ESTABLISHED

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The Advance

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THE OTTAWA FIASCO.

It was with feelings of relief that Conservatives read on Tuesday that a compromise had been arranged at Ottawa and that six of the seven bolting ministers had returned to their allegiance, thus raising the blockade which has been in progress for a week past. And yet it is with a sense of chagrin to many, as it is felt that men who have been guilty of the act that these men have, should be relegated to oblivion and not allowed to resume the important functions they held previous to the difficulty. Had they remained at their posts in the hour of danger and fallen like heroes if need be under the rock they have poised over their heads, their names would at least have been honored; but to play the part of craven at the critical moment, and invent so paltry an excuse as was put forth, is to draw ignominy upon themselves. Sir Mackenzie Bowell has acted the part of a hero, and is honored for it by both friend and foe. His dogged resistance in the face of such difficulties as were placed in his path during the past week will be gratefully remembered by his party, even should he sink back into senatorial oblivion. This whole trouble has been caused by personal ambitions running wild; and while these "ambitious scions of a noble race" have been plotting personal gain the country has been reading them, and all true Conservatives and honest men must have come to the conclusion that some who have held the highest places are not to be relied upon when patriotism is demanded; that some of these men are little better than mountebanks and do not know what loyalty to principle means. Whatever the immediate outcome of the present condition of affairs may be, the time is nigh at hand when these individuals can be singled out and quietly retired into the list of discredited politicians who have dropped to the rear in the few past years, and something better and nobler can be brought forth from the chaos of corruption and bickerings which has been too plainly apparent of late. We look to the Conservative party, too, to effect this purification, because it is a duty incumbent upon it to perform. It is, we hope, capable at least of some thing more noble and edifying than the distressing exhibition it has given us during the past week; if it is not, the editor of this paper, for one, is not proud of being called a Conservative.

The Youths Companion, in an item upon the situation of affairs in the States and Canada, says: "At heart the statesmen of Canada, whatever their party, are friendly to this country; and though some of our politicians may bluster, we are all friendly toward Canada." This is significant.

The Epworth Leaguers took Flesherton by storm on Thursday last and were heartily welcomed by our people. The League is a noble institution and is doing a grand work. There was a degree of enthusiasm here which is seldom seen at any convention, and those present received much inspiration by the proceedings. This was the first convention held in the Owen Sound District and marked an era in church work. It is the young people which the church of to day must rely upon, and as a training school the Epworth League and Christian Endeavor societies have no peer. There was a very full representation and it is safe to say that the added fire received that day will be felt throughout the entire district in more earnest and persistent christian effort.

The African war scare in Great Britain is again said to be subsiding, although naval preparations are still in progress. It is a long time since the war spirit has been worked up to such a pitch as it is in England today, showing that in whatever else John Bull may be lacking his courage is still unabated. He is ready to fight the whole civilized world if need be—and the United States at the same time.

Leaguers Meet

And Discuss Important Church Questions

A Most Enthusiastic Meeting—A Digest of the Questions Discussed—Officers Elected, etc.

The Epworth League convention of the Owen Sound district of the Methodist church, which was held in Flesherton on Thursday last, was a grand success. The day was pleasant and many members of the various leagues outside the accredited delegates made it a point to be present and enjoy the treat. At ten o'clock a. m. Rev. A. Brown, chairman of the district, opened the convention with song and prayer. Although there were just a few present at the opening, Mr. Brown expressed his assurance that the convention was going to be a success in every way; and we believe it was. After this assurance and some words of welcome and encouragement the chairman called upon Mr. J. E. Crone of Markdale to give his paper on "The Epworth League a branch of the church." As a tree of necessity must have branches to bear fruit, said Mr. Crone, so must the church have her branches. The class meeting, the weekly prayer meeting, the Sabbath school, the Epworth League, are all branches, and necessary ones, too. The League, as a branch, has a big work to do, lots of young shoots to sustain and encourage to keep them from falling off. The speaker made reference to the 15th chapter of St. John's gospel where Christ says, "I am the vine ye are the branches; he that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can do nothing." Christ gives the growth, we are to develop it and care for it. The church is a branch of Christ, and the League a branch of the church, also of Christ. We were urged to become a fruit bearing branch, and to let our fruit be good in quality if small in quantity. We are to pray often and with much faith and expectancy if we would be a help to others, to ourselves and become a branch of much and good fruit bearing. The subject was well dealt with, much care being taken in its preparation and great earnestness and sincerity of heart being expressed in the rendering of it.

"The Average Epworth Leaguer," given by Miss Christoe, was to the point and concise, much valuable information and advice being given in a few words. The reason the average leaguer did not reach above the average was because he or she looked upon life and its work as a dream of beauty and pleasure, or underrating their capability. We forget and neglect the little things and give our attention too much to what seems greater and higher attainments. Do not neglect the little things, which, when put together amount to something larger and more beautiful and more glorious. There is too much form and not enough earnest work. If we would get above the average there must be a consecration of all our powers, earnest and sincere work and an ever looking up to God in prayer. If you realize there is a certain work to do and the thought of incapability comes to you look to Christ, cast the thought from you and go forth in the strength of Christ and to victory in His name. There is more than an average work to do and to do this work we must come to the same level if we would do it well. We are all doing a work of some kind, for good or for evil, but let us trust it is for good. While we are sowing our wild oats, and bad seed, and reaping it (for "as ye sow, so shall ye reap") we might better be sowing good seed that will bring a harvest of fifty, sixty and one hundred fold.

Great disappointment was shown when it was announced that Miss Todd was unable to be present to give her paper on "Social Work." The question drawer contained many questions on the subject of sociability, how to entertain profitably and for the welfare of the League. But this was substituted by Miss Miller, who gave a paper on "Intemperance," showing the cost, the damage and degrading influence of liquor. Intemperace not only destroys home, takes away all happiness, brings poverty and suffering to many a person, ruins the body, but damns the soul, which is lost forever. Liquor is not the only thing in which intemperance is prevalent. We suffer great pain in intemperance in eating, which is also damaging to the health of the body. Intemperance in speech is also another harmful indulgence, not only to others but often to ourselves; creating discord in the family, enmity among neighbors and friends and bringing disrespect to ourselves. Let us weigh our words before we speak, let us take the second thought. By so doing we save our consciences the trouble many a time from smiting us. Let our lives be more upright and consistent, of a higher standard. The speaker went on to show what a damaging and degrading effect and result liquor had on humanity at large; how the jails, the prisons, the asylums, and other institutions were filled by persons of over-indulgence; the cost to the county, the small profit the government received and the much smaller profit to the farmer. In this, said Miss Miller, there is a great work for the church, for individual influence and temperance societies everywhere. Denounce liquor in all its damaging forms, insist on those around you denouncing it. An interesting discussion followed Miss Miller's paper on the advisability of using liquor as a medicine. There appeared to be a conflict of opinion on this point.

Mr. A. B Rutherford, in dealing with "League Finances" urged very strongly systematic giving. Mr. Rutherford does not believe in getting up an entertainment which involves a lot of baking, when money is to be raised. Did you ever, said he, estimate the cost of just one cake? After using costly materials, the labor, perhaps spoiling one or two, as often is the case; taxing your temper and losing control of it, and in the end you pay 25 cents for the privilege of eating it. Do away with all this big expense and labor.

The afternoon session opened with devotional exercises conducted by Rev. Dr. Campbell, after which Rev. Mr. Mahan delivered a few words of welcome to the visitors. Reports of the leagues in the district were then read, which showed that there was a total membership of 976. Twenty-seven Leagues reported.

Miss Moore's paper on "Junior League Work" was listened to with much interest. Miss Moore's work is among the little people, for which her talents appear to be peculiarly adapted. She described her methods and entered a strong plea for junior Leagues as being the connecting link between Sunday school and Senior League.

Miss Pepper of Brookholm read an excellent paper on the "Bible in the League," and Dr. Minnie Brander of Priceville a most interesting and instructive paper on "Medical Missions," showing the great need for medical missionaries to be sent out. She gave facts and figures to demonstrate the low condition of therapeutics in heathen lands She said there were 458,000 people in India who were blind, and 76,000 deaf, caused largely by neglect of sanitary laws and inability to get proper medical treatment. The medical missionary could find access where others could not. There were, too, plenty ready to go, but the one thing needful was money.

The question drawer was then taken up by Rev. A. C. Crews, general secretary of the Epworth League, Toronto, and a large batch of queries was dealt with. Mr Crews said he liked the district convention for practial purposes. He could scarcely believe this was the first district meeting on this district. It was the largest afternoon audience he had seen at any district meeting in Canada. It had also the largest number of reports he had listened to, and he held in his hand the largest number of questions that had ever been fired at him. In reply to a query relating to literature Mr. Crews made a strong plea for Methodist book room support. Members of all other denominations patronized it, and he actually believed they appreciated it more than the Methodists themselves.

At the evening session the church was packed to the doors and those present enjoyed a rich treat. The speakers were Rev. H. Lee of Owen Sound, Rev. G. C. Balfour and Rev. A. C. Crews. The former delivered a very carefully prepared and thoughtful address on "Consecration," from Romans 12 1, and Mr. Balfour gave an earnest address on "The Pledge," which he vigorously upheld in its entirety, and believed it to a divine institution.

Rev. Mr Crews then took up his address on "The Epworth League, its aims and methods." He is a pleasant speaker and commands a powerful voice. His address was intertwined with spicy anecdote and incident, which made it exceedingly interesting to his hearers Boiled down, the great object and aim of the society was to save souls and develop practical work among young people; to get young people at work for the church; to get every member to become an active christian worker. There were between four and five million young people in America banded together in this work, and there were 3000 young men and women in our colleges ready to go as missionaries, but the church could not send them for want of funds. The League was embodiment of aggressive work in Methodism.

After the hymn "God be with you till we meet again" the gathering dispersed.

During the evening the choir sang an anthem and Mr W. Sullivan a solo which were much appreciated. The collections amounted to $15.50.

The following district officers were appointed at the afternoon session: Pres., A. B. Rutherford, Owen Sound; First Vice Pres., Geo. Armstrong, Markdale; 2nd Vice Pres., Miss Pepper, Brookholm; 3rd Vice Pres., J. E. Crone, Markdale; 4th Vice Pres., Miss Johnston, Dundalk; 5th Vice Pres, Mr. Pentland, Kimberley; Sec.-Treas., Miss Christoe, Flesherton; representative on the district on the conference executive, Rev. John Mahan, Flesherton. Committee, John Love, Berkeley; Lester Davis, Dundalk; Dr. Minnie Brander, Priceville; Wm. Anderson, Owen Sound.

Married.

BROWNRIDGE—BROWNRIDGE—At the Methodist parsonage, Maxwell, on Christmas day, by the Rev. T. Legate, Mr. W. J. Brownridge to Miss Caroline Brownridge.

BUCKINGHAM—DAVIDSON—At the residence of the bride's father, Osprey, by the Rev. T. Legate, Dec. 25, 1895. Mr. Henry Buckingham to Miss Susanna Davidson.

MORRISON—PALLISTER—At the residence of the bride's parents, Maxwell, on Jan. 1, 1896, by the Rev. T. Legate, Mr. Angus Morrison to Miss Sarah Ann Pallister, eldest daughter of Mr. Geo. Pallister.

Died.

PEDLAR—In Feversham, on Thursday, Jan. 9, Elsie, beloved wife of Wesley Pedlar, aged 20 years and 9 months.

This is the a, b, c, of an advertising appeal: "Oh, merchant, in your life of eee, if on this paper you should ccc, and would be busy kept as bbb, remember that with all the waaa propping up with chunks and staaa, a silent business soon dkkk. Your thanks to us will be profuuu, if you will come to us and uuu our printer's ink to cure the bluuu. So while the rest are catching fiii, you'll take our council if you're yyy, and come straight way and advertiii."

OUR WINTER SALE..

January and February are always considered the dull months of the year. But we are going to reverse this order of things and this is the way we do it.

30 day sale

From the 15th of January to 15th of February we will offer special inducements in every department.

We have put in the knife and when we cut we cut deep.

Space will not allow us to mention all the bargains in store for those who attend this great sale, but we will endeavor to give you a few hints of how things will go.

Boots & Shoes

This department is well worthy of special attention and sales have been exceptionally good this fall but we want to keep the ball rolling. Here she goes:

	former price	now
Children's shoes	50c	39c
Girls' Buff shoes	75c	59c
Boys' do	$1.00	70c
Women's G.G. kid	1.40	$1.19
Men's heavy boots	1.25	99c

Men's long boots $1 90 and upwards. Mem's gum rubbers $1 boys' rubbers 90c. Men's overshoes, $1.25, women's overshoes, $1.15. Overcoats, boys', $2.50, $4.25 and $5. Overcoats, Men's ulsters, $4 90, $5.75, $7, clearing prices.

Men's all wool shirts and drawers, 75c per suit.

Men's union shirts and drawers, 50c per suit.

Men's heavy braces 10c per pair.

Men's astrachan caps, 35c each.

Dry Goods

28in. Flanneletts at 5c per yard.

All linen table damask 19c per yard.

All linen towelling 6c per yard.

8/4 bleached sheeting 19c per yard.

Double fold all wool dress serges 21c per yard.

Groceries

Get our prices on these goods. We have them down. Now is your time to hit them.

Good accommodation for horses in our new shed.

B. McDonald

NORTHERN Business College

OWEN SOUND, ONTARIO,

Is the very Best

PLACE IN CANADA TO GET A

Thorough Business Education.

Take a Round Trip and view all other Business Colleges and Commercial Departments in Canada, then visit the Northern Business College; examine everything thoroughly. If we fail to produce the most thorough, complete, practical and extensive course of study; the best college premises and the best and most complete and most suitable furniture and appliances, we will give you a full course FREE. For Annual Announcement, giving full particulars, free, address

C. A. FLEMING,
Principal.

M. RICHARDSON & Co.

Does This Interest You?

We offer 6 overcoats price $5 50 for $3.75 each.

We offer 8 overcoats price $7 for $4 75 each.

We offer 6 overcoats price $7.50 for $4 75 each.

We offer 3 overcoats price $8 for $5 each.

We offer 5 overcoats price $10 for $6 50 each.

Everything in winter clothing, hats, caps, furs, mantles at correspondingly

Reduced Prices

A useful 24 inch Grey Flannel for 10 cents per yd.

All Wool Golf Cloaking, 54 inches, regular $1.15 for 75 cents.

A few Wool Shawls all at $1 each.

A lot of milliuery Felt Hats at

10 Cents Each

Only a normal price to clear them out.

Misses and children's overshoes

50 Cents pair

Heavy all wool ladies' black hose

50 cents pair

New Tartan fabrics for blouses

10c and 15c yd

M. R. & Co.

Hardware Dep't.

TO START OFF

WITH THE NEW YEAR

We have decided to reduce the price on our Heating Stoves as follows:

A 25 inch box stove $4.28, regular price $5.

A 28-inch box stove $5.15, regular price $6.

A 26-inch parlor stove $8.80, regular price $10.

Cooking stoves at equally low prices.

Do you need

A cross-cut Saw

We are selling the (Symonds') Lance Tooth at $3.75 complete with handles. It is a splendid saw and fully warranted A line of the best Elm Axe Handles now on hand.

Diamond Granite Ware is the Best

Wash basins from	25c each	to 40c
Tea Pots "	60c each	to $1.25
Sauce Pans "	20c each	to 42c

M. Richardson & Co.