The Acton Free Press

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EDITORIAL

Pocket Firearms Not Often Necessary

Some people complain of the difficulty experienced in securing legal permits to carry revolvers. The action of our authorities in forbidding the promiscuous carrying or possession of firearms is a very desirable safeguard and really places a premium on human life which does not obtain in other countries. In referring to this very subject the other day the Nashville, Tenn., Advocate said: "One of the chief reasons for the cheapness of human life in the United States is the ease with which pocket firearms can be bought by anyone who has the price. Along with the disarmament of the nations we would do well to disarm private citizens." Fortunately for us in Canada this desirable course has already been taken.

Wage Reductions and Lower Cost of Building Materials

Throughout Ontario there seems to be a general acceptance of wage reductions, averaging ten per cent., especially on the part of men in the building trades. There is a general disposition on the part of mechanics of the building trades industry to fall into line with employers in their effort to stimulate building. Wage reductions are general throughout the Province, ranging from five to fifteen per cent. However, the unfortunate feature of the situation is the unwillingness of manufacturers to do their share by reducing prices of material, which still remain high. If industry is to resume normal conditions, and the unemployed be put to work at useful trades, there must be a generous reciprocity on the part of manufacturers in reducing the prices of the products of their factories. This applies particularly to the manufacturers of building materials. New buildings are necessary, new homes are needed. Now that the men of the building trades are willing to meet the situation with a reduction of wage, it surely behooves the lumbermen, hardware manufacturers, brick and cement producers, and all others engaged in supplying building materials of any kind to meet the workmen with reductions of such percentages of cost as will encourage a satisfactory volume of building activity without delay.

The War Debts and Prohibition

An American paper raised a very significant question respecting the proposal heard in some quarters that the United States could well afford to cancel the war debts of the European Allies. It says: "Questions are raised in regard to the payment of war debts due the United States from the Allies. Supporters of prohibition in this country cannot but believe that no country can properly repudiate its debt or ask to be relieved from the obligation, while the people of the United States are saving colossal sums of money through self-restraint in the matter of drink, and the debtor countries are indulging freely in the liquor habit. France was as hard hit as any allied country and her financial burden is an extremely heavy one. Yet, according to a member of the French government, France is devoting three million acres of land to the production of grapes and other materials out of which to make a billion gallons of wine. An individual who did that and then pleaded that his debts be forgiven because of his inability to pay them, would be told to cease to use his land, labor, and time in the production of a commodity without material value to him and which tended only to vice and waste. If that is true of an individual, it is even more true of a nation. Until France stops the waste that is due to alcoholic indulgence and gets down to the business of producing the things necessary to life, she will have no ground upon which to have her debts cancelled. We are not wasting time, land, labor or men in the production of alcoholic drinks. For the sake of ourselves and the rest of the world, we have put an end to that vicious business."

Courses in Elementary Agriculture

Gradually the educational system of Ontario is being adapted to the various walks of life. Until recently the curriculum of the public and secondary schools was arranged with a view almost exclusively to a university or professional course. An educational move unique in the history of the province will be new courses in elementary agriculture and household science to reach the young men and women of the rural districts. The four counties of Huron, Middlesex, Wentworth and Peel have been chosen for the experiment of making practical education available to all those who were cut off from advanced knowledge when their days at public school came to an end. Beginning on November 28 and continuing to March 28, 1922, gatherings will be held in the public buildings of Wingham, Strathroy, Waterdown and Bolton, the leading towns of these counties, where the lectures will be delivered. The municipalities are supplying the heating and lighting, and the department is doing the rest. The district agriculturist and his assistant will have some of the finest specialists in these subjects on the curriculum. The list of subjects for the men is: Animal husbandry, field husbandry, poultry husbandry, dairy husbandry, farm management, civics, rural organization, veterinary science, bacteriology, farm engineering, birds in their relation to agriculture, horticulture, apiculture, farm forestry, economic entomology, agricultural botany and English and mathematics. The courses for the girls is designed to make them better managers of their homes. Such subjects as the following are on the curriculum: Sewing (80 hours), household management and equipment, home nursing (80 hours), foods and cookery, laundry, household administration, English and mathematics. This is surely a move in the right direction and should mean much encouragement to the young people whose circumstances will not permit a university education.

Practical Farming Education

It is surely encouraging that the registration at the three-months' course in rural studies in Peel county has reached 175. Hon. Mr. Doherty says that the three months' courses, which may later be held in every community, will bring to the rural population a great deal of what they could get at the Agricultural College, and infinitely more than could be acquired through a month's short course. Mr. Doherty promises that if the course at Bolton proves a success, he will offer similar courses to all rural municipalities and will provide equipment and lecturers, the municipality to provide the students and the accommodation for them.

Meeting the Farmers with Electric Power

The Hydro-Electric Power Commission is evidently making a real effort to enable farmers generally to get the advantage of electric power. The Commission has decided to recommend to the Ontario Government that the provincial grant of fifty per cent. toward the construction of primary power lines in rural districts be made retroactive. If the Government approves of the recommendation, and it is thought it can hardly refuse to do so, it will mean that ultimately power users in between thirty and forty townships who had Hydro power before the Legislature endorsed the fifty per cent. bonus, will ultimately benefit by a reduction in rates. It will furthermore encourage many other rural municipalities to take the steps necessary to secure power for farm and home utilities.

The Prince of Wales' Tour Bearing Fruit

Cables from Wellington, New Zealand, recently show that the feature of a discussion in the House of Representatives there on the Imperial Conference was the emphasis laid on the importance of the King as the connecting link of the Empire, even the Laborites disclaiming any desire to exchange His Majesty for a President. This attitude is attributable to the impression made by the Prince of Wales on his recent tour, and general appreciation of the personal interest shown by the King in the Dominion. In this connection Premier Massey stated that the King discussed government proposals in detail, and "sometimes, when His Majesty takes a different point of view, he is able to induce even the Cabinet to change their opinion to some extent. There is very little going on, even in the Dominions, with which the King is unacquainted."

United States' War Department Recognizes Sabbath

An official statement recently issued by the War Department contains a fine acknowledgment of the significance of the Sabbath in the life of the nation. The document has to do with "Conduct of Troops Changing Station by Marching," and is known officially as Circular 220. Among the instructions "published for the guidance of all concerned" is the following: "The sentiment of the nation concerning Sabbath observance should be respected and no marches, except in cases of necessity, be made on Sunday. Opportunity should be provided for religious services, conducted by the chaplain or through community co-operation and dignified publicity of such services should be made." This action, published by order of the Secretary of War and signed by General Pershing, as Chief of Staff, is another heartening illustration of the new place which the chaplains have given to religion in the Army.—Nashville Advocate.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The United States will observe to-morrow—Armistice Day—as a legal holiday. We in Canada cut our observance of the day down to two minutes.

The exchange of courtesies between King George and President Harding on the latter's birthday last week may be regarded as a small thing, but it is an earnest indication of the good will existing between the two nations.

It is sure discouraging that wheat has again got down to the dollar price. Not since 1915 has the price dropped so low. The reason is however, not one of any political policy, inasmuch as the prices in Canada and the United States are almost uniform.

The Manitoba court of appeal has decided that the Royal Grain Enquiry Commission is a legally constituted body and is entitled to proceed with the investigations of the Canadian grain business. This should result in much advantage to the grain grower.

United States and Canadian officials will co-operate in the enforcement of prohibition on border points. The Washington officials greatly appreciate this action on the part of the Ontario government. The officials of both governments are determined to stop the traffic.

The query naturally arises: "Why should British Columbia apples be the choice fruit on sale in Acton stores; and why should they bring as high prices as oranges, when just as fine apples are grown within ten or fifteen miles of this town?" The Ontario apple men are surely not living up to their privileges.

A few months ago President Machin, of the Citizens' Liberty League, resigned from that office and said some hard things about the way he had been used by the members of the League. Last week, Mr. T. L. Carruthers, Secretary of the League, tendered his resignation. He, too, is evidently tired of his thankless and unsuccessful job.

An increase in Ontario of at least 20 per cent. in the school attendance of children between the ages of 14 and 16 is pretty good evidence of the value of the Adolescent Act. This percentage is expected to increase yearly until as large a percentage of school attendance is shown for the year under 16 as formerly was shown for the years under 14.

The thinking people of this continent will have none the less of esteem for the delegations from the nations of Europe, Asia and Africa, because they have graciously decided to respect the prevailing prohibitory law and have their embassies and other quarters absolutely "dry" during the time the disarmament convention is in progress.

SMILERS

Two colored gentlemen were engaged in conversation when one of them became very much annoyed by the persistent attention of a large fly, says Forbes Magazine. "Sam, what kin a fly am die?" "Ef am a hoss-fly." "What am a hoss-fly?" "A hoss-fly am a fly what buzzes 'roun cows 'n hosses 'n jackasses——" "I ain' askin' out to call you no jackass, but you cain't fool dem hoss-flies."

In conversation with Muriel, Myrtle confidentially announced that the engagement of their mutual friend Mollissa to the young minister was off, says the Detroit Free Press. "She told me he was awfully nice in many ways," went on Myrtle, "but he was horribly jealous and took undue advantage of his position." "How was that?" "Well every time she had an engagement to motor with some other man, he would pray for rain."

NIPPED IN THE BUD

Some one has said that we are all more or less "nipped in the bud" but that it is not a ground for tears. The florist "nips" a great many buds, in order that one may develop into a splendid flower. A plant with four or five exquisite blooms is worth more than if it had a score of inferior blossoms. It is necessary to suppress a number of gifts, in order to give any especial one a chance. We may not think of ourselves as lavishly endowed, but it is safe to say that if we undertook to develop all our gifts, not one of them would be cultivated to the point where there would be a living in it.

A "CRY OF THE HEART"

A story is told of a schoolboy who was given an opportunity to hear a great deal about some recent explorations in Africa, under the supposition that he would be much interested in it, but who turned from the whole subject with weariness.

"Don't you like to hear about what all these great explorers are doing?" he was asked.

"Hardly, sir," answered the boy; "you'll excuse me, but it seems to me that there's enough geography already!"

TOO MANY SHORT CUTS

Learn a trade and don't be satisfied until you have mastered the details and are able to prove you are a specialist at your job. One trouble to-day is short-cuts are taken to shorten apprenticeships and the result often is a "botch" turned out instead of a workman. The same is often true of school and college life, anything to get in the prescribed time and as a result it is often a poor stab that is made at the examination tests. You can't grow an oak on mushroom principles. —Brussels Post.

THE POWER OF ADJUSTMENT

When we cannot change our environment, we should learn to adjust ourselves to it. Even though things are not to our liking, it does not pay us to be unhappy about it. If we are poor, the chances are we can improve our condition in life and earn enough to make us comfortable. But if we see no way of getting to that point, or while we are getting to it, we should not become embittered or unhappy every time we see our neighbor's limousine, or have to give up some pleasure. Nothing is so big a factor in happiness as the power to adjust one's environment.

A BALANCED DIET

We have had reports of enormous numbers of undeveloped, malnourished children in our public schools all over this continent and more recently, investigations have revealed these conditions as existing in Toronto schools. This is not because these children are not getting sufficient food, but because they are not being fed intelligently. They are not getting a balanced diet.

In securing for our people a balanced diet, we would cut out at least half of our meat consumption, meat being the most costly article of diet we have, and increase the milk, fruit and fresh vegetables and thereby secure a much better nourished family on a more economical basis. An all wise Providence has made possible a balanced diet for all climes. In the winter when green vegetables are scarce in temperate zones, oranges, lemons and apples are all plentiful and in the summer when these fruits are scarce, green vegetables are plentiful. And in addition to these, milk, cream and butter are available all the year around. If we were a little more observant of the provisions of nature and nature's God, we would have a better comprehension of what Solomon had in mind when he said "In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He will direct thy paths."—Toronto Health Bulletin.

ALWAYS ASPIRING

A young man said to an older one, "You've accomplished wonderful things, things that would have satisfied any ordinary man, and yet it seems to me that instead of thinking of your successes, you're always looking ahead, planning for something else. Ain't right about that?" And his friend laughed as he replied, "I look ahead as much as I did when I was your age. I've no time to waste on my successes."

The young man went away depressed. "Dear me," he said to himself, "this certainly is discouraging. It's not likely that I shall ever make a tenth part of the success Mr. Abbott has made, and yet even he is dissatisfied." And it was some time before he could shake off the feeling of depression.

Yet the thing which seemed so discouraging to the young man is in reality one of the finest traits in human nature. We cannot satisfy ourselves with past successes. Whatever we have accomplished, our instinct always prompts us to turn away from our achievements to what is on ahead. Not what we have done matters, but what we may do, and that fact saves us from degenerating into mere monuments to some past achievement. As long as we live we must keep trying.

A PSEUDONYM

A lady who wanted a servant so badly that she took one without a recommendation or even an introduction, happened one day to look into a book which belonged to the girl, and immediately thereafter went to her with some uneasiness expressed in her face.

"Is this your book, Bridie?" she asked her.

"Yes'm."

"How is this, then? When you came you told me your name was Bridie Stokes, but here in this book is the name 'Bridget Lafferty.'"

"It's all right, ma'am," said the girl. "That's me nandy-plume!"

BILL'S VOCABULARY

"Say, pa," Harry demanded, "what part of the body is the vocabulary?"

"Why, Harry?"

"Oh, teacher said Bill Smith had a large vocabulary for his age."

The Man of the Hour

In this hour of Canada's most acute national crisis, the country's greatest need is leadership—not class leadership, not sectional leadership, but NATIONAL leadership. A pilot must be chosen possessing the necessary courage, foresight, breadth of vision and determination to lead the nation safely out of the existing economic uncertainty.

And one man stands out head and shoulders above all others as pre-eminently fitted for the task.

Born on a farm near St. Mary's, Ontario, Arthur Meighen is a true son of the people, a toiler who has fought his way to eminence by sheer ability and force of intellect. Entered Parliament in 1908; appointed Solicitor-General in 1914; Minister of the Interior in 1917; and Prime Minister in 1920.

At the Imperial Conference he was acclaimed by the Press of Great Britain as a great statesman, as a strong, virile, vigorous personality—alert in mind, keen and far-seeing in judgment, and with a fearless determination to stand for the right.

Professor A. D. Skelton, of Queen's University, and biographer of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, wrote of the present Prime Minister:—"He has already given proof of high administrative capacity. His personal integrity is beyond question."

Of himself, Arthur Meighen said to his constituents the other day:—"You know where I stood on this issue in 1908, in 1911, and as in 1911 I stand to-day."

A Real Force A Real Leader

Canada Needs Meighen

The National Liberal and Conservative Party
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Addressing the dry goods section of the Retail Merchants' Association, at its annual convention, T. M. Humble, a well known advertising writer of Toronto, placed emphasis on the value to merchants of weekly newspaper advertising.

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