

The Acton Free Press

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EDITORIAL

The indications are growing stronger that prohibition is being favorably regarded in Great Britain. The Scottish Trades Union Congress in session last week at Dumfermline, passed a resolution in favor of liquor prohibition.

City people who are now boycotting potatoes because of their cost may be glad to get them next winter at double to-day's price. The crop situation is serious owing to the backward spring and the shortage of labor.—Farmers' Sun.

By a vote of 14 to 0, the committee of the British House of Commons laid on the table the Labor Party's Franchise Bill, under which women would have been given the vote at the age of 21, the same as men. They now vote at 30. The bill would give 5,000,000 more women voters.

When the result of the vote on the question of the referendum for prohibition in the Legislature was given it did seem rather a matter of supererogation to spend the best part of two weeks in debating the question, when only twelve members of parliament voted against the measure.

Canada has less than half as many chartered banks to-day as 40 years ago. In 1880 there were 39 chartered banks in Canada, while to-day there are but 18. Is this semi-monopoly beneficial or otherwise? "In union there is strength," but that very strength may become exceedingly dangerous to the country at large.

Who May Vote on the Referendum

It is well, even at this early date, that the people should know that every man and woman who was entitled to vote at the Provincial elections and on the question of prohibition last October will be just as eligible to vote on the coming referendum if still residents of the municipality where they previously voted. The voters' lists used in those elections, with a possible revision to bring them up to date, will be used in taking the referendum. This is in accordance with the Dominion Franchise Act, which provides for the use of provincial voters' lists with revisions where necessary in Dominion elections.

Courtesy of the Rising Generation

A Toronto citizen told the school teachers the other day that it would be worth while to make Toronto famous for the courtesy of its children. The same might be said in any town, or in the country. Acton, has been remarked for the courtesy of the children on the streets, by visitors to the town. A few thoughtless, boisterous, unruly ones sometimes mar this good reputation. If all would be quiet, mannerly and courteous on the streets what an improvement would be manifest. Let the youngsters all try it. It will pay. A smile and simple nod by the girls, and a dof of the cap by the boys will be followed by favorable comment by all older people.

Remembering the Comrades Who "Went West"

It seems very timely and commendable that the living soldiers of the great war, who were spared to return home again, should remember their comrades who fought by their side, but who fell in action or through illness while on duty, and now "sleep in Flanders," with a memorial bearing their names and commemorating their memory. Such a monument is this week being placed on the lawn of Acton Soldiers' Memorial Home by the Veterans. It is fitting that the unveiling ceremonies, which are to take place next Sunday afternoon, should have as the principal speakers three chaplains who served in the war, and who have since been called to three churches in Acton. The community will admire this mark of esprit de corps by the Veterans. The citizens of Acton and vicinity will accentuate their admiration of our fallen heroes, and commemorate their esteem and reverence by the unveiling of the civic memorial at a later date.

Premier Drury on the Referendum

Drury is making good. No person who witnessed the scene in the House on Tuesday last, when the liquor question was under discussion, could have been in doubt as to the place the Premier of the Province occupies. He absolutely dominated the situation. After a lengthy discussion by the Leader of the Liberal party, in which all the legal entanglements and controversial points were microscopically treated at great length, Mr. Drury cut the ground from under the lawyer Opposition leader's feet by appealing to the common sense of the members in one of the ablest speeches of the session. He enunciated the claims of the private member and declared that it was a British tradition that the largest possible measure of freedom should be accorded him in debate, and that the greatest possible share of responsibility should be placed upon his shoulders in Parliament. At the same time he declared emphatically that he and the members of his Cabinet stood four square in favor of the resolution calling for a referendum that would put an end to the interprovincial traffic in liquor. To those that feared that the Cincinnati call from the flow to take charge of the affairs of the Province would not measure up to his responsibilities, the verdict on this question will dispel any possible doubt. Mr. Drury was undoubtedly master of the situation. His speech was clear, cut, logical, incisive, at times eloquent, but in every instance, courageous and convincing. The Farmers' Sun may have occasion in future to disagree with the Drury Government and criticize some of their actions, but in this particular instance it wishes to accord a full measure of praise. Mr. Drury handled a difficult situation extremely well.—The Farmers' Sun.

The People Will Give Definite Decision

The members of the Legislature last week decided by seven to one in favor of a referendum asking the Dominion Government to prohibit the importation of intoxicating liquors into Ontario. The vote on the referendum will necessarily be taken before the first of August. It is fairly safe to predict that the people of Ontario will in similar ratio vote to ratify this prohibition of importation, and thus to their part to render Ontario "bone dry."

The Fight Against the Food Combines

Attorney-General Raney is using all the power of his position in the effort to combat the food combines alleged to exist in the province. In a lengthy speech in the Legislature last week he concluded with the following declaration: "The Government of this province will take steps to ascertain whether the legal restraints of the public and the consumer under the existing law have been exhausted. If it is found that they have been this Government will endeavor to ascertain what changes in the law are necessary to put the laws of this country and of this Province on at least as good a footing as the laws of the United States—and when the laws have been brought to that point this Government will undertake to see that they are enforced through the courts of justice, of this Province in which the people of this Province have every confidence."

The Rural Population Still Declining

The Farmers' Sun again calls attention, in its last issue, to the continued decline of Ontario's rural population and the gain by the cities and larger towns. Despite the return of soldiers to Ontario, the population of the rural sections has shown by official report a marked decrease during the past year, showing that the movement away from the farms has not been stopped by high prices for farm products. The official facts as to the movement of population and public debt have been a strong club in the hands of the United Farmers of Ontario, and it was with these facts in mind that Premier Drury last week challenged the critics of the potato prices, at the present time, stating that labor had been withdrawn from the farms to such an extent as to render them incapable of producing sufficient food in an adverse season. The Premier's utterance should be a warning to the people at large that a very serious situation is developing.

The Liberty League President Quits

The days of the Liberty League are numbered. The President, Lieut.-Col. H. A. C. Machin, ex-M. P. P., pours out a volley of hot shot at many members of the league when he tendered his resignation as President the other day. "Self and self alone was at the bottom of their motives," he writes in his letter of resignation to T. L. Carruthers, the Secretary. After declaring that he had foolishly thought that these men were behind him on a matter of principle, Col. Machin writes: "Their participation in our work was at the time when their cellars were near depletion, and they got busy and interested, but the moment restrictions were removed and they had their cellars full, nothing mattered. As the rich (with their cellars full) are not at present interested, I see no other way out than to let the league die—killed by the selfishness of the wealthy." This is rather hard on the reputation of this organization which claimed to be working in the interests of the general public. The league was rather hard on its doughty President, too. He says the members let him spend \$3,500 of his own money in the propaganda and never recompensed him with a single cent.

A Canadian Ambassador at Washington

The United States is letting it be generally known that a Canadian ambassador at Washington would be cordially welcomed. Many important questions between the two countries require quicker settlement than present conditions admit. The New York Times says: "For some thirty years Canada, though she had no ambassadors in foreign capitals, has negotiated commercial treaties. She has a department of external affairs, the organ of imperial and inter-Dominion communication with London, with the other British Dominions and colonies, with the foreign consuls in Canada and with the British Ambassador at Washington. The war greatly strengthened and enlarged the sense of unification and nationality among the Canadians. Our financial and commercial relations with Canada are the closest. She sent us in 1919 30 per cent. of her exports. She gets her coal largely from us, and nearly all her coke. She has raised large loans in the United States. There would always be business enough for a Canadian Minister at Washington: He would be welcome however, rather as a symbol or a fosterer of those long relations of amity and good will between the two countries that have never been interrupted save sporadically, and which Americans and Canadians alike hope will continue to grow closer, more cordial and more mutually beneficial, as belts 'two great sister democracies.'"

Remember the Tributes Due Our Mothers

Next Sunday will be observed as Mother's Day throughout North America. Every person with a modicum of love for mother or mother's memory will wear a flower or some other token during the day in commemoration. Tributes to our mothers are timely. Here is a list of beautiful thoughts by great men who value their mothers' memory: John Quincy Adams—"All that I am, my mother made me." Lincoln—"All that I am or hope to be I owe to my angel mother." Napoleon in answer to the question of what France needed most—"Mothers, good mothers." Kipling—"If I were hanged on the highest hill, mother o' mine, O mother o' mine! I know whose love would follow me still, Mother o' mine, O mother o' mine!" Andrew Carnegie—"I owe a great deal to my mother. She was a seamstress, cook, wash-lady, and never until late in life had a servant in the house. And yet she was a cultivated lady. She kept up with the literature of the day. When I was a little tot she used to read good books to me." Thomas A. Edison—"I did not have my mother long, but she cast an influence over me which has lasted all my life. The good effects of her early training I can never lose. If it had not been for her appreciation and her faith in me at a critical time in my experience, I should never likely have become an inventor. I was always a careless boy, and with a mother of different mental caliber I should probably have turned out badly. But her firmness, her sweetness, her goodness were potent powers to keep me in the right path. My mother was the making of me. The memory of her will always be a blessing to me."

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