

# The Action Free Press

Member Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association  
Member Selected Town Weeks of Ontario

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 1922

THE ACTION FREE PRESS is published every Thursday, weekly at 15 cents, \$1.50 per year in advance. Postage is charged on all issues sent outside the State. The date to which subscriptions are paid is indicated on each issue.

ADVERTISING RATES.—Transient advertisements, 1 cent per line; state margin, first insertion and 5 cents per line for each subsequent insertion; 10 cents per line for each inch or more per annum; 16 cents per inch each insertion. Advertising specific directions will be inserted full-folded and charged accordingly.

H. P. MORRIS, President and Editor,  
G. A. DILLIS, Manager and Assistant Editor.

TELEPHONES—  
Editorial and Business office  
Residence of President

## EDITORIAL

### A Haltonian for the Senate

The Milton Reformer nominated W. F. W. Fisher, of Burlington, to fill the vacancy in the Senate caused by the death of Senator Milne, of Hamilton. So long as the Senate is to be continued no better appointment could be made. Mr. Fisher is a prominent citizen, a successful business man, and a student of Canada's needs in its present day. It looks now, however, as if the nomination was a trifle tardy.

### Evidently Two Sides to the Question

In Ontario the Roman Catholics are petitioning for increased grants to their Separate Schools. Naturally Protestantism is strongly opposing any increase over present grants. In Quebec last week a resolution was unanimously adopted by the Orange Grand Lodge to the effect that the Protestant minority in the Province of Quebec be entitled to the same law as exists in the Province of Ontario in educational matters; or in other words that they be granted the same privileges as are enjoyed by Roman Catholics in Ontario. This latter would at least seem to be fair.

### Peace Soon Proves Profitable

Austin Chamberlain, the Government leader told the British House of Commons last week, that the cost of the British delegation to the Washington conference was not expected to exceed \$250,000. He said the abandonment of the construction of four capital ships as a result of the conference, would mean a saving in 1922 of approximately \$15,000,000, and that ultimately a saving of \$150,000,000 would result from the conference. Total savings on estimates for 1922 and 1923 probably would exceed \$50,000,000, he added. Outside, entirely, of the avoiding of bloodshed and the engendering of hatred, the economic profits will be almost beyond computation.

### Good Times are Coming, Get Ready

The following from the Mail and Empire is refreshing in the light of the prophecies of disaster sure to follow the defeat of the Meighen Government, which abounded in the same columns prior in the election last December: "Trade is gradually mending. It is by no means in a flourishing state, but the time is not far away when it will be. No other country has better industrial and commercial prospects than Canada has, and the next forward movement is not likely to start sooner in any other country. When the rush of business comes we must not be caught in a state of unpreparedness. In dull times we ought to be getting ready for good times." This later prophecy is evidently made in all sincerity, and the exhortation coupled with it is quite timely.

### One Law for High and Low

The scandal of "the last-night spree," alleged to have taken place at the Parliament Buildings last spring, created quite a furor in the Legislature and left a bad taste in the mouths of the people of the province generally. Premier Drury's prompt explanation that he had investigated the matter as soon as he heard about it and found that no member of the Government was implicated, was good, so far as it went. But the people of Ontario desire that the Premier be able to say that no member of the Legislature was implicated; or, if any were, that they would be treated in the same way as any other violators of the law. A Legislature that passes a prohibitory law should at least see to it that the law is not broken by legislators in the Legislative building.

### The Enforcement of the Law

Due credit must be given to the authorities of the Ontario License Department and the Dispensaries of the Province for their efforts to enforce the provisions of the Ontario Temperance Act. At the dispensaries every prescription issued by the doctors of the province is carefully examined by the investigating officers. If irregularities occur, or there is any evidence of evasion of the regulations of the Act, the matter is at once taken up with the physician offending. If satisfactory explanation is not forthcoming, information is laid before a police magistrate and upon conviction fitting penalties are imposed. Ontario is fortunate in the high class of medical men who are practicing to-day. Of the 3,500 physicians of the province to-day only about 125 have caused the Department any trouble by wilful evasion or careless violation of the provision of the Ontario Temperance Act.

### Speech from Throne Presages Hoped-for Prosperity

The Speech from the Throne at the opening of the House of Commons last Thursday certainly gave the country fruitful themes for consideration. The Government of Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie King broke its policy of silence and surprised their best friends with statements of policies such as rarely have been revealed in such a document. It was a lengthy speech—one of the longest in the history of Canadian Parliaments. Contrary to custom, it contained real statements, and was not crowded with the usual platitudes. Six outstanding proposals are presented. 1.—Co-operation at an early date of the Government-owned railway systems. 2.—Some tariff changes this session. 3.—The arrangement of conferences with the railway heads to secure a reduction in the freight rates on basic commodities. 4.—Renewed efforts to attract settlers to undeveloped lands. 5.—Negotiations with other countries looking to trade expansion. 6.—Co-operation of the country's defense forces. The Speech is a fairly substantial and explicit document, and if all its promises are fulfilled the Government and Parliament will not lack employment. The debate on the address, which opened on Monday, is bringing out much that is highly interesting and informative to the people of Canada.

### A Win Out for The Farmers

At a meeting of the Junior Farmers' Club at Trafalgar last week a stirring debate was held on the relative merits of a salary of \$2,000 a year, or ownership of a hundred acre farm, as a start in life for a young man. The debaters upholding the farm won out. Either they have some mighty fine debaters down in Trafalgar, or the farms in that township are more productive than those we generally hear about.

### No Loosening of the Ontario Temperance Act

"I give you my word that this Government will not introduce any amendments to loosen the Ontario Temperance Act; but let us entrench ourselves before we go further," was the reply of Premier Drury last Thursday to a large deputation from the Dominion Alliance convention, waiting upon him and the Attorney-General, requesting further tightening up of prohibitory laws, including the prohibition of native wines.

### EDITORIAL NOTES

A consolidation of the Voters' List Act, which will simplify and bring together all the laws and amendments upon the matter, and result in a saving in expense, has been introduced by Premier Drury.

Manitoba purposes giving bootleggers their just desserts. Major H. R. Richardson, M. P. P., will introduce a bill giving jail sentences, without the option of a fine, to all persons convicted of this offence.

Co-operative marketing is proclaimed as the new solution to successful agricultural pursuits. Higher returns to the grower; lower cost to the consumer, and plenty for everybody. This three-sided result is just what Canada wants just now.

Shipments from the United States of arms or munitions of war to China has been prohibited by President Harding in an official proclamation. For years American manufacturers have been supplying munitions and these have been a menace to the internal peace of China.

The presence of Miss Agnes McPhail, M. P. P., gave a touch of novelty to the House of Commons at Ottawa last week when the members assembled for the session. This feminine touch has come, and come to stay, and the feminine voice will be heard in the Commons' debates hereafter.

Mrs. Margot Asquith's views on the supposed failure of prohibition in the United States and Canada are of no greater value than her views as to whether or not there are canals on the surface of Mars. She saw little on this continent, except the interior of public halls, hotel bedrooms and Pullmans, Globes.

The Moderation League of Ontario are petitioning the Government to give the people a chance to vote on Government control of the sale of liquor. The people have already voted thrice on that question, and every time with an increased majority. It's hard to satisfy some folks. The most of the people of Ontario think the Government is handling more liquor now than is good for the country.

Premier King, speaking for the first time in the House of Commons as Prime Minister of Canada, was given a tremendous reception, in which the Progressives added their cheers to those of the Liberals. This was at the opening of Parliament, when Mr. King rose to outline traditions in connection with the election of the Speaker and his duties. The new Premier evidently has a sympathetic following in many of the Progressives.

World-wide prohibition and the establishing of a world order of things where the curse of the liquor traffic would be known no more, was the lofty note struck at the closing sessions of the Provincial Temperance convention and the forty-sixth annual meeting of the Ontario Branch of the Dominion Alliance last week in Massey Hall. The Alliance has seen marvellous progress toward prohibition since its organization. World-wide victory is worth aiming for.

The arguments for good roads; roads which may be depended upon 365 days of the year, are growing more and more numerous; reasonable and insistent, is beginning to be realized that good roads mean higher land values, and that they bring higher rental incomes. Land owners are becoming leaders in the good roads crusade, for they invariably find that good roads mean more dollars in their pockets and more pleasures for their families.

Practical results continue to be manifested as sequels to the recent Washington conference. The British Government is now taking steps to secure a reduction in the army estimated by £10,500,000. This would mean a reduction of the army by 33,000 men, and the disbanding of 24 battalions of infantry, 47 batteries of artillery and the equivalent of five cavalry regiments, with a corresponding reduction in the higher staffs and ancillary services. A wise move.

There is no doubt that the spirit of humanity is developed in a very high degree in Lloyd George, the Premier of England. In a recent debate in the House of Commons respecting the coming Geneva conference, he said: "Do give us another chance, of talking together; of appealing to reason, and see whether the old sense of brotherhood, that is at the bottom of all the human race, will not end in grasping hands and in friendly co-operation with the rest, and not in conflicts that bring disaster and ruin to all."

It is very satisfactory news that ex-Imperial veterans may now obtain the difference between the amount of gratuity received from the Imperial Government and the Canadian gratuity, the latter being very much larger. Prompt action must be taken, however, as all applications must be in on March 31, 1922. It is explained that the applicant does not necessarily have had to reside in Canada when the war broke out so long as he can successfully prove that he was a bona-fide resident of this country at the time of enlistment. This addition to gratuities affects a number of Action veterans who served in the Imperial forces.

### Our County's Public Schools

An Intensely Interesting Report by Inspector J. M. Denyes, B. A.

Few reports of a routine character are presented to the public which concern the interest, the information, and the education which is found in the annual report of J. M. Denyes, Inspector of Public Schools for the year ending May 31, 1921.

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