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LEGISLATURE OPENING

Next Wednesday Ontario's Legislators will gather at Queen's Park. It is going to be one of the most interesting sessions ever held in the Province, if present indications are borne out. The first Liberal Government in nearly thirty years will undergo its baptism of fire and the people of Ontario are going to watch closely the developments in the House.

The Conservative opposition, the survivors of the June 19 debacle, have got their second wind and reports say the followers of former Premier Henry are preparing to hurl a lot of brickbats at Premier Hepburn and his Cabinet colleagues. And for those who have any doubts about the matter, let it be said that the Premier and his henchmen will not be idle when the verbal shrapnel starts exploding.

As far as legislation is concerned there are indications that it will be light. The Moratorium Act and labor legislation appear to be the most important to date but most likely the Cabinet have other pieces of legislation about which little has been said. Changes in the relief system may be made and there is a growing belief that Hon. T. B. McQuesten, Minister of Highways, has an important amendment in regard to the Highway Traffic Act.

There is always widespread public interest in the first session of a new Government and particularly in this true in connection with the present occupants of the treasury benches. Premier Hepburn is a young man and his vigorous personality and personal magnetism is one reason why the visitor's galleries will be crowded day by day. It will be his first appearance in the Legislature and he will have no advantage over many of his followers in this respect. However, there are old-timers alongside or near him. Hon. Harry Nixon, the Provincial Secretary, is an experienced campaigner and there is little he does not know about tactics. Hon. Dr. L. J. Simpson, Minister of Health, Hon. Peter Heenan, Minister of Lands and Forests, Hon. Duncan Marshall, Minister of Agriculture, and last but not least, W. E. N. Sinclair, K.C., all have had long experience in Legislatures and Parliaments.

TRIBUTE TO TEACHERS

The teacher is one of the most important influences in the moulding and the shaping of the character of boys and girls. This fact has been often stressed. Possibly only the home life is a greater influence. The teacher is the key to the moral problem and he does much in guiding the boys and girls under his care to a proper way of living.

John Girdler, writing in the Rotarian Magazine, comments on this fact when he says:

Teachers who are devoid of fear; teachers who will take responsibility with full knowledge that they will be supported by the administration; teachers whose corpuscles move freely through their arteries; teachers who can laugh below the diaphragm; teachers who vote for whom they please; teachers who love life and children; above all, teachers who have their routine duties reduced to the point where they can instruct, guide, exemplify, and train—such teachers will do more to solve the moral education problem than bureaus of research, organizations of business men, boards of moving picture censors, and hard-working tenement-house sanitary engineers put together.

THE SMALL TOWN EDITOR HE PUTS YOU ON THE MAP

Perhaps you were lucky enough to have been born in a small town. If so, you had hardly let out your first yell on this terrestrial sphere before the local editor ordered the fact of your arrival announced to a baby-loving world.

When you reached the age of three or four and had your first real birthday party with invited guests, your friends, the editor, told all and sundry who was there and what a fuss they made over you.

When you got on the honor roll at grade school he let all your admiring friends and neighbors know about it. If you get into any minor scrapes he apparently forgot about them as soon as he was told, for he wanted to play up the things which might make you great.

All through your High School course he was keenly watching to see if you did anything worthy of note in athletics, letters or debate. And when you finally graduated he again seized upon the opportunity to put your name in print.

If you decided to go to work then instead of going to college he heralded the fact in such a manner that made any prospective employers realize that here was an ambitious lad who wasn't leaning unnecessarily on the folks. He wanted all whom it might concern to know that if work was to be done, there was a live-wire all set.

When the supreme object of your heart's desire was won your editor-friend seemed to know about it almost as soon as the "lucky" girl and warned all other aspirants to her sole attention to lay off as he printed the announcement of your engagement. Once more you were the conquering hero, or though so. The girl may have had other ideas on that subject.

If after that you accomplished anything worthy of note the world was told in letters bold: "Small Town Boy Makes Good."

When those near and dear to you, were, by death, taken out on "The Great Adventure" the Chief of the Columns apparently forgot their vices, and proceeded to laud their virtues and remind the world of their fine family connections—including you.

When illness overtook you he let all the neighbours know so that mayhap the power of their prayers could be added to the forces of medicine.

And some day (should he perchance outlive you as he has so many others) he, being kind and faithful unto the end, will once more use good paper and ink for you. He will probably tell mankind far and wide that one has passed who was a useful and worthwhile addition to the race, that you have gone to join the glorious company who have become the "guests of God."

Yes, from the cradle of birth to the casket of death, the small town editor is your friend. He puts you on the map.

"LET THERE BE LIGHT"

(By John Edwin Price)

No two distinct types of thought can dominate the mind at the same time any more than two pin points can stand on the same space. If one would change his life he must first change his thoughts. Like attracts like. We become like what we think about most. However, wrong thinking cannot be successfully shoved out of one's life as snow is shoveled out of a doorway it is blocking. But as darkness can be pushed back by light so can wrong thinking be pushed back and out of one's life by letting right thoughts dominate more.

The following thought schedule has helped others let in light.

SUNDAY

Tis the touch of God each day
In beauty, truth or thoughtful way
Tis the good that passes from soul to soul
That helps us reach the longed-for goal.

MONDAY

I see God in the sunlight. I realize that the clouds and rain are in the long run beneficent parts of his plan. I know that much goodness can be squeezed from all kinds of suffering. I am convinced that whatever life hands me can be turned to good account in some way if I seek the way. This attitude of mind has forever pushed the jitters out of my life and is bringing in courageous calmness and perpetual poise.

TUESDAY

"A good deed is never lost. He who sows courtesy, reaps friendship. And he who plants kindness gathers love." The place to begin is where I am. The seeds to use are such as I have. The time to begin is TO-DAY.

WEDNESDAY

Gladness is a boomerang. Just to hold the glad attitude may fill someone's life to-day with cheer and blessing. The law of cause and effect, that makes boomerangs come back, that brings back the echo of a kind or ugly word, will sometime when my need and expectant attitude are just right, draw JOY to me.

THURSDAY

I will think best thoughts and expect the best things in and for myself, in others and for others. People ON TOP usually think that way. I will feel at home in their company and they in mine. Mayhap they will one day want me to be one of their company, financially and socially.

FRIDAY and SATURDAY

I open my heart and I open my mind
To all that is good and all that is kind.
I am still, very still. I am listening. I am open, tuned-in and receptive to God's urges to me and through me for others.

The Queen's Park Arena

It's money that makes the wheels go round and in this regard governments are no different from private corporations and individuals. The machinery of government needs plenty of dollars to enable the complicated mechanism to run smoothly.

And so we find the Hepburn Government hunting for dollars. A new theory has been developed in Queen's Park. It is the theory of saving. Revenues down? Very well, do everything to increase them but don't forget that a dollar saved is a dollar made. And that, in brief, is the theory upon which the Liberal administration is working.

Premier Hepburn and his colleagues are out to save every nickel in sight—and a lot that are out of sight as well. Appointment recently of Chester S. Walters, Deputy Minister of Public Works, as a sort of Auditor-General for Ontario, is one of the first moves in this business of saving money. The economy measures of the government might be said to be in two stages. The first was the cutting of overstuffed departments. This was a necessary though unpleasant task. The second stage and the one upon which the government is now embarking is just as necessary and not nearly so unpleasant.

This second stage is where Mr. Walters enters the picture. His is a roving commission. He is authorized to go into any department of the civil service and investigate expenditures and methods of operation. Where money can be saved without injury to the service itself, it will be his job to get busy and do it. And the prospects are that he will find plenty to do. Already he has instituted changes in various departments, particularly highways and the treasury, which have resulted in thousands of dollars being saved.

The numerous branches of the civil service have not been subjected to a thorough overhaul in years. Lax methods and unbusinesslike procedure have crept into affairs with the result that expenditures have steadily skyrocketed in recent years. Political and not sound business considerations have, in the past, been the basis of conduct in many instances.

Take, for example, the question of succession duties. When a wealthy man passes on to his reward the province steps in and takes a slice of his estate. That is the law. But Premier Hepburn has discovered that in several cases the payments to the province have been a great deal less than they should have been. These cases occurred before his government came into power. But it is not too late to do something about it and the latest report is that the government

is billing the heirs for additional money. Most problems confronting governments boil down to a question of money. If the science of good government means spending no more than the amount received, then the Liberal administration is on the right track. A balanced budget is the aim but with relief expenditures casting a terrific burden on the province, this goal may not be reached as quickly as desired.

But every dollar helps! One of the most remarkable features of Provincial Government affairs since the incoming of the new Hepburn administration is the steady climb in revenues due partially to more economical handling of affairs, partially to stoppage of former "leaks," and, undoubtedly, partially to improved times.

Fighting to provide the provincial taxpayers with a balanced budget, the Queen's Park authorities last week found that their efforts had resulted in approximate million dollar revenue increases over each of the past three months. Although there is still a hard, uphill financial battle to fight before entire rectification of the Ontario balance sheet can be effected, this increase is welcomed among members of the Government as one big step toward the ultimate objective.

The results of careful husbanding of provincial revenue resources are even more vividly displayed in a comparison of revenue total at the end of the first quarter of this fiscal year with the total at the end of the first quarter last year. The comparison shows an increase of \$2,584,999, which is about as encouraging a figure as government authorities—and taxpayers threatened with additional imposts—have looked at for many a long day.

It may be significant that nearly a third of the increase is in Hon. T. B. McQuesten's department, due to rising gasoline tax revenues, which were the subject of special analyses and "leak-plugging" by the new Deputy Minister of Public Works, Col. Walters. These revenues jumped almost a million dollars—\$909,249, to be exact. At the same time, the Motor Vehicles Branch, into which motor owners pay their license fees, reported an increase of a million and a half over the same period last year.

While Premier Hepburn, as Provincial Treasurer, is jealously guarding revenue increases, handed back to the people a big chunk of them the other day in the abolition of annual fees for entrance and secondary school examinations. This action will result in a loss of revenue amounting to \$180,000.

Consumer Dividends and Milk Price Control

By Gordon Furrow

Will co-operative patronage dividends wreck the efforts of Ontario dairymen to obtain a stable price for fluid milk? The recent disastrous milk war in Hamilton was blamed on this practice, and while the offending distributor has agreed, during the period of the truce arranged by the Ontario Milk Control Board, to drop coupons or customers' dividends, permanent relinquishment will depend upon the decision of the Ontario legislature at the coming session.

Largely as result of work of milk producers' associations, seconded by the larger distributors and backed up by the Ontario Department of Agriculture under both Hon. T. L. Kennedy and later Hon. Duncan Marshall, something in the way of a uniform price for fluid milk was established during the past year. The scheme was based on a minimum price to producers of around \$1.85 per hundred pounds, delivered at the retailing point. To maintain such a level the bulk of the distributors charged consumers in the neighborhood of 12 cents per quart.

Previous to this stabilization there had been a lot of price cutting with values getting down to less than a dollar per hundred pounds in several cases. There was plenty of fluid milk offered at the latter figure and there were many distributors, anxious to extend patronage or break into a new field, who were willing to accept it and peddle the milk at less than the recognized retail price. Under the old system of each man for himself the established distributors simply met the newcomer's price, but to do so passed the cut along to the farmer. In the end it was invariably the latter who footed the bill for all milk wars.

Since the advent of the Milk Control Board, however, outbreaks of this kind have been largely averted. Through control of distributors' and truckers' licenses the Board was able to put all dairy companies on the same level. Efforts to juggle either the producer or consumer prices were not only frowned upon but very definitely discouraged.

Then came the peculiar Hamilton situation with its threat to the fluid milk price structure of the whole province. With Hamilton prices out of control, there would have been no chance of maintaining stable levels in Toronto, only forty miles away. With Toronto gone, of course, the collapse of fluid milk markets all through Ontario would then have been a matter of only a few days. With ample, though as yet untested powers of the Milk Board behind them, producers and distributors were able to hold a remarkably uniform system of producer and consumer values all through Ontario. Various business codes, which it is understood had the full approval of the board, prevented cutting retail values by the old method of premiums, bonuses and prizes, but apparently these codes and the government authority vested in the Milk Board did not cover the matter of co-operative patronage dividends to consumers.

There are three large dairies operating in Hamilton and a dozen or more privately owned distributorship organizations composed of about a dozen shippers. The charter of this company, it is said, allows it to pay patronage dividends. This is a very common practice among farm co-operatives, but usually the dividend is confined to one end of the business only. In the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers, for instance, all patronage dividends go to the grower of the wool handled and vary with the amount of that material shipped. The same thing is true with the cream shippers to the United Farmers Co-operative. Neither the buyer of the graded wool in the one case nor of the manufactured butter in the other expects any rebate on the price paid for the product.

But this Hamilton co-operative dairy, apparently, decided to pay dividends at both ends. In an effort to extend its field a two per cent cash dividend in the form of a coupon was given to all retail customers. Now the Ontario Milk Board decided that while any distributor, co-operative or privately owned, could pay the farmer as much above the minimum price as they liked, there would be no cutting below the minimum figure, and in offering a rebate to the consumer the Board was of the opinion that minimum prices to the farmer were endangered. Members of the Board also declared that the capital of the co-operative, which had been supplied by the shippers themselves, was also risked by such a procedure.

Apparently other Hamilton distributors also interpreted the coupon idea as a price cut, because when their

customers started slipping away, they too, started to offer coupons or rebates in some other form. From this step quickly came the straight cut in prices until milk was selling at nearly fifty per cent below values outside of Hamilton. As a result of the efforts of the Milk Board the loss, estimated at around \$500 per day, was confined to the large distributors and the producers. Neither the producer price nor wages of employees were affected, though nobody believed that such control could have been exercised for very long. Eventually, as in all similar cases previously, the farmer supplying this cheap milk would have had to foot the bill.

All sides in the Hamilton dispute have now agreed to accept the truce proposed by the Milk Board and for the time being Hamilton prices are again back to 11½ cents per quart. But the present settlement is not permanent. The question of permitting consumer dividends will have to be decided by the members of the Ontario legislature at the coming session. Members of the Milk Board in protesting against this practice state that they are simply protecting the producers and the capital of the smaller dairies. Had the Hamilton milk war continued, they claim, it would not have been the larger distributors with plenty of reserves which would have gone under but the little fellow, and all shippers, whether to the co-operative or not, would have had to take lower values. In this particular instance, it is stated, it would have been a case of the 80 shippers to the co-operative dairy dictating prices not only to the 500 Hamilton shippers but eventually to the 10,000 milk shippers in the whole of Ontario.

Unless the Milk Board has absolute control over the general range of both consumer and producer fluid milk prices, little hope of stabilization is held by officials of the Ontario Milk Producers' Association.

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