

Fined for Breach of the Cobalt Closing By-law

Some days ago some merchants in Timmins while discussing the fact that some of the stores did not remain closed on Armistice Day ventured the opinion that all early closing by-laws of every description, no matter how they may be worded or who may pass them are not unbreakable provided anyone goes to the length of opposing them. Quite evidently this is not the fact as may be noted by the recent case in Cobalt where a merchant was fined for breach of a local by-law in regard to early closing.

The story is told by the following despatches from Cobalt this week:—"It cost Camille Coutu, local grocer who had opposed the half-holiday by-law from the start, \$12 today for keeping open his store in defiance of that recent edict of the municipality. Coutu was fined \$1 and costs when convicted

in police court by Magistrate Atkinson, after Chief George Delves had told of "begging" him to shut his shop; only to receive, he said, the answer that "The by-law was no good and he (accused) had a good lawyer in Halleybury" who could get him off. J. A. Legris, the lawyer in question, argued there had not been a sufficient number of signatures obtained for the petition, and that the by-law had not been published, but the court held onus of proof was on the defence, while Crown Attorney F. L. Smiley, K.C., said publication was a courtesy and did not affect the by-law's validity."

Detroit News:—"Don't be foolish and run yourself down when your neighbours are only too glad to do it for you."

Blairmore Enterprise:—"A beer wagon ran over a Scotchman the other day; and for the first time the drinks were on him."

Member for this Riding Talks on Unemployment Problems

Address of J. A. Bradette, M.P. for Temiskaming North in the House of Commons Last Week. Deals with Unemployment and "Back-to-Land" Plan and Makes Suggestions to Help the North. Strongly Against Direct Relief or Dole.

Mr. J. A. BRADETTE (North Temiskaming): I listened very attentively last night to the highly documented and well delivered address of the hon. Minister of Labour (Mr. Gordon). It is needless for me to say that I am absolutely in favour of anything that may be done by the government or the Department of Labour to alleviate the dire distress of the Canadian people. I also find myself in hearty agreement with the announcement of the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett), yesterday that he was going to call an interprovincial conference to discuss certain social questions. At the same time I hope that the government will not fail to give leadership to such a conference in many of these important problems. I have in mind more particularly unemployment insurance. No doubt some of the provinces are not in a financial position today to start a system of unemployment insurance. I repeat that I hope that the federal government will take the leadership in this important matter.

There are two questions with which I wish to deal particularly, direct relief, and the back to the land movement. The Minister of Labour said last night that the present system of direct relief is only a palliative, that it is not to be a permanent feature of our national life. Every citizen of this country will agree and hope that that is the case. I am speaking more particularly for the constituency which I have the honour to represent in this house, and I must say that direct relief is not giving satisfaction because it does not go to the root of the present depression. Direct relief is not curing unemployment. It is not making people happy, and that applies not only in my own section but throughout Canada, for the very good reason that many deserving people, although the government is willing to help them, when they cannot find work and are actually in need of relief, will not apply for it. I wish to say on behalf of the government that in Northern Ontario the distribution of direct relief is handled entirely apart from the political machinery. But at the same time quite a number of people who are willing to work and cannot find it are too proud to ask for bread and butter.

I have great sympathy with the last speaker. He spoke of the wonderful character of the people of his constituency and of the courage they were showing in these trying times. I believe the same can be said of the people throughout Northern Ontario, and indeed in all parts of Canada. But under the system of direct relief the morale of our people is suffering. There are more people today who do not want to work than there were two years ago.

Let me ask why it was that this government decided last session that direct relief should be provided instead of work. I do not think an adequate explanation has ever been given. In Northern Ontario there are important undertakings to be carried out by manual labour which should be financed jointly by the province and the federal government. We had the spectacle of parliament passing resolutions and statutes last session providing for direct relief, but actually the principle of direct relief is not being applied in Northern Ontario. What is done there is this: People are given an order to get goods, whether it is provisions or clothing, at the stores. They are given scrip for which they have to work. For instance, if a man receives an order for ten dollars' worth of goods at the store he is compelled to work five days at two dollars a day, and then at the end of that time he is not given any money, but simply the scrip. I do not think that was the intention of the law that we put on the statute books last session. I think it was at all events implied in that legislation that the money would be given with no strings attached. I wish to repeat that there is no politics in the distribution of direct relief in Northern Ontario. My point is that direct relief in the shape of money is not given. A man requires more than food in order to live. He must have clothing, boots and shoes, and medicine, and I maintain that when a man is made to work he should be given good Canadian currency instead of scrip, so that he can buy the necessities of life he likes.

Mr. Bradette then dealt with some of the general conditions in his riding, concluding the part of his address before the House took recess, as follows: "I speak feelingly in connection with this subject because, unhappily, most of the districts are unorganized. Many municipalities such as that of Moombeam, Machin, Shackleton, and so forth, and some municipalities in the constituency of the Minister of Labour, have not the money to extend to the settlers the direct relief to which they are entitled."

After recess, Mr. Bradette continued in part, as follows:—"One statement made by the minister last evening pleased me a very great deal; it appears on page 1566 of Unrevised Hansard:—"There is no reason today why any person in the Dominion should go without fuel and without shelter, because the municipalities are bearing their share of the burden and bearing it manfully."

Of course the suggestion is made that the provinces and the Dominion also are bearing their share of the burden manfully. I said before six o'clock, however, that in my section of the

country there will be suffering, not so much from lack of shelter as from lack of food and clothing during the coming winter.

Mr. SMITH (Victoria): Where? Mr. BRADETTE: I do not like to have such a reflection made by an hon. member of the house. It is no pleasure for me to mention certain dire conditions which exist in my own constituency, but I believe it to be my duty, as well as the duty of every hon. member of the house, to bring matters of this kind to the attention of the government. I am doing it the more readily because I realize that the government want to remedy such situations, and we want the government to realize the conditions as we find them. Before six o'clock I said that the people of Canada do not want to become mendicants. They want to stand on their own feet; they want to work out their own salvation as far as that is possible, so I hope this relief is only an emergency measure and that before next summer some way will be found to provide work for the people in every section of the country.

Mr. Bradette then dealt with the side matter of the Trans-Canada highway, the report from Hansard in this particular appearing elsewhere in this issue of The Advance.

Continuing the report of Mr. Bradette's address Hansard says:—

There are many fire hazards in Northern Ontario in connection with which many men could be given work. This would prevent a recurrence of the fires that from time to time have visited Cochrane, Timmins and Halleybury, the home of the Minister of Labour. All those who live in Northern Ontario know of the severity of these hazards; everyone knows of the dread of the people of Rouyn, Porcupine and even the Timmins District from fire during the last summer. I believe useful work could be done in this connection.

I believe that in the matter of the relief of single men Northern Ontario has been slighted. I have seen many instances of poor settlers who, because they were single men, could not obtain relief, and I do not think that is right. I have no time to explain why there are so many single men in that part of the country, but I do not believe any difference should be made between different classes of people following the same occupation. I believe hundreds of young men could be given employment this winter and next spring in removing the fire hazards of which I spoke, which are well known to the Minister of Labour and to everyone else who has visited the northern part of Ontario.

I want to compliment the government on the work they intend to carry on in connection with airports, which will result in the employment of many single men. I do think the wages to be paid too small, but these men will be given some work, and that is one of the proper things to do. This work should be extended to Northern Ontario as well; we have not such a large population, but we have many men who could be employed in this work, and I think this request should be given due consideration. I know the Minister of Labour well enough to be sure that he has already brought up that point in the cabinet.

There is one other matter with which I should like to deal at some length, because I have it very much at heart. I refer to the policy of the government with regard to the back to the land movement. I mention this matter because I am heartily in favour of anything that will help the agricultural classes and reduce unemployment in the urban centres. Last evening the Minister of Labour, dealing with the matter, found it possible to take a

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roundabout way in mentioning the amount of money to be spent in connection with this scheme. He said that \$1,385,675 had been spent, and said he did not believe any member of this house could criticize that expenditure. Then, however, he went on to deal with the immigration policies of the former government. At page 1568 of Hansard I find the following statement by the Minister:—"Let me point out to the house something I think is often overlooked. During the period from 1919 to March 1932, this government spent in its immigration department the sum of \$36,718,454.97."

That paragraph can be interpreted as a reflection upon the late government, but I submit that no hon. gentleman on the other side of the House can criticize that administration so far as immigration is concerned. I may say that I for one have protested time and time again against the bringing in of too many immigrants and placing them on the land, people whom it was humanly impossible to maintain there.

"I believe the government is sincere in its effort to help the rural population in the newer centres, but it should carry on the land clearing bonusing scheme for which we have been agitating in Northern Ontario for the last fifteen years, and with which I thank the Minister of Labour is in sympathy. I would suggest that a bonus of \$25.00 per acre be given for each acre put into cultivation. Such a bonus would prove to be of great assistance to these people. The government of Ontario is ready to grant a bonus to the settlers of that province provided assistance is given by the federal government. Should such a system be put into effect I venture to prophesy that every new settler in Northern Ontario would be satisfied with his lot. This would bring about a movement from the urban to the rural districts. It is the duty of this government to see that our rural population is prosperous. . . ."

(Mr. Bradette dealt at some length with immigration matters asserting that the previous government was not to blame for any troubles in this regard. He also dealt with the need for a pulpwood market).

The report continues:—
Mr. BRADETTE: I do not think a single member of this house or a single citizen of this country will criticize this government for what it has spent on the land settlement scheme. The total expenditure is not quite a million and a half dollars. However, I do not believe that any governmental scheme for land settlement will prove to be beneficial to any section of the country unless assistance is provided by the federal or provincial government. But it must be admitted that this scheme as it is being worked out, under the present regulations is a step in the right direction.

Certain citizens from Ottawa were sent to the districts of Englehart and New Liskeard, and found it impossible to remain on the land. But we cannot single out only failures because there are quite a number that succeed. However, I believe that this back to the land scheme under the present administration may prove to be workable. In Ontario we are trying out a scheme which I believe will prove to be beneficial to all concerned. A small party has been settled on the land a few miles south of the town of Hearst in the district of Cochrane, and also at Riviere Scitatre in Quebec. They have been placed on the same concessions where they have good road accommodation, stores, schools, post offices and churches. This principle is being carried out also in the province of Quebec. . . .

Before I conclude may I say that I hope the government will do its utmost to study and understand the problems of the people of my section of the country. We have been told that the government is going to call an interprovincial conference. We have come to the time when guidance should be given by the government, when direction should be given by leaders of finance, economics, commerce and labour and I venture to say that the Canadian people, realizing that efforts are being made to solve their problems, will bear in fortitude the present conditions in the belief that eventually their problems will be solved, and that in the meantime they are receiving the consideration that they fully deserve."

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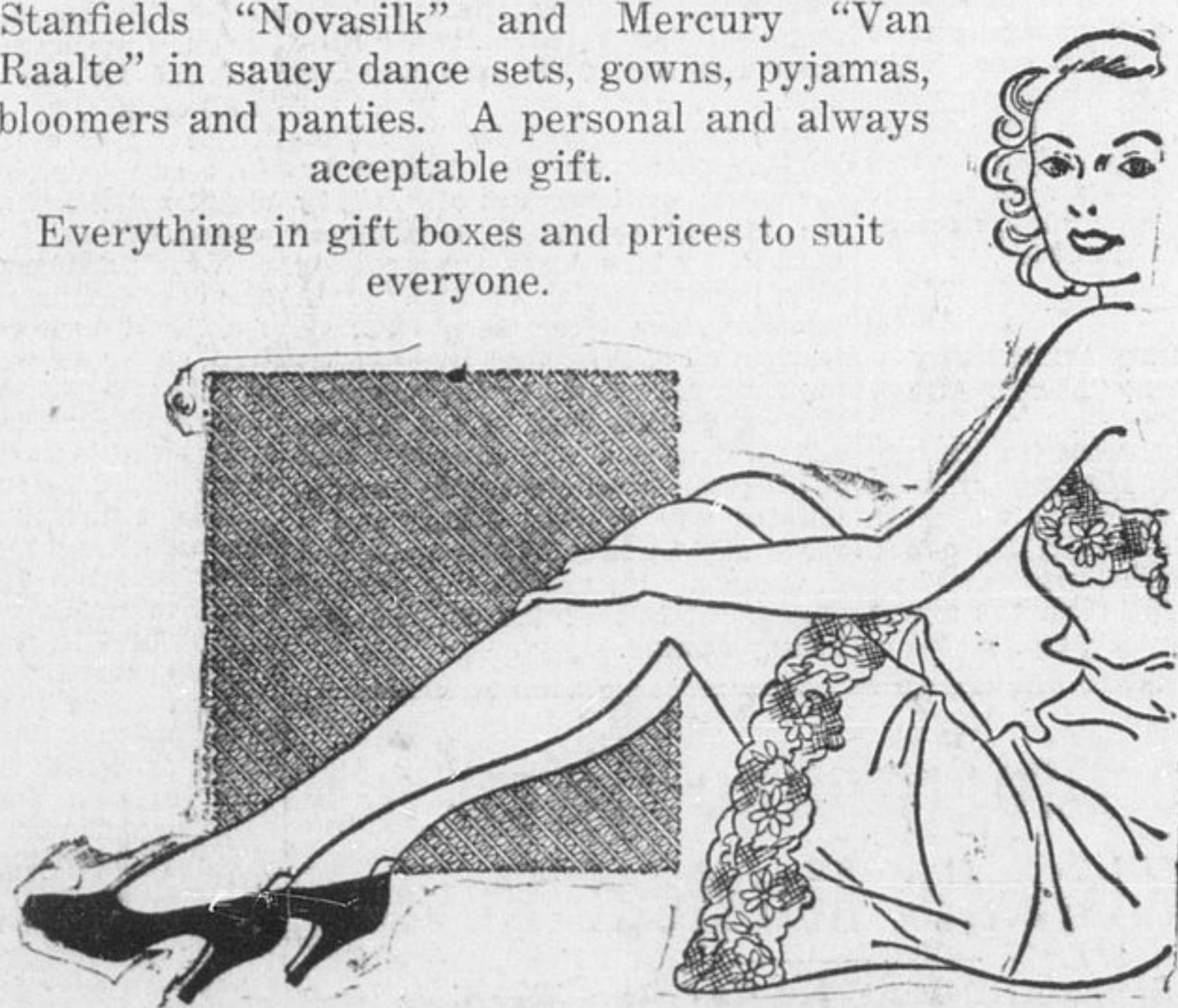
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