

The Acton Free Press

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 1928

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TELEPHONE—Editorial and business office 111a Residences 111b

EDITORIAL

The Cobourg Sentinel-Star completed its 90th volume last week. The Sentinel-Star is one of Ontario's brightest weeklies. Its constant effort is to represent Cobourg in the truest sense, loyally supporting her best interests and intelligently advocating measures for the betterment of the community. The long and successful career of this esteemed local weekly says much for wise and business-like management; both editorially and from the standpoint of intelligent, upright business methods.

The principle of proportional representation is evidently impressing itself upon the attention of statesmen and governments. An investigation into the working methods of the proportional representation election system is to be made at once in Alberta and Premier Stewart has commissioned John D. Hunt to conduct it. The way in which the plan has been applied in other countries, and the degree of success which has followed it in actual practice, under varying conditions, will be studied by Mr. Hunt, with a view to future application to the Alberta situation. Other provinces are also giving this matter consideration.

An extra of The Canada Gazette announces that the act amending the opium and drug act which was passed at the summer session of the House of Commons, becomes effective from December 31, 1910. The amendment provides that imports into Canada or exports from Canada of coca leaves, cocaine or any of their salts, or preparations, or opium alkaloids or their salts or preparations shall be only by license from the Minister who is presiding over the federal department of health. Any one guilty of contravention of this act is liable to a fine not exceeding \$1,000 and costs, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, or to both fine and imprisonment.

The New Year's message to the nation, sent out by Prime Minister Lloyd George, is not only characteristic of this great man, but it reveals an intelligent and comprehensive personal knowledge of the prevailing conditions and the spirit most needed to place the empire in the position most desirable for future unity and prosperity. He said: "We bid farewell to the hateful year which witnessed the signing of peace, that did alike a token of victory and a warrant for hope. Whether the new year shall be rich with promise or laden with despair depends upon ourselves. We have reached the time when a concentrated effort is essential to the rebuilding of the world. If we quarrel amongst ourselves we impair our strength and retard our progress. But by united action based on common honesty and inspired by a spirit of general good will, the nation will add to the glory achieved by her sons in battle in the accomplishment of the great task of restoring the prosperity and well-being of our people."

Occasionally unfavorable criticisms are still heard respecting the Hydro organization for generation and distribution of electrical energy. This is rarely found; however, among those who have experienced the benefits and privileges conferred by this system of providing electric current. At the elections on New Year's day a number of the cities of Ontario voted on the question of Hydro radial. In every case substantial majorities were given and in most of them the majorities were overwhelming. Galt's majority was 14 to 1. In Guelph, where by-laws for taking over the street railway system, as well as the adoption of the plan of radial service, were submitted, a majority of five to one was given. In Hamilton, where for years determined opposition was made to the Hydro system, there was a majority of 3,014 for the Hydro radial by-law. This general approval means much for the future success of the electric radial system inaugurated for Ontario by Sir Adam Beck, the practical electric pathfinder of this province.

By the action of the Dominion Government in lifting the ban upon the liquor traffic and restoring that enemy of our country to its pre-war status, Canada has been humiliated and disgraced in the eyes of the world. Amongst the first of the nations to lead in drastic action was Canada. This was to have been expected, for we were known as one of the most progressive, sober and moral nations in the world. It was natural that we should strike a high note. Canada now occupies the dishonorable position of leading in the reaction and being amongst the first to undo the good that was done. In spite of two billion dollars of a war debt; in spite of the vast wastage to be made good, and in spite of the loss of much of the best blood and brain of the nation, the Canadian Government has allowed the liquor traffic again to dominate in the councils of the nation and to work havoc amongst the citizenship of our land. And this at a time when the United States Congress by an overwhelming vote passed a stringent prohibition enforcement measure over the President's veto! This on the eve of the coming into force of constitutional prohibition in the great neighboring Republic! For any Government in this age of the world, to decline to pass adequate prohibitory measures against the liquor traffic and also to refuse to the people the right or power to pass such laws for themselves; and then to deliberately foist that traffic upon the people powerless to protect themselves legally, is the utmost that any Government in Canada has ever dared to do in defiance of decency and righteousness. Canada's greatest shame is that there is no power in this nation, a Government which would do this thing.—Pioneer.

With all the forward movement and uplift talk now going on many people seem to overlook the fact that loyalty to our own constituency—which means ourselves, is sadly lacking. Every time we pass our local places and send our money to the cities for goods of any kind we are helping to pull down the home institutions which are absolutely necessary to all financial, social and moral progress. The forward movement should begin at the root of the evils we wish to combat.—Forest Free Press.

The Government at Ottawa has evidently been "hearing things" as a result of their action in calling the order-in-council prohibiting interprovincial trade in liquor. An official statement has been issued by the Government setting forth the difficulties in regard to temperance legislation. The statement places the blame for the interregnum during which liquor may be transported from Province to Province at the door of the Senate. It is pointed out that legislation to validate the liquor orders in Council and continue them in force failed because of the attitude of the Senate. It is just as well for the Government to let the public know their position on this important matter. There's another argument now for the abolition of this non-progressive body—the Senate.

Palestine may again become the country of the Jews in fact as well as in sentiment. A great tide of emigration is sweeping into that country, influenced by the conviction that Great Britain will shortly accept a mandate for the Holy Land and that the dream of a national home for the Jews is about to be realized, according to cable advice received by the Zionist organization of America. The cable messages state that the world conference of Zionists, which was scheduled to be held at Basle on January 18, has been postponed in view of the "assured possibility of immediate negotiation for the mandate over Palestine." It is also stated that peace negotiations with Turkey will open shortly after the New Year and that British delegates will be Premier Lloyd George, Lord Curzon and Arthur J. Balfour, all three of whom have publicly declared their sympathy with the Zionist movement.

A careful study of conditions, says The Express, leads us to the conclusion that municipalities of Newmarket's size would be better served if the county and town councils were divorced. With our North York contemporary we are in full accord. Towns like Midland, Orillia, Barrie and Collingwood would be much better off paddling their own canoe. As it is now, they pay thousands into the county treasury and largely by "pull" receive a small part back. The system is wrong, the results are disappointing and the annual cost far beyond the benefits.—Collingwood Bulletin. The same argument will apply in towns like Acton and Georgetown. Will any County Councillor tell us what he thinks? Acton received for the \$4,000 to \$5,000 from the county rate we are paying year after year. The greater part of this is being expended on the group of \$100,000 high level bridges twenty-five miles from Acton and Georgetown and which not two per cent. of the population of these towns have ever seen or ever will use. These costly bridges are fine for the convenience of sections of Nelson and Trafalgar, and have greatly increased the values of the farm properties in the neighborhood, but why the ratepayers in the northern sections of Halton should be called upon to pay about one-half their cost to the county is a problem.

The Knighton Whig pauses on some sane advice to those desiring to stop a subscription to a newspaper. It says there is probably no man engaged in the newspaper business in Ontario who is not actually acquainted with a man whose excuse for discontinuing his subscription is that he already "has more papers than he can read." It is only an excuse offered to ameliorate the presumed lacerated condition of the editor's feelings. It has no such effect, for in the first place an editor never worries over the loss of a subscriber except when he leaves the country without paying up arrears. But why not be truthful and say to the honest newspaper man just what you feel in your heart? Go into his den and ask him how much you owe, pay the delinquency and tell him frankly that you don't want his disreputable blackguard sheet any longer. Say to him in his sorrowful tone of voice that you deeply regret his inability to publish a newspaper worthy of the name and advise him to sell his plant to some man with a thumbfull of brains and seek some occupation which does not require so much wear and tear of the mind. Do this, and then you can go away with the comforting assurance that the newspaper man respects you for your candor and will cherish no hard feelings because you choose to borrow his paper instead of buying it.

The New Year with all its business activities is now open and before us. The past year was one of many surprises. Month after month surprises have followed in regular succession. At the outset, the majority of people were looking for a general reaction in the prices of nearly all commodities. There were a few downward changes early in the year brought about by fear of a general slump, but these declines were not to be compared with the advances which followed. In the case of cottons, for instance, there was a short period in which American mills were selling their product to Canadian wholesale houses at prices below the actual cost of production. This condition, however, did not last long. Immediately, orders were received for textiles from overseas markets where there was a big change in the quotation lists. Prices soared higher than ever and have continued to climb almost weekly. In the early days pessimism seemed to reign in the leather market, but with the appearance of foreign orders the trade became brisker than it had been during the war. Some building materials were supposed to be falling fast, but, at the close of the year there is scarcely anything that enters into the erection of a building that does not cost more than when the year commenced. Labor feared that the wages might take a big drop and that would become scarce. This has shown, on the other hand, that men are more urgently wanted than ever, and instead of work being scarce, the laborer has been in a position to demand higher wages. These are merely some of the lines that have shown surprises, and with it, the year ended as one of the most successful periods in history, so far as America and some parts of Europe are concerned.

SMILES

"There are many things more expensive than a wife who can cook, but won't do it?" "Yes, to have one that won't stand with it!"

Cutter—This poem was written by a lawyer. Has it any value?" "Editor, thinking thoughtfully—"About as much as a legal opinion written by a poet."

"Papa, where is Atom?" "I don't know, my boy. You must be Atomic probably." "No, I'm Atomic, the place where everything is known to."

"But suppose," said one of the spectators, "that the game is over, and you have to leave?" "I'd come right down." "That wouldn't stop me," answered the parachutist.

"Maf, friends," said a colored preacher, "the institutional rule to give you one-tenth of what a man has, if you feel you can't afford to much, just give a sixth or a tenth." "Indeed?" "Yes, and when you have nothing, give the next hymn, 'Ode Take Me the Collection.'"

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