THE FLESHERTON ADVANCE

Published on Collingwood street, Flesherton, Wednesday of each week. Circulation over 1000, Price in Canada $2.00 per year, when paid in advance $1.50. In U. S. A. $2.50 per year, when paid in advance $2.00.

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HIT-AND-RUN MENACE

It is hardly necessary to say that every effort should be made to apprehend motorists who flee from the scene of an acicdent leaving a victim helpless in the road. Such a person offends all sense of decency and every edict of civilization.

One appreciates that for a moment a motorist might be panic-stricken when he realizes he has struck down a fellow being. When he yields to fear and flees the scene, convicts himself of cowardice. But he, who actuated only by cunning, leaves a human being in distress, is worse than a coward.

An appeal to manhood where there is no manhood is futile. So long as there is a possibility of escaping the consequences of carelessness there will be those who will attempt it.

The only effective check against the hit-and-run driver is increased efficiency of the police in ferreting out such offenders and a severity of the courts that will make an attempted escape a greater hazard than stopping after an accident to render assistance to the injured and face the consequences. For people who are actuated by fear make the consequences of abandoning a victim a cause for greater fear. Make it clear to the cunning that their greater advantage lies in admitting responsibility for the accident if the fault is theirs.

EDITORIAL ITEMS

The Ontario Government takes money away from the educating of the youth of the country and presents some of it to a Lieutenant-Governor, an office that was vacant for some time and could have been continued for another year anyway. Tax payers suffer in an effort to give society people in Toronto a chance to flaunt their afternoon and evening dress before a long-suffering people.

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A negro was lynched the other day in a southern state after an attempt had been made to burn him at the stake, when he pleaded guilty to murder. We wonder how it is that a country will countenance such lawlessness as lynching. The ringleaders should be given a severe lesson.

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There is considerable of surplus power available in the plants of the Ontario Hydro Electric Commission. This is not an alarming condition as when the chippewa canal was built there was then a surplus power, but immediately afterwards an industrial expansion took place and all available power was used.

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Discussion is taking place on the cost of the administration of justice in Grey County. One important item on the list of expenditure is the fact that the Crown Attorney resides a considerable distance from the county seat and his travelling expenses are paid to and fro and while in Owen Sound. There were also a considerable number of adjournment of cases which required double travelling expenses.

TIME TO IMPROVE

An appeal to farmers to improve their farms and livestock at this time, instead of simply marking time, was made by E. K. Hampson, past president of the Ontario Experimental Union in a recent address: "The present is not a time for a negative type of farming. No progress can be made by that method. Probably never has there been a finer opportunity for improving herds with pure-bred foundation stock and field crops with pure seed. Labor is more plentiful and cheap than it has been for years. May not these factors be taken advantage of in making some improvements? Farming in Ontario will be the major industry for many years to come and we must adopt the long-term vision of it with faith, and hope that better times will return."

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Non-Partisan Votes Rare In Parliament

Liquor Export Bill Rejected On Non-party Vote; Prison Population Double

Mismanagement The Cause Of Recent Trouble

The last week in the House of Commons has been very interesting. We had what is all too rare in Parliament, a non-partisan debate and vote. Mr. Robinson, Conservative member for West Essex, introduced a private bill asking for the repeal of the act of 1930 which prohibited the giving of clearance papers to vessels carrying liquor destined for any country where the importation of liquor was illegal. While United States was not mentioned, the Act undoubtedly applied particularly to that country.

Mr. Robinson and the very few who supported him argued that since Mr. Roosevelt had been elected on an anti-prohibition appeal, we were no longer playing the part of the good neighbor by refusing to export liquor into that country. He argued also that we were losing money by our attitude and that we were adding to the numbers of the unemployed.

Both the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett, and the Leader of the Opposition, the Rt. Hon. Mackenzie King, made splendid speeches against Mr. Robinson's repeal bill Both contended that the official export of liquor into United States by Canada when such importation was illegal in United States constituted an unfriendly act and also that if and when the United States repealed the Eighteenth Amendment, our legislation prohibiting export automatically did not apply to United States.

Mr. Bury, Conservative East Edmonton, made one of the best speeches the House has heard for a long time. It was closely reasoned and impassioned. "We should not allow the citizens of this country to take active measures and perform overt acts directed intentionally and with our knowledge to the breach of the laws of a friendly state. If that principle is correct, and surely it is, what force can lie in any of the arguments for repeal which have been adducted from this side of the House?" said Mr. Bury. The vote stood 44 in favor of the Robinson bill and 100 against. Parliament would be a much more useful and interesting place if every measure was debated and voted on according to its merits.

For the fifth time Mr. Woodsworth introduced a bill to amend the Criminal Code. During the last administration the bill passed the Commons but was thrown out by the Senate. Last year, you will remember, the Prime Minister refused to have the bill introduced, but later—probably due to the bolting of several of his members—did allow its introduction to the House of Commons; that is, it got in but it never got out. In introducing the bill Mr. Woodsworth said: I introduced legislation along this line in 1922 and in 1923. Mr. McMaster then the member for Brome, Quebec, introduced a similar bill in 1925 and the Minister of Justice under the Liberal administration introduced bills repealing this section in 1926, 1928, 1929, 1930. In 1929 the bill failed to pass the Senate by only three votes, so those who now speak so strongly against anyone who would venture to repeal this section of the Criminal Code, must remember that the matter has been very fully discussed in this House again and again and that it found favor with a majority of the members.

"In the earlier days when we sought to get rid of this piece of legislation, we were told thit it was a dead letter, that it never had been used and probably never would be used." Mr. Woodsworth then went on to point out that it was being used and people were serving penitentiary terms not on account of having committed any overt act but because of their beliefs, which, he thought, was quite contrary to British law.

Hon. Ernest Lapointe, in supporting the bill, said: "I do not think anybody would charge me with being a communist; I am opposed to communism, to its methods, to what it advocates and preaches. If I thought section 98 of the Criminal Code was necessary to prevent the advocacy of force, violence or intimidation, the things upon which the Minister of Justice, Mr. Guthrie, has expounded this evening, I would be in favor of it. I do not think however, that such a provision was necessary in the Criminal Code of Canada. The Minister has referred to petitions bearing foreign names which have been sent concerning certain people who have been convicted in the courts. May I tell him that the people who have been seeking to repeal Section 98 do not belong to any of those associations and are not people with foreign names. On five occasions as Minister of Justice, I introduced a bill which after all was the same in substance as the one introduced at this time by the Hon. Member for North Centre Winnipeg, Mr. Woodsworth. I do not think I was a barbarian or a rebel or anything of that kind, but I did it. Further, the House of Commons, always supported the bill and during the session of 1930 nobody on the opposite side of the House opposed it; it was carried unanimously with no objecting voice. If it is a crime tonight to favor the bill introduced by the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North Centre, all Hon. Members who sat opposite me in 1930 and supported the bill introduced at that time—because they did not oppose it—were guilty of a similar crime."

Mr. MacNicol from North West Toronto, thinks it is not safe to have people like me make addresses in school houses; he referred particularly to my speech made in McGregor school, East York. There I had stated that one of the great difficulties in Canada was a slavish adherence to parties. I had expressed admiration and respect for my colleagues and had stated that if members were free to vote on the merits of questions that we would never have got into the great difficulties of today and that I believed there was less liberty of thought on the part of members of Parliament in Canada than in any other British country. But the Mail and Empire had reported me as having said Canada had the least liberty of speech and action of any country and this had made Mr. MacNicol feel I was not a safe person to speak in schools. Mr. MacNicol's careful attempt to tie the C.C.F. up with communists in Moscow made me for the first time forget nervousness and embarrassment in speaking in the Commons. I stated that Mr. MacNicol's efforts to link those of our group who go out to speak in school houses, churches and public halls, on the economic condition, on the need of constitutional reform—radical and fundamental, but constitutional—with communists, branded him for the excellent Tory he is. I further stated that we are not communists and the heckling we received comes from communists who hate the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North Centre, myself and others associated with us more than they do anybody else, because by striving to bring about reforms constitutionally we stand between the communists and the violence they desire.

A deliberate effort has been made ever since the House met to link the United Farm and Labor members of the House up with communism and with Moscow. I pointed out that we were Canadians, trying to solve Canadian problems, taking no orders or money and having no connection with Moscow or communists, but that we were striving by the use of our intelligence and by constitutional methods to bring about changes which would benefit the great mass of people. I said I had no objection to the strongest sort of criticism of our policies but that I was tired of having false statements and motives attributed to us.

We also had this week debates on the military estimates and on that we are slowly winning and a whole day discussion on the need of financial reform, dealing particularly with the pressing need of bringing Canadian money to a parity with at least that of our greatest market, Great Britain. The debate is not yet finished; the Prime Minister stated that when it next comes before the House the Minister of Finance will speak of it.

Although a Royal Commission appointed by the Borden Government in 1914 made a close study of our penitentiaries and of penal systems abroad, recommended many changes, some of them fundamental changes in our penal system, their expert advice was never acted on, and now the Government places most of the blame for the recent penitentiary riots on the communists. Our prison population today is just double what it was five years ago. If these men come back into civilian life hardened and embittered, with a spirit of vengenance against society, it will be a very serious thing for Canada. If men are treated like brutes, they soon become brutes and if they are treated as human beings, our fellow men, they respond to such treatment. The Royal Commissioners of 1914, in a report said: "Speaking for themselves the members of the committee would not before undertaking this investigation have believed that the penitentiary system could be as needlessly cruel as in fact it is. The Superintendent of Penitentiaries should be a man strong in character but tender, seeking to lift the fallen to a higher plane. He should have great knowledge of penology, psychology and sociology and so should each warden. No doctor in a penitentiary can be as efficient as he might be unless he has very considerable knowledge of psycho-analysis. The roots of crime lie in unsound heredity, poor training in childhood, and in unsatisfactory economic conditions. Crime is a social disease and should be treated as such. I view with alarm the fact that all the new appointments to our penitentiaries are military men without the necessary qualifications.

—AGNES MACPHAIL

Saturday, 18th February, 1933,

He who keeps too many irons in the fire gets burned.

The great China question, as seen in most of our homes, is: "Who will wash the dishes?"

Osprey Council

The municipal council of the township of Osprey met in Feversham on Saturday, February 11, according to adjournment. All the members were present with the reeve, Mr. Taylor, in the chair.

After reading and confirming of minutes of preceding meeting the following business was done. Communications dealt with were from Robt. C. Muir, chief engineer of municipal roads acknowledging receipt of forms of road expenditure for 1932, also re the annual convention of Twp. Road Supts. to be held in Toronto. From E. J. McEwan, notifying township of accident on county road, near Singhampton. Letters received from road sub-overseers who did not wish to accept appointments were: Alex. McDermid, Wallace Potts, Alex. Maxwell and Stanley Butcher.

By-law No. 9 (1933) was passed for the appropriation of money for road purposes for current year.

Mr. J. A. Davidson was appointed collector of the balance of 1932 taxes and also appointed bailiff for the collection of arrears.

General account passed and ordered paid were: Advance Printing Co., $49; Municipal World $43.73; Geo. H. Boon, treasurer of Thornbury, $10; Lucas, Henry & Lucas $175; E. Robinson $3; C. N. Long, Sec.-Treas. of Trustees' & Ratepayers' Association, grant $11.

The Clerk was instructed to write local papers for prices on printing contract for the year.

Road accounts passed were Melancthon townline settlement $32.39; H. McInnes, superintendent $35.35.

Council adjourned to meet at Singhampton on Saturday, March 18th at 2.00 o'clock p.m.

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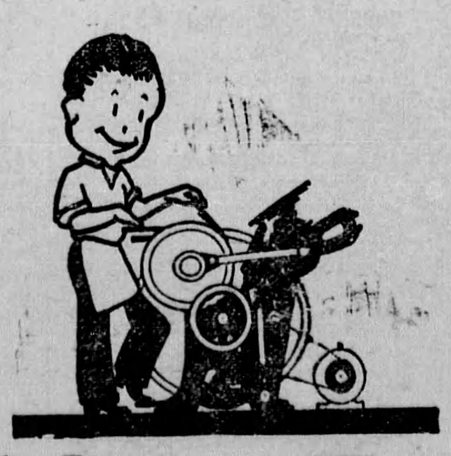

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