



THE HOME OF The Acton Free Press

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EDITORIAL

Hoover Strong for Prohibition

When President Hoover delivered his inaugural address at Washington in March, three years ago, he was uncompromising in his promise to give his support to the successful operation and enforcement of the laws of the United States prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors in that country. He still stands in this strong position, after seeing at close range the real value of these measures to the country he governs. In transmitting the report of his commission on law observance and enforcement to Congress last week, President Hoover virtually declared himself a prohibitionist. He is, in favor of the report of the commission, which by a large majority does not favor the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment, and is in unity with the spirit of the report in seeking constructive steps to advance the national ideal of eradication of the social and economic and political evils of the liquor traffic.

An Inopportune Proposal

The proposal to provide a public health unit for the schools of the County, at a cost of \$18,000 per annum, would seem to have made its appearance at a very inopportune time. Whatever assistance may be promised by the Provincial authorities will, to a large extent, be discredited in view of the cut which all Boards are facing in the school grants formerly enjoyed. Just what the reduction in grants will mean to Acton this year is not available yet, but undoubtedly the ratepayers will be called upon this year to provide a considerable increase for school purposes, owing to this reduction of Provincial grants. Undoubtedly there is much to be said in favor of the health unit as proposed. But there is also a limit to the pocketbook of the ratepayers, and there is apparently no guarantee that the Government will continue the assistance indefinitely on any of the schemes which the municipalities are once committed to. In view of the present efficiency of matters pertaining to health in the community, and the added burdens which the ratepayers will be called upon to meet in educational matters this year, this new scheme will find small favor.

Who Pays?

The shortage of \$100,000,000 which will in all probability be shown in the Canadian budget this year, coupled with the added expenditure that the Government will be expected to fulfill will give the new Dominion Parliament plenty upon which to exercise its financial abilities. Federal grants have been called for in larger measure than ever before and these have been promised lavishly. Restrictions on trade by the new hands and reduction of excise tax by the former regime have largely accounted for a falling off of receipts. Now when taxes were being lightened comes the announcement of a turnover tax of two per cent. to meet the circumstance. Of course the imposition of a tax of any kind means simply that the impost is ultimately paid by the consumer. In these times of general reduction on all commodities, to a level in keeping with wages available a rise in the cost to the consumer is not going to gain much favor. Without a doubt the money has to come from some place. It is also stated there will be relatively few tariff changes. The surpluses which had come to be a regular feature of the Robb budgets are apparently to be items of history, and a deficit of \$80,000,000 is anticipated. Just where the average citizen is going to be, any better off with the new changes is hard to conceive.

The Worm Turns

The constant piling up of the County rate in all counties has had the effect of forcing the attention of the ratepayers to these bodies. We believe it was in Eramosa Township where a request was made to the Department of Highways to cease the grant and allow of the appointment of a man who will be responsible to the Council as Road Superintendent. More and more will come the realization that county and Provincial and Dominion grants of assistance in various works are nothing more or less than giving back by an expensive route of funds supplied by the ratepayers themselves. The County Councils have long been the goats for making the direct levy against the municipalities and being in direct line will undoubtedly be the first to hear criticism. The system is a wasteful one and it would seem the electors are determined to reach further than the local Councils to level their criticism and strike at the County Council. In the new faces at the Wellington County Council this year can be seen a result of the campaign waged by the Fergus-News-Record for the last few years against this body. More and more will this same movement be noticeable in other counties unless the county and bodies high up desist from their practice of shoving the burden back on the ratepayers.

Drink and Driving

Where there's drink there's danger. The careful examination of scientists has conclusively proven that one average drink of intoxicating liquor will cause a mental lapse of a tiny fraction of a second, which may deprive an automobile driver of the margin of safety necessary to prevent a crash with another car, or a wayside obstacle. The brain signal takes one-fifth of a second to produce effect. One drink of liquor slows this operation to two-fifths of a second, and in that time a car going at thirty-five miles per hour will travel twenty feet, which is considerably more than the margin of safety. Nearly 15,000 people have been killed, and 400,000 to 500,000 persons, many of them children, have been maimed and otherwise injured by drunken drivers. Locomotive drivers, with heavy steel rails to guide them, are carefully examined and forbidden to drink by all railways, and the public would be shocked if they were not. The high-powered and heavy motor cars and trucks are potentially as dangerous as locomotives, whose drivers are professionals. Yet motor cars are driven on all our highways with impunity by amateur and irresponsible drivers, who are allowed to drink as they please under the nefarious plea of personal liberty. Verily, there is a sad story of death and injury to thousands, chargeable to this plea.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Brampton Councillors will receive \$5 per meeting for their services. The yearly salary plan offers less opportunity of being abused and less room for criticism.

The Toronto Telegram sees a joke in the election of a blacksmith as Reeve of Fenelon Falls, believing that the village hopes to forge ahead. Toronto elected an undertaker as the new Mayor. You can make up your own jokes about that.—Fergus News-Record.

The enjoyment of sleighing parties seems to increase now that they are more rare. The average youngster gets little thrill out of an automobile ride, but, judging from the merry parties seen in the old-fashioned bobsleighs behind a smart team, the "Jingle Bells" song will continue for some time to be a favorite.

The problems of the farmers these days are very vital to the welfare of any community. In her own light-hearted fashion Mrs. Clarke discusses these in "The Chronicles of Ginger Farm" this week. Her suggestion for an egg week is just as logical as the numerous other weeks we have. Possibly it only lacks the co-operative effort of the farmers to put it over, too.

Guelph is discussing the advantages of metering water to the consumers. There is a serious shortage in the supply for the city. Acton has had meters since its installation and they have proven an effective means of curbing the waste of water and a fair method of having the individual who use the most water pay their just proportion. There is nothing quite so effective in curtailing waste as hitting directly at the pocketbook.

Speaking on the subject of publicity for a chain of retail stores, serving many smaller cities and towns, the store director of a company describes the local newspaper as "our best clerk." He explains that it sees more people, gets more of their individual time, works longer hours, and tells its story with more accuracy than any other clerk they can employ. These papers are going into the homes of the people, and are assured of their friendly attention. This is proved by the tremendous growth in importance of the press in the last few years, according to this authority, who declares that to-day the newspaper is the backbone of any constructive sales effort.—Callingwood Bulletin.

Chronicles of Ginger Farm

Written Specially for The Free Press by GWENDOLINE P. CLARKE

Well, neighbors, what are we going to do about the egg situation? The first thing I do when we get the mail is to look at the price quotations. Partner got hold of the paper first this morning and very soon informed me that eggs were down to twenty-two cents. "Yes," I said, "now tell me some news!" Really, you know, if it were not so serious it would almost be funny. The age old proverb, "You can't make omelettes without breaking eggs," has completely lost its significance. We shall have to think out a new one. How would this do? "You can't go farming without losing money!" I have been cudgelling my brains to-day to think of ways and means of using more eggs and spend less on other things. We already have eggs for breakfast every morning and of course I use plenty for cooking. I asked Partner if he was prepared to go on a diet of eggs, and was informed he would not mind peached eggs for dinner about once a week, but that was about as much as he could stand! Of course there is lemon butter—I must make a good supply of it—that will do away with about a dozen or so, and incidentally save on the marmalade. I have already made pumpkin pie for two weeks running, so that is definitely off the bill of fare for a while. What can one do with eggs anyway, without getting sick to death of the sight of them? Well now, I have got a good idea! Why not have an egg week? We have on one week and insurance week—why not an egg week? All they really need is a boost so let's boost it. Of course if we have an egg week we must have a slogan to go with them—something like "An apple a day keeps the doctor away," or "An onion a day keeps the world at bay." Now, what shall it be? Ahem, not quite so easy is it? Wait a minute,—yes, I have it. How is this? "Eat eggs galore and the price will soar?" It would, you know, just like a gas balloon without a string. Oh, but I forgot—that isn't quite so good from the consumer's point of view. What a pity, now we shall have to think of something else, because it would never do to let them know we want the price to go up. No, no, we mustn't be greedy—let us rather pass as what we actually are—a philanthropic class of people existing for the express benefit of the rest of the community.

Perhaps that does sound a little exaggerated but you know it all comes down to the same old story—farmers get a low price on what they sell and the consumer does not benefit to any great extent on what he buys. On a good many farms the egg and butter money—or cream and milk cheque as it more often is these days—is the main source of income and if that income is just about cut in two through price reduction, then it naturally follows there is much less money to spend on merchandise in town. If we get a dollar less on a crate of eggs from what we reasonably expect, then we have to take a reef in our belt and do without something we would otherwise have bought.

To start another subject—which, however, has a direct bearing on what I have already said—I have noticed quite a lot of discussion in the papers lately from well meaning persons against the sinful waste of money, etc., at these big banquets which are held from time to time. One person thought it a shame that so much money should be "wasted," when many of the unemployed would have been only too glad for a share of the good things.

Well, you know, that is getting an entirely wrong slant on the situation. The present crisis is not on a par with that existing during the war. Then it was a crime to live on the flesh pots of Egypt, when it was quite a problem to get a sufficiency of the necessities of life.

Now there is a redundancy of these things, and what we really need is for those who have money to spend it. Dear friends, you can't have good things, eat without paying for them, and the preparation of a banquet also means work. Then each of the invited guests increases employment in their own circle. Probably ninety per cent. of the women would find a new dress an absolute necessity for such an occasion, and five or six hundred people coming from goodness knows where would use up quite a lot of gas in transportation. Then after the banquet those who had fed not wisely but too well will suffer from disordered digestions, and disordered digestions mean work for the doctors.

"Thus we find that these arranging a banquet are really conferring a benefit upon mankind, unemployed included, because to provide work is, in many cases, better than dispensing charity." And then, see how the farmers benefit. Think of the extra consumption of bread, flour, fruit, milk, butter, meat, cream, chickens and—eggs! Now, if only they would only have an egg banquet... But perhaps I had better quit, before I get started on that subject again—it may be continued in our next!

BUT HE WAS NO BETTER

Ezra Meeker went to the doctor for some medical advice. The doctor said to him: "You ought to take off flesh. Get a car and get out more." "And so I got a car and got out more," said Ezra. "I got out six times in one block and took off a little flesh in four different places. The last time I got out through the windshield. That was the time I took off the most flesh."

Advertisement for Carrol's products including Carrol's Raisins, Carrol's Prunes, Carrol's Soap, and various other food items like Plums, Shortening, and Pudding. Includes prices and product descriptions.

Mill Street - Acton, Ontario

GET SET FOR BANFF CARNIVAL



The stand-out week in the West this winter will be February 7-14 when the Banff Winter Sports Carnival will be held. Parade of skiers, ski-jorers, snow-shoers, curlers, hockey, skating, tobogganing, sleighing, muzzing, and every variant of winter sport, there is added to all these the incomparable beauty of a setting in the heart of the Rockies, clothed in their winter dress of emerald blue and white. The pretty little town of Banff is lit from end to end in a blaze of colored lights with here and there the tapers of the Stoney Indians, and the colorful note of brightly-hued blankets, befeathered head-dresses, beaded squaws and shiny-eyed paposes. As if all this were not enough to crowd into one short week, there is the great Ice Palace, lit up at night with fireworks displays, the annual trap shoot of the Banff Gun Club, the packing contest with its high light of the famous diamond hitch, and open air swimming in the hot sulphur springs, unique in the annals of winter sports. Masquerade balls keep the fun of the carnival going and it ends up with the election of the Queen for the ensuing year. Lay-out shows skiers in action under the shadow of the mountains with medals of Pat Brewster, president of the 1931 carnival, W. E. Round, secretary-treasurer of the sports and Mrs. Doris Winifred Parkes, of Vancouver, Queen of the Carnival.

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