

The Acton Free Press

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M. V. MOORE, Editor and Publisher.

TELEGRAPHIC
Editorial and Business Office
Acton

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EDITORIAL

The electors acted the part of wisdom when they filled the vacancy in the Council last week without the expense of an election contest. In the election of E. J. Hassard by acclamation a councillor is secured who has had a successful business career, and who is prepared to apply business methods to the transaction of public affairs.

Another result of the H. C. L. was seen in a bill introduced in the Legislature last week by R. L. Brookin, Liberal member for West Kent. The bill proposes to increase from \$10 to \$20 the amount a magistrate may order a deserting husband to pay weekly to his wife. The bill is an amendment to the Deserted Wives Maintenance Act.

In an illuminative article in last number of the Canadian Courier, Hon. J. A. Calder takes the same position that immigrants to Canada must be really good citizens before they can become good voters. Ira Stratton, of the educational system of Manitoba, is of the opinion that the school must begin where the immigrant train leaves off, and keep right after the young idea with real Canadienism. Both of these thoughtful public men are right.

This report should open the eyes of farmers to the adoption of methods to prevent fire loss. According to a return issued by the Ontario Government there were in the province last year 277 barn fires, where the loss exceeded \$300, with an aggregate insurance paid of \$929,720. Of this total \$345,355 of loss in 102 fires took place in unroofed barns from lightning. In case of rotted barns no fire loss is reported. The figures speak for themselves.

The continued cry in certain quarters for reduced hours of work is unfortunate. Let the wages be the highest obtainable, but hours should not be further curtailed. F. H. Sisson, a prominent New York financier, addressing a Toronto gathering on the subject of the world's financial situation, said that the depreciated currencies are due to under-production of the necessities of life; to a dearth of work rather than a dearth of gold. And so it comes to the rock-bottom fact, that what the world needs most is more work.

The peace treaty is still being shunted about by the political forces of the United States. Last Friday, for the fourth time, the Senate voted to send it back to the President, with a nojo that it had refused to advise and consent to its ratification. The result is regarded everywhere as having put over into the political campaign for decision the long and bitter fight between the chief executive and the Senate majority. And the United States is still no further on in the matter of the war than the armistice. That country is as far behind in declaring peace as she was in taking up her fair share in the war.

The United States authorities are sincerely endeavoring to cope with every phase of violation of the liquor laws. The following item appeared the other day in the Welland Telegraph: Bridgeburg and Fort Erie citizens will no longer find it easy to purchase liquor through brokers across the line. Following the refusal of several of the distillers to accept orders from concerns that did not carry their goods in stock, the United States has stepped in in connection with violations of the mail order regulations in regard to the U. S. postal laws, which prohibit liquor transactions of any kind. The last of the "fly-by-night" brokers across the line closed up Saturday, of the half dozen that sprang into existence there.

Ontario and the Prohibition Situation.
Referring to the question of prohibition in the Legislature last week Premier Drury confessed that the Government was not satisfied with the temperance situation as it now existed. It would be impossible, properly to enforce the Ontario Temperance Act, so long as inter-provincial trade existed. He affirmed his belief in the principle of a referendum on the question of prohibiting the importation of liquor, and expressed the hope that the temperance forces of the Province might come together and reach an understanding with the Government, whereby the question might be submitted to the people and answered once for all. With the Government taking this attitude there is every reason to hope for satisfactory action within a reasonable period.

No Corresponding Benefit to the Consumer.
Co-operation in the marketing of products will be the salvation of agriculture in the Province of Ontario, says the new Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Doherty surely has an unique opportunity as head of the Department of Agriculture in what is largely a Farmers' Government, to do a great service. It is true, as he says, that this Province is far behind a number of other countries in economical transfer and distribution of products. The need of co-operation in marketing and distributing, and the elimination of unnecessary middlemen, has been recognized for several years, and never more than now. The United Farmers' Co-operative Company movement has grown in many directions. Hon. Mr. Doherty says that the business it does at the Toronto Stock Yards exceeds a million dollars a month. In view of this it seems passing strange to the average consumer in the province, with this vast quantity of meat products alone handled co-operatively, with no expense of middlemen, that he has so far received no diminution in the prices he is obliged to pay for meats, fresh and cured.

No Clean Sheet to Start With

The public accounts presented to the Legislature last Friday showed that the Ontario Treasury had a deficit of \$1,580,882 for the financial year that closed on October 31, 1919. Friends of the late Provincial Treasurer claim this showing is merely a different method of book-keeping. It is intimated, however, that Hon. Mr. Smith, the new Treasurer, has sought expert advice in so framing the financial statement of the Province that it will give in the clearest possible manner a true picture of the position of the Province. This is as it should be. The people of the province are anxious to know exactly year by year how our finances stand, without any juggling of capital, and current expenditures merely to make good showing.

A Higher Type of Politics Aimed at

In the debate on the address in the Provincial Legislature last week the new Premier said he believed the people were looking for a higher type of politics than had prevailed in the past. "They are tired of the old game of politics, the battle of the ins and outs. They want to see the creation in some way of a new order-of things... We must have higher ideals. We must have a stricter adherence to the principles of justice. Popular Government has entered on a new phase," he asserted; "when the people themselves should be taken into the confidence of the Legislature. In the interests of the Dominion of Canada, the time has come when Governments and parliaments must quit laying plots and conspiring. We don't want anything hidden, we want the people, the court of last resort, taken into our confidence from the first," the Premier affirmed.

Canadian Money for Canadian Trade

The Canadian Reconstruction Association has adopted this very impressive slogan: "Canadian money, Canadian made, should stay in Canada for Canadian Trade." It has also prepared a list of Ten Commandments for Canadian Trade which are sure to make Canadian people think. Here is its decalogue: 1. Buy Canadian products. 2. Import only necessities. 3. Produce to the limit in field and factory. 4. Co-operate, conserve, specialize, standardize. 5. Develop export markets. 6. Utilize Canadian services—ship by Canadian carriers through Canadian ports. 7. Manufacture raw materials to final stages in Canada. 8. Use science for the determination and development of natural resources. 9. Make quality the hall mark of Canadian products. 10. Be fair to capital. Canadian money should be encouraged to invest at home and foreign capital attracted to promote Canadian industrial expansion!

Old-time Marketing and Buying

The old-time public market was a place of bartering. There the housewife matched her wits against the seller's, and the better man won out by a penny or two. And this was true of the old-time stores as well. Some of us well remember when stores were fewer and stocks were smaller here. When our mothers went to Guelph to do their special shopping, returning, they would recount with great glee, how they succeeded in getting the storekeeper to cut down the price on a certain piece of dress goods from 50c to 40c; how he threw in a couple of yards on another piece, and all hocks, eyes, buttons and trimmings. That was the custom then in vogue. Some paid more—some less for identical articles, according to their separate abilities to haggle. Advertising has helped to make buying fairer-for-all by stabilizing prices. The advertiser names his price—the same for all. You know that in paying it, you're getting the same deal as the next one. You may not have realized what a saving in time, money and convenience is this alone the advertisements mean to you. A return for a week to the old ways of selling would quickly convince you of the service the advertisements in your paper render. They are your market place to-day. Read them.

Canada in a Class With Mexico?

Speaking about the present situation respecting prohibition the American issue says: "It is necessary at present to place mounted inspectors on duty along the Mexican and Canadian borders in sufficient numbers to protect hundreds of highways, paths and streams that afford easy means of smuggling. This situation emphasizes the importance of the campaign now being launched in the United States to assist in the movement for a dry world. As long as Uncle Sam's neighbors on the north and south are in the liquor business there will always be attempts made to smuggle liquor across the border. The Revenue Department is powerful enough to reduce such smuggling to the minimum; but it will require large expense and vigilant effort." However, the smuggler will find that he is playing a losing game. And yet the surest guarantee against border smuggling would be for Canada and Mexico to adopt the "bone dry" prohibition policy. Surely Canada will not be proud of the distinction of being classed with Mexico as a "hindrance" to the United States in enforcing the prohibitory laws. Canada took aggressive measures to abolish the liquor traffic long before the United States. We certainly do not wish to lag behind at this important epoch in the world movement on this great issue.

Are Prices Near the Apex Yet?

Will 1910 become famous in years to come as the year of highest prices in the world's history? This question is sometimes asked, but the best informed men in international commerce have not the temerity to answer it either in the affirmative or in the negative. Certainly, prices of every commodity used by the populace are steadily creeping upward till they have now reached a point scarcely considered possible at the time of the signing of the armistice when, after four years of war and steadily advancing prices, people heaved a sigh of relief thinking that the period of inflated values and financial pinching had about come to an end. But up went prices of every commodity and one advance has followed another advance till to-day prices prevailing on November 11, 1918, look like drops in the buckets of greatly inflated values to-day. Notwithstanding the prices of everything, business is brisk in every line, and despite the warnings that are constantly being sounded about the purchase of luxuries of United States origin, there is evidence of a brisk trade in this line in the town of Alliston. Money is available and an irresistible inclination having seized the possessor of the money to acquire something desired, nothing short of utter prohibition can prevent the sale.

Alliston Herald.

ARE YOU DISCOURAGED?

Remember that! When Abraham Lincoln was a young man he ran away from home in Illinois and was badly mauled.

He had entered hounds, but the dogs were hot on his trail.

He was in love with a beautiful young woman to whom he became engaged—but then she died.

He became a candidate for the Vice-Presidency and was again defeated.

In 1856 he was defeated by Douglas.

One failure after another had fallen—great setbacks. In the face of all this he eventually became—one of the country's greatest men, if not the greatest.

When you think of a series of setbacks like this doesn't it make you feel small and helpless? However, just because you think you are having a hard time in life—just—just—

try working, for instance.

A botanist declares such trees have a way of life.

"To have a tree, we must plant it."

He who plants a tree must water it.

He who plants a tree must care for it.

He who plants a tree must wait for it to grow.

He who plants a tree must let it grow.

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