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## Law Should Be Changed for Taxation of Railway Houses

**Decision in the Matter of Appeal From Municipal Taxation on Railway Employees' Residences. Suggestion That Towns Concerned Should Combine to Have Law Changed in Fairness to Municipalities.**

Last week announcement was made of the decision of His Honour Judge Caron in the case of the appeal of A. T. King, station agent at Cochrane, against the assessment by the municipality of the residence in which the agent lived. The house is owned by the T. & N. O. Railway, and the appeal held that by virtue of an agreement between employees and the railway and the fact that the property is Crown property, the municipality had no legal right to tax it. The appeal was from the finding of the Cochrane Court of Revision which confirmed the assessment. His Honour Judge Caron granted the appeal.

Previous to the announcement of the judgment. The Advance pointed out that in case the decision went against the Town in the matter, then the law should be changed. It would

appear that all railway property in a town should pay taxes to the municipality in the same way as any other property. Anything else is unfair and unjust. In commenting on the question last week, The Northern News, of Cobalt, had the following editorial reference:—

"Decision by Judge Caron, at Cochrane, that the official residence of Alex. T. King, the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway agent there, is not assessable by the town of Cochrane, put the issue squarely up to the municipalities. It is unlikely the Town Council there will appeal from the judgment of His Honour, as it was generally agreed by the members of the legal profession on hand at the time that the new contract introduced into the dispute settled the matter, in law. But the unfairness of the system remains and the municipalities, if they expect to secure any redress, will have to take it upon themselves to bring pressure on the powers-that-be in this respect. Public opinion, including that represented by the railwaymen themselves, will be behind any effort made to place Commission-owned residences on the same basis as other dwellings."

There does not seem to be any reason why the T. & N. O. should not pay its employees enough wages that they can manage to pay their share of the maintenance of the towns in which they live. Railway employees receive all the benefits that anyone else does from a town—roads, streets, lights, water, sewerage, health protection, fire protection, police protection, schools, etc. If one of these railway houses should take fire, what would the Commission think if the municipality said, "Oh, it's Crown property,—it doesn't need municipal protection?" How would it be if municipalities asked the children of non-tax-paying railway employees to trot along to "Crown schools?" It takes money to maintain the public services of a municipality. Why should any class be exempt? The question should result in a persistent demand that fairness and equity should prevail in such matters.

It is probable that the towns of this North may co-operate to secure justice in this matter. In the report of the last meeting of the Cobalt Council, The Northern News makes the following reference along this line:—"Council discussed briefly the decision of Judge Caron at Cochrane,



in which His Honor held that the T. & N. O. agent's house there was not assessable for municipal purposes. It was suggested by Councillor Lendrum that the various municipalities interested—he mentioned specifically Cochrane, New Liskeard, Iroquois Falls and Timmins—should be communicated with and some united action in the matter considered. Mayor Armstrong declared any action with the government should be undertaken before the end of the year, in order that if legislation was to be prepared, the provincial Cabinet would be in a position to consider it before next session of the Legislature. Councillor Lendrum said he thought the municipalities he mentioned might be prepared to send representatives to a conference to be held at Englehart at a date to be set later. It was decided to leave the matter in abeyance until after the federal election smoke has cleared away, when further steps may be taken."

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## EMBARGO ON PULPWOOD WOULD BE BAD FOR CANADA

"Economist" Replies to Letter by Mr. Frank Barnjum.

"Economist" has favoured The Advance with a number of letters during the past year or two in regard to the embargo suggested by some to be put on pulpwood. Last week the following letter was received from "Economist." It practically knocks the bottom out of the propaganda for the embargo.

Montreal, Sept. 12th, 1925  
To The Editor, The Advance,  
Timmins, Ont.

Dear Sir—Mr. Barnjum's reply to my article pleases me well for it corroborates just what I said.

He quoted from Sir John Willison to the effect that when raw materials are exported from a country they are followed by an exodus of the inhabitants to the place where they are manufactured. I asked whether this had occurred in regard to the exports of American raw cotton. Mr. Barnjum retorts that "Immigration is never drawn to countries where the standard of living and wages are lower." Exactly. What causes emigration is not just the export of raw materials, as Mr. Barnjum—following Sir John Willison—has suggested. Nor will it be stopped simply by an embargo on such exports. It depends on quite complex conditions.

Groundless general statements of this sort about cause and effect are just samples of the embargo propaganda. Emigration from this Province, as from England to United States, is due—as my critic now says—to the lure of a better wage. It is not due to the export of our pulpwood. Mr. Barnjum, to make good his own case, must show that keeping pulpwood in this Province would make wages rise. What he offers in proof is his own statement, without any real evidence, that the supply of this material in the province is "totally inadequate to the demand." Why, then, are not the mill owners buying it in large quantities? They will do so, he hints, if they can get an embargo imposed, and there will then be vast new projects to give employment. In short, if they can get the produce of woodland lots forced down in price by Government interference, these philanthropists will show their zeal for the province by buying it for a song! We have seen such philanthropy before.

Yours very truly,  
Economist.

A number took advantage of the fine weather on Sunday to motor to Connaught, Iroquois Falls, Montith, Matheson, and other nearby towns. They report the roads as in excellent shape and condition.

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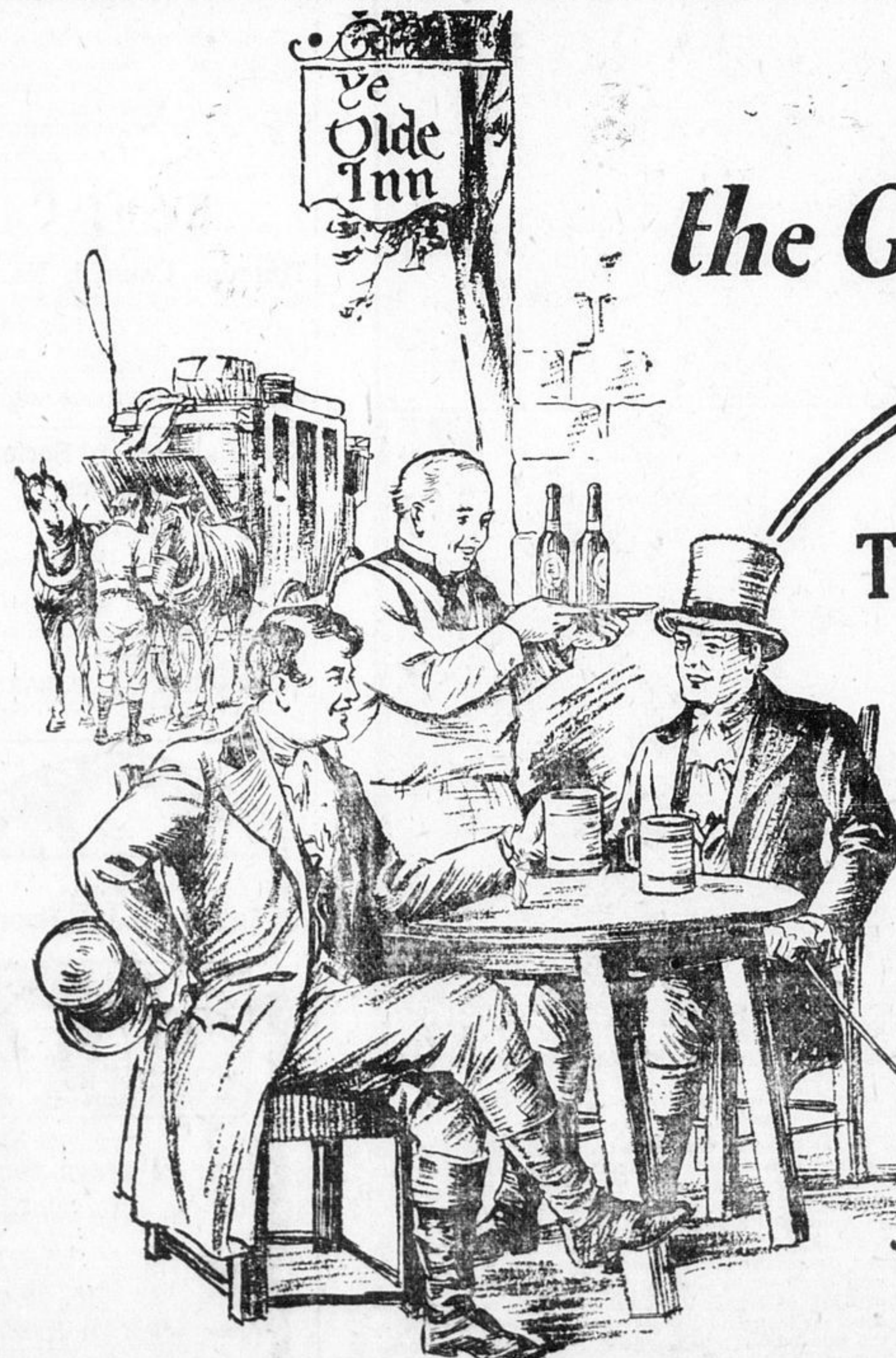
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