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Prohibition Pledge Broken by the People Not by a Party

Reader of The Advance Astonished at the Sinclair Manifesto Issued in Toronto Last Week. Liberal Dry Policy Insincere, he says, and Simply in the Hopes of Catching Votes.

The following letter was received this week from an old-time reader of The Advance:—

October 30th, 1926
Editor Porcupine Advance,
Timmins, Ontario.

My Dear Editor:—I have just read with astonishment the introductory policies of the Liberal Party as presented at the King Edward Hotel by Mr. Sinclair, and as per copy attached herewith.

Mr. Sinclair's first clause states:—"No party can live on the mistakes of another. It may remedy conditions created by these mistakes. This the Liberal Party proposes to do. The Liberal Party approaches this contest with confidence, knowing that if ever there was a duty to perform for the people it is now."

Mr. Sinclair failed to mention the mistakes he seeks to remedy. Consequently his opening salvo can be taken as so much mush.

The next clause Mr. Sinclair states:—"We believe that public pledges should be observed and when broken those responsible should be punished."

Quite right, but what "public pledge" has been broken? Does Mr. Sinclair intend to so construe prohibition? If so, that pledge was broken by the people from its very introduction and not by any Party. The attempt is now to put the situation in some respectful position which Mr. Sinclair does not want to do. It reminds me of Antony's speech, "for Brutus is an honourable man"—Antony surely showed how "honourable" he was in his desertion to Cleopatra! Is the Liberal Party "honourable" in Quebec? If so, is it honourable here in the Province of Ontario? If the Party is consistent, identical liquor laws should be proposed by them. Their failure to do so certainly makes one cautious of taking their introductory clause here-mentioned with any grain of respect or confidence.

As for the rest of Mr. Sinclair's clauses they are all consistent with any right order of thinking people and mean nothing as pertaining to any particular organization. One clause is apt:—"we believe that the people should be consulted at convenient seasons, etc." That's exactly what Conservatives are doing in Ontario, and Hon. Howard Ferguson has hastened an election to carry this privilege to his people.

This is not a time for oratory. Let Mr. Sinclair continue his "Mark Antony stuff"—while a Man proposes to set in order a condition long worrying the great commonwealth.

The Silent Member.
The platform or manifesto referred to in the communication, and enclosed

with the letter is as follows:—

POLICY OF LIBERAL PARTY AS OUTLINED BY LEADER.

Concluding his speech at the banquet tendered him at the King Edward Hotel, Mr. Sinclair set forth the policy of the Liberal party as follows amid vociferous applause:

"You ask me—What of the future? No party can live on the mistakes of another. It may remedy conditions created by these mistakes. This the Liberal party proposes to do. The Liberal party approaches this contest with confidence, knowing that if ever there was a duty to perform for the people it is now."

"We believe that public pledges should be observed and when broken those responsible should be punished."

"We believe that parliament should observe its own laws and that every constituency is entitled at all times and under all circumstances to a voice in the legislature of the province."

"We believe that redistribution of the riding should be fair, giving no preference to the urban ridings over the rural ones."

"We believe that the finances of Ontario are in a dangerous condition, and that rigid economy is necessary for balanced budgets."

"We believe in a survey of provincial sources of taxation with a view to the elimination of taxation upon sources already taxed by other bodies."

"We believe in a practical education for every boy and girl in Ontario, with fuller local autonomy in educational affairs."

"We believe that the people should be consulted at convenient seasons and not at a time of the year which will give advantage to any party."

"We believe in the rule of the people and that where the people have expressed their views the legislature should give effect to the same."

"We believe in the development of the water powers of Ontario by the province for the benefit of the people of Ontario."

"We believe in aid to agriculture by the development of co-operative marketing, so that producers will receive the maximum of return for the products of the soil."

"We believe in the conservation of the province, so that a continuous supply of pulp and timber will be assured, furnishing a continuous industry for the province and an assured market for labour for all time."

"We believe in old-age pensions, and that the province should co-operate with the federal government in that regard."

"These and all matters from time to time, for the good of the province, will be carried into effect by the Liberals in office."

**ARCHBISHOP OF ONTARIO
ENDORSES GOVERNMENT**

Believes Hon. G. H. Ferguson's Government Control Plan Should Have Fair Trial. O. T. A. Did Not Work Well.

His Grace, Archbishop Thorne, Metropolitan of the Anglican Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario, last week made the following statement in regard to the operation of the Ontario Temperance Act, and the proposed new liquor legislation of Hon. G. Howard Ferguson:—

"I am by no means satisfied with the working of the Ontario Temperance Act in the past. There seem to have been so many loopholes through which men have found it possible to creep in order to make it ineffective. I think that the Government is not only entitled but bound to look after the moral welfare of the public in this matter of the distribution and use of intoxicants, as well as in other matters affecting the well-being of the people, but think no legislation can be effective that does not carry and command the approval and support of the public. I know we cannot make people good by force alone. Persuasion is necessary. Legislation must be supported by education and religion. Self-control in all classes of our population, rich and poor alike, is essential to the carrying out of any moral reform or wise legislation touching home to people's inner life. There is in human nature a sense of freedom which must be respected."

"All these considerations have to be weighed by the Government, and I have very great hope that the measure proposed by Premier Ferguson will be found, if carried, to be a very great improvement on what we have been experiencing through the past few years, but all depends on the whole-hearted, honest way in which the legislation is framed by the Government and supported by the people."

**NEW POLICY APPROVED
BY MODERATION LEAGUE**

Members Will Support Ferguson Candidates, Despite Story to the Contrary.

At the time of the last plebiscite campaign the Moderation League, headed by influential and prominent men throughout Ontario, made its influence felt and was recognized accordingly as of importance from a political standpoint, though embracing men of all political creeds, and being bound together only by agreement on the one thing—the idea that liberty, sanity and temperance should govern in regard to legislation touching on the normal rights of people as to what they shall eat, drink or wear. Accordingly, when it was announced recently by a Toronto newspaper that the Moderation League was opposed to the Ferguson policy for the control of the liquor question, there was interest, not to mention astonishment. However, as many expected, the statements about opposition from the Moderation League to the Ferguson Temperance policy are not warranted. The Moderation League has issued a statement carefully explaining its attitude. The statement speaks for itself, and is worthy of careful perusal. It is as follows:—"It has been the policy of the Moderation League of Ontario, to remain scrupulously aloof from party politics, and in the present provincial election that policy will be rigidly adhered to. The league, however, was formed and maintained by public spirited citizens of the province, for the purpose of expressing opposition to certain prohibitive and oppressive effects of the Ontario Temperance Act, and for obtaining such changes in the law of the province, as would protect the rights of law abiding citizens, and at the same time, promote true temperance. In pursuance of this, the league has made to the public certain suggestions, which in its opinion would be to the moral and economic advantage of the pro-

vince. These suggestions have, during recent years, been receiving ever increasing approval from the electors of Ontario, while contemporaneously, the defects of the Ontario Temperance Act have become more manifest with the result that the time has now come for a change.

"While the proposals of the Hon. G. H. Ferguson are not the proposals of the Moderation League, and while the league reserves to itself at the proper time and place, the right to offer such criticism as it thinks will bring these proposals more into conformity with the needs and desires of the province, nevertheless, in so far as the proposals of the premier entail amendment of the Ontario Temperance Act, restoring to citizens normal rights over matters of individual conduct, they are acceptable to the Moderation League, and the members of the league will be asked to support throughout the province, candidates who are pledged to give these proposals legislative sanction."

Uncle—"Well, you little rascal how many times have you been whacked at school to-day?"

Tommy—"Dunno, uncle. I don't take any notice of what goes on behind my back."



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