

The Porcupine Advance

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SO, THIS IS LIBERTY?

At a meeting last week of some of the students of the University of Toronto one of the young sons of a college professor referred to the Attorney-General of Ontario as a liar. The youth had been speaking of the soldiers stationed at Stratford to protect life and property and to preserve law and order there. "The Attorney-General says the mayor of Stratford asked for the troops to be sent. The mayor denies this," said the young man. His final conclusion was that the Attorney-General was a liar. The fact of the matter is that the young fellow is ill-informed as well as impudent and offensive. The police commission at Stratford asked for the aid of the soldiers for the safety of the city and the Attorney-General would have been remiss in his duty had he refused the request. The soldiers were not sent to Stratford to help one side or the other in the strikes in progress. To demand the withdrawal of the soldiers is to suggest that law and order are not desired. The soldiers are not causing any trouble of any kind. They are preventing the chance of disorder. Stratford does not even bear the cost of their visit to that city. Why any decent law-abiding citizen should desire their withdrawal is beyond any fair logic. If the employers are anything like as evil as they have been pictured by some of the strike sympathizers it is a good thing to have the presence of the soldiers as an assurance for the protection of the city against men who will stop at nothing. Before the soldiers were sent to Stratford there was serious danger of disorder in which law-abiding people would suffer. The soldiers by their very presence have removed this menace. Of course this is not the main point in reference to the University students and their attitude. The real question is, whether public men attempting to do their duty as they see it are to be subjected to such terms as "liar" from whippersnappers whose support comes from the people of the province. At Iroquois Falls at the recent Labour Day demonstration a C.C.F. speaker is said to have referred to Jos. A. Bradette, M.P.P., as a scoundrel, and branded Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King as a murderer. "Liar" "Scoundrel!" "Murderer!" Surely these are words that pass all bounds of fair play and decency. In place of being a scoundrel, even those opposed to Mr. Bradette will be ready to admit that he is a man of exemplary character and devoted to the service of the people of the North. Difference of opinion is to be expected. Abuse might even be overlooked. But the words quoted pass all decency and make discussion of public affairs impossible. To suggest that Hon. Mackenzie King is a murderer is ridiculous. But it is more than malicious abuse. It is no less than indecent. Making all allowance for the difficulties of the times and for the youthful enthusiasm and ignorance of some who are seeking to make themselves prominent in politics at the present time, it would appear to be well for the people themselves to make it known that personalities of this vicious and unjust order are not to be tolerated.

Anyone who takes the trouble to think at all should realize the fact that at the present time there is no one in public life, whether as a private member or as an executive in government, municipal, provincial or Dominion, but is giving generously of heart and strength for the public service. Those in authority are bearing very heavy burdens indeed. It would appear that the very least that might be done by the critical is to show at least the common courtesy and decency that is expected between men in the world of men. Criticisms need not be stifled, but there should be avoidance of the unwarranted personal abuse that tends to drive good men from any service to the public.

The offensive terms quoted were made by men who have the impudence to talk at times of "liberty of speech." It is this sort of thing is their conception of liberty of speech it is surely easy enough to understand why their freedom must be curtailed.

At first thought it might be considered that the vapouring of some callow youth at a meeting of students should receive no special notice or consideration. The truth, however, seems to be that the ravings of this untutored lad suggest a condition in the University that needs attention. For some time past there has been a belief in Ontario that all is far from well in the University of Toronto. There is a growing opinion that the rowdyism and tendency to disloyalty evidenced by some of the pupils at the University is the direct result of the teachings and examples of some of the professors. It is said that there are professors who directly and indirectly instil atheism and traitorism into the minds of the students in their care. The Toronto Globe at present is in an apparent frenzy to induce an investigating into the conditions at the penitentiaries of Canada. Would it not be a greater service to the country to have an enquiry to definitely settle the question as to what injury is being done the youth of the country through the false teaching credited to certain professors at Toronto University? Are the youth of Ontario being trained to disloyalty and disaffection? Are they sneered and bullied into a disregard for the religious beliefs held by the vast majority of those who pay for the upkeep of the University? Are smooth phrases about liberty of speech and freedom of conscience being made the cloaks for men in places of trust who would undermine all that the majority hold true? An investigation into the teachings of the University need not depend on the evidence of convicts or political venom. There has always been too much rowdyism and blackguardism about some of the doings of the youth of some of the universities. There appears to be a sad lack of discipline. If to this is added a lack of decency, it surely is about time that a rigid check-up were made. The people of Ontario are not likely to agree that their money should be spent to foster some of the things that seem to be fostered in the University of Toronto these days.

ANOTHER SERVICE BY HON. R. B.

Some day when people take the time to sit down coolly and honestly and review the facts there will be general appreciation of the many notable services given this country in the last three years by the premier of Canada, Hon. R. B. Bennett. Fair-minded people will be ready to admit that he has given an energy, an enterprise, an ability of outstanding order to Canada in her time of need. His courage and his patriotism will be gladly admitted even by those who may not agree with his policies. Canada has reason to be proud of her premier, Hon. R. B. Bennett. It is doubtful if any other premier ever carried so heavy a load, or bore it with more gallantry and lack of self-pity.

The most recent service given to Canada by Premier Bennett is the bringing together again of the railways and their employees. Possibly the sympathy of the majority in this country has been with the men. The railwaymen's unions

by their sanity, their intelligence and their moderation have won general support. There is a tendency to believe that men in such responsible positions as those occupied by the majority of the railway employees should be paid a fair living wage. The safety of thousands of travellers depends on the skill and care of these men. The record is open for all to read as to the way the railway employees have lived up to their responsibilities. They have increased in efficiency and from the standard of their services it is easy to believe that they are not overpaid. They have accepted reductions in pay without complaint, and so there is a tendency to believe that the recent additions to the reductions proposed must pass the bounds of fairness or there would be no question of a strike. Also, it is recognized that the unfortunate financial situation of the railways can scarcely be blamed upon the employees, but rather on the wrong methods of those directing the destinies of the railroads. Despite all this, however, the actual calling of a strike would react against the men as well as the employers. It would be such a calamity to-day that neither side to any dispute would escape public condemnation. So serious would a general railway strike prove to Canada to-day that such an evil seems almost unthinkable. Yet only a few days ago it had to be recognized as a possibility. Indeed, some pessimists looked upon it as a probability. At this juncture Hon. R. B. Bennett stepped into the picture. He induced employers and employees to take up their discussions again. This means at the very least that possibility of a strike is deferred. There will be a general hope that the good services of Premier Bennett will permanently remove the danger of a clash between the men who conduct the railways and the men who operate them.

THE PUBLIC BE PLEASED!

There are cynical newspapermen who pretend to believe that the people in general are fickle, ungrateful and forgetful. Yet every successful newspaper is a living denial of any such opinion. Probably this fact would be more apparent were the better newspapers a little less modest about their own excellence. The cheap and flamboyant newspapers do not hesitate to unduly extol their own alleged excellences. The paper that is really worthy is more inclined to let its progress speak for itself. A good example of the latter type of newspaper is The Simcoe Reformer, published for the past three-quarters of a century at Simcoe, Ontario. The Reformer last week completed seventy-five years of service to the town of Simcoe and the county of Norfolk, and observed the occasion by the publication of a special issue of twenty-two pages. This special edition mentions, but does not over-emphasize, the value to the community of a newspaper like The Reformer. It is by this value that The Reformer has attained its notable age and success. The public is not likely to forget the service of The Reformer when the community sees the fact and the effect of that service from week to week. Only two other businesses in Simcoe are older than The Reformer. Neither of them have shown the remarkable growth and expansion achieved by The Reformer.

How closely the story of the progress of a newspaper is woven with the life of the town is suggested by an article in last week's Reformer by Henry Johnson, the oldest living ex-member of The Reformer staff, now Deputy-Registrar of Norfolk. In graphic way he outlines the progress of Simcoe in the past 65 years. The newspaper and the community have gone ahead together. He looks back with affectionate memory and forward with confident hope. Only in one particular does he sigh for older days. He sees in the past a notable line of outstanding citizens known beyond the bounds of the town itself. In this connection it is interesting to note that again The Reformer had its quota of outstanding citizens:—Dr. Wm. H. Oliver, Hon. M. H. Foley, and Hal. B. Donly (for forty-one years editor of The Reformer) and many others of lesser mark. The story of the newspaper is the story of the community.

The Simcoe Reformer to-day stands as high as it ever did in public regard. Well-edited, bright, newsy, up-to-date and public-spirited, to wish The Reformer well is to express good wishes for Simcoe, Norfolk and a wider district.

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

In an advertisement for an event by the New Liskeard Kiwanis, The Speaker last week had the following suggestive line:—New Liskeard,—"Where the Givers Don't Kick, and the Kickers Don't Give." That isn't New Liskeard; that is nearly any town.

Writers in some newspapers these days are urging a new style of calendar. Some propose one of twelve months, each month of a stated number of days. Others want a thirteen-month year. In every case the makers of new style calendars find themselves with days and parts of days to be disposed of arbitrarily. The genius they show for dealing with this extra time is worthy of a better cause. With all the vital questions to be dealt with to-day it is evidence of the human touch that some men should be wasting time fooling with the calendar. The resentment they will show at this suggestion is evidence of the human touchiness.

There are a number of influential men at present protesting against the idea of building a roadway through Algonquin Park. When there is so much clamour for roads and more roads it is a wonder indeed to find one section of Ontario opposing the building of just another highway. It is a still greater wonder that a government should consider building a roadway when there is a protest against it. There are so many other sections of people crying for roads that the government says it has not money to build that it seems odd, indeed that any stretch of roadway should be attempted against the objection of any material number. The Government should compromise the matter by building that badly-needed and desirable roadway to connect Sudbury, Shiningtree, Gowganda, Elk Lake, Matachewan, McArthur and Porcupine mining camps.

The fact that both the first candidate chosen by the new party, the C.C.F., to contest Temiskaming riding in the next provincial election, and the gentleman who succeeded the first choice when the latter resigned, are men on the staff of the T. & N. O. Railway, has tempted more than one local man to suggest that the C.C.F. has made many converts among railway employees. If so, the railwaymen must be actuated by something very different to self-interest, for certainly under any C.C.F. authority the railway employees would be one class whose earnings would be very materially decreased and employment lessened for a considerable time at least.

The Northern Tribune seems to object to Silent Bill Biddle lecturing in Canada on prison life. Its chief objection seems to be that he is what it terms an American. Would it be any better if he were a Russian citizen? As a matter of fact, however, Silent Bill Biddle was born in Canada and knows whereof he speaks, and so appears to have a special right to be allowed to deliver his message. He is not actuated by spleen or spite. He is giving his time and his heart to preaching the gospel that crime does not pay and that parents should guide and guard their boys so that they may not drift into ways of crime.

Dr. Withrow's book on Portsmouth penitentiary was first issued with a paper cover.

Upward Trend Under Way in the Dominion

Hon. E. N. Rhodes, Minister of Finance, and Prominent Bankers Endorse Figures Given Out by Premier R. B. Bennett Last Week.

The Prime Minister's confident and encouraging statement introducing the new Dominion Loan has created a very positive and favourable reaction throughout the country. Its clear-cut expression of his conviction that recovery is under way, together with the evidence he cited, have stimulated a growing sense of optimism in business circles which is reflected in the subscriptions to the New Loan. There has also been widespread endorsement of his view that, although the road may be long and progress slow, the events of the past six months appear to demonstrate with increasing clarity that the downward trend has come to a definite stop and that the upward trend is in progress.

Some examples of the comment from prominent Canadians follow. Honourable E. N. Rhodes, Minister of Finance: "As Canadians we must all share in the sense of encouragement that the Prime Minister has inspired by his statement regarding the improvement in business conditions throughout this country. It has called our attention to indications of recovery that have become increasingly definite with each succeeding month, and which have been so sustained and consistent that one can no longer doubt their significance."

Spirit of Confidence
Sir Thomas White, Vice-President Canadian Bank of Commerce: "I fully concur with the statement of the Prime Minister as to the upturn which has taken place progressively in Canadian business during the past few months. In almost every branch of the country's economic life there has been manifest a slow but steady advance from the low point of last April. Despite adverse crop conditions I found, during my recent tour of the West, not only a spirit of confidence but quite noticeable signs of improvement."

Professor Gilbert Jackson, Director of the Courses in Commerce and Finance of the University of Toronto and Economist of the Bank of Nova Scotia: "The very temperate statement made by the Prime Minister with reference to recent improvements in Canada is fully validated by the fact. Not only have the physical volume of business and production increased since February by thirty-four per cent., but an even more encouraging point is that the prices of basic commodities have risen approximately in the same ratio. This has been followed by marked increase in manufacturing activity. Even in construction there are signs of improvement. Most encouraging of all is the increased confidence and increased readiness to spend. The rate of turnover of bank deposits has increased very rapidly since the spring."

Improvement is Definite
M. W. Wilson, Vice-President and General Manager of The Royal Bank of Canada: "The Prime Minister has quoted statistics to show that there are definite signs of trade recovery in Canada, but, in my opinion, these statistics do not fully reflect the improvement which has occurred. While there are still a number of clouds on the business horizon, notably the low price of wheat and the partial crop failure, business throughout Canada has shown a definite and, in a number of industries, a marked improvement, and my confidence in a continued upward trend is strengthened by the background of what seems to be a definite world-wide recovery. It would be foolish to minimize the seriousness and extent of the problems still facing us, but the evidence of improvement will enable us to tackle these with greater heart and spirit. We are now offered an opportunity to show our confidence in ourselves and Canada in supporting the Government in its essential financial operations. Dominion of Canada Bonds are the premier securities available to investors."

Maybe This is the Jail System the Doctor Wants

In all the discussion of penitentiaries and prison reform there has been more condemnation of what is than suggestion of the details of what should be in the opinion of those who dislike the present system.

For instance, is it the system said to prevail in the Maritimes that the doctor would order. Here is that Maritime plan as detailed in the R.C.M.P. Quarterly:—

"The jail system in the Maritimes is not the same as in other provinces, as there are no provincial jails. Instead, every county has its jail and in those counties where the jailer's duties are light the local criminal sometimes has a fairly easy time.

"The story is told of a hardened and well-known offender who was incarcerated in a local jail for three months. As the prisoner was a good fisherman, the jailer, in his wisdom, detailed him to go out and fish for the benefit of the inmates and staff and thereby reduce the cost of prison board. The prisoner was late coming home one night, and on the way met a few friends who treated him wisely but not too well. Eventually he arrived at the jail long after supper time. The jailer was rightly annoyed. "Why," he said, "now dare you be late like this and come home in this condition. If you ever dare do this again, I'll lock you out."

"At another point a detachment was asked why no report had been received that a convicted person had been sent to jail. The detachment had the honour to report that the local jail was filled and that the convicted person was merely awaiting a vacancy."

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Good Canadians Should Help Their Governments

Anyone who has considered the matter carefully will come to the conclusion that during the past three years in Canada all governments, municipal, provincial and Dominion, have been cursed frequently and often. It is true enough that criticism is necessary, even helpful, but there is also the danger that a certain class of agitators and men of ill-will have been allowed too much latitude and approval. While it is true that there has naturally been much to criticize, it is equally true that there have been many things to praise. Yet how much praise has been given anyone in responsible position? One Toronto newspaper that attempted a year or so ago to give due credit to Hon. R. B. Bennett was met with jeers from its contemporaries. It has been more or less unpopular to say a good word. At least fault-finding has been the more fashionable. There has also been a tendency to imagine that Canada is worse off than other countries, or that other lands are handling the situation better than Canada. This is far from the facts of the case. These points and some others are touched upon in an editorial word reading in The New Liskeard Speaker last week. The Speaker says:—

"As great as is the need of many classes of the Canadian people, very much greater, it appears, is the need of many classes of Americans. The Literary Digest, in referring to the appeal of President Roosevelt, made extemporaneously on the lawn of the White House, for the mobilization of all charity organizations, pictured fifteen million people coming hungry to the Government for food. Doubtless the President's appeal has moved the nation as it has never before been moved, and although there are those who make light of the NRA, this address of



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Roosevelt's has done much to inspire confidence in this gigantic undertaking and to silence the scoffers. But the divergent views of those who believe in inflation and those who stand for solid money may yet shatter the hopes of the President. In Canada it would appear that the Governments, Federal and provincial, and the municipalities will continue to help as was done last winter, but with past experiences, it is hoped there will be fewer mistakes made, and that steps will be taken to see that the really needy ones—and those who are too modest to make their needs known—are cared for, while at the same time those who will take all they can get, and ask for more, should be checked up. On the whole the situation seems to be far worse across the line, where, as the President said, "families have been starving week in and week out." Canada has not reached such a serious situation as that, but every one should help, and render aid to the fullest extent possible. Our Governments have a great responsibility on their hands, so great indeed, that we often wonder why men are so willing to assume such responsibilities, and appeal to the electors to place them where they are. It is well that the country is possessed of such patriotic citizens. Let us help them."

LANDMARK OF COBALT IS NOW BEING TAKEN AWAY
A landmark of Cobalt, always a source of interest to tourists, is disappearing with the dismantling of the aerial tramway which linked the Nipissing Company's workings on the town side of Cobalt Lake with the low grade mill on the Coleman township side. The tramway had not been in operation since the closing down of work at the Fourth of July and Mayer shafts. Employees of the company have been removing the cable and the wire protection over the main road, power and telephone lines and the T. & N. O. tracks, and three young men have undertaken to take down the timber towers for the material contained in them.



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