

The Acton Free Press

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EDITORIAL

Permanent Benefits from the Washington Conference

In a great speech in London, England, the other evening, Mr. Balfour emphatically set forth that big issues were advanced towards permanence of settlement, at the Washington conference. The note struck from the very beginning by the United States, and throughout he believed to be the sincere and only desire of those on whom ultimate decisions came to rest was not this or that petty national advantage, but the far greater national advantage which came from going into international arrangements. They realized that the world had been slow to learn that the advantage of part was best to be reached by the advantage of the whole. And it was because they pursued that, that something permanent had been attained.

Canada's New High Commissioner

As was expected P. C. Larkin, of Toronto, has been appointed Canadian High Commissioner in London, England. Mr. Larkin is a man held in high esteem and is essentially a statesman in commerce. His successful industrial experiences of a lifetime amply fit him for the responsible position as Canada's representative at the heart of the world. Vision, courage and achievement have combined to make his name known not alone throughout the length and breadth of Canada, but have given it as well a continental fame. In England, too, it is a name that has been connected with the important work of investigating the resources of the Empire in their relation to matters of industry and trade. Canada will be well served by High Commissioner Larkin.

Few Patients Now for the Gold Cure

Here's a bit of evidence that the agitators for beer of stronger alcoholic content might consider when they have nothing else to do. Mr. B. E. Neal, president of the once famous Neal Institutes for the treatment of liquor victims, stated at a recent gathering: "I am president of 65 Neal Institutes that were located in the principal cities of the United States and Canada. During the twelve years before the Volstead Act became effective, we treated more than 125,000 drinking men and women. Chicago and Cleveland institutes treated more than 100 patients a month; Los Angeles and San Francisco averaged 25 to 30 a month. To-day Neal Institutes still operating do not average two patients a month. Nearly all the Neal Institutes have been closed through lack of patronage, and I am devoting all my time to another business." Of course some people say that prohibition don't prohibit, but it is safe to say that the necessity for treating chronic drinkers is gone forever.—Newmarket Era.

Government Prisoners under Ontario Temperance Act

At the meeting of the Council last month it was decided to memorialize Attorney-General Raney with regard to prisoners confined in county jails for offences in connection with the Ontario Temperance Act. In the memorial it is set out that in many, if not most cases, the heavy fines, some of them from \$800 to \$1,000, go wholly, if paid, to the province. In case of default the offenders go to the county jails. Sometimes the fines are paid after a month or shorter period of imprisonment and the Government reaps the full benefit, without becoming responsible for the keep of such prisoners. It is asked, that a clause be added to the Ontario Temperance Act or the Administration of Justice Expenses Act, directing the Auditor of Accounts to classify as "Government" prisoners all inmates of county jails, who are serving sentences, either without the option of a fine, or in default of payment of a fine, or in cases where the fine, if a fine imposed, would be payable to the province, and that such amendment be retrospective. It would seem that this request is a very sane and equitable one. If the Government receives the fines, when fines are paid, surely it is good reasoning that the Government should meet the cost of keeping prisoners in jail when fines are paid, or when convictions for violations for second offence—only punishable by imprisonment—are made.

The Present Situation in Ireland

A couple of weeks ago the indications were bright that peace had at last come to Ireland, and the friends everywhere of this temperamental country were full of hope that harmony and prosperity would henceforth be the happy lot of the people of that island.

On the eve of the consummation of the Irish settlement, however, a new crisis arose over the boundary between the North and the South. When it was announced that Sir James Craig, of the North, and Michael Collins, of the South, had come to an amicable understanding about the Ulster boundary line there was general satisfaction mingled with no little surprise. It had been thought that the issue was too important to be decided in a chat between these two leaders. A feeling of good fellowship sprung up immediately between Ulster and the Irish Free State. The South removed the boycott against Ulster and the yards of Belfast lifted the ban against Roman Catholic workmen. Trade between the two sections was resumed and the future looked rosy.

But the situation suddenly took on a different aspect when Mr. Collins announced the claims of the South in the adjustment of the Ulster boundary. Sir James Craig says that he and his colleagues were deceived by Lloyd George, who gave them to understand that the revision of the Ulster boundary was a mere formality and that no radical change would be made, whereas the South wanted to take away a large section of Ulster, in which the population was largely Roman Catholic. The feeling is strong again and there seems to be danger of the resumption of the boycott. It is generally hoped that both sides have gone too far on the path of conciliation and friendship to turn back to the old methods of strife and bickering.

Building Costs are Now Declining

The lumber and building supplymen announce that building materials are now lower than for several years. It is believed that lumber prices have touched the bottom and that the tendency is for higher prices in the near future. The manager of one company gives a very concrete idea of the present position of low prices. He reports: "We make a practice of selling the complete outfit for construction of a thoroughly built home. Last year this home would have cost \$3,048.80. The prices for 1922 for the same building stand at \$2,577.60, or, in round figures, one-third less than last year. Here's another—last year, \$2,237.00, and this year \$1,557.70. Renewed activities of contractors and builders throughout Canada would indicate that they are preparing for more building this year."

Position of Canada is Absolutely Sound

Speaking at the banquet of the Retail Merchants' Association at Toronto last week, Sir Charles Gordon remarked: "There is no panacea to cure the present condition of business affairs in short order. International credit has been disrupted to such an extent that it is almost impossible to do business with important foreign countries. The economic conference at Genoa, which I am to attend as a Canadian representative, is to devise ways and means to put these countries back on their feet. Canada's financial position, however, he declared, "is absolutely sound, the condition of its finances and its gold reserve affording ample evidence of the occupancy by the country of a most favorable position among the nations." Such assurance from an undisputed authority means much in maintaining a position of confidence in the future business activities and the movement of trade and commerce in Canada.

The Influence of Good Women

The helpful influence of good women has been recognized in all ages. When they unite in some cause for the betterment of society, or the uplift of the fallen, or the reform of some harmful habit or vice, the results are always salutary. Twelve hundred women who recently held their first annual convention have opened in Washington a Service School for Women, with Dr. Charles P. Neill, commissioner of labor under Presidents Roosevelt, Taft and Wilson, at its head. The same women have set to work to protect the sanctity of marriage and of the home, to restore conventions of dress and of action among women, which always have been intrinsic factors in the influence of good women, and to induce editors of newspapers not to print unimportant and improper details of crimes, especially when committed by women. If the good women generally would unite in a movement of this kind it would have large probabilities of success.

The Government is Economizing

Having saved a million dollars for the country in one direction, namely, the purchase of the ice-breaker, John D. Hazen, instead of going on with the building of a new vessel, the Government has shown that it intends practising further economy, and already hints are being given of drastic cuts in the estimates for the different departments. One of these, to which the pruning knife is being most heavily applied, it is stated, will be that of defence, where a saving of several million dollars is expected to be effected by revision of the estimates. The bringing of the four defence departments under one head has meant a possibility of saving in various directions, which is added to the fact that there is a general feeling that in the present condition of things, the country has better uses for the public monies than spending them in the upkeep of a large defence force. The estimates for that combined department, it is anticipated, will be kept within seven million dollars, which is the lowest figure for many years.

EDITORIAL NOTES

At a meeting of the Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association at Toronto last week the minimum rate for newspaper subscriptions was fixed at \$2.00 per year. Representatives were present from nearly every province in Canada. The annual convention in June will be held in Ottawa.

The session of the House of Commons promises to be full of interest, even though the legislative programme at the opening is somewhat meagre, for there are many matters which must be dealt with regardless of the fact that the Government has only had a few weeks in office to prepare things before going to meet Parliament.

It is said that the Conservative party is going to have a "light beer and wine license" plank in its platform. Booze cannot float any party to office in this province.—Farmers' Sun. Oh, not the Conservative party! Just a few hot-heads for whom booze has special attractions. No real up-to-date Conservative will want association with that pro-

gressives, either without the option of a fine, or in default of payment of a fine, or in cases where the fine, if a fine imposed, would be payable to the province, and that such amendment be retrospective. It would seem that this request is a very sane and equitable one. If the Government receives the fines, when fines are paid, surely it is good reasoning that the Government should meet the cost of keeping prisoners in jail when fines are paid, or when convictions for violations for second offence—only punishable by imprisonment—are made.

The question of the reduction of freight rates is one of great importance to be dealt with by the new Dominion Parliament. Any move that can reasonably be made to establish the grain-growing industry of the West on a better basis, and secure more satisfactory returns to the man on the land, means a great volume of business to the manufacturers of Canada, with an increased opportunity for success for mechanics and laboring men.

Mr. John T. Hawkes, editor and proprietor of the Moncton Transcript, died last Friday. Mr. Hawkes had been in failing health for the past two years. He was on the staff of the Globe for a time, then became editor of the Hamilton Tribune, a prohibition daily, in 1885, and later was editor-in-chief of the Ottawa Free Press. Since 1887 Mr. Hawkes has been editor and proprietor of the Moncton, N. B., Transcript. He was a man of high character and sterling worth, and was held in high esteem by his brethren of the press.

CHARACTER AS AN ASSET

Johns Hopkins, whose fortune exceeded \$100,000, left Baltimore University with a record loan to man who could offer excellent security and loaned money to others who had no financial standing. Yet in spite of this seemingly eccentric conduct he was a man of great integrity. His son, in dealing with his estate, said: "My father was not in reality capricious, but was due to an intuitive knowledge of men. A cousin of Mr. Hopkins, at one time asked him if he would lend him \$1,000. My father said, 'I don't know what you are asking for,' and in a recent letter of 'Gulliver's Travels' he told the great financier:

"I never pay much attention to a man's character, but I always try to know what a man is worth, but that does not determine my judgment. I must know about the man, and out a man does not live long I will not lend him any money. If I lend him, however, he has a good life, is truthful and fair in his dealings, then I will usually lend, regarding his assets, and I scarcely ever lend to a man who is not honest, but I do not like to lend to him. If he has a reputation for sharp practice in the field that I do not like, then I will not lend him any money. If I lend him, however, he has a good life, is truthful and fair in his dealings, then I will usually lend, regarding his assets, and I scarcely ever lend to a man who is not honest, but I do not like to lend to him. If he has a reputation for sharp practice in the field that I do not like, then I will not lend him any money. 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