

London Advertiser.

FOUNDED IN 1853.
TWO EDITIONS DAILY-WEEKLY.
TELEPHONE CALLS.
Business Office107
Job Department175
Editorial Departments, 134 and 136
The London Advertiser Company,
Limited, 191-193 Dundas street, London, Ont.

TO SUBSCRIBERS:

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LONDON, MONDAY, APRIL 20.

A FRESH WESTERN BOOM.

The feeling of intense optimism which just now prevails throughout Western Canada is not without justification. Unless all signs fail, the season of 1908 will be one of great prosperity for the people of that part of the Dominion. In Saskatchewan seeding has already started, and in a very few days will be general throughout the province. The contrast in this respect with last year is very striking. The end of April, 1907, saw frost still in the ground, and much snow, and the second week in May was reached before seeding was begun. This season the snow has disappeared early and gradually, causing much of the moisture to soak into the ground and make it fit for receiving the seed. The prediction is confidently made that seeding operations will be completed at least a month earlier than in 1907, in which case, it is hoped, much of the loss resulting from the lateness of last year's crops will be made good. True, the size of a harvest in that, as in every other country, depends wholly on weather conditions, but if these are as favorable as the average, the crop of 1908 will certainly be a bumper one.

Next in importance to wheat, with the people in the west, is the progress of railway construction, in which the present year promises to be phenomenal. It is expected that by the beginning of July Canadian Pacific Railway trains will be running from Saskatoon east to Winnipeg, via Asquith; that by the first of October the Grand Trunk Pacific will have a complete freight and passenger service from Edmonton to Winnipeg, and that before the snow flies again the Canadian Northern line into the Goose Lake country will be completed. If railway plans are carried out in their entirety, as there is every reason to believe, there will this year be opened up for traffic about one thousand miles of new railway tributary to and within a radius of two hundred miles of Saskatoon. This, which, of course, is apart altogether from extensive construction operations further west, will greatly aid the farmers in moving their crops, and justify settlers in seeding all the land they can work. Projected building enterprises and municipal improvements, which have been held in abeyance, are likely to be taken up in earnest this year. From all quarters come reports indicating the arrival of a substantial boom.

THE FEEBLE MINDED.

The question of the care of the feeble minded as distinguished from the actually insane is one which is engaging not a little attention in this country just now. The Council of Women has been interesting itself in the cases of women so afflicted, the object being to secure the adoption of means whereby such persons, who are neither criminal nor dangerous to society, may be cared for without associating them with the inmates of prisons and asylums.

A report on the feeble minded of Ontario, prepared by Dr. Helen MacMurchy, who has given much attention to the matter, is a strong argument for making special provision for this unfortunate class. Close investigation convinces the doctor that a large proportion of the inmates of county houses of refuge are feeble minded; the proportion in one such institution being placed by the physician in charge at three-fourths. In that refuge five births recently occurred, and in each instance the mother was of feeble mind. One of the women was the mother of six children. The report says:

There is very grave doubt as to whether the children of a feeble-minded mother are ever normal mentally. Those who have had normal experience in dealing with the subject, while perhaps not prepared to deny the possibility that such children might be normal mentally, almost always reply, "Practically, you may say, no, and often add that they themselves do not know an instance of a feeble-minded mother with a normal child. Some such cases have been reported to me in this Province, and I am anxious to investigate them, but so far have not been able to do so."

Under special care much may be done for this class of people. The case is related of a woman who had been the sole charge of an elder sister, who had dressed her and treated her as utterly helpless. Because her powers were below normal, no attempt was made at development. The invalid was eventually placed in a charitable institution in Toronto, where, under the care of a nurse, she soon learned to dress herself—an accomplishment which gave her much pleasure. It has been found that under sci-

entific treatment and constant supervision a feeble-minded person can do almost any ordinary work.

The present method of dealing with feeble-minded children is characterized as stupid and cruel. The case of a 16-year-old boy who showed marked mental weakness is given. He had attended school, and had learned to read a little, but could neither write nor count. On being taken from school he took a place as errand boy, but was discharged at the end of a week because he brought back parcels, saying the people did not want them. He first told his mother that he had been paid no wages, and afterwards said he had lost the money. He had been beaten repeatedly, and severely by his father without any benefit, and began to get into trouble with the police through doing things at the bidding of other boys, a characteristic of the feeble-minded. Dr. MacMurchy believes such children should be placed in a shelter where the bodily powers may be developed and trained as far as possible, where they will be shielded from temptation, and where at the same time there will be some one to look after them. Kind, firm treatment almost invariably brings about efforts at improvement on the part of these unfortunate. Dr. MacMurchy is firmly convinced that it would pay the Province to provide a systematic way of caring for the feeble-minded.

CHURCHILL'S FIGHT IN MANCHESTER.

Not since Gladstone's famous Midlothian campaign 30 years ago has a by-election contest in Great Britain had greater dramatic interest than that which began last week in Manchester, where Mr. Winston Churchill is fighting to retain the seat vacated by his elevation to the cabinet.

His invasion of the Unionist stronghold of Manchester in the general election two years ago was a daring one. The Unionist forces were routed in every riding of the city, and Mr. Churchill himself was among the slain. Mr. Churchill carried the northwest division by 1,200 majority, but in the past two years there have been several new currents in British politics. In 1906 Mr. Churchill had the support of the Irish Nationalists, who have a large voting strength in Manchester. The Nationalist leaders have now washed their hands of the Liberal Government, and they may throw their influence actively against it. The Laborites and the Liberals made common cause in the general election, but the Laborites have since joined hands with the Socialists and may support the Socialist candidate who is in the field. The brewery interests, a great power in British public life, have declared war on the Ministry, because of the licensing bill, and the established church is arrayed against the Government's educational bill. The tariff reformers have also taken fresh heart from recent by-election results, and they have a highly efficient organization. The suffragettes are likewise on Mr. Churchill's trail.

WOMAN'S LOT.

[New York Press.]
You mustn't do this, you mustn't do that, you mustn't be thin, you mustn't be fat; You mustn't put powder upon your nose, You mustn't have dresses that show you have; You mustn't look dowdy, you mustn't lace; You mustn't have any rouge on your face; You mustn't walk as if you'd a hump; You mustn't swing both your arms like a pump; You mustn't smoke even a cigarette; You mustn't make even a harmless bet; You mustn't drink, and you mustn't flirt; You mustn't be smart, you mustn't be pert; You mustn't do anything that can be considered at all as frivolity; Oh, some day or other I really trust, Someone or other will say "you must."

A LARGE ITEM.

[Hamilton Herald.]
If the expense of the Merry Widow hat is in proportion to its expense, it is likely to prove a powerful check to matrimony.

RULES FOR EDITORIAL WRITERS.

[Puck.]
When the situation clamors for a pardonable lie, Please begin your observations with "As no one will deny."
With a modest little, bashful little effort to deceive, Kindly use the introduction, "We have reason to believe."
With the information's doubtful, be no whit dismayed thereat, Finding refuge in the sentence, "Tis an open secret that."
You may search the very marrow of your controversial foes With that phrase of cold disparagement, "As every schoolboy knows."
And a fraud will seem as pious as a missionary tract With the prefatory label, "It is an undoubted fact."
So, by paying close attention to a few such rules as these, You will speedily be able to prevaricate with ease.

AN OLD COUNTRY ELECTION.

[Toronto Star.]
Canadians have frequently had called to their attention the manner in

which elections are conducted in Great Britain as examples to be copied here. It is doubtful, however, if anything can be found in the recent history of Canadian politics equaling the scenes of debauchery which occurred in connection with the Peckham election that took place a few weeks ago in London. Peckham is one of the most crowded sections of the metropolitan district. It has the area of a village with a population of 100,000. There are a large number of public houses in the division, and during the election each one of these public houses was a committee room for the Opposition candidate. Not only this, but 200,000 workers were called in to assist in getting out the vote. The corruption practices set was thrown to the winds, and outsiders stood ready to treat all comers at all times from among the voters. The reason for this activity on the part of the liquor interests, and of the Conservative organization allied therewith, was found in a desire to obtain a verdict against the bill pending in the British Parliament for the curtailment of the liquor traffic.

Such wholesale treating as took place on this occasion would, if resorted to in Canada, not only be sufficient to upset the election, but to insure the disqualification of some of those who participated in the improper practice. In some particulars we may be behind our old country cousins, but in so far as placing restrictions upon the political activity of the liquor interest is concerned, they have more to learn from us than we have to learn from them.

LORD NELSON SAFELY CAGED.

[Lippincott's.]
A London show was showing an American tourist the famous tombs at St. Paul's. "This is the tomb of the greatest naval hero the world ever seen—Lord Nelson." This marble sarcophagus weighs forty-two tons. Hinside that is a steel receptacle that weighs twelve tons, an inside that is a lead casket weighing two tons. Hinside that is the mahogany coffin that holds the ashes of the great.

HIS NEW BROTHER.

[Exchange.]
[Exchanged.]
Say, I've got a little brother. Never teased to have him, nuther. But he's here. They just went ahead and bought him. And, last week, the doctor brought him. Wasn't that queer?

When I heard the news from Molly, Why, I thought at first 'twas jolly. "Cause you see, I s'posed I could get him. And then, mamma, cause, would let him play with me.

But when I had once looked at him, "Why?" I says, "My sakes, is that him? Just that mite?" They said, "Yes," and, "Ain't he cunning?" And I thought they must be funnin'—He's a sight!

He's so small, it's just amazin'. And you'd think that he was blazin'. He's so red. And his nose is like a berry. And he's bald as Uncle Jerry, On his head.

Why, he isn't worth a dollar! All he does is cry and holler. More and more, Won't sit up; you can't arrange him—I don't see why pa don't change him—At the store.

Now we've got to dress and feed him, And we didn't really need him. More'n a frog. Why'd they buy a baby brother When they know I'd good deal rather Have a dog?

AN UMBRELLA IN DISGUISE.

[Philadelphia Press.]
"But that umbrella looks so cheap and common," said the customer. "The price you ask is quite outrageous." "My dear sir," replied the dealer, "that's the beauty of that umbrella. It's really the very best quality, but it is made to appear cheap and common so no one will steal it."

CANADIAN PREMIERS.

[Montreal Gazette.]
The fact that Mr. Asquith is a lawyer, and that lawyers seldom rise to prime minister's rank in Great Britain, has led some to make contrasts of the state of affairs referred to and conditions as they exist in Canada. To assume that in this country only lawyers have a chance of obtaining the highest offices in parliamentary life. The assumption is not justified. Canadian history has had seven prime ministers. One was a statesman, one was a printer, and one a physician; and when men think of those who among the whole were in their way strongest and best, the statesman's name is among the first to suggest itself.

"THE MAN LAND."

[Metropolitan Magazine.]
Little boy, little boy, would you go so soon? To the land where the grown man lives? Would you barter your toys and your fairy things for the things that the grown man gives? Would you leave the haven whose doors are sweet? With the jewels of Love's alloy? For the land of emptiness and regret? Would you go, little boy, little boy? It's a land far off, little boy, little boy, And the way it is dark and steep; And once you have passed through its doors, little boy, you may never even come back to sleep. There is no tucking in, no good-night kiss, No mornings of childhood joy In its passion and pain you give for this, Think well, little boy, little boy!

LITTLE BOY, LITTLE BOY, CAN'T YOU SEE THE GLASS?

That live in the land of there; The "broken hearts," "fair hopes," all dead; "Lost faith," and grim despair? There's a train for that land in the after tears— So don't go, little boy, little boy.

A tame rattlesnake belonging to an Arizona farmer sleeps every night on the front of his owner's garden, coiling himself around the gate and gatopost, so that the look-give chain to keep out intruders are not needed.

The ivy plant which established itself in a crevice of the tower of St. John the Baptist Church at Yarborough, Lincolnshire, England, undermined the foundation and lifted stones out of place until it cost over \$5,000 to make good.

A census was taken recently of the St. John's Road Workhouse, London, which showed that the number of inmates was 1,613, and of these 1,150 were over 60 years old.

The curious fact is noted by Professor Lamandini, of Breslau, that careful measurements of the intensity of gravitation in different parts of the globe show this to be greater on islands than on continents.

The vocabulary of the average person is 709 words.

WAX BULLETS FOR DUELISTS

Contests Will Be Conducted as if They Were Actual Affairs of Honor.

Paris, April 18. — Arrangements are being made here by a number of the world's deadliest revolver shots for giving a public exhibition of "sport" of dueling on July 13 and 14 next, in connection with the Olympic games in London.

Walter Winans, the champion revolver shot of the world, whose sideboards and tables at Surrenden Park, his Kentish seat, groan beneath the trophies he has won as marksman, is at the head of this novel departure in public entertainments.

He has secured the enthusiastic cooperation of many of his fellow-members of the Pistol Club, which, as he said recently, comprises all the greatest revolver shots and all the duelists.

"The public duels will be fought exactly in every detail as though they were private affairs of honor, only that the bullets will be of wax, which will explode as soon as they touch their object. All the conventional ceremony connected with duelling will be carried through. There will be seconds, the paces will be solemnly measured, the duelists will take their stand back to back, and on the word being given, will wheel around and fire—that is to say, they must fire three seconds are counted.

"There will be just enough risk in these duels to make them exciting, though not really dangerous," said Mr. Winans. "A little too heavy a charge of powder might cause the bullet to penetrate slightly, and no doubt most of the duelists will protect their persons. I do not think I shall wear any protection myself, however, as I do not want to make too large a target."

"I have been practicing hard during the last few days, and today got twelve consecutive shots home from the regulation distance, all within a space of a few inches.

"If we are successful in fixing up these duels I shall shoot on behalf of the United States.

"Some crack Belgian and French shots will take part, and I do not doubt we shall be able to secure representatives of one or two other countries."

CASE FOR THE KINDERGARTEN

(Continued From Page One.)

appointment to the permanent staff, the difference is obvious:

Kindergarten, Grade.	
First year	\$400 \$150
Second year	400 300
Third year	400 500
Fourth year	400 600
Fifth year	400 650
Sixth year	500 700
Seventh year	500 750
Eighth year	600 750
Ninth year	650 750
Tenth year	700 750

Totals

"So that the grade teacher reaches her maximum of \$750 in seven years, the kindergarten her maximum of \$700 in ten years, there being an annual average difference of \$140 in these years."

"Is the course of training as long as for the grade teacher?" she was asked.

"As a matter of fact, the kindergarten's course is longer and more expensive than the grade teacher's. A student who enters the training class must have at least a matriculation standing, and three of the present class have senior leaving. They give one year's study in the kindergarten department, and pass their assistant's examination, after which they must attend a year in the kindergarten department, and pass their director's examination. In addition to this an assistant must be able to use the piano and have some knowledge of music."

"The kindergarten attendance is said to be very low?"

"I don't know on what the figures are based. I saw the percentage of attendance was given at 281. Taking the report of 1906, the total registration was 1,470, and the average attendance 517. Now, this 1,470 includes those passed on at any time in the year to the primary school. It is fair to estimate the percentage on this total number, but even that is 35 per cent. A fairer way of gaining an idea of the percentage would be to take the total registered in any month and compare the average with that. There is a larger number of children in the kindergarten register than in the primary room, but the attendance in the primary room is not as regular as in the higher grades. The November registration was \$35, so that the average attendance of 1906 is 62 per cent of this. In general, the percentage of attendance in the kindergarten is from 65 to 90 of those registered."

"The kindergarten is not as necessary, Mr. Graham says, now that the primary rooms have improved?"

"Instead of being less necessary, they are more necessary. A good primary room depends upon good raw material being furnished. The primary room has its own work out cut for it, and can no more do the work of the kindergarten than it can do the work of the second grade."

"A majority of the children who go to kindergarten are said to use the kindergarten for a few weeks for breaking in, and then go to the public school?"

"An examination of any kindergarten register would disprove this, but the outcry that would be raised in the primary rooms, if a majority of the children used the kindergarten for a few weeks for breaking in, and then go to the public school?"

"The world's sheep shearing record is 2,394 animals in nine hours. It was made in Australia.

The foundation of the strongroom of the Bank of England is 66 feet below the level of the street.

Experiments are under way in Delaware with building roads of a mixture of clay and crude oil.

Beauty is merely a matter of opinion to some men, but it is a matter of expense to others.

The more clothes a woman has the less she is apt to have a thing fit to wear when a time for making a display comes.

Paris has seven free eating houses for poor mothers.

USES IT EVERY SPRING.
Mr. H. Langley, Hamilton, Ont., writes: "I have used Burdock Blood Bitters as a spring tonic, and I find it the best thing I can take. It builds me right up, and I use it every spring. It is excellent for the blood."

SPRING MEDICINE

Try as you may, it is next to impossible to escape so-called "Spring Fever."

You get that Weary, Tired, Listless, Worn-Out, Don't-Care-to-Work Feeling.

What is needed is to clean out the system and make the blood pure. The cleansing,

blood-purifying action of

whereby it eliminates all the pent-up poison from the system, starts the sluggish liver

working, acts on the kidneys and the bowels, and renders it without exception

INDIGESTION IN SPRING.

Miss B. Bradley, Hamilton, Ont., writes: "Last spring I used three bottles of Burdock Blood Bitters, as I had indigestion and very thin blood. I tried everything before taking B. B., which I think is an excellent spring tonic."

THAT TIRED FEELING.

Mr. F. H. Leard, Saskatoon, Sask., writes: "I have used Burdock Blood Bitters as a blood purifier and think it an excellent remedy. In everyone should take it in the spring to cure that tired feeling that comes to so many at this time of the year."

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