Liquor Business Is Dirty Miss Macphail Says In Speech To Parliament

Miss AGNES C. MACPHAIL: South-East Grey: Mr. Speaker, those of us who were here in 1925-26 will clearly recall that charges were made with regard to administration of the Department of Customs and that a special committee was appointed to make a very careful study of the whole subject. In one regard at least that committee made an unanimous report to the House of Commons in June of that year, and on June 18 the house approved of the report. Among other things that report urged that:

. . . . regulations be made to prohibit clearances being granted to vessels carrying liquor as cargo, sailing from a Canadian port to a United States port . . . . . .

That is a very simple recommendation which anyone can understand. Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, now the Prime Minister of Canada, gave earnest and hearty support to the investigation and to the report of the committee; he pledged himself and his party "to continue relentlessly the investigation of the customs service and to carry out without fear or favour the needed requirements." That pledge was given during the election campaign which followed the investigation by this committee.

Mr. King was returned to power and has done much to make the Customs department efficient. I for one wholly approve of the Prime Minister's selection of a minister for that department; I honestly believe I could not have done better had I picked him myself. During the first session of the next parliament a royal commission was appointed, which spent eleven months in finding out all the facts which were gathered from a very large field, and that commission approved of section 10 of the report of the special committee. I read part of the section a few moments ago, but now I would like to read the entire last paragraph:

Doubts have been cast upon the sufficiency of existing legislation to prohbit or authorize regulations proibiting the illeal export of intoxicating liquors to the United States. To the extent to which such legislation may be insufficient the committee recommend that it be amended. The committee further they recommend that, as soon as possible, regulations be made to prohibit clearances being granted to vessels carrying liquor as cargo, sailing from a Canadian port to a United States port, such regulations to make an exception in favor of liquor being imported into the United States in accordance with the laws of that country.

Two bodies, a special parliamentary committee and a royal commission, studied this subject much more carefully than any individual could. They made a recommendation and parliament approved of that recommendation but has not carried it out. The next question which occurs to one's mind is: Why has not parliament carried out the recommendation which a committee of this house and a royal commission made to it?

I am concerned with how this matter affects the United States, but I am not going to discuss that phase just now. The speech made by the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Speakman) expresses exactly how I feel about it. There is no use in our talking about the peace of the world and in unanimously approving such things as the pact of Paris until we can deal effectively with an irritating and troublesome question which affects the peace of the world. It is nonsense to think that because the problem is irritating and troublesome to us we can escape the duty of putting a stop to the bootlegging of liquor into the United States of America. From my point of view the liquor business is a dirty business. I have never seen anything good come out of liquor and I have seen a great deal of evil arise from its use. It corrupts all those who touch it, whether they are individuals or groups of individuals. I have no use for the whole dirty business and the fact that we are allowing liquor to pour out of southern Ontario into the United States and are doing nothing effective to stop it is giving to the Canadian people the mentality and the ethics of bootleggers.

Very eminent gentlemen—I think one would call them eminent — are hunting for defences for our attitude. It is quite true that we are making money through the sale of liquor to the United States but what is the use of gaining even the world if we lose our national soul? How can we expect the young men and women, the boys and girls of this country to respect the laws of the land if we do not respect the laws of another country? Our example will mean more to them than our teaching; our acts will loom so large that they will not hear our words. From the standpoint of morality in this country we could do something about it, whether it be to stop the clearance of vessels or whatever it may be, and we should set about getting it done as quickly as possible. Supposing we had a bad child in a community—we have been apt to say "badboy" but I do not want to say that because there are bad girls as well as bad boys—and suppose that only one parent of that child was anxious that it should be reformed and was doing everything to help the child to a better way of life. But some other neighbor in the community, knowing that will of the one parent, deliberately put evil in the path of the child. What would we think of that neighbor; what would he think of him as a community builder? We would have nothing but contempt for him and that is almost the place we are in as a nation as between ourselves and the United States.

Mr. HEPBURN: Does the hon. member not think it advisable that we should dry up our own country before we try to dry up the United States.

Miss MACPHAIL: Yes, I think it advisable that we dry up our own country and if I had the doing of it there would not be any liquor. I do not want any and if everyone were like me there would not be any. If the Canadian people have no more sense than to want to drink stuff which is poison to them and does them no good, there is a country south of us which officially does not want it, and has said so, and we are not doing everything which we could do to help them carry out that law, called the Volstead Act.

Since the session opened I have been in Buffalo twice and Detroit once. I was amazed at the strength of public opinion expressed for former Canadian residents in those two cities. These people were not particularly prohibitionists but they felt that something which they had held very high had fallen. They had thought of Canada with a great deal of love and admiration; they had thought of us as being people of very high moral standards; they had thought of us, and it was expressed quite freely to me, as maintaining ideals superior to those of te country in which they were residing. They told me that in this regard we had not lived up to our former high standard of morality; they felt that we had let them down rather badly. As one man said to me, "For the fiirst time in my life I am apologetiefor my country." I think that expresses the opinion of the people who are close to this problem and see it in operation on the other side.

Some may think that the resolutions which have come from rural communities, and which have flooded this house, are of no consequence. I am well enough acquainted with the people of my country to know that when they sign their names to a paper and put it into an envelope and mail it, they know what they are doing, because it is one of the hardest tasks in the world to get rural people to write letters. When they do write them you know that they are interested in the thing they are doing or they would not bother posting the letter. The fact that they have sent hundreds of these resolutions to the house convinces me that there is strong public opinion in the country, particularly in the townships of Canada, concerning this question.

If anyone has taken the trouble to look up the press, either recently or back in 1927, he will have seen that many papers strongly condemn the position which we are taking. I have an editorial from the Country Guide, the new name for the Grain Growers Guide, which I would like to read. I have not the date of this issue, but I believe it is recent. The editorial, in part, is as follows:

There is a lawless element in the United States in smuggling Canadian liquor across the border. Huge fortunes have been acquired in this rum-running business. The American botleggers are assisted by an equally lawless element in Canada. The two have terrorized a considerabe section of the territory along the great lakes and crime has become commonplace. This situation is a disgrace to both nations—but more so to Canada.

The article then reviews the fact that a parliamentry committee and a royal commission had been set up and had made recommendations which are not carried out. The editorial continues:

Why is the gov't doing nothing? Why is the Liberal and Conservative press practically silent? What is the mysterious influence which prevents the government from setting the machinery in motion to exterminate this nefarious business? Perhaps another royal commission could find out. All other civilized nations are co-operating with the United States to curb rum-running. Canada, the nearest neighbour is also unneighborly. If the situation were reversed we would be incensed. This is an opportunity to apply the golden rule.

I would like to quote briefly from an editorial in the Toronto Globe of March 1, 1927, which contained the following.

The Royal commission on customs is collecting considerable evidence showing how this country is helping the rum-runners and bootleggers to defeat the aims of the Volstead Act in the United States. Added to this evidence taken by the special parliamentry committee, it would rather form a voluminous indictment of Canada as a partner in the international liquor business.

I do not believe that anyone can derive satisfaction from such an editorial like that in a leading daily of the province of Ontario. The Port Hope Guide of April 8 1917, contains an editorial which, in part, reads:

It is a criminal offence to systematically smuggle goods into this country. It is equally so to likewise smuggle into the United States. Why should this country encourage or allow any class, no matter how wealthy, to carry on, systematically and publicly, smuggling operations to the U. States in intoxicating liquors with any greater immunity than we would tolerate such action with the Chinaman with his opium or the white-slaver with his victim?

And he said something which struck me as being so true that I feel I should place it on Hansard. It continues:

The law gloats over the capture of a poor wretch in the back townships, found in possession of illicit still . . . But the other man who is violating international laws is encouraged in his nefarious traffic. The former is probably trying to keep the wolf from the door. His place is prison. The latter wins the King's Plate at the Woodbine, and is presented to, and dines with the Govenor General.

I do not think that is overstated. I have often thought that, when I have seen the place of honour that is given to our big distillers and brewers in this country. I do not think their business is an honorable one, and to me they can never be honhourable people while they are engaged in it. The editorial continues, but I think I have already said what is repeated in it.

I do not care to say any more than this, that if the government wants to hold up a high moral standard to young boys and girls in Canada, it will have to do something to prevent huge fortunes being made by Canadians who are breaking the laws of another country. If this is not done, they cannot expect the laws of this country to be respected, nor can they expect the moral fibre of the Canadian people to be maintained.

ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY

The Anglican St. Mary's Church, Maxwell will hold their annual garden party at the home of Wm. Seeley, Maxwell, on Wednesday, June 19. A good play entitled, "Plain Country Folk" will be given by the Whitfield Dramatic Club. A good program of sports consisting of races, horseshoe pitching, etc. Prizes will be given. Tea served from 6 to 8 o'clock. Admission 50 and 25 cents. — Rev. Oldham, Rector.

TWP. OF ARTEMESIA ROAD NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Municipal Council of the Township of Artemesia will after one month from the first publication hereof in The Flesherton Advance Newspaper, (the date of which first publication is the First day of May, 1929) proceed to pass a bylaw establishing the undermentioned deviation of road, in the said township, being a deviation of 130 sideroad in the first and second concession north east of the Toronto and Sydenham road therein according to a survey and plan description made by Robert McDowell Esq., O.L.S. dated the 17th day of April 1929.—said deviation is described as follows viz—

Description of part of lot 133, Range 1, N.E. T. & S. Road
Roderick McKenzie, owner

All and singular that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate lying and being in the Township of Artemesia, in the County of Grey, and province of Ontario, containing by admeasurement Six and One Tenth Arces (6.1 Acs.) be the same more or less, being composed of part of lot 133, Range 1, N.E. of the Toronto and Sydenham Road in said township and which may be more particularly described as follows that is to say:-

Commencing at the north westerly angle of said lot; thence north 39 degs. 30 mins. east along the northerly limit of said lot 50 chs. 48 lks. to the north easterly limit of said lot; thence south 50 degs. 30 mins. east along said limit 88 lks.; thence south 44 degs. 40 mins. west 9 chs. 61 lks; thence south 39 degs. 30 mins., west 7chs. 79 lks, thence south 54 degs. 20 mins. west 4 chs. 88 lks.; thence south 39 degs. 30 mins. west 28 chs. 26 lks. to the south westerly limit of said lot; thence north 50 degs. 30 mins. west along said limit 1 ch. to the place of beginning.

2, N.E.T. & S. Road
Frederick Russell, Owner

All and singular that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate lying and being in the Township of Artemesia, in the County of Grey, and province of Ontario, containing by admeasurement Four and Two Fifths Acres (4.4 Acs.) be the same more or less, being composed of part of lot 133, Range 2, N.E. of the Toronto and Sydenham Road in said township and which may be more particularly described as follows, that is to say:-

Commencing at the south easterly angle of said lot; thence south 39 degs. 30 mins. west along th northerly limit of said lot 12 chs., thence to the south westerly limit of said lot; thence south 50 degs. 30 mins. east along said limit 1 ch.; thence north 39 degs. 30 mins. east 43 chs. 93 lks. to the north easterly limit of said lot; thence north 50 degs. 30 mins. west along said limit 1 chs. to the place of beginning.

Description of Part of Lot 132, Range 1, N.E.T. & S. Road
Mrs. Alcox, Owner

All and singular that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate lying and being in the Township of Artemesia, in the County of Grey, and province of Ontario, containing by admeasurement One One Hundred and Twenty Fifth Of An Acre (.0075 Acre.) be the same more or less being composed of part of lot 132, Range 1. N.E. Toronto and Sydenham Road in said township and which may be more particularly described as follows, that is to say:-

Commencing at the south eastery angle of said lot thence north 50 degs. 30 mins. west along the easterly limit of said lot 12 ks.; thence south 44 degs. 40 mins. west 1 ch. 33 lks. to the southerly limit of said lot; thence north 39 degs. 30 mins. east along said limit 1 ch. 32 lks. to the place of beginning.

R. McDOWALL, Ont. Land Surveyor
April 17th, 1929.

And further take notice that the Council will hear all persons who petition to be heard in favor of or opposed to the opening of the said road on or after the fifth day of June. 1929.

Dated this first day of May, 1929
—W. J| BELLAMY, Twp. Clerk.

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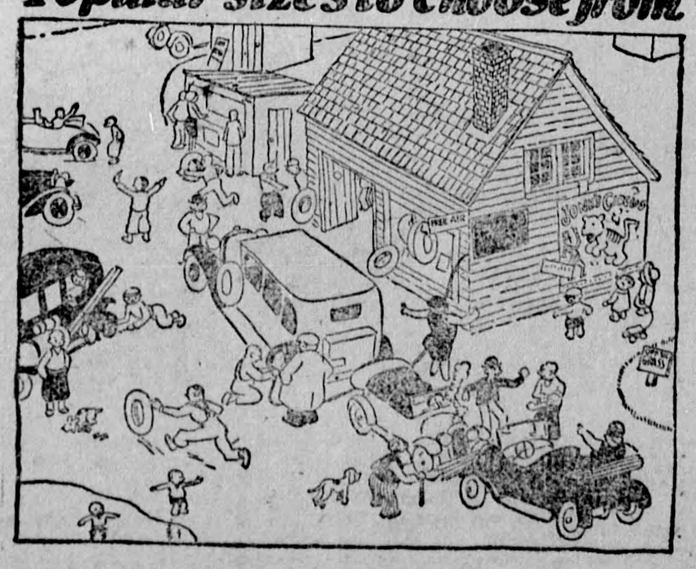

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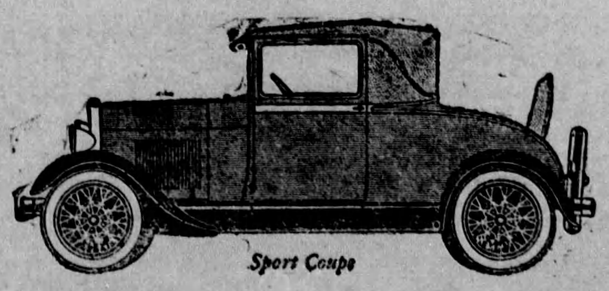

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