

The Acton Free Press

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H. P. MOORE, Editor and Publisher.
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EDITORIAL

Reports from the British Isles show that the desire for curtailment or prohibition of the traffic in intoxicating liquors is widespread. The first legislative step toward making the country "dry" will be the campaign to enact local option laws in England, Ireland and Scotland.

Mr. Hartley Bowden says that he is the leader of a prohibition party. Mr. Howard Ferguson heads the party that put the Ontario Temperance Act on the statute book, and his followers in the House, with few exceptions, were elected as out-and-out prohibitionists. The Labor members are staunch advocates of the practice of allowing the people to decide by referendum what they want done with important questions. And the U. F. O. members got into power largely on account of their declarations that neither of the old parties was to be trusted to make prohibition effective. So the Sandy bill for a clean-cut referendum on the question of the importation of liquor should receive almost unanimous approval. —Star.

The New Provincial Treasurer's Budget

The Provincial Budget presented by Hon. Peter Smith, the new Provincial Treasurer of the new government, was in many respects a credit to its author. Hon. Mr. Smith evidently realizes that he is doing business for the people of Ontario, and that they are entitled to know how the public finances stand. The Treasurer estimates the receipts for the current fiscal year at more than twenty million dollars, two hundred thousand dollars more than they were for the preceding year. The ordinary expenditure is put at eighteen million dollars, but with statutory expenditures may reach twenty-three million dollars. This would seem to indicate a deficit of about three million dollars, but the revenue appears to have been very conservatively estimated. The deficit for the year closing last October is put at one and a half million dollars. Both the expenditures and the revenue for the year show a considerable increase.

The Importance of Canada's Dairy Products

Canada's dairy products yielded approximately \$250,000,000 in 1919. Of this amount, about \$95,000,000 was received for exports. These figures easily constitute a record for the Canadian dairy industry. In 1910, the total value was estimated at \$100,000,000 and the exports amounted to nearly \$24,000,000. Although the production of most dairy products made a fairly constant increase during the period of the war, the phenomenal record of 1919 must be attributed in large measure to market conditions. In common with other food products, the prices of milk, butter and cheese rose rapidly owing to a world shortage. Then, too, the more rapid growth of urban centres as compared with the rural population has enlarged the home market, without a corresponding increase in production. It seems reasonably certain that dairying is destined to be an increasingly large economic factor in the future of Canada.

Less Work Naturally Follows Shorter Day

The eight-hour day which has been clamored for, and which has been to some extent adopted, is not proving the success its sponsors presaged, for it. Arguments that establishment of the eight-hour day would result in as large, or greater, outputs as the ten or nine-hour day, have been proved fallacious, so far as France is concerned, by an investigation conducted by the Ministers of Commerce. It is stated that in the merchant marine it has been found necessary to increase the personnel 50 per cent, the woodworking industry, in which the working hours were reduced 25 per cent, has lost 40 per cent. of its output, and makers of bicycles, carriers and other similar machines have found their production cut down at least 33 1-3 per cent. Textile industries report manufactures have fallen off 20 per cent. under the eight-hour system, and enough operators to handle the work cannot be found. Other industries show similar figures. The results of the investigation, while disputed by labor organizations, are accepted by the Ministry as official.

Acton's Memorial to Our Soldier Heroes

Definite action was taken at the public meeting of citizens on Friday evening in the matter of a suitable memorial for the soldier heroes of Acton and vicinity, and the prospects are now very encouraging for prompt action and a successful outcome. The chairman of the Committee appointed at the inception of the enterprise frankly stated at the meeting that the original committee of thirty-five members was too unwieldy for effective action. There was difficulty in getting a quorum and responsibilities were rather lightly assumed. The new committee of five members has been given absolute power to solicit funds; to decide upon the character of the memorial to be erected; and to determine the site it will occupy. On the other hand the meeting unanimously pledged faithful support and cordial acquiescence. The personnel of the Committee is satisfactorily representative. The members are active and interested. Promptitude and decisiveness will characterize their activities. The people of the community will now have an opportunity to prove, with material evidence that the assertion that the general public forgets the brave and heroic deeds of her soldier sons in war within a period of two years, is an unproved calumny so far as Acton and its district is concerned. The Free Press confidently expects that within a comparatively brief period the work of the new committee of five will be successfully consummated and that the result of their wise and harmonious efforts will be generally satisfactory.

High Heeled Shoes a Menace

"No woman who wears the high-heeled shoe that is being foisted upon the female public today, can retain her vitality, figure and personal magnetism," declared Miss Edna E. Lowe, physical culture expert of Chicago, in an address at the closing session of the Manitoba Education Association. Her assertion was greeted by prolonged applause by the audience of 800 teachers, mostly women, who listened to her address. No doubt many of them were at the time wearing the shoe manufacturers' monstrosities. If you wish to see the effect of high-heeled shoes on the grace, gait and comfort of a woman or girl walk a few feet behind as they proceed down street any time.

The Dog Menace to the Sheep Flocks

There is a strong tendency in the Legislature to increase the dog tax; require that all dogs, in town and country, be tagged; and have all dog taxes paid into a county fund from which damages to sheep shall be paid. Legislation was given before the Agricultural Committee of the Legislature that 1919 was the hardest year in history, and the dogs killed more sheep than ever before. This, in spite of the careful law which was passed a year ago to keep the danger in hand. In one township in Essex county dogs had committed damages to sheep which aggregated \$2,600, whereas the total of dog taxes collected was but \$254. For years the dogs of the country have been a menace to the sheep flocks. If they were annihilated by one half the country would be better off.

Profiting From Race Track Gambling

Racing with its attendant race-track gambling, is to proceed in Ontario for another year at least, but the tracks, mile and half-mile, are to be subjected to unprecedented taxation—\$10,000 per day in the case of the mile tracks, and \$5,000 per day for the half-mile tracks. Provincial Treasurer Peter Smith, in his Budget Speech before the Ontario Legislature made this announcement. There are a good many people in this Province of Ontario who would much rather see the race-tracks closed, or the gambling thereof prohibited, which means the same thing, than to raise provincial revenues by this questionable means. If a state like New York can close out this objectionable feature of sporting life, why cannot a province like Ontario? By keeping the race tracks open under present conditions our country is inviting and receiving all the worst of the gambling element of the border states.

The Regulations of the Public Health Act

There appears to be some carelessness in certain quarters in the matter of observing quarantine in the case of infectious diseases throughout the country. Last summer it was reported that persons who were under quarantine in Toronto, broke the regulations and travelled by train to Acton. Other cases of violation are alleged in town and out of it. The Public Health Act forbids, under heavy penalties, any person who has been quarantined from leaving the quarantined premises until all danger of infection is passed and the permission of the Medical Officer of Health is given, after proper fumigation, to raise the quarantine. Similarly, no person other than the Medical Officer of Health, the sanitary policeman and the clergyman of the quarantined person or persons are permitted to enter quarantined premises. This very necessary precaution is arbitrarily enforced in the interest of the general health of a community and every citizen should punctiliously observe the precautions required by law. Any other action will be foolhardy in the extreme.

Canada's Treatment of Her Soldiers

The Dominion Government last week gave quite a positive answer declining to grant the demand of a cash bonus to the soldiers of Canada who served during the war. The Toronto Star says: "In reply to some rather intemperate denunciations of the Canadian Government for their treatment of returned soldiers, an exchange declares that no country in the world has done as much for its soldiers as Canada has done and is still doing. It is, we believe, perfectly true that no other country engaged in the late war has done, or is doing, as much for her returned soldiers as Canada is doing, and no other country after any other war did as much for its soldiers. But, after all, that is not the point. This is the twentieth century, and Canada is a twentieth century country. Ours is the newest country of the new world. It is up to us to do a great deal better in many things than has ever been done in the past, and a great deal better than other nations which are run on ideas very different from ours, are likely to do. But while all this is so there is this much in the argument that Canada is doing more than any other nation for returned soldiers—it is a fact which those who discuss this question ought to acknowledge. The truth is undoubted that Canada through her people and her Government strongly desires to go further and do better on behalf of her citizen soldiers than any other nation is doing or ever has done."

Prohibition Sentiment Growing in Great Britain

Staff correspondents of Canadian papers in the Old Country write very confidently of the progress of the campaign for the overthrow of the liquor traffic over there. Mr. Geggie says in the Toronto Star, writing from London, "Prohibitionists are exceedingly optimistic regarding their campaign to make Scotland dry this year. North of the border a vigorous fight is in progress, prohibition now being the supreme question of national importance. The Independent Labor party delegates, by adopting a resolution at their Glasgow conference calling on Scottish workers to mark their plebiscite paper in favor of 'No License,' have created consternation among distillers and brewers, while temperance advocates are correspondingly jubilant and persuaded that victory is within their grasp. Pending the actual referendum in August, preliminary tests have been carried out by the Scottish Temperance League and these reveal that the greatest successes for prohibition will be scored in boroughs where the electorate numbers more than 25,000. Village communities are, as a rule, swayed by personal considerations and may hesitate to support a measure which will deprive the local license holder of his means of livelihood. In the boroughs this feeling is less apparent. Three propositions will be put before the electors on the voting papers; one, no change; two, limitation of licenses; three, no licenses."

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