THE FLESHERTON ADVANCE

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ABOLISH THE PHEASANTS

Let us point out one method by which the provincial government might reduce the cost of govenment i this section of the Dominion. The Department of Game and Fisheries, for instance might abolish its pheasant hatcheries and release a large number of employees at a considerable saving of salaries and other outlay.

In conversation with a government official some time ago on the question of maintaining a fad of this nature, we were told that the Department had a surplus and maintained the pheasantries as a means of using up this surplus. Our argument was that any surplus should be handed over to help out other departments that were not so fortunate as to have a surplus at the end of their fiscal year. This idea was scouted by the head of a department. At the same time the government passes laws making municipalities do this very thing. The surplus amounts collected for dog licenses are held by the local authorities for one year and then absorbed in the general fund. In any event, the Department of Game and Fisheries should now cease propagating pheasants. We were told a few years ago, when a pheasantry was established at Eugenia, that we would soon have plenty of this variety of handsome poultry in this district, which would give hunters grand sport and incidentally bring in sufficient revenue to pay for the cost of producing the birds. The sorry spectacle that the Department has afforded in abandoning the project after finding out their error in judgment, discovering that, as they were warned, pheasants could not maintain themselves in our rigorous climate, and spending a good many thousand dollars in a vain effort to stock our fields and forests with an unprofitable liability, is something of which certain enthusiasts do not care to hear discussed. As a matter of fact a fine tooth comb would not discover a pheasant in this region.

There are pheasants down on the Niagara peninsula and there was a two-day open season there last week which has created considerable trouble and hard feeling among the farmers on whose lands the pheasants live. One class of farmers wish the pheasants all killed off to preserve their crops, while another class protests against having their fields overrun by city nimrods.

Taking all these things into consideration, The Advance humbly suggests that the Department of Game and Fisheries cease their activities along the line of raising pheasants and release those employed in this unremunerative and contentious fad.

EDITORIAL NOTES

If the pension business continues to improve as it has during the past few years, it will not be long until the pesioners will have to support the general public.

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With hogs and wheat at new low levels we wonder when the farmers' produce will hit the bottom of low levels. It is about time for an upward trend.

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The new Canadian $80,000,000 loan is over the top again, being considerably oversubscribed. We would just like to know how many private subscribers participated in the loan and the amounts taken by them. Financial houses and insurance companies appear to have taken up the majority of the bonds sold.

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As an aftermath of the inflation post-war period, news comes from Vancouver that the authorities there will try to force the National Railway to complete a four-million-dollar hotel, which it had agreed to erect in Vancouver. It is stated that the railways under the regime of Sir Henry Thornton, the high-priced manager of the National Railway, had already spent ten million dollars on the development when construction was halted. When we learn of such wanton squandering of funds the reason is made plain to all why our national railway was on the verge of bankruptcy, when its big-idea general manager was released from his onerous duties this year.

HOME RULE FOR SCOTLAND

Since he resigned from the British Government because he disagreed with his colleagues on the decisions arrived at in the Ottawa Conference, Sir Herbert Samuel has spoken in Edinburgh in favor of Home Rule for Scotland. In this action he finds himself in distinguished company, the Duke of Montrose and other leading statesmen having recently declared in favor of purely local questions being settled in a Legislature, sitting at the Scottish capital, thereby relieving the British Parliament from the clogging so frequently of. Advocates of the reform point to the tremendous changes that have taken place in the body politic since the Union of England and Scotland was consummated in 1707. The duties devolving on the Imperial Parliament, at first confined largely to looking after the ordinary affairs of a comparatively small electorate, has grown to colossal proportions, both in extent of territory and of populations affected. The Imperial Parliament it is claimed would have enough to do if it devoted its attentions entirely to imperial affairs, leaving to local legislatures the disposition of all local matters.

We can picture to ourselves a British Parliament now sitting for eight or ten months a year legislating, not only on imperial affairs, but on the pettiest of local municipal affairs, but more often lostponing their settlement indefinitely. Under the proposed reform there would be an Imperial House of a very deliberative nature, transacting all necessary business in a session of four or five months, and leaving nothing undone for the promotion of the welfare of the vast empire that could be done, having time left for recuperation of their energies, the Imperial Statesmen would be able to visit and personally ascertain the conditions and wants of the outlying parts of the Empire and would then prove of far greater service to the nation than if cooped up in Westminster, often in poor health and wearied condition, dealing with ordinary political legislation, such as our Provincial bodies are entrusted with. The local legislatures, patterned after ours and that of Northern Ireland, could be started off at comparatively small expense. In Scotland, no doubt the legislature would have fewer frills, fewer expensive public structures (like the new legislative buildings in Northern Ireland for example.) Their duties could be clearly defined, and the cost of expenditure restricted to bare management. In Edinburgh today, they have plenty of administrative buildings in which to house the legislatures and their staff. These are considerations that apparently appeal to many Scotchmen in the motherland. They do not deny that their race has had their talents for government and administration generously recognised; but they express the belief that their nation, as well as other parts of the Empire, would vastly benefit if all unnecessary shackles were removed from the management of the north land, and at the same time given greater freedom in the management of the Commonwealth. How far these views will be endorsed by the Scottish folks as a whole has yet to be proved. No verdict independent of other questions has yet been rendered.

DROP IN GAS PRICE?

Motorists are naturally anticipating a reduction in the price of gasoline now that the Government has done away with the dumping duty on this product imported from the United States. The dumping duty averaged about two cents a gallon, and we see no reason why the price should not come down to that extent. Throughout all Ontario, the number of license plates issued was much less than in 1931. The increased price of these plates and the high price of gasoline were responsible, as hundreds of people could not afford to pay them. They laid the old flivver up and this, the only pleasure many families enjoyed, was prohibited. There is a limit to these taxes beyond which the people cannot or will not go. — Aylmer Express.

Corner Stone Layed

Rain somewhat marred the impressive ceremony of the laying of the corner stone of the new Priceville Presbyterian church, at which Hon. W. H. Price, Attorney-General of Ontario, and Dr. D. B. Jamieson of Durham officiated. A large crowd attended despite the weather, and listened to excellent speeches delivered in the hall, owing to the rain. Rev. Dr. W. G. McIvor, minister and secretary of the building committee presided. Among those who spoke were: Rev. B. D. Armstrong of Durham, Rev. T. O. Miller of Markdale and Rev. Robt. Honeyman of Dromore. Hymns sung during the service were "O God Our Help in Ages Past" and "The Church's One Foundation" and the whole proceedings were very impressive.

At the close of the meeting the Willing Helpers served lunch to the gathering.

It is said that truth lies at the bottom of the well. Perhaps that's why the lawyer pumps the witness.

Cleaning a 9-ft. steel tube that winds across California carrying water into Los Angeles, workmen came to the wilderness at Gravevine Canyon 150 miles north of Los Angeles where the tube pitches down 900 feet. Inside the pipe 16 workmen went to work scraping muck from the slimy walls, lit by a string of electric lights. One man slipped, slid, clutched at the man beneath, broke the light cord. Shouting and clawing, the two men pitched down the steel tunnel 900 feet into dark and muck, carrying 14 other shouting, clawing men with them in one big bundle. All were injured, some dangerously.

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DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE,
Ottawa, 31st October, 1932