



The Acton Free Press

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THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 13, 1924

EDITORIAL

The Liberal Leader Stands for a Fair Deal

It is well known that the Liberal party in Ontario stands strongly in favor of the Ontario Temperance Act. Mr. Sinclair, the Liberal leader of the Provincial House, in a debate last week, said: "The O. T. A. may have its defects, and may be hard to enforce. But the responsibility for a vote rests with the Government. It refuses to submit the law to the judgment of the people. It proposes an academic vote. This is a direct breach of faith with the people. If there is a vote it should be on the repeal of the Act and a suggestion of what shall take its place." It will, no doubt, be found, if any reasonable steps are taken, to ascertain the fact, that the large majority of the people of Ontario will expect, and demand, of the Government, if either a referendum or a plebiscite is seriously suggested, that the vote be upon a concrete and easily understandable question of repeal, with a definite proposal of what shall substitute the present Act, in case of repeal.

Better English

The Ontario Department of Agriculture has just issued a sixteen-page bulletin calculated to assist young people in acquiring better English, which contains a wealth of invaluable suggestion and instruction. Prof. O. J. Stevenson, M. A., D. Phaed., Professor of English, is the author of the splendid treatise so full of suggestions for self-improvement. The courses of study in Public and High Schools aim at giving the boy and girl a command of good English and a taste for helpful reading. But there are many young people, especially among those living in rural communities, who were unable to complete their Public School course, or who, for various other reasons, failed to acquire an adequate training in English. By drawing their attention to some of the more common errors in everyday speech, and by giving suggestions as to good books, good music, and good pictures and directions as to business procedures, letter writing, preparation of papers and reports, much is accomplished which will be found of real service to those who desire to improve their English. In the suggestive outlines given so clearly and impressively in the pages of this bulletin much may be accomplished by those who study them in the way of self-improvement.

The Course of True Reform

Numerous abuses in public life have, from time to time, been exposed, and many men and women have engaged in the battle against them. Not all the sincere reformers give convincing evidence that reform must follow the adoption of the measures they advocate. The routing of great public evils is usually accomplished by many persons working together, or by a few persons who labor patiently for many years. Single, sudden acts of legislation, the election of a "reform" candidate, the defeat of one group of corrupt men—none of these is sufficient to solve permanently any of the great difficulties. Conversely, the defeat of a "reform" candidate here and there need not bring despair to honest hearts, for the failure of a single campaign does not mean defeat of the forces for good. They go on, slowly, persistently, and in the end mount above the forces of darkness. Slavery was not abolished by abolitionists, nor by a stroke of Lincoln's pen; the Emancipation Proclamation merely marked the moment when the nation had outgrown an evil. Great leaders and great deeds stand out deservedly in the story of the world's improvement, but it is the union of humble followers, the aggregate of undistinguished deeds, which has accomplished reform. Every citizen who does his best is a living part of every real reform movement, even if he does not realize his participation. He helps right acting and right thinking to triumph. He is like the stoker in the depths of the man-of-war, who does not witness the striking of the enemy's colors, but by doing his work well has contributed his share to the victory. And the history of previous great reforms is the history in many respects of the great temperance movement. Leaders there have been from time to time, but in every successive step, and the attendant campaign, it has been the united effort of humble followers which has really accomplished the advances toward ultimate "bone-dry" prohibition. The prospects are that within a few months a herculean effort will be made to overthrow the Ontario Temperance Act, which has proven so effective in the curtailment of the consumption of intoxicating liquor. It will require every right-thinking citizen of this fair Province to do his and her best, by right thinking and right acting, to hold the advanced position now occupied, and return this as a base for the still better position so devoutly desired—total prohibition of the manufacture, transportation and sale of intoxicating liquor for beverage purposes.

Banditry Deserves No Clemency

Banditry should be learning some wholesome lessons these days, and fellows who have been "itching" to get into the somewhat strenuous style of making a living should ponder the "itching" of a hemp rope necktie a little later. With a better plan of trapping the scurrying thief and murderer who prostitutes the motor car, the nerve gents will learn that "the way of the transgressor is hard." No leniency is deserved on the part of the cheery gents who scout honest work.—Brussels Post.

EDITORIAL NOTES

If the churches' are listened to there will be no O. T. A. Referendum for some time. Church courts of all denominations are going on record as strongly opposed to a referendum at present.

Colonel John Currie wants sane liquor laws in Ontario that will attract U. S. tourist traffic. If the only attraction Ontario has for U. S. tourists is its liquor, we are better off without them.—Renfrew Mercury.

When somebody tells you that they can double your money for you, if you will trust it to their care, it's a good time to remember that when you fold your own bills you are in a much better position to keep your eyes on them.—Shelburne Economist.

The Senate last week made proposals to reform the House of Commons; then adjourned, and announced that its sessions would stand adjourned for three weeks. The Senate is evidently anxious (?) to effect reform quickly.

Another weekly paper has discontinued publication. On the first of March H. B. Elliott, for thirty-five years the publisher of the Wingham Times, sold the paper to John Joynt, M. P. The paper was at once turned over to A. G. Smith, publisher of the Advance, which appeared last week as the Advance Times.

The Minister of Labor of the British Parliament has accepted the principle underlying the motion calling on the Government to proceed without delay with the bill that was introduced in the House by the Lloyd George Government in 1919, constituting a commission to enquire into the question of legal minimum rates of wages.

In a convention in Toronto last week W. F. Harrison, Secretary of the Magazine Publishers' Association of Canada, stated emphatically that the publications of Canada are on as high a plane as any published in the world; our own native magazines and newspapers contain as clean and healthy matter as any could desire—and their influence is good.

Doubts are sometimes expressed as to how the vote will go on an O. T. A. referendum in the Province. There should be no doubt. There will be a mighty vote in Ontario against interference with the Ontario Temperance Act, provided the people are aroused to the danger, and are made acquainted with the insidious propaganda of the liquor forces.—Almonte Gazette.

The two Registry Office clerks who stole money to bet on the races go to the penitentiary, one for three and the other for five years. The chief criminals, the tempters, are still at large and in a position to prepare more young men for the penitentiary.—Globe. Yes, they're licensed by the Government for a consideration, to continue to "prepare" more young men for the penitentiary.

The effort to reduce cruelty to animals is being gradually reduced to a minimum. Killing cattle by electricity in the large packing houses is now becoming a reality. The Cudahy Company of Omaha will replace the present system of clubbing animals over the head with electrical devices in a few days. The new plan will not only reduce pain to the animal to the minimum, but will reduce the operating costs.

The Owen Sound Presbytery, comprising forty-one congregations, at its meeting last week, passed a resolution unanimously calling upon the Provincial Government to allow the Ontario Temperance Act further trial, and in the meantime to select a committee of the House to enquire into the advisability of another referendum. This latter step should surely be taken before any vote on a referendum is submitted.

A license fee of \$1 on every gun owned in the Province was recommended by a deputation from the Ontario Hunters Game and Fish Protective Association, which appeared before the standing committee on fish and game in the Parliament Buildings last week. This, it is claimed, would make the work of the game wardens much more effective, and would bring in an annual revenue to the Province of approximately \$75,000.

The proposed bill by the Provincial Government to abolish the policy of municipal bonding of industry, will bring relief to the municipalities of Ontario generally. Too long has the old bill been evaded by some round-about course by competing municipalities. If the bill prevents the giving of anything in the way of inducement to manufacturers, excepting perhaps a fixed assessment for ten years, the results will be salutary to all concerned.

A bricklayer, testifying under oath in a Toronto law court, says that he makes \$85 a week at a trade as a brick mason. \$10 a day seems to be a large wage for a mechanic whose trade does not require any particular skill and whose tools are few and inexpensive. Evidently Canada requires more bricklayers, either through apprenticeship, immigration, or Technical Schools, in order to keep down the excessive cost of building.—Orillia Times.

The sanctity of childhood the world over was consecrated at Geneva last week, when, with solemn ceremony the so-called Declaration of Geneva, whereby mankind recognizes that it owes to the child the best it has to give was presented by the International Union for Saving Children. This union has affiliated committees in Canada, Brazil and the United States. More than a million children in forty countries have been helped by the union in the past three years.

UNCLE JACOB'S DOGS

"Speaking of independent folks," said Amos Gray, "there was old Uncle Jacob, man that had a dog with a spell when I was a boy. He and his wife were along in years, and their daughter and her husband had a farm, and agreed to provide for the old couple as long as they lived. Uncle Jacob was independently well off, but he would have been independent any way. He used to make his bread that he was wintered through Lyman Terry, the son-in-law, came home from the store without remembering one of his errands: to get a plug of tobacco for Uncle Jacob. Maybe it would have been more on his mind if he had used the word 'tobacco.' He had a dog that always said that tobacco was injurious to his health, though he knew better than to object to Uncle Jacob's using it. In fact he wanted to go back to the store, because the old gentleman was all out. But it was a three-mile trip, and Uncle Jacob wouldn't hear of it.

"But all the afternoon he kept growling more and more noisy, and by night was about the rabbiestest man I ever saw. At supper he only just picked at his victuals, and when it was over he asked Aunt Hetty for her shears. "Then he lit the lantern and went out roun'ing and roun'ing about the yard, in the shape of Aunt Hetty, tipped out after him. "You say you suppose he lit up to 'Well,' says she, 'he's gone and out the lining out of the pocket where he always carries his tobacco; and he's setting there on the sawhorse, a chewing of it. I don't believe he's got much satisfaction, though,' she said.

"By and by the old gentleman came back with a bundle of sticks, and 'I've half a mind to stop out to Ramsey's a minute,' says he. "Who, father, you got out such a night as this," said his daughter Lucy Ann, for it was a good half mile to our neighbor Ramsey's, and it was coming winter to snow. "I'd like to know why I can't," says Uncle Jacob. "Don't you go to giving orders to my daughter, and he kind of right up and started.

"We knew he'd gone to borrow tobacco, but Lucy Ann allowed he might not get it, for Ramsey had spells of leaving off. Time passed, and Uncle Jacob didn't come back, and we got downright scared. "Finally Lyman put the horse into the pump and started after him, taking care along to hold the lantern. We found that he had been to Ramsey's, but didn't get what he was after; and he kept on about seeing him at the mill till we got clear to Mellen's store. There we found him, just paying for his pack, having a ticket on his back, and a bundle of sticks under his arm. "By that time it was snowing and drifting like great guns. Now, father, says Lyman, he's come out to get such a night as this, and he's allowed he might not get it, for Ramsey had spells of leaving off. Time passed, and Uncle Jacob didn't come back, and we got downright scared.

"Well, the old gentleman never once touched the weed again. 'I've done it, he would tell people. 'I did leave off 'count of any of Lyman's opinions. But when I got an inkling that it was my time to be my best, I thinks it's time for us to part company."

BLOWING UP HUGE ICEBERGS

An iceberg which threatened to sink the ship that crosses the Atlantic has been blown up.

Such an iceberg is as dangerous as a floating mine. This one was smashed by a mine—two dangerous things cancelling one another.

The iceberg was 350 feet long, and was drifting south of the Newfoundland banks into the warm waters of the Gulf Stream, where it was sighted, making straight for the line of traffic.

The patrol ship sent a boat towing two mines toward it. The mines contained the high explosive T. N. T. They were put down in six feet of water close to the great precipitous face of the berg, which the men could hear snapping and cracking with a sound like rattling stones. Next the two mines were spreading in the berg's icy face.

The open sank the mines, drew off, and waited a safe distance. They could not see much because a fog settled down, but presently they heard crashes like thunder. Next they saw the berg again. It was smaller, but by no means done for; and it was not till they had attacked it again and again with mines that on the fourth day it broke in half. Then, with an explosion that sent the water a hundred feet in the air, it blew into fragments.

WHY JOIN THE CHURCH

The following seven good reasons for joining the church are given by Rev. W. A. Shaw, of "The Church":

1. I ought to belong to the church because I ought to be better than I am. Henry Ward Beecher once said, "The church is not a millinery for the exhibition of eminent christians, but a school for the education of the laity."
2. I ought to belong to the church because of what I may get out of it. The church is not a dormitory of sleepers, it is an institution of workers, it is not a rest camp, it is a front line.
3. I ought to belong to the church because every man ought to pay his debts and do his share toward clearing the obligations of society. The church may not only be the bearer of good news of personal salvation; it has been and it is the supreme uplifting and conserving agency without which civilization would lapse into barbarism and press its way to perdition.
4. I ought to belong to the church because of the things that it can never forget; memories of faces that will never fade; memories of vows that are the glory of youth; memories of the things that the church because of hope; hope that paves the way for progress; hope that violates peace and hope that brings the great hope that casts its anchor behind Jesus Christ.
5. I ought to belong to the church because of the strong men in it who used reinforcing; the weak men in it who need encouraging; the rascals in it who need rebuking. If I say that I am not a member of the church, I condemn me. If I sit in the seat of the scornful my activity condemns me.
6. I ought to belong to the church, but not until I am ready to join a going concern; not until I am willing to join Jesus Christ.

TRAVEL

From the days of Herodotus and Marco Polo, travel has been recognized as an educative and civilizing experience. A year on the Continent of Europe is considered the best possible "finishing" course for English and American youth, whose parents can afford it; but it is not so commonly perceived that a great and valuable benefit from the best and most interesting of all travel is to be gained by the interchange of visitors between North and South and East and West.

It is a commonplace that the United States presents a great diversity of climates, and that it has been peopled from many different nations, and widely varying habits of life and thought. Such diversity of elements united in one national entity would be a great source of weakness were it not for the coherent travel for which Americans are noted.

Much of this is due to the annual conventions of national organizations like the Christian Endeavor Society, the National Educational Association, the Grand Army, and many other bodies meet once a year in some one of our great cities. The local circles of each of these groups are a constant reminder of the fact that hospitality is not the exclusive possession of any one section; that communities which differ widely in their local conditions and habits of life have good reasons for the faith that is in them; and in the end it is the local circles of each which foster a feeling of national solidarity.

Even the gain in mere geographical knowledge is something. "I have seen a great deal of corn and wheat in my country," said a recent Western visitor to the New England coast. "I have seen a great deal of water in my country," said a recent Eastern visitor to the New England coast. "I have seen a great deal of water in my country," said a recent Eastern visitor to the New England coast.

NO ADMITTANCE FOR EGGS

A theatrical company that plays in a remote country village started doing the same thing for their members. The influence of it is probably greater than that of any other of the kind. It has demonstrated the fact that hospitality is not the exclusive possession of any one section; that communities which differ widely in their local conditions and habits of life have good reasons for the faith that is in them; and in the end it is the local circles of each which foster a feeling of national solidarity.

PHYSICIANS USE RADIUM TO CURE BIRTHMARKS

A despatch from London says:—Dr. W. Herbert Brown and Dr. John J. McFutcheon, two Scottish physicians, have found a way of getting rid of the most unsightly blemish on the human face, the birthmark. They have discovered means of collecting the residue of the mineral radium, and they have found that, with suitable radium, "the discovery" was made in the course of experiments in curing birthmarks.

The doctors are hopeful of finding a definite method of eradicating this blemish. On patients thus far subjected to experimentation they have noticed that after ten days a healthy path of natural color appears where the birthmark was.

THE PASSION FOR LEARNING

"You might go near to open with down, dear," said a mother during house cleaning time to her three-year-old daughter. "If you should fall out on the ground, you would surely break your neck."

Her mother followed her mother upstairs and played happily with her doll for an hour. Suddenly her mother entered her from the bed, and noticing that the door was closed, thought she was hiding somewhere in the room. After a playful search of a minute or two she heard a pattering of small feet in the hall, and hastened to open the door. "It didn't break my neck, mother," remarked the child, as she resumed her play with the doll.

IT WOULD NOT PAY

It would not pay for the stout man to take up more than the crowd or than is often occupied by one person. The stoutly-built man next whom he had been giving a sound of disparagement.

"They ought to charge by weight in these cars," he said to his neighbor on the other side, in no clear a tone that the stout man could not help hearing him.

"Maybe 't would be a good idea, my friend," he said, turning a calm, dispassionate gaze on the thin man. "but if they did you'd have to walk." The car would never stop for you."

LIMITED COMFORT

The Hinge Man—"That is a cosy-looking couch, old man.

The Married Man—"Yes, but I never go near it."

The Hinge Man—"Why not?"

The Married Man—"Because there are only three cushions that I am allowed to put my head on, and I can't stand the wear and tear of picking them out from the other seven."



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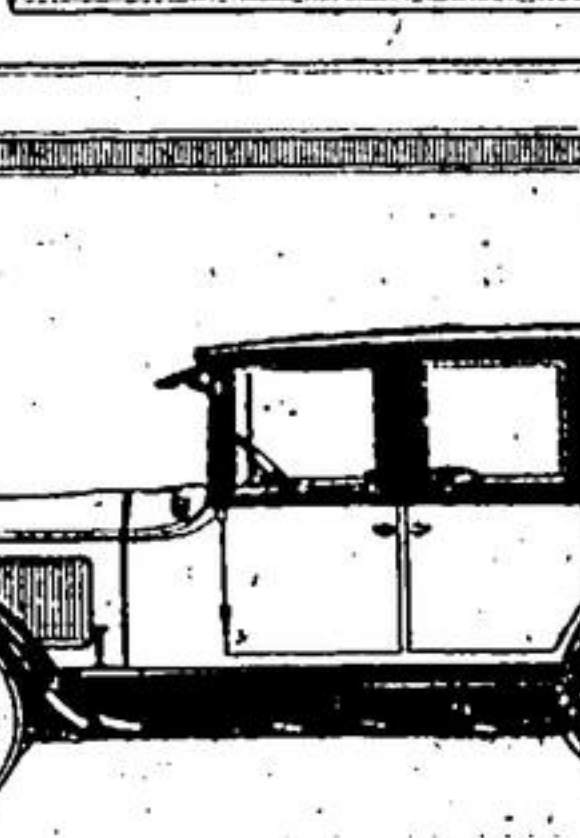
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PRECOCIOUS MACAULAY

When Macaulay, the English historian and statesman, was a very small child he began to show that he had a remarkable memory and a strong inclination to literature.

Among the tales of his childhood are two that are especially striking. One afternoon, when the little fellow was four years old, he was visiting, and a servant spilled some hot coffee on his legs. Soon afterwards the butler asked how he was feeling.

"Thank you, madam, the pain has 'baked,'" he replied.

At the same period of his infancy he had a little bit of ground of his own, marked by a row of water shells. One day a maid threw the shells away on rubbish. He went straight to the drawing-room, where his mother was entertaining some visitors, walked into the circle, and said, very solemnly: "Cursed be Hally! For he it was written, 'Cursed be he that removeth his neighbor's landmark.'"

A ROYAL COMPANY

An amusing incident occurred when an American vessel was lying at anchor in the bay of Naples, and was visited by the King of Italy with his suite.

One of the members of the suite, dressed in a ruffled hat, and uniform, with sword at his side, and a Beret on his head, was exploring the ship, and unfortunately leaned against the main hatch wind-vane, which he mistook for a mast.

"The officer of the deck was informed of the ensuing catastrophe by the stewardly mate, who had seen it from a distance.

"You'll excuse me, sir," he gasped, "but I think one of them kings has fallen down the main hatch, sir!"



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