not been so in the past. It has about divided its favors between the two political parties. In 1867 for example, a Conservative was elected by acclamation to serve it, as a Liberal was the other day. And in the period that has intervened, the seat has been held as often by a Conservative, as by a Liberal. To give up the flight in



The Weak Spot.

When a boiler explodes carrying death and destruction with it, every body says "Why? we thought it was strong enough! It must have had a weak spot somewhere." When a man who has the outward appearance of being sound and strong suddenly falls a prey to disease, his friends exclaim: "why we thought he was all right! He must have had a weak spot somewhere."

The fact is, almost everybody has a weak spot somewhere. Death and disease are always looking for weak spots. If your stomach or your liver won't do its proper work, if your body fails to get its full nourishment from the food you eat, and your brain loses part of the sleep it ought to have, no matter how big your frame and muscular your limbs may be, you will give out; disease will find the weak spot, and nature will give way.

"I wish to say to the world that Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery has proved a great blessing to me as I firmly believe I should be a very bad state now if I had not taken it," writes Mrs. Ellen E. Bacon, of Shutesbury, Franklin Co., Mass. in a courteous communication to Dr. R. V. Pierce, of Buffalo, N. Y. "Prior to September 1897, I had doctored for my stomach trouble for several years, going through a course of treatment without any real benefit. In September 1897, I had very sick spells and grew worse; could eat but little. I commenced in September 1897, to take Dr. Pierce's medicine and in a short time I could eat and work. I have gained twenty pounds in two months."

This glorious "Discovery" gives the stomach and liver power to do their natural work regularly and completely. It makes healthy blood and steady nerves. It builds up the weak spots sound and strong. It is the only medicine that can be relied upon to accomplish this promptly and thoroughly.

Constipation is nine times in ten the beginning and one of the first symptoms of dangerous diseases. When this tendency is present, Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets should be used in conjunction with the "Discovery."

INDIVIDUALITY

Is a strong point in Ready-Made Clothing as well as in the human character.

In a world full of mediocre men and things individuality shines out like a beacon light.

"Oak" Hall Clothing

bristles with good talking points—sparkles with bright flashes of novelty—that excite the enthusiasm of the salesman and the admiration of his customer!

Distinctive Features of Our Coats

Symmetrical outlines, well-tacked pockets, well-shaped collars and lapels, perfect-made buttonholes, linen stay to support pockets, perfect-fitting quality and well-balanced effects, emphasizing the superiority of our garments over any and all other ready-made, and their close resemblance to the finest of custom work.

Men's Suits, \$8.50, \$9, \$10, \$12.

Why not wear fine clothing that you feel perfectly satisfied with?

Every purchaser of \$10 or over gets one of Oak Hall's celebrated Watches free.

OAK HALL, 154 Dundas Street, London, supplies your wants. Alfred Taylor, Manager.

such a constituency, as the Conservatives did the other day, was certainly discreet, but it also revealed their weakness, and exposed the hollowness of their pretensions on the floor of Parliament.

We take the following from the London Times of a recent date:

"The Earl of Dunraven, addressing a public meeting at Croagh, county Limerick, in furtherance of his candidature for the Croom division of the county council, said it had been asked what on earth he wanted to get into the county council for. It was stated that he was lord lieutenant for the county, a Knight of St. Patrick, and had a seat in the House of Lords. He did not in the least undervalue or underrate these privileges and honors, but some of them were entirely and some of them partially due to the mere accident of birth, but this was the first time in his life that the opportunity had presented itself of offering his services and any little experience, any little knowledge, and any little amount of brains he might have to his fellow-countrymen in his own birthplace, in his own division, and where he lived."

Some time ago we quoted a passage from a speech by the Earl of Elgin, who, in stepping down from one of the highest positions in the gift of the crown, the Viceroyship of India, announced his intention of re-entering municipal life in England. We have no Elgins or Dunravens in this country.

What Others Say.

A Trust Trust.
[Manitoba Free Press.]

Some day there will be a Gigantic Combination, a Grand Consolidation, an Industrial Concentration, a World's Trust, formed for the purpose of combining the combines, with a capital of \$1,000,000,000,000.

Nine Points of Law.
[Chicago Journal.]

The nine points of the law are thus concisely, if somewhat cynically, given: (1) A good deal of money; (2) a good deal of patience; (3) a good cause; (4) a good lawyer; (5) a good counsel; (6) good witnesses; (7) a good jury; (8) a good judge; (9) good luck.

Davin's Pivell.
[Hamilton Times.]

Think of that man Davin taking four and a half hours of precious time in one speech on the address. The worst of it is that the noisy creature is liable to repeat the operation a dozen or a score of times during the session, regardless of the fact that the members listening to such a bore. The man at Pile o' Bones who gave the casting vote which constituted Mr. Davin's majority at the general election has a great deal to answer for. Davin is a second—and worse—edition of Tupper.

The Sugar Ring.
[Kingston Whig.]

The sugar ring has not hesitated to levy tribute on the Canadian public. Canadians are a free people, and have never refused to bear the burden of any



taxation, legally levied. But because they are a free people they will not knowingly stand taxation by rings and combines. Freemen do not pay tribute. With parliament lies the remedy. Will it right this wrong?

Surprised at London.

[Montreal Herald.]
People get used to the vagaries of men who are more terrible in their words than in their deeds; but despite the prevailing fashion, one would hardly have expected that there were men in the good city of London, Ont., who cared enough about the Paris Commune to celebrate the anniversary of its establishment.

Light and Shade.

Business

"Mr. Perkins is a good businessman, isn't he, daughter?"
"I think so, mamma; ten minutes after he was presented to me he told me he was a widower."—Chicago Record.

New Times.

Old times are gone forever, and they cannot come again; But if you have a level head this will not give you pain.

As in the elevator you go whizzing through the air,
Remember, in the days gone by, you plodded up the stair.

Old times are gone forever—don't bewail the fact with gloom—
Just touch electric buttons and illuminate the room.

And when the girl at the telephone yodels your lordly mandate mocks,
Remember, in the days gone by, you'd walk a dozen blocks.

—Chicago Record.

His Best Only.

A man is relieved and gay when he has put his heart into his work and done his best; but what he has said or done otherwise shall give him no peace.—Emerson.

Courage.

Tightest—I've been as far as the door of the dentist's office three times, but I can't get up the courage to go in.

Watts—I'll tell you what to do; send the money down in advance. That will make you desperate.—Indianapolis Journal.

Cure a Cold in One Day

Take Laxative Bromo-Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. 25 cents.

THE RUSSELL

...OTTAWA...

Palace Hotel of Canada.

Fitted up in the most modern style. Contains accommodation for over 400 guests. Passenger and baggage elevators. Commands a splendid view of the City, Parliament Grounds, Park, River and Canal. Visitors to the capital having business with the government find it more convenient to stop at The Russell, where they can always meet leading public men. Entire hotel supplied with fire escapes. Electric cars to all points of city. Trains pass hotel door.

F. X. ST. JACQUES, Prop.

Neville's Food

FOR INFANTS AND INVALIDS.

"An excellent Food, admirably adapted to the wants of Infants and Young Persons, and being rich in Phosphates and Potash is of the greatest utility in supplying the bone-forming and other indispensable elements of food."

SIR CHAS. A. CAMERON, M.D.

John Ferguson & Sons FUNERAL DIRECTORS and EMBALMERS

FIRST CLASS IN ALL APPOINTMENTS.
174-180 King Street,
Telephone—House No. 373; Store No. 543

Up-to-Date Laundry

All work done by hand and done up in any style to suit you. Parcels called for and delivered.

LEE LIN, 253 Dundas Street.