

Retain and Strengthen The Temperance Legislation Secured By Fifty Years Heroic Effort

The following sermon on Government Control was delivered by Rev. B. R. Strangways of Thornhill to his congregation recently.

Eliah was a young man of conspicuous talent and with considerable assurance of his own importance in solving difficult problems such as the one confronting Job. After speaking somewhat at length, as he thought, in defense of God against Job this young counsellor proceeded and said: "Suffer me a little, and I will show thee that I have yet to speak on God's behalf." When he had spoken still more at length, as recorded in the 36th and 37th chapters of Job, the Almighty, as if somewhat wearied by the young man's effort to speak in his defense, addressed Job out of the whirlwind and said, "who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?"—Job 38: 2.

Then follow a few questions calculated to cause Eliah to understand that the Almighty does not need defense. Significant amongst these pointed and suggestive questions was the demand, "will the unicorn be willing to serve thee, or abide by thy crib? Canst thou bind the unicorn with his band in the furrow? Or will he harrow the valley for thee? Wilt thou trust him because his strength is great?" Chapter 39, verses 9-11.

It is easy to darken counsel by words. The electors of Ontario must at the present time beware of words and arguments that in the language of the late Attorney General Mr. W. F. Nickle, "are alluring but deceptive."

We are compelled to ask two very old questions; "who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?" And, "will the unicorn be willing to serve thee? Canst thou bind the unicorn in the furrow?"

Canadian people are fairly alert, and efficiently organized, politically. It is a well established method in all the parties that party platforms shall be decided by the parties as represented by delegates duly appointed to provincial and national conventions. This is a necessary and normal method in a true democracy, allowing always that leaders must have powers of discussion in times of sudden crises and unforeseen circumstances requiring prompt and decisive action.

The Prime Minister's proposed Government Sale method is a departure from the platform of the latest provincial Liberal-Conservative Convention which declared its intention to rigidly support and enforce the O. T. A. until the people of Ontario expressed their desire for a change in a provincial vote either by plebiscite or referendum.

The Prime Minister refuses to regard the voice of the people in plebiscites and referenda already had, and states that if returned to power he will not have any more plebiscites or referenda. His proposal is manifestly not truly the Liberal-Conservative policy but the personal and individual preference of his own mind. It is to the credit of one of the Liberal-Conservative Associations in the City of Toronto that they have recognized this non-Liberal-Conservative aspect of the proposal and have allowed their members the liberty to oppose it by their votes and yet remain in good standing in the association. The individual and non-party method of solving problems of importance is not democratic and is sure to be variable. Already variations are observable in the mind and method of Mr. Ferguson. Before the plebiscite of 1924 he gave to the voters of Ontario in view of the pending vote this pledge: "There will be no return to the bar or sale by the glass in any form."

On the 19th of October 1926 his mind had changed and he then proposed that beer shall be sold by the glass in beer parlors. By the glass" was condemned in 1924 and a definite promise given that there would be no return to sale by the glass in any form. The personal variation in the period 1924 to 1926 is all the way from banning the sale of beer by the glass in any form to suggestion of this very thing in the basis of his appeal for re-election.

Some few days later, however, this tendency to variation manifested itself again in the City of Belleville when the same Prime Minister said, "the retail sale of beer is no part of the fixed policy of the Government, but is a mere incident to administering the law." Sale by the glass in beer parlors is quite a considerable incident as estimated by the average elector. It is a most significant part of the whole proposal. Any variation in the Premier's mind that brings him nearer to the accepted sentiment of the Temperance forces will be greatly appreciated, but it is impossible to avoid the reflection that the variable type of mind is not the type needed to grapple with the bootlegger and his associates.

The bootlegger is already a trouble to the Premier. He has, however, lighted upon a most effective way of handling this modern nuisance. If re-elected to power he will imprison the bootlegger. This is most encouraging. It is a splendid policy. Its success is sure. Probably this is part of what Hon. W. F. Nickle had in mind when he intimated that the O. T. A. can be

enforced if the mind of the and will of the government are wholeheartedly behind it.

The bootlegger must be restrained. It is not true to say that he cannot be. We are not accustomed in Ontario to that kind of surrender to law-breakers. The Premier is right in proclaiming that this province will not submit to the destructive dominance of the defiant law-breakers but will in the future lock him up where he ought to be. This new promise and method is altogether the best way to deal with the bootlegger. It is simple, direct and just, and will be far more effective than the kid glove method of making it easy to get liquor. It must be hard for any one to see how looser laws will help stop the evil. The bootlegger is flourishing for the very simple reason that he gets his liquor surreptitiously from the stiller and the brewer without payment of the heavy excise duty required by the Federal Government, and therefore can undersell the Provincial Government or any other dealer who must pay the excise duty. This same reason will be just as effective under the Government Sale as under the O. T. A. But Mr. Ferguson is right in his assumption that imprisonment will cure the evil, and Mr. Nickle is right in his assurance that sympathetic Government support will also stop it. But the Premier has, on reflection since setting forth his Government sale manifests that he will not open up the way for the sale of beer by the glass in beer parlors. We must then enquire what will be the situation without this sold-by-the-glass section of the policy?

1. Regularly constituted houses or places of sale will be authorized to sell spirituous and malt liquors by bottle or sealed package.

2. These places of sale will be authorized in centres convenient and easily accessible to the people generally.

3. Every man and woman twenty-one years old will have the right to get a permit to purchase spirituous and malt liquors from these Government vendors, allowing his permit to be marked for every purchase.

4. A commission of big men will be appointed to keep the vast machine running smoothly.

5. Every driver of an automobile may call on his way home and procure a supply of whisky and other such liquors and transport the same to wherever it may please him, or drink it before or while driving.

6. Immediately upon the enacting of such a law for the sale of spirituous liquors in Ontario the Dominion statute which now forbids the importation of liquor ceases to operate and every citizen of our Province may freely and legally place orders for liquors in any quantity entirely apart from Mr. Ferguson's permit. Dealers in Quebec will be ready and able to facilitate this importation business. Their price lists will be in every home very quickly after the first of December if Mr. Ferguson's Government Sale proposal is endorsed by the electors. It is a recognized principle that a province may not legislate within any legislative sphere assigned by the B. N. A. to the Federal Government. Mr. Ferguson would therefore be unable to evade Federal Legislation which permits inter-provincial trade wherever liquor is regularly sold, and he would surely be one of the last to undertake to contravert Dominion Law.

These things are facts, the actual facts as will be under Government sale. We will do well to think carefully before we commit the future of our Province to such a policy.

Mr. Ferguson has declared himself against the beer room but what assurance have we that his mind will stay changed? Will there not linger with us a feeling that his heart is not changed and that as a man thinketh in his heart so is he? Are the brewers quite so docile as to let the advantage go to the distillers while they quietly submit to the unimproved dividends? Have they done so in other provinces? Not so in British Columbia where beer-parlors were not at first permitted under Government sale. The moderation League of the province got busy at once to secure further legislation providing for beer by the glass in rooms at tables. Their efforts were soon successful and the Government authorized beer-parlors. Should the beer-room be withheld today by the sudden change of mind in the Premier arising from fears of election results, tomorrow it may be granted. Indeed it cannot be doubted that such would be the case. We have only to remember the tireless energy of the traffic and the variability of the Premier's mind to be assured that very soon the beer-room would follow.

The only way to avoid the re-establishing of the barroom and table beer-room is to retain the O. T. A. and to resist the whole system of Government sale.

The association of British Columbia Municipalities assembled in convention went on record as of the following opinions concerning conditions under Government sale; "the present situation is worse than the days of the open bar and is not only destructive to the morals of the people but is resulting in bringing about general contempt for law and order."

Rev. Dr. Cody does not agree with these men who live in the Province. So much the worse for the Canon's observation. If he had stayed longer in the West and if his mind were variable as his old time friend and colleague the Premier he would probably have another story to tell. Rev. Dr. Murdock McKinnon, after many years residence in the West is surely a more reliable witness. His testimony is that the bootlegger is more active and conditions much worse than in Ontario.

Citizens who are true to the Liberal-Conservative honor and who are loyal to the fundamental principles of democracy must weigh well these things. Lesser considerations should

be set aside and a high sense of responsibility should halt the retrograde movement proposed and save the young people of our province from the disastrous results of the most sinister proposition ever set forth by any Government in our Land.

If we are to rightly estimate the future we must review the past. What is the record of men who are now behind Government sale? Where did Mr. Ferguson and Mr. W. H. Price the present Attorney General stand in 1914 on the question of banishing the bar? What was their record in reference to the plebiscites held at different times since the war? Did Mr. Ferguson give any pledges concerning the O. T. A.? Where did they stand on the stronger beer question. Is it well that the Attorney General, to whom belongs the task of enforcing the laws of our land, and especially the liquor laws, should be able to say as Hon. W. H. Price said to his associates recently, "There are not many places that I visit where I am not offered a drink. I watch the others, and there is just about 1 per cent. who don't take a drink." Is Mr. Price keeping the right kind of company? Would he find such conditions in the social circles you are familiar with in Thornhill?

Was the Attorney General right when in the same speech he cast serious reflection on the judiciary of our country by asking the following question, "When you get down to the line from the highest men in the country, from the judges on the Bench to the poor man who keeps the door of the court, when you find every one treating the law with contempt, what is going to become of it?"

Is this true of our judges? If not should the chief law-executive of the province so reflect upon them?

Will such a man himself safely administer the law?

These questions are sufficiently significant to demand of every elector the most serious consideration.

The traffic will not walk in the furrow and there is no use darkening the counsel with words. The O. T. A. can be enforced. The late Attorney General, Hon. W. F. Nickle ought to know more about this than any other man in the Government. In his letter of resignation to Mr. Ferguson he made it plain that he believed the Act can be enforced if the trade and the public know that the Government is resolutely behind it and determined to enforce it.

In his address to his own electors at Kemptville the Premier spoke truly when he said, "no one will argue for a moment that the Ontario Temperance Act has not done great

good. We know what it has done in this little community. I know what it has done in many other places. It has removed distress from many a home and taken from the hotel doorstep the inebriate and hanger on who was a nuisance as well as a menace to Society. It has undoubtedly increased the efficiency and general output of industry. No one will deny these things." That was a lucid moment in the Premier's mind. Perhaps he was mentally picturing the old days at the stand-up bar-room and comparing them with the better day which is undoubtedly with us under the generally good effect of the O. T. A.

The truest loyalty to conscience and the best patriotism of our men and of the 862,000 women voters must stop this disastrous Government sale proposition and give an unmistakable mandate to retain and strengthen the Temperance Legislation we have secured by fifty years and more of heroic effort.

Announcement

I wish to announce to the people of this district that I have taken over the MASSEY-HARRIS Agency here and am ready to give prompt service at all times.

Full Line of Repairs Carried and Repair Work Promptly Attended.

HARRY S. MATHEWS

Yonge St.

Richmond Hill

If Your Stomach

IS OUT OF ORDER

GAS ACID, VOMITING, ULCERATED, BLOATED, Etc.

YOU NEED

Dr. Thuna's Herbal Treatment

—FOR QUICK AND LASTING RESULTS—

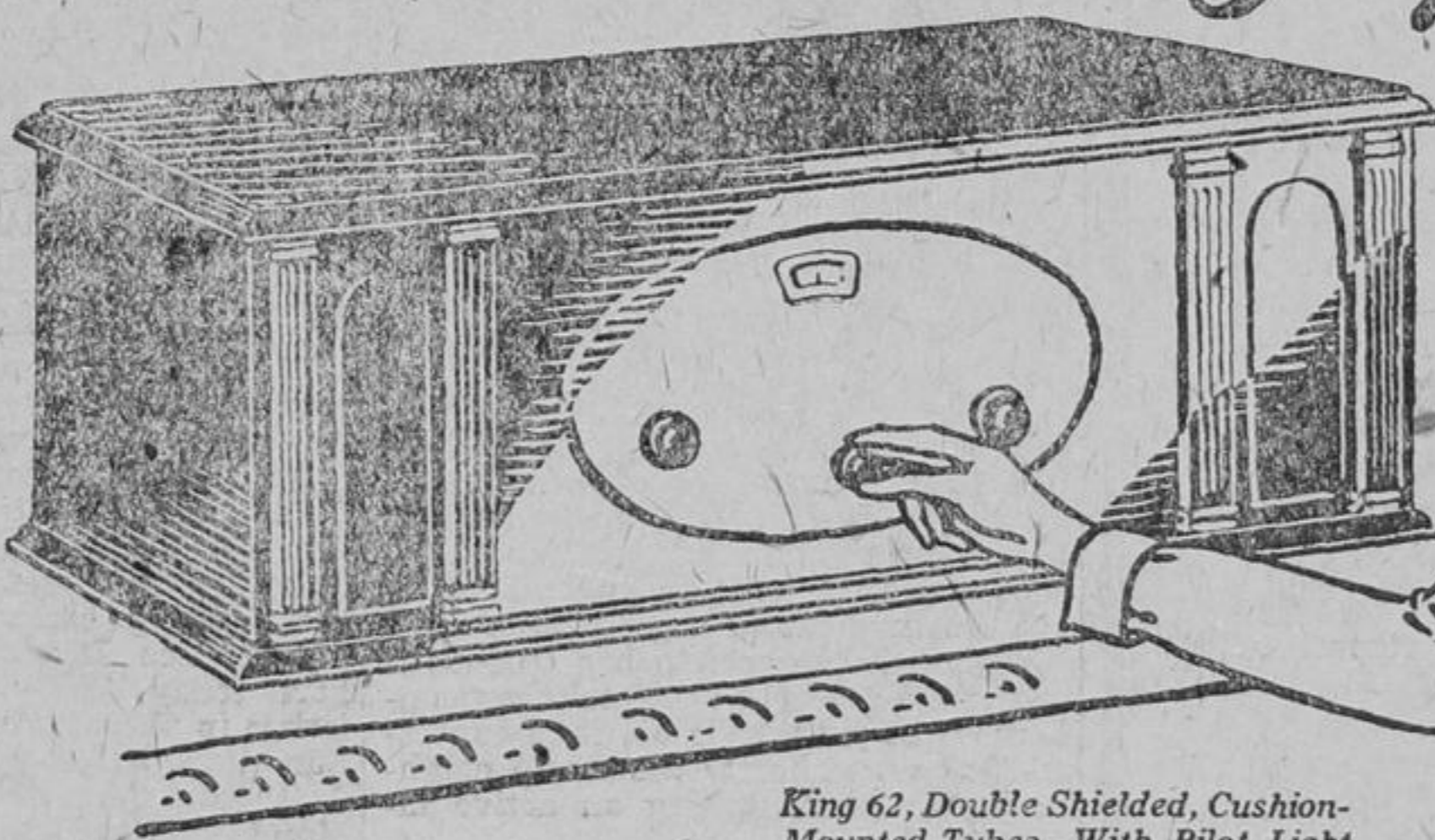
WRITE FOR THIS TREATMENT TODAY

DR. THUNA, The Herbalist

Address—1832 QUEEN STREET, EAST. Toronto 8 Ontario

"NATURE'S WAY IS BEST"

A Simplified Radio that Mother will enjoy



King 62, Double Shielded, Cushion-Mounted Tubes. With Pilot Light

Get the Station
With the Simple Turn of a
Single Knob

THERE'S a hundred things on the air for mother—when the other folks are away at work or school. But mother doesn't know a variable condenser from a grid leak—she wants a set she can operate without being an electrical expert.

Get her the King 62, with the single knob station selector. Then with a simple turn of a single knob she can get that great parade of stations on the air. Music to liven the morning hours, new menus to give variety to the daily meals, lectures on health, and happiness from a hundred stations.

You aren't really using your radio unless mother is getting the good of it in the mornings and afternoons.

We will put this King 62 in your home, install it ready to run—show mother and all of you in ten minutes just how to use it—and ask for only a small down payment—the balance to be paid as you enjoy it.

If you haven't a good radio, half the world is passing you by. And if you have one that mother can't use, you are cheating mother.

Come in today—get a demonstration. Or phone us if you prefer—we will have a set in by tonight.

A Small Down
Payment
Puts This Set in Your
Home

This King Radio is almost as easy to own as to operate. A small payment is all you need pay down. The balance in convenient monthly amounts, paid while you are enjoying its marvelous performance.

KING RADIO

"Most Radio Per Dollar"

HALL'S SERVICE STATION
RICHMOND HILL, ONT.

Get it from
**The Jones
Lumber Co.**
Richmond Hill
Telephone 27