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## THAT AMENDMENT TO LIQUOR ACT

Owen Sound, March 10.—The liquor interests of Owen Sound have received a staggering blow in the announcement that a section has been included in the amendment to the Liquor License Act by which Owen Sound and other municipalities which have carried local option under the straight majority vote before the three-fifths' vote was established, will have to take a three-fifths vote in order to repeal the measure.

The hotel people contemplated putting on a repeal campaign for the coming January election, but this amendment will make their case a hopeless one. It will also have its effect in securing the stability of the measure in municipalities such as Owen Sound, where since the by-law has been in force there has been a most persistent violation of the by-law.

The movement of the Provincial Secretary may be taken as the direct result of this opposition to give the local measure a fair test by the anti-option hotelkeepers.

## SPRINGTIME AND THE SMALL BOY

When small boys gather in groups on a street corner or in an untravelled alley and, regardless of the passing crowds, begin to play marbles, it is fairly safe to guess that spring is within social distance. Even the return of the robin, harbringer of changing seasons, though it may be and is respected by everybody but the cherry grower, is no surer sign that winter is growing weary of its reign than the lad and his game of "pinks."

He is an unflinching adherent to the natural laws. No ulterior force, such as school books, study or even the measles can draw him from the pastime that human instinct demands. Other things may be proper and acceptable to the "folks at home," but a turn at marbles is in keeping with a big rejuvenating out-of-doors, and he obeys instinct rather than the catechism.

Nor does the admonition given by mother or nurse not to get his clothes dirty have any effect in making the lad melancholy when he can get a chum to "shoot" for "keeps." The sidewalk does not need to be clean. A trifle of mud and water do no harm. In fact they make a suitable setting for the picture and the care-free, rosy-cheeked, sport-loving boy finds the pavement just as good to sit on as a cane-bottomed chair. The element of sport is uppermost in his mind. The laws of Parliaments, and of men have no jurisdiction over him. All he recognizes are the rules of the game and the superior ability of his opponent to hit an alley square in the eye.

There is something cheery and attractive in the simple pleasures of the boy and his marbles, something that makes a man think how great a distance divides him and his youthful days.

# HON. MR. MACKAY ON PROVINCIAL FINANCES

## CLEAR-CUT AND CONVINCING SPEECH

### DEFICIT OF \$553,363.25

### Vigorous Colonization Policy for Northern Ontario Advocated—Industrial Education—Scarcity of Teachers—Reforestation and Other Subjects Eloquently Dealt With.

(Continued.)

One can scarcely realize the irritation that such explanations naturally cause rural school trustees, who are working overtime endeavoring to get qualified teachers, I fancy I see the honorable member for West Hastings giving this explanation, particularly to the trustees of a section where the assessment is over \$40,000, and where though they advertise once and have no applications from any qualified teacher they must still spend money in advertising a second time before the inspector is allowed, by a superlatively foolish regulation of the Department, to grant a permit to any person to teach in that school.

First then, there is a scarcity of labor of all kinds, next, we are a nomadic race, and then the honorable member for West Hastings, not seeming to have satisfied himself that he has given any sane explanation of the difficulty, consoles the trustees in the rural section with the information that there is a great surplus of teachers over in England, and that we may import them. This, Sir, is comforting advice to parents, especially of the poorer class, whose sons and daughters are practically debarred from taking up the teaching profession owing to the centralization policy of the Government and the wiping out of our model schools. I say, Sir, to debar our own young men and women from entering the teaching profession, and then to suggest to the trustees that they import teachers from England, is adding insult to injury, and I repeat were it not for the serious condition of affairs such explanations would be a very interesting burlesque.

Then, Sir, there is that guileless youth, that extremely innocent young man, the honorable member for South Renfrew, who comes forward with an explanation. How extremely guileless he is! "I will show the Honorable Leader of the Opposition," says he, "what is the cause of the scarcity of teachers in the rural districts," and holding up in his hand a report of a speech by the President of Toronto University, which apparently says that 25 per cent. of the university graduates go west, he gives this as a complete explanation for the scarcity of teachers in the townships. How innocent, how extremely innocent the honorable member is! He is under the impression that young men and women immediately upon being graduated from Toronto University go forth into the townships to teach in our rural schools. He is evidently trying to get in line with the Premier's explanation, that he has turned things upside down and he will have university graduates go out to the townships to teach public schools, and doubtless he will have our model and normal trained teachers go and lecture in the university. On second thought, however, I am inclined to think the honorable gentleman is trying to qualify for a position in the Education Department, and is endeavoring to display his fitness for such a place by seeking to show that he knows absolutely nothing about educational affairs. He is shrewd enough, Sir, to know that if he is to be in line, an absolute condition precedent to his receiving an appointment is, that he should show utter ignorance of educational affairs generally, and particularly of any question bearing upon the welfare of our rural schools.

**Technical Education.**  
Many a time and oft have I discussed this question on the floor of this House and elsewhere. For reasons already stated I do not purpose to occupy the attention of the House but for a moment on this question. On the main merits of the case there can be no justification whatever for this Government's delay in adopting a full and sweeping system of technical and industrial education, that will cover at least all manufacturing centres in this province. Nothing, Sir, would add more to the success of this province as a manufacturing centre than to have well trained, skilled mechanics in all our workshops. Any educational system that tends to lead or drive young men or young women to the professions, and to take them away from either the farm or the workshop is ill-balanced, and should at once be adjusted. I have frequently pointed out, Sir, that

this province spends on an average per annum \$1.35 on every public and separate school pupil, \$4.65 on every high school and collegiate institute student, \$112 on every model and normal student, \$125 on every university student. Sir, I do not complain of these expenditures; my voice, I hope, will never be raised against this or any other Government making as liberal a grant as possible for education generally; but what, Sir, is this province doing or what has it ever done for the large class of young people who are forced to leave school at an early age, say from thirteen to fifteen years? Can the province afford any longer to take the position that it owes them no duty, and has no responsibility whatever with reference to them? This question has both a financial and an educational side. Once again I say, Sir, that this province can no longer, from either an educational or ethical standpoint, afford to vary to the twenty or thirty or forty thousand students of whom child century drives from our public schools to the workshop and such like places, that it has no obligation whatever and owes them nothing whatever. All along the line substantial aid is given to the high school student and university student, and none to the lad whose parents possibly cannot afford to send him to school—even to the high school stage. In other words we help the sons of the wealthier and decline to give any assistance whatever to the poorer lad.

Germany perhaps, furnishes an illustration of the splendid results arising from a well considered and fully developed technical and industrial system of education. Here, our continuation classes are conducted purely along the old scholastic lines; there, the continuation class is practically an industrial continuation class. Beginning with the continuation class, the state never loses sight of the practical side of life. The question of technical and industrial education is so closely allied with that of trade and commerce that one can readily understand why the empire as a whole pays so much attention to this matter.

In Germany the schools are, roughly speaking, supported as follows: 23 per cent. of the cost is paid by tuition fees; 49 per cent. by grants and donations by municipalities, employers of labor, and from other philanthropic sources; while the empire as a whole contributes about 28 per cent. It is a matter of common knowledge that in every village, every town and city, in this province a larger number of the more ambitious of our young men and women have for years been endeavoring to get some general knowledge of the scientific principles that underlie their life vocations through the schools of correspondence. These young men and women have been forced to leave our public and separate schools at an early age, and having commenced life's battle, realize the necessity for a better equipment, and the result is that they sign contracts with these outside schools, and in nine cases out of ten they find it practically impossible by means of such correspondence schools to get any great benefit, and they drop the course and pay their large fees with very unsubstantial returns. It has been stated that from the Province of Ontario in this way there is sent out every year approximately \$1,000,000 to these correspondence schools, situated south of the line. If this estimate is at all approximately true, and I think it is, and it is supported by teachers interested in industrial training, it shows an absolute demand on the part of these young men and women for technical industrial training. Assuming, Sir, for the sake of argument, that the amount of money thus sent out annually is even only \$500,000, and placing the support of the industrial schools upon the same basis as now exists in Germany, namely, that the students should pay 23 per cent. it will be readily seen that there is now going forth from the provinces an amount of money that will justify the annual expenditure in all of \$2,000,000. The tremendous amount of money practically wasted by these ambitious young men and women all over the province is another strong argument in favor of immediate action on the part of this Government. There should have been no delay. We, on this side of the House contended last year that this Government should have appointed a commission composed of competent educationists, to not only ascertain the facts within the province, but also to be way of interviewing boards of education, boards of trade, municipal councils, and such like bodies, to have conducted a

regular educational propaganda in favor of a general system of industrial education.

**Text Books.**  
Honorable gentlemen speak of the wonderful saving to the people of the province in connection with school books. The honorable member for Monck says that during the currency of the agreement the people of this province will save \$380,000; the honorable member for West Hastings puts it at \$750,000; the honorable member for West Toronto raises the limit, and makes it a clear million. How beautifully, and indefinitely it grows with each calculation! Not only in Toronto, among retail dealers here; but also in every village, every town, and every other city in the Province of Ontario, every one knows what a tremendous advantage has been given to one large departmental store in this city, to the detriment of every retail trader in the Province of Ontario. The agreement with the Eaton Company is drawn so as to

make one school book contract a direct advertising medium for that large departmental store. The bargain is so made, that a farmer living out in the township, can buy direct as cheap from the T. Eaton Co., Limited, as the retail dealer can. What is the result of such an agreement, and what else could be the result? None other than to induce people all over the Province of Ontario to write direct to this large departmental store for their books. Then, Sir, for example the books go back wrapped in a "bargain day" advertisement, of say, millinery, ready-made clothing, or whatever the line may be, with the result that the orders pour in through the mail order department for purchases along these lines, and thus the whole retail trade of the province is hit by this cunningly devised agreement. The agreement places every hearthstone in the whole province directly tributary to the Eaton departmental store, and invites everybody in the province to send in orders by mail for all classes of goods.

Then, Sir, as to the cost of the Readers: the publisher is furnished with the copyright; the province pays a committee to prepare the manuscript and make the selections for the Readers; all plates and electros are paid for by the province; the type is actually set up, and then all this is handed over to the Eaton Company, and they are asked to run the Readers off. And the people are deceived and humbugged with the statement that 49c. is the whole cost of the Readers.

**Reciprocity.**  
Now, Sir, I take up the question, which the Honorable the Provincial Treasurer introduced very naively into this debate, technically justifying its introduction on account of its alleged effect on the Temiscaming and Northern Ontario Railway. Without discussing the correctness or incorrectness of the principal reason given, let me say at the outset that I do not propose to give a silent vote on this question. The honorable member for West Toronto justifies the discussion of reciprocity by this House on the ground that it affects the people of Ontario, and therefore we have a right to discuss it. By parity of reasoning, and because education, and all the laws and regulations in connection with it in this province, affect all members at Ottawa who come from this province, they then will be justified in placing on the order paper at Ottawa a resolution with reference to our model schools or our normal schools, or some other such question. I fancy, Sir, some Liberal member at Ottawa, from Ontario, were to attempt to do this, not only would the occupants of the treasury benches here, but the member for West Toronto would join them in a pretty violent denunciation of any such Ottawa politician, and would raise a tremendous cry about the fact that the provincial field was being invaded. I repeat, Sir, the growing tendency in this House among Conservatives to lower the dignity and standing of this Legislature. Anyone can readily see that the public under such circumstances would be justified in concluding, and could come to no other conclusion, than that the members of this Legislature were mere henchmen or shouters for the politicians at Ottawa, and thus this Legislature would hold, in public opinion, a decidedly inferior position. I have no such views, Sir, of the rights and duties of a Provincial Legislature. We act, Sir, by the same sovereign right that politicians at Ottawa do; we derive our powers and responsibilities from the same source, and we ought not in any way to lower or degrade our position. My position is this, Sir, that while every member of this House as a citizen of this Dominion has an absolute right to discuss any question that affects the Dominion, it is a decided procedure for us, as a Legislature, to deal with the question of Trade and Commerce, which by the British North America Act is assigned to the Dominion Parliament. However, Sir, leaving this aspect of the question aside, as a matter of pure party politics, I welcome the discussion of this subject upon the floor of this House, though I doubt the wisdom of it. I am bound to admit, Sir, that the Honorable the Provincial Treasurer realized that he was treading upon doubtful ground, and he took great pains to explain that he only referred to the question because of his fear that if the reciprocity agreement is consummated the result will be injurious to the Temiscaming and Northern Ontario Railway, which is owned and operated by this province, and therefore upon that ground, and that ground alone, we did seem to justify the introduction of the discussion. In thus narrowing the reason for introducing this subject, the Honorable the Provincial Treasurer was more careful and judicious than certain other honorable gentlemen who have spoken.

**The Treaty of 1854-56.**  
I am afraid, Sir, that the Honorable the Provincial Treasurer has given his party a load that they will never attempt to lift when he says, that not only would reciprocity, if adopted, not be a good thing, but when he goes out of his way at great length to quote figures and argue that the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854 to 1866 was very injurious to the old provinces of Canada. One can understand any honorable gentleman taking the position that circumstances and conditions have changed, owing to policies adopted since 1866, that it does not now follow that even if the old treaty was beneficial to Canada that the adoption of a similar one would now be a bad thing, as I have said, the Honorable the Provincial Treasurer asks his party to lift the tremendous load of proving to the people of this province that the old treaty was disastrous to the people of the old provinces. His argument is meaningless unless this were his object, and, Sir, I am quite certain that the old

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**HOTEL FIGHTER HEAVILY FINED**

Walter McGinnis, one of the gang, who figured in the disturbance at the Grand Union Tuesday evening, appeared in the police court on Tuesday morning and was fined \$14.10.

The Post has been informed by an employee of the hotel that an effort was also made on the evening in question to assault Officer Short, but that the officer used his baton effectively on one of his assailants, which had the desired effect. There appears to have been an organized effort on the part of a rowdy element to raise a disturbance at this hotel, and in order to nip the affair in the bud, the police kept a watch on the hotel last night. There was no disturbance, however.

**Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA**

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