ESTABLISHED

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The Advance

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The Ontario Legislature finished its busines for this session on Friday last. The session has been an important one. Mr. Whitney, leader of the Opposition, developed a strength not heretofore thought of, and his masterly criticisms of the government's methods have come in for a large amount of complimentary notice from both political friends and enemies. His courtesy and fairness are even acknowledged by the Globe.

Day by day the situation in the Orient becomes more grave, and it now appears to be only a question of a short time until Greece and Turkey will be actively engaged in attempting to annihilate each other. The powers have warned Greece that they will not allow her to reap any pecuniary advantage by such a war. In other words they want Turkey for themselves. As things are now speeding the bird may be ready for carving by next Thanksgiving Day.

In reply to a query from Dr. Sproule last week, Mr. Fielding stated that since the 13th of last July the government had superannuated 42 employees and retired 14 upon gratuities, making a total outlay for pensions of $18,522.45 and $3,180.70. This for nine months is astounding, coming as it does from a party that has always decried the pension system. Some of these pension allowances reach nearly $1600 annually, and the lucky men who enjoy their bounty range in age from 28 years to 81.

The Toronto Star is still wading into the departmental stores and showing up in vigorous style how they falsify and exaggerate in order to attract customers. The Star gives numerous instances where short measure and poor quality are meted out in dry goods and even in garden seeds, and proves conclusively that in these cases the articles purchased are exceedingly dear—two and three times as dear as those sold by ordinary business houses—at the prices quoted by the departmentals. The Star's articles are exceedingly clever and most convincing to every newspaper man in Canada outside those which are suckled by the concerns under consideration. Among this latter class we are sorry to be obliged to place the Globe, World and News, of Toronto. We cry shame upon them.

Department Store Seeds

A professional gentleman of my acquaintance has a cottage in the country where he resides in the summer. He is a great lover of flowers, and every year tries to get a finer garden than the year before. A few weeks ago he went as usual to the Steel, Briggs Seed Company and bought a great variety of seeds. About ten days ago he read a departmental store advertisement announcing great "bargains in garden seeds," and as he read the prices he was amazed.

"If they can sell seeds at that price and Briggs charges what he charged me," he said, "then SATURDAY NIGHT might as well give up the fight."

Next day, being down town, he went into the departmental store and bought a lot of seed packages of different varieties and took them home. That evening he placed the departmental store seed packages on one end of his writing table, and picked out corresponding packages (the same species) from Briggs seeds and put them at the other end of the table. The number of packages was the same, yet he found that

Briggs packages had cost $2.10
Departmental store packages cost... .25

This showed a tremendous difference, but he is a thorough-going man, and so he decided to examine the seeds. He found Briggs' much plumper, and then he counted the seeds, and after counting several packages he found that they contained the following average number of seeds per package:

Briggs packages, average.....3,000
Departmental store packages, average...152

In other words, one package of Briggs seeds if opened and made into departmental store packages would make about 19½ of such packages.

In still other words, to get the same quantity of seed that had been sold by Briggs for $2.10 would cost at the departmental store about $5.

Yet seeds were supposed to be a phenomenal bargain at the departmental store.

They were loudly advertised and people clutched at them, thinking they were getting $2.10 worth for 25 cents.

People said: "It's wonderful how they do it!" This is how they did it, and is there anything wonderful about it? The departmental store got double the regular price of seeds, yet they got credit for giving a big bargain. The same sort of trick is worked in many ways. Be on your guard—test the thing for yourself, if you are still one of the thoughtless multitude who are pulling the city down to enrich the Barnums of business.

I don't think people like to be humbugged any more than fish like to be caught, but many people are as foolish as fish in the way they bite at hooks that are almost bare and easily seen if they would not jump so greedily.—Saturday Night.

Where the Money Goes

The report of the Inspector of Insurance laid before the House of Commons on Monday, shows that the fire insurance companies doing business in Canada received $7,079,794 in premiums during 1896, and paid out in fire losses $4,157,154; in 1895 the receipts were $6,943,382, and the losse $4,993,750. The risks held total up the enormous sum of $837,872,864. Life insurance companies took in $10,604,577 in premiums and paid out $4,707,155, in claims. There is $327,814,465 of life insurance in force, or $8,556,884 more than in 1895. Mutual fire insurance companies and friendly life insurance societies are excluded from these calculations, most of these having only Provincial registration. The total amount paid for fire and life insurance to Companies, other than the numerous mutual and fraternal association doing business under Provincial registration only, was $17,684,371 and the total volue received in return was $8,864,309, which gives the insurance companies concerned a profit of $8,820,062. In view of these facts is it any wonder that money is scarce and times hard?

Born.

WATSON—At Colborne, Ont., on the 10th inst., to Mr. and Mrs. Rev. T. Watson, a daughter.

County and District

The Stayner Sun office has been improving its "innards."

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Pearce, of Chatsworth, died within four days of each other, aged respectively 76 and 65 years.

Two daring robberies were committed in Meaford last week. Dr. Clark was relieved of over $200 in cash and John McDonald lost a valuable gold watch.

Several burglaries have been reported in Durham during the past couple of weeks.

Joseph Lawson, Divison Court Clerk of Chesley, has resigned, and M. A. Halliday has the plum.

John McIver of Wiarton has 3000 trees tapped, according to the Canadian. Isn't there a cypher too many in the figures, Mr. Canadian?

Mrs. Wesley Reany, near Burgoyne, Bruce county, committed suicide by hanging herself. She leaves a husband and two small children.

It is reported in Dundalk that a small boy, 8 years old, was made so drunk by cetain parties that he did not regain consciousness until the following day at noon. The Herald very justly calls for the punishment of the criminals who perpetrated this awful deed.

Wm. Legget, of Chesley, while working in a gravel pit, had one of his legs broken. The loose gravel came down on Mr. Legget pinning him fast, and as nobody was near he had to shovel himself out. A large stone caused the fracture. Mr. L. crawled to the wagon and drove to his brother's house. As he is 68 years of age it will be considerable time before he will be able to work again.

The only son of Eugene O'Keefe, the big Toronto brewer, committed suicide last Saturday. Drink drove the young man to the desperate deed. Papa O'Keefe has had a practical illustration of the effect of liquor, yet on he goes producing millions of gallons for the ruination of others.

C. A. Fleming of Owen Sound business college, has lately returned from Winnipeg. According to the Times he reported that every train is crowded between Port Arthur and Winnipeg with gold-seekers. All west bound, trains from Toronto are fully leaded, but when they reach Port Arthur they are jammed. It is claimed that there are 10,000 people in Rat Portage. Second class hotel rates are $4 a day. Every man who gets on the train has a magnifying glass and a hunk of rock in his pocket. There are hundreds of locations where men are sitting all the time on the claim holding it down until a surveyor can be had to stake it out. Mr. Fleming thinks Ontario will suffer a heavy drain of capital, and outsiders will come in later and work the claims. The loss of capital will be made up to some extent, however, by the increase in wages bound to occur in Ontario as a result of the large emigrations from this province to the west.

Everybody

..READ THIS..

CHANGE IN BUSINESS

The undersigned wish to announce to the people of this section that they have purchased the tailoring business conducted by Mr. C. J. Leitch in Flesherton. We trust the very liberal patronage bestowed upon our predecessor in the past will be extended to us in the future.

We Don't...

Occupy this space to do a little blowing, but to introduce ourselves to the public. We will make our work do all the talking, and thereby hope to gain the good-will and patronage of the people of this section. We guarantee you a perfect fit in the latest styles of the art.

BAKER'S OLD STAND, FLESHERTON

Proctor & Allan

..Spring Poetry..

If used in connection with proper subjects and handled in the right way should be just as interesting as summer or fall poetry. Ordinary poetry

IS NOT THE SUBJECT

Of this sketch. It is something more valuable. Something the people cannot do without at this season of the year.

It is Harness and Farm Supplies

I claim to keep in stock the best goods to be got in the line of horse goods, such as harness, buggy dusters, axle grease, sweat pads, hoof ointment, whips, rubber lap rugs, lined and unlined; dash aprons, and pneumatic horse collars. Always up-to-date in everything

The POETRY of the THING

Comes in the immense satisfaction you get in using our goods and the reasonable prices you have to pay for them.

WM. MOORE

Harnessmaker - - - Flesherton

WANTED

Earnest men and Women to circulate "The Sword of Islam, or Suffering Armenia," a thrilling book. Graphic account of the Eastern Question, the Turk, Armenian, Mohammedanism with its horrible massacres. Numerous startling illustrations taken on the spot. 448 pages, only $1.00. Agents make $15.00 to $30.00 weekly. Books on time. Prospectus free to canvassers. The Bradley—Garretson Co., Ltd., Toronto, Ont.

Public Notice

John Connor of the village of Flesherton Station, has made application to the Board of License Commissioners for Centre Grey, for transfer of license from W. E. White to the said John Connor, Globe Hotel, Flesherton Station.

M. Richardson & Co

SPRING - - ANNOUNCEMENTS

We have been busily preparing for the SPRING TRADE for some time and our big store is fully equipped from cellar to ceiling for the new season's business. We can confidently announce that we are offering bigger values, better qualities, and larger selections than ever in every department.

Dress Goods

Our spring purchases and importations are on exhibition. We have an immense range of new goods in correct styles and beautiful colorings. Splendid values in fashionable goods—Silk and Wool Novelties, Persians, Fancy Mohairs, Silk Shot Lustres, Sicilians and Mohairs, Silk and Wool Scotch Plaids, Tartans and Checks. A whole range of 48-inch Dress Tweeds in a variety of shades from 28c—38c per yard. Special bargain—no better values anywhere!

Prints and Cotton Goods

In this class of goods we have exercised great care in selections and as a result can offer a collection of the best values, newest designs and latest colorings that challenges competition. English, Canadian and American Prints, Delaines, Muslins, Crepons, Lawn, Ginghams, Galateas, Chambrays, Challies, etc. Our lines of Blouse and Waist goods must be seen—we can't do justice in description.

Black and Mourning DRESS GOODS

Our selections in this class of goods are very complete. Henriettas, Cashmeres, Serges, Sicilians, Plain and Figured Lustres, Satin Cloths, Soleils, etc., etc. We make a specialty of Black Goods and our qualities are unsurpassed.

Millinery

This is the place for MILLINERY. We aim at keeping ahead of our reputation for stylish millinery and are better prepared than ever to meet the demand. We are happy to announce that we have again secured the services of MISS KLINE in this department and can therefore assure satisfaction to our lady customers to whom we extend a cordial invitation.

Millinery Opening — *April .. 9 & 10*

Our stock of Veilings, Ribbons, Frilling, Chiffons, Silks, Laces, Hair Pins, Ladies' Belts, Ladies' Underwear, etc., etc. is new and well assorted. We make special mention of a large purchase of shirt waists all colors and prices from 26c up.

Clothing

We are just in receipt of a large and varied consignment of Ready Made Clothing suitable for spring, purchased at especially low figures. We can suit any person in quality, color and style from our large assortment at popular prices. When you want a tailor made suit come and see our stock. We guarantee satisfaction and make a specialty of reliable clothing. We carry the best stock in the district of Worsteds, Serges, Venetians, Cheviots, Scotch and Canadian Tweeds and Trouserings, and a full line of Gent's Furnishings suitable for the season.

Boots and Shoes

We're enthusiastic over this branch of our business. Our new stock is more complete and varied than ever. We can fit anyone in any style and quality. Every description of seasonable footwear required by man, woman, boy, girl or baby at right prices. Special values in Ladies' Fine Boots and Oxfords this season.

HATS . AND . CAPS

All our new FELT goods just in and ready to display. Latest styles and reliable goods from the best makers. As the season advances we shall show a very fine and complete range of STRAW HATS in all qualities.

House Furnishings

We are offering unexcelled values in CARPETS and LACE CURTAINS and devote a large show room to this department. Our spring display invites and will repay inspection.

Grocery Dep't

Reliable goods at popular prices a special feature. Stock always fresh as we have a large turnover. We are doing splendid business in TEAS. Good value is our first consideration—you can rely on our TEAS giving satisfaction. We're selling the best 25c tea on the market to day. Try it and be convinced!

HARDWARE DEPARTMENT

...Brighten Up the Home...

Pretty Wall Papers help to do that and there is no excuse for anyone having a DINGY HOUSE with papers at so low a price. JUST THINK nice ones from 4, 5 and 6c a roll up.

Factory Cans

We have the very best CAN on the market. It has the widest hoops, heaviest bottom and sides and at the lowest price. SEE US before placing your order.

How About

FENCE WIRE, will you require any? We carry a good stock of Oiled and Annealed wire, Barb wire in safety and 4 point, Galvanized wire No. 11 and 12, Hathaway's Patent wire and wire netting. PRICES lower than ever.

Crocker's honest Fertilizers

Do you want to double your crop? If so try some of this famous Fertilizer. We don't ask you to buy a ton but would like you to try 10 or 20 lbs. It is all right. Come in and get a book about it free.

.....Agent for all Kinds of Bicycles Supplies.....

We are all O. K. on TINWARE and all kinds of BUILDING HARDWARE. Cheapest place in Centre Grey to buy your goods at.

M. Richardson & Co