



## The Action Free Press

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THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 13, 1923

## EDITORIAL

### Fall Wheat Promises Well

The report of the Department of Agriculture indicates that fall wheat in the Province of Ontario is in fine condition for the beginning of winter. Agricultural prospects on the whole are favorable, fine weather having contributed to a large acreage of fall ploughing and to late grazing on pastures, with a profitable saving to farmers in expense of wintering their live stock.

### Roman Catholics for Prohibition

The Catholic Total Abstinence Union, in its fifty-third annual Convention, held recently in Chicago, adopted resolutions again endorsing the Eighteenth Amendment and the Volstead Act, calling for rigid enforcement of the prohibition law, and making an appeal that the flag be kept stainless and unsullied. The resolution read in part: "Because the Volstead Act is violated in no reason for its repeal. What laws are not violated? Shall we repeat the law against bribery, against the adulteration of food and drink, against adultery, against the social evil, against obscene publications, because they are infringed? Prohibition protects the industrious against the waste of the dissipated; the innocent against the crimes of the guilty; the home against the merciless hand that would destroy it; and generations unborn from the inheritance of weakness, poverty and vice which is ready to overwhelm them." This call is just as necessary and insistent and reasonable to the people of Ontario to stand by prohibition in this province.

### Effectiveness of Friendly Relations Between Great Britain and the United States

The first expression from Premier King upon landing at Haifa was momentous and important. "In its solution of world peace, its problems and difficulties," said the Premier, "the old world needs the assistance of the new world, which should offer helpful co-operation as the opportunity presents itself in matters which are not without their effect upon present stability and peace of the world. Amid uncertainty and insecurity, two great political entities, the British Empire and the United States, whose unity, strength and stability made them all powerful agencies of peace and progress in the world, stood out in striking contrast to the rest of political society. They had ideals of human justice and human liberty; they understood government by opinion, and they looked to reason rather than to force in making right prevail. The most hopeful of all signs of the world's horizon to-day is cordiality of the relationship that at present exists between these two peoples, and Canada can play no more helpful part in the world affairs than in lending her effort, whenever and as often as the opportunity permits to maintain this relationship of good-will and friendly co-operation."

### Action's Hydro System Debt Free

It is very gratifying to learn that Action's Hydro system is free of debt and has a place on the Honor Roll. The Hydro Bulletin says: "It is a questionable compliment to speak of a municipality as having no debt. The statistics show some such curiosities, but it is usually found that their freedom from debt is largely due to the same reason that the Indians, who possessed this fair land, had no debt, because they have but few of the modern conveniences, such as good roads, permanent bridges, drainage, modern schools, public buildings and rural telephones which more progressive municipalities consider essential. With this thought in view it is refreshing to find in the annual report of the Hydro-Electric Commission of Ontario a list of eighteen Hydro municipalities in which the quick assets belonging to the Hydro utility, such as cash securities, book accounts and stores, exceed in value the total liabilities, including debenture debt. In other words, if these municipalities could call in their unmatured debentures issued on account of Hydro, they have sufficient to pay off the debt, and still have a working capital. These municipalities are: Action, Barrie, Baden, Beachville, Borthwell, Collingwood, Creemore, Elmview, Georgetown, New Toronto, Northwich, Ridgewood, Rockwood, St. George, Tavistock, Waterdown, Waterford and Zurich. A more remarkable state of affairs is difficult to imagine, and as the report lists thirty-two additional municipalities where the net balance over quick assets is nominal, there is no question but that the year 1923 now drawing to a close, will see quite an addition to the eighteen municipalities now making up the "Honor Roll" of the Province." Action has now \$80,043.65 invested in the Hydro system; a plant renewal reserve of \$11,956, and a total of reserves and surplus of \$38,226.50. We have 431 consumers of electric current in town, 24.7 per cent. of population; Milton has 411, which is 21.8 per cent. of population.

**The Facts Evidently "Were Mislaid"**  
The statement is made by moderators that in the United States there is more liquor drunk under prohibition than ever before, and that every second house has its private still. Statistics, however, prove that while the death rate from alcoholism in 1910 was 5.4 per 1,000, it was only 1.8 in 1921. One newspaper in commenting upon this matter says: "Evidently the kind of liquor the people get now is not so potent as formerly, or else our wet friends have mislaid the facts."

### Canada Takes a Nation's Place

Effective participation by Canada in the World Power Conference in London next summer is assured as a result of meeting of outstanding representatives of the Canadian electrical engineering profession and the Hydro-Electric industry at Ottawa last week. The London conference will be the biggest gathering of its kind ever held. The original plan was that it should be confined to the British Empire, but, at the instance of the British Electrical Manufacturers' Association, the scope was enlarged to embrace the world.

### Don't Wish to "Lose the Substance for the Shadow"

Toronto Board of Education favors a change in the Ontario Municipal Act whereby a school trustee will not have to give notice of resignation ten days before nomination day when he intends to speak election to a municipal council. The motion calls for the sending of a request to the Department of Education to ask the Ontario Government to change the Act in this regard. This was the law at one time, and it seemed rather anomalous to have dual representation, with a member of the Council taking part in passing resolutions for payment of monies to the School Board of which he was at the same time a member.

### Canada's Patriots and Public Financial Effort

Collyer's News Bureau, of Chicago, publishes the following compliment to Canada by Governor Parker, of Louisiana: "The patriotism of the Canadian people is splendidly shown, by the manner in which they have subscribed to the loans of their country, paying themselves the interest and promptly taking care of their obligations. The example of Canada and Great Britain should be an inspiration to the foreign countries not to avoid honest obligations, but to endeavor on common sense lines to so amortize them that they would be certain of payment within a reasonable time."—(Signed) Jno. M. Parker, Governor.

### Canada's Natural Resources

A wealth of information on Canada's natural resources, developed industries and commercial growth has been assembled in "Canada—Natural Resources and Commerce," a small, compact volume issued by the Natural Resources Intelligence Service, Department of the Interior. This is not a government blue-book but an attractive publication compiled especially for the business man. It gives a condensed but thorough survey of Canada's varied resources and of the broad features they impart to the commerce of the Dominion by their limitations as well as by their diversity and abundance. It gives, in short, a bird's-eye view of Canada's physical assets, developed and latent.

### Magistrates Order Bandits to be Whipped

General satisfaction will be felt with the action of Magistrates Clark, Kewson and Gover in dealing with the "hold up men" brought before them last week at Orillia, when they were sentenced not only to an extended term in prison but to ten lashes each, presumably with the cat-o'-nine-tails. The magistrates made it plain that the sentences were imposed to help in putting an end to the wave of crime as it was in the days of Turpin and Duval and their ilk passing over Ontario. There will be found to do nothing more effective as a deterrent than the "cat." The cowardly scoundrels who lay in wait for unarmed wayfarers, and who are prepared to do murder if necessary, can have no claim even on sentimentalists to whom this form of punishment is abhorrent. The only effective way found for its repression being the lash which quickly brought the crime to an end.—Beaverton Express.

### Adequate Government Inspection of Canada's Banks

The wrecking of the Home Bank has worked up the people throughout the Dominion to the imperative necessity for a thorough and adequate inspection of all chartered banks, annually, under the supervision of the Federal Government. A strong resolution to this effect was passed at a meeting of the creditors of the Home Bank in Toronto last week. Another resolution was adopted at the same meeting demanding the passage of an amendment to the Canadian Bank Act, compelling all chartered banks to contribute to a depositors' indemnification fund, for the reimbursement of depositors in a defunct bank, the amendment to be retroactive to January 1, 1923. The clause making the amendment retroactive is hardly tenable, but such a clause would surely be a determining influence to the careless and criminal administration of our banking institutions which characterized the Home Bank and certain others which have failed during the past few years.

### EDITORIAL NOTES

A third weekly paper has been launched at Brampston. With two such excellent papers as the Banner and the Conservator it is difficult to see where there is the need, or the hope of support, for a third.

The Dominion Veterans' Alliance will undertake to make generally known throughout Canada the proper use of Canadian and British flags. It was decided at the closing session of the Dominion Council. This is certainly a worthy enterprise.

The battle of wits between the illicit seller of liquor and the officers charged with the enforcement of the O. T. A. is never-ending, but that is no reason for the repeal of the law. The general result of prohibition in Ontario has been most satisfactory.

It is often observed that Australians are more imperialistic than the British. We have a right to be. If the Empire were dismembered tomorrow the British would probably be assimilated by an Asiatic power. We have more than a community of interest in the Empire; it is our common insurance policy, the institution on which all, rich and poor, labor and anti-labor, depend for their national life.—Sydney Bulletin.

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