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THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 20, 1923

EDITORIAL

Easter-tide—1923

Easter should be a time of quiet, reverent gladness. It is an anniversary fraught with joy and confidence. Earth's awakening at this time seems a symbol of the Easter hope. Indeed, nature seems full of symbols of the things which concern spiritual existence, but nothing is more impressive, or more analogous than the triumph of life after apparent death, winter's sleep and spring's glory. Year by year the sacred drama of the resurrection is enacted before our eyes. From the dead stalks of perished flowers new shoots unfold. Where the eyes saw only desolation there is greenness and beauty. After the winter's heart-breaking hush and cold, there comes a burst of sun. We could not forget the resurrection story if we would, when every springtime recalls it, when every April expresses in unforgettable symbols, the world's greatest hope.

Beautiful blossoms of crimson and gold,
Braving the springtime frost and cold,
What is the message you hearts unfold?
"Winter is past, the summer is near."
The flowers you always have loved are here,
So dear with memories sweet and true,
They seem to be blossoming just for you.
Fair Easter lilies with beauty replete,
Type of God's angels so pure and sweet,
Always are saying: "Be brave, be true,
Life everlasting is promised you."

Butter and Cheese Exports to United States
Canada is winning prestige with United States buyers in the matter of dairy products. Statistics supplied by the Dominion Department of Agriculture show that, despite the new United States tariff, our export of butter to that country in January, 1923, was greater than in the corresponding month of last year, being 491,466 lbs., against 185,828 lbs. For the ten months ending January 31, 1923, it was, however, somewhat less than in the corresponding ten months ending on the same date in 1922, being 2,220,844 lbs. against 2,894,583 lbs. Cheese was much in excess in 1922-23 of 1921-22, being 5,880,500 lbs. compared with 2,564,844 lbs. So, too, was the export over the border of powdered milk from Canadian factories in excess in 1922-23 compared with 1921-22, the returns reading 1,472,653 lbs. against 322,185 lbs.

The Increase in Savings' Bank Deposits
This journal makes no apology for keeping before its readers the salient facts which prove conclusively the betterment to the people of the country, morally, physically and financially, through the enactment and enforcement of laws prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors over this North American continent. Singular proof of the financial benefits accruing have just been published by the American Bankers' Association. The savings banks deposits have increased every year since prohibition was enacted. Last year they were \$18,087,403,000 against \$16,418,605,000 in 1921, an increase of nearly \$1,500,000,000. The number of depositors increased from 26,837,831 to 28,957,526. The Vermont issue says: "When thousands of families stopped contributing to the brewers, distillers and saloonkeepers, there were more savings bank depositors and a greater volume of deposits. A nation becomes richer as its people are more prosperous, and prohibition and prosperity go hand in hand."

The Bank Act Has Stricter Clauses
The re-draft of the Bank Act now before the House of Commons, seeks to place real, instead of seeming, responsibilities upon the executive officers of the bank. The President, Vice-President or director acting as President and the General Manager or other principal officer of the bank, who have severally signed any financial return, showing the bank's position, shall be deemed to have ascertained the true financial position of the bank. In regard to the returns which banks are required to make to the Finance Department, and which are subsequently given to the public, the bill proposes no change in the designation of the officers who sign the return, but it is provided that "such return shall be deemed to have been prepared, approved and concurred in by the persons severally who have signed the same. It shall not, however, be sufficient that such return agrees with the books of the bank, but the return shall set forth the true financial position of the bank according to the latest information possessed by or reasonably available to the officers, or any of them, who sign the return. This should place a legal responsibility upon the officers who sign the return, which was held not to be the case in the recent examination into the affairs of the unfortunate Merchants Bank.

Income Exemption for Children

When the Act providing for income tax was first passed by the House of Commons the exemption for children under eighteen was fixed at \$200. Last year, owing to the fact that it was found that it cost more than \$200 a year to bring up a child, the exemption was raised to \$300. Last week the House of Commons adopted a resolution providing that "the Government should consider the expediency of further amending the income tax law by increasing the amount of the exemption for each child from three hundred to five hundred dollars, and by exempting altogether the father of five children, under eighteen years of age, who has an income of less than \$5,000. Joseph Archambault, Liberal, Chambly-Vercheres, who submitted the resolution, said that every one who had children knew that it cost more than \$300 a year to bring up a child. He had figured it out and found that it cost far more than \$500. The law at present provided for an exemption of \$2,000 for a married man. The idea evidently was that this amount was necessary for the proper upkeep of a man and his wife. If this amount was necessary, surely the exemption for each child was quite inadequate. The resolution evidently found favor in the House. Exemptions, where they touch the electorate so closely, generally find favor.

Has Worthily Filled the Position of Premier
Seldom is a leading political newspaper so frankly fair to one in high position, when the spokesmen of its party are studiously endeavoring to embarrass him, as the Hamilton Spectator has been in its references to Premier Drury. The other day it referred editorially to the Prime Minister as follows:

"Rarely is a man called to the premiership of a province without political experience or service as an elected representative. This, however, was the good luck—or fate—that befel Hon. E. C. Drury, Premier of Ontario, when in 1919, after an election that left the standing of the parties uncertain, the lieutenant-governor called upon him to form a cabinet. Responding to the call, that was, of course, unsought and one may infer, unexpected, the newly-chosen first minister was elected in the county of Halton and thus qualified for a seat in the Legislature. Though he thus entered public life in an unusual manner, Mr. Drury had many qualifications for the high task to which he was summoned, as the son of a former cabinet minister in the Ontario Government, and a lifelong student of public and political affairs. Previous to his acceptance of the premiership he was an acknowledged leader as a representative of farmers' associations, master of the Ontario Grange, secretary of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, and the first president of the United Farmers of Ontario, since more widely known to the leaders in the House as the U. F. O. During his term as the Government head, Mr. Drury has displayed a marked ability as a House leader, a keen debater and a man possessing the courage of his convictions. Fighting a strenuous battle on a small and precarious majority, he has held his forces together over against an impending election. What the gods have in their laps for this farmer-premier no one can foretell, but that he has worthily filled the position is acknowledged by friend and foe alike."

Coming as this does from one of the leading dailies of the Conservative party in Canada, and on the eve of a general election, it carries much greater weight than the unseemly heckling directed at the Premier in the House by would-be leaders and lieutenants anxious to displace the Hon. E. C. Drury.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Enquiries are being made almost daily as to when "perpetual care" is to be adopted for Fairview Cemetery. A joint committee of Councillors and citizens could readily formulate a plan and administer it.

Owing to the fact that there is a world surplus of sugar there is no economic justification for the high price of sugar. Isn't it time, therefore, that the Government stepped in to control the exorbitant prices being exacted?

It is encouraging to note that the Minister of Customs has declared that he will use the entire weight of the vast machinery of state under his control to see that customs and excise officials throughout Canada scrupulously observe the law with regard to the export of liquor from "dry" provinces.

Many Municipal Councils in Ontario are announcing tax reductions. The demand for civic economy never was stronger. Tax reduction is the new fashion in municipal politics. With the large increase in Acton's assessment this year our Council should have little difficulty in making a substantial reduction in the tax rate here this year.

An amendment to the Adolescents' School Attendance Act, which will grant total exemption from the requirements of the Act to every child 14 to 16 years of age, residing in the rural sections of the Province, whose parents or guardian require his services at home, is to be introduced at an early date by the Minister of Education. But why the rural sections only?

"How good a citizen are you?" asks Fred C. Kelly, in "Collier's." Only one question is really needed for a shibboleth to divide citizens into sheep and goats, he declares. This is it: "Are your acts such that, if everyone in the community did as you do, more good than harm would result?" Anyone who can truthfully answer yes to that question doesn't need to apply any further test to himself, but is entitled to move over into the aisle at the right.

The use of profanity in public places should be dealt with vigorously. It is most annoying and embarrassing to people to be forced to listen to the profane utterances of men gathered on the street corners, many of whom give expression to their oaths as if there were no decent-minded people within a mile of the spot. Citizens who overhear such language in future should immediately report by phone or otherwise to the Chief of Police or the Provincial Constable. Decent people do not have to be subject to hearing profanity in public.

THE MODERATION LEAGUE

The Moderation League of Ontario, with headquarters at 1111 Street, Toronto, is holding Ontario-wide meetings, the supreme object of which is that every man, woman and child should have one dollar to carry on the propaganda of the League. A certain amount of literature is sent along with the request for a dollar. This reading matter certainly makes a strong case for the League's cause. Now, mark you, this League doesn't want the hard cash, upon due they need it, but it does want enough whiskey business done to pay off the Provincial debt and pay millions more for the building and upkeep of our roads. It says so deliberately in the propaganda that is being sent out. But this is not all. Tens of thousands of American tourists are diverted from Ontario to Quebec.

A positive and deliberate falsehood with not a shadow of evidence to back it up. "The thought 'vintners' spending \$250,000,000 an income of two and a half million dollars." The scoundrel who wrote that stuff drops from the "ten thousand" of American tourists to "ten thousand" of the moderate mad, probably brought on easy money, and the spirit of the moderation, frugal, accordingly.

And so on the miserable, whitening pipe goes to the end. American tourists are not coming to Canada to drink liquor. Nearly every day that we see going through London—and there are stores here every day in the summer—contains a family, and it is a low-toned star on the American flag, and it is in the statement that they come here for the purpose of getting drunk.

Is that all Ontario is good for? Have we nothing in the great Province to attract tourists besides a chance to give them a drink of liquor? What is the conception of a visitor—what a knowledge? Have we no lakes, rivers, waterfalls, forests, great scenery, they will hills, farms, cities, bays and streams? Where is there such a land as this Province of Ontario? What a variety be found when one enters at Niagara, passes through the great fall belt, following the height of land on to Hamilton, or on one of the prettiest roads on the continent, over to Toronto, through a district wherein industry and agriculture for supremacy. And then on down through the great farming and dairy country toward London and just as through a land that shows vegetation of an order that belongs away south of us. Or north to our lakes and shores, the greatest natural playground of the continent, where men from busy, hot cities can find cool, quiet, solitude, recreation and rest. These are the things that people come to Ontario to seek; these are the things of which we are proud, and which we want to show to our visitors. And, possessing all these advantages, we do not seem to react to a campaign that would allow us to put propaganda along the road urging that if tourists keep on coming to Ontario, they will finally reach Ontario, where they can get a drink of liquor. No, no; the appeal of the Moderation League is not big enough. It is not built upon a good, wholesome idea. Ontario doesn't want to deal in whiskey so that the debt can be paid off—London Advertiser.

HONEST MAN
There is a preacher in Kansas who should have his salary raised for making the following announcement from his pulpit: "Brethren, the janitor and I will hold our regular prayer meeting next Wednesday evening, as usual."—Christian Register (Boston).

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Ontario is destined to become one of the greatest, if not the greatest, gold fields in the world. They excel the Rand. There will be new Hollinger, Deerp, and McIntyre's there will be many more millions of dollars paid in dividends—and CANADIAN CAPITAL SHOULD BE INSTRUMENTAL IN BRINGING ABOUT THE NECESSARY DEVELOPMENT AND EARN FOR ITSELF THE PROFITS THAT WILL BE NECESSARY.

"The day is past when it can be considered derogatory to 'any man's commercial honor to have it said of him that he has 'money in mines', said a prominent member of the Associated Boards of Trade of Ontario.

It was the late Cecil Rhodes who said that "less people have lost money in Gold Mining than in any other industry."

Lightning River Gold Area (Harker and Holloway Townships) is forging ahead and is attracting wide-spread attention. Undoubtedly it will prove to be a new gold producing area in Northern Ontario. It lies about 70 miles east of Porcupine, on the same great belt, and it is possible that it may excel in richness the Porcupine District. Certainly it has wonderful possibilities—and probabilities are shown by the reports of geologists of the presence of real ore bodies. Mr. Cyril W. Knight, Ontario Government Geologist, has recently completed a second report on this area, a copy of which report may be obtained from the Department of Mines, Toronto.

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