THE FLESHERTON ADVANCE

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A TWO PARTY FIGHT?

This year the life of the present Ontario Provincial Parliament draws to a close and without a doubt there will be an election either in the summer or the fall. The number of representatives have been reduced by a switch in constituencies to conform to the standard of representation by population, which showed a reduction in rural communities, and many of the present members will lose out in the shuffle and return to private life. The political turmoil has not yet touched South Grey, but there are murmurings in the air about the approaching election.

Our present member, F. R. Oliver is the only U.F.O. member in the Legislature and apparently he does not intend to continue under the banner of that once powerful party. It appears that he is casting out for the Liberal nomination for this riding judging from his speech of last Wednesday in the Legislature. He is reported as saying:

"I have carefully and thoroughly read the proposals of the group to my right, put forward by my honorable friend from East Wellington, their policy on highways, on education, on distribution, on the necessity for a reduction of taxation, and interest charges, for reduction in the cost of administration, etc., all are policies that I have advocated and advanced during the eight sessions that I have been in the house, and so I say to my friends this afternoon that if they are called upon to form the next government I will offer my support to the extent of bringing these reforms into law, believing as I do that they will be the greatest good to the greatest number and I think that I, or any other independent will be well justified in giving support to these measures.'

Whether or not he receives the nomination of the Liberal convention remains to be seen, but there will likely be other Liberals of long standing out for the nomination. To all appearances there will be a straight party fight between the Liberals and Conservatives with the outcome in doubt.

FRANK ON PRONUNCIATION

One of the editorial dictionaries gives the plural of narcissus as "narcissuses," while gladiolus gets "gladioluses." We tried them over a couple of times, but as the pronunciation sounds too much like a Scotch and soda, or a train stuck in a snow-drift we intend to stick to the old pronunciation of narcissi and gladioli.—Durham Chronicle.

[Wise old boy! Us too! But with us it brings up painful memories. Those words sound to us too much like the hissing of an old gander mother used to own. That gander bit us on the nose and pounded us with his wings. Anything that reminds us of that old fool gander is taboo, so we vote with you.]

EDITORIAL NOTES

France has twenty-seven parties in her parliament. Canada has four—two very small—but there seems no demand for more.

* * *

"What have we to disarm?" asks Mr. Bennett. Well, some of those cuddling motorists, for example.—Toronto Star. But what do the bachelor M.P.'s know about these winter exercises?

* * *

The so-called Moderation League is said to be positive that the Ontario government will sponsor a new liquor law, intended to increase the sale of beer in such districts as may express desire for greater opportunities to drink than is afforded by the act now in force. Premier Henry, however seems to be uncertain as to the course that may be followed.

* * *

Toronto bonspiel last week was a great success, over 300 curlers from all over the province participating. Flesherton curlers are young yet, so did not enter the contest, but may well follow the example of Chatsworth quartette, who carried off the only trophy coming to Grey County. We join with our local curlers in felicitating Basil Ritz and his team, who made a fine win of the Birks-Ellis-Ryrie trophy from the Toronto Strathconas.

* * *

A leading doctor rises to counsel everyone inclined to indulge in osculatory exercise that there is danger of spreading tuberculosis from kissing. In their excess of appreciation, he points out, people forget that the disease is highly contagious. It is not hereditary, but since it has run in families, people have believed that it was inherited. The free use of a handkerchief is strongly advised and in the case of children kissing on the brow instead of on the mouth should be insisted on by every mother. It is reassuring to know that in recent years the ravages of tuberculosis have been greatly reduced by medical aid and careful hygene.

* * *

It is reported from Berlin that a group of German pastors recently called on their congregations to disobey the "dictatorial rulings" of the new Nazi Reich bishop, declaring: "We recognize but one leader in the Church—Jesus Christ. Well for Germany and for the world if these state preachers had taken this stand when ordered by the Kaiser, at the start of the Great War, to unconditionally support him and his blood-thirsty associates to lead in the advocacy of the wholesale slaughter then resolved on. The leadership of the German State Churchmen then was in direct conflict with every Christian tenet. The heathen have been quick to note this.

* * *

Those who have been telling Canadians that they must decrease their crop production if they would obtain living returns for their labor recently expressed hope that grain prices would be increased if the grasshoppers were plentiful next summer. These cheerful counsellors now have brought forward a new hope of aid to their type of prosperity: they are placing their hopes in the effects of abundantly cold weather, which, if much longer continued, may greatly curtail not only the cereal supply but the fruit crop as well. They apparently ignore the admonition of the creator to the first parents of the earth to "multiply and replenish the earth" and the blessings generally believed to flow from respect to the instruction.

SCHOOL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question — Can the trustees overrule a motion passed by the ratepayers at their annual meeting?

Answer — Section 88 of the Public Schools Act sets forth the duties and powers of trustees. The ratepayers elect the trustees to exercise these duties and powers and the trustees are not bound therefore to follow a resolution of the ratepayers where the Resolution would relate to a duty or power given to the Board. It is only reasonable, however, that trustees should carry out as far as possible the wishes of the majority of the ratepayers.

Such duties and powers as the engagemen and releasing of teachers, the purchasing of fuel for the school, the engagement of a caretaker, are entirely duties and powers of a Board of Trustees.

Question — What powers have rural Boards of Trustees with respect to the appointment and remuneration of a secretary-treasurer?

Answer — Under section 88 (a) of the Public Schools Act it is the duty and power of a Board of Trustees to appoint a secretary and a treasurer or a secretary-treasurer. Under Section 135 (3) of the Public Schools Act, if a secretary-treasurer be also a trustee the compensation to be paid to the secretary-treasurer in this particular case shall be the amount approved at the annual meeting or at a special meeting of the ratepayers.

Question — Has an Inspector the authority to punish a pupil while he is making his official visit to a school which the pupil is attending?

Answer — Under Section 4 (1), page 6, of Circular No. 56B, is set forth the duties and powers of an Inspector and the following regulation is given:

"The Inspector, while officially visiting a school in his Inspectorate, shall have supreme authority in the school and may direct the teacher or the pupils in regard to the exercises of the school."

Dog Had Long Walk

That dogs will travel long distances to reach their homes was demonstrated on Sunday, when a little Beagle dog owned for a couple of years by Gordon Stuart of town, travelled from Shelburne arriving here Sunday afternoon. The little dog, an excellent rabbit hound, was sold a couple of weeks ago to Mr. A. J. Skelton of Shelburne and delivered to him. Sunday afternoon the dog walked into the Stuart home, wet and bedraggled and its feet sore from its 22 mile walk on the ice and snow.

The world is a comedy to those that think, a tragedy to those that feel.

HEALTH by Frederick Stanley M.D.

A HEALTH SERVICE OF THE CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES IN CANADA

THE TUBERCULIN TEST

The growing child comes into contact with an increasing number of people, and, as a result, he will likely, sooner or later, pick up the germs of tuberculosis. This does not mean that the child will develop the disease we know as tuberculosis; indeed, we know that most children do not develop this disease.

The tuberculin test which was first used by Koch, who discovered the germ of tuberculosis, is a reliable and practical test which shows the presence or absence of tuberculosis germs in the body of the person tested. A positive test means that these germs are present; it does not mean the disease, tuberculosis.

When a child has a positive test, the question naturally arises as to where germs came from, or more exactly, from whom did they come? In the vast majority of children with a positive test, a careful search will reveal an unsuspected case of tuberculosis among the adults in the home, or who frequently visit the home, with whom the child is often in contact.

From the point of view of the child, it is most important that the responsible source be discovered. If the child is left in contact with the source, it is practically certain that he will develop the disease. Provided the child is removed from further contact, and attention given to keeping him in good health, with particular emphasis on rest and diet, he will most likely, not develop the disease.

The value of the tuberculin test lies in the positive test which indicates that someone has given the child the germs of tuberculosis. This "someone" may then be looked for. Because adults appear well, it does not mean that they may not be chronic cases of tuberculosis. The older person with a chronic cough, which he calls bronchitis, may be tuberculosis.

The tuberculin test is not to be confused with any method of treatment. It is simply a test for the presence of tuberculosis germs, that and nothing more. It is not used alone in deciding as to the condition of the child. The doctor making the examination of the child uses the tuberculin test to assist him in estimating the health of the child, just as he uses other tests and the X-ray.

Tuberculosis occurs in children. The protection demands that they do not live in the home with an active case of tuberculosis, one who has germs in his or her sputum. This means, in practice, that the case or the children must be removed from the home so as to break the contact.

Recognize Themselves In Great War Pictures

Considerable interest has been aroused in the official war photographs being published in the Toronto Star, and recently one of the pictures was that of a Flesherton resident, Mr. A. E. Bellamy. The photograph was taken while he was riding on the top of one of the tanks, as the army was advancing in the last push in August of 1918. With him at the time was a friend, Mr. McGregor Leighton who has visited Emerson in town on various occasions since the war. At present he is residing at Truro, Nova Scotia. Emerson informs us that it was one of the tanks ahead of him in the picture that was struck by a direct hit by a German shell and disabled, making it impossible to open its door from the inside and the men inside were smothering from the fumes. He thinks it was Gregory Clark of the Toronto Star who opened the door and allowed the men their freedom.

Mr. Lawrence McCracken of town also recognized himself in a picture taken in front of the Toronto city hall in which then Mayor Tommy Church was wishing the men a safe return. Another photo was that of a tank mired in the mud of Passchendaele in which he and some other boys lived for a couple of weeks.

The Spring Seed Requirements

Farmers who desire to assure their seed supply at minimum cost are already taking stock of their spring requirements. Those who have seed of their own will be taking steps to have it properly cleaned and graded before the spring rush. Others, less fortunate, will be well advised this year particularly, to secure what they require as soon as possible, making sure that they are getting varieties which are most highly recommended for conditions such as theirs.

On Parliament Hill

With AGNES C. MACPHAIL, M.P.

Parliament was a two-ring circus this week with attention pretty well divided between a special committee set up to investigate into the spread of prices and business practice and the discussion in the House of Commons where, banking is the chief interest.

Startling revelations are being made before the speical committee by professors who have made special investigation of working conditions in certain industries and by chairmen of the Minimum Wage Boards of Ontario and Quebec Even Charles Bishop, writing for the Southam press says: "The conditions are being exposed and they are not healthy." Whether Parliamentary action will follow the investigation is, of course, not yet known, but in any case the bringing to light of such festering sores in our economic life will, I think, be extremely beneficial. Gustave Francq, chairman of the Quebec Minimum Wage Board, said that piece work was at the bottom of much of the trouble in Montreal and that the Board could control hours of work and wages but it could not control piece work as it provided too many opportunities for evasion. He stated that sub-contractors in the needle trades in Montreal made boys' pants at 3c a pair, or 35c a dozen pairs, and from 50c to $1 a dozen for men's trousers. He told also of contractors in the Montreal clothing business paying 15c for the making of a woman's dress and of 150 girls working in a biscuit and confectionery plant at from $1.50 to $6.00 a week. If an attempt was made to enforce the minimum wage law which governs the wages paid girls, they were in some cases dismissed and boys hired at $3.00 a week to replace them.

Professor Cassidy of Toronto University had spent three months investigating general labor conditions and distribution methods of the men's clothing trade in Quebec and Ontario, particularly in the two largest cities, Montreal and Toronto. He stated that the minimum wage laws in both provinces had been openly flouted with regard to wages, hours and sanitary conditions. And moreover that workers were afraid to complain to provincial wage authorities for fear of losing their jobs.

Mr. Cassidy filed with the committee the pay envelope of a girl for 18 weeks in 1933. She had drawn in weekly wages amounts varying from $4.00 to $8.00 and on her pay envelope was the following bit of good advice:

"A strong team—Your pay envelope and our savings accounts make a strong team that can help you to financial independence."

I should think after she had paid board and clothes, recreation, medical services, cultural advantages, she would scarcely have anything left over to deposit in the savings account, and it is hardly likely that she ate up many good steaks, eggs or vegetables, or drank many quarts of nourishing milk. At Joliette, Quebec, before the strike four workers were being paid at $2.00 per week, one at $5.00 and one at $7.00 and in one case at Ste. Rose, Quebec, a girl had been paid at less than 4c an hour. Even before the depression, Professor Cassidy, said conditions in men's clothing industry in Canada were unhealthy but since then they have become progressively worse until today they are disastrous. He stated that conditions were much better in union shops than in non-union shops and that in Toronto the unions had agreements with the shops employing 85% to 90 per cent of the approximately 3,000 workers in the men's clothing trade. Such agreements were made with all the larger firms except the T. Eaton Company and the Ontario Boys' Wear. Professor Cassidy classified the "home work shops," or the practice of the family using two or three rooms in their home as workshops, as the worst sort of sweat-shop. He said the employers complained that large organizations such as the departmental stores with their mass buying power were responsible for price cutting These employers declared that they would not get the business of the large buying concerns unless they met the prices of the low price shops.

Mayor O. J. Kerr of Stratford who had much to do with the strike of the furniture workers in that town and who is himself a furniture worker told of big buying organizations holding a price club over the Ontario furniture manufacturers, thereby forcing down wages and costs in their zeal for sales and more sales. He stated that it took a four-weeks strike in Stratford furniture shops last September to raise wages enough which before the walk-out were 8c and 10c an hour for very experienced workers. Mayor Kerr did not use names of persons, but H. H. Stevens, chairman of the committee, intimated that names and figures would be presented later. Special investigators will probe the Ontario furniture trade, the clothing industry and others, scanning books and documents for official facts.

Speaking of furniture, I have wanted some for a long time. I badly need a study to which I can repair to think and study and get over my bouts of temper and so last Saturday in Toronto I spent some time hunting Southeast Grey furniture and finally got a very nice small book-case, desk chair and a beautiful solid walnut Governor Winthrop desk. The first two were made in Hanover, the desk I am not sure about. When I get my debts paid, but not before, I will add a good studio couch with drop leaf tables on the end, a reading chair and some knick-knacks. It will be a great relief to the family and the neighbors to hear that they can come into the living room while speeches are being prepared, without having their heads snapped off.

The legislation for the incorporation of the Central Bank is before the House. We have wanted a central bank very much, but we want it to be what its name would imply it is "The Bank of Canada." I like the name very much but I deeply regret that it is to be a privately owned corporation with a capitalization of five million dollars. Shares are to be offered to the public at $100 each, with chartered banks as such, barred from holding stock, and no one is allowed to hold more than 50 shares. The Governor, deputy governor and seven directors, are to be chosen in the first place by the government, but after that they are to be elected by the share-holders. The Bank of Canada will take over gold now held by the chartered banks and the finance department, at the old rate of $20.67. It will have the sole right, eventually, to issue notes or currency. The note-issue privilege now enjoyed by the charted banks will gradually be turned over.

It is regrettable that the central bank is to be privately owned and that it is not made clear that the regulating of price levels is its chief duty. We can hardly expect that the national credit will be used to the fullest extent for the purpose of establishing prosperity and happiness among our people by a privately owned bank. Yet, this is just what a central bank should do. It is worth noting that the two countries that have made the most head-way in the last three years are Sweden and Australia and both have publicly owned central banks which have been used as instruments for the regulation of the price level.

House of Commons, Ottawa,
March 3rd, 1934,

—AGNES MACPHAIL

STRAW AS AN ABSORBENT

Straw when used as bedding for live stock will absorb from two to three times its weight of liquid, and if finely cut will soak up about three times as much liquid as when uncut. Further, the absorptive capacity of dry sawdust and fine shavings is from two to four times that of ordinary straw.

The spring poets have not yet made their appearance.

WHEN

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