

DURHAM CHRONICLE

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING
at the office, Garafaxa Street, Durham, Ontario, by Frank Irwin, Editor and Manager. The Chronicle is mailed to any address in Canada at the rate of \$2.00 per year, \$1.00 for six months, 50 cents for three months. To any address in the United States of America, \$2.50 per year, \$1.25 for six months, 65 cents for three months. Foreign subscription rates on application.

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Whosoever is afraid of submitting any question, civil or religious, to the test of free discussion, is more in love with his own opinion than with the truth.—WATSON.

Thursday, April 2, 1925.

ABOLISH THE GARNISHEE

W. F. Wilson, the Conservative member for Windsor, has a bill before the Ontario Legislature, the object of which is to abolish the garnisheeing of a wage-earner's wages for the payment of a debt. Whether or not the bill will get the sympathetic consideration some think it should, remains to be seen.

On the surface, the bill seems one that gives the wage-earner without property, the power to contract debts, and likewise repudiate them when he does not feel like paying—an advantage not enjoyed by his less fortunate compatriot who owns his home and may be sued in court and made to pay. Again, the new bill, if it passes, may act to the decided disadvantage of the artisan who finds himself short of funds. If there is no legal way of collecting a debt of this kind, a grocer or merchant can not be blamed very much if he refuses all credit, and the houseless worker may find himself in the unenviable position of having to pay cash or go without.

Personally, we think Mr. Wilson's bill will get short shift when it reaches the Legislature. A man who contracts a debt should be made to pay it if he is able, and in the case of a property holder, there is no escape. Mr. Wilson's bill would divide labor into two classes: the property-owning artisan who may obtain credit, and the tax-free laborer who must pay cash or go without. Labor itself would be the first to resent this apparent discrimination.

SIGN YOUR NAMES

The CHRONICLE insists on all correspondence intended for publication being signed by the writer. This is necessary in order that we may know that the writer is in good faith and is willing to let us know he is not merely trying to air some of his personal grievances at the expense of this paper.

A couple of weeks ago, an unsigned article got past us, and we later found out that there were a couple of apparently harmless paragraphs that had a slam in them that nobody not a resident of the neighborhood would see. This week we have a contribution signed "A Subscriber," protesting against the alleged misdeeds of someone in the Welbeck vicinity. Needless to say, the article went into the wastebasket.

A NEW ANGLE

Henry Cartwright, Toronto, challenges Attorney-General Nickle's statement that the reduction of Emelius Jarvis' fine was not a popular one and would not be endorsed by public opinion. Mr. Cartwright wants Mr. Nickle to resign his seat in the Legislature and contest Kingston constituency with himself (Mr. Cartwright) as the opposing candidate.

Mr. Cartwright surely cannot take himself seriously. Mr. Cartwright would have everything to gain and nothing to lose in such an election, and in forcing the expense of an unnecessary election on the province, Mr. Nickle would deserve to lose.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The action of the Durham Furniture Company in its recently adopted policy of house-building is deserving of commendation. Not with a desire to profit thereby, but as an incentive to the town's working men to own their own homes, the company is building at least two houses this summer, to be sold at actual cost. Not only the working men but the whole town will benefit in the erection of modern residences supplied at actual cost to furniture factory employees. Durham needs more houses, but the almost prohibitive costs of the past few years curtailed all building programs, especially of houses constructed for rental. The experiment of the Durham Furniture Company, for experiment it is, will be watched with interest by a good many towns in Western Ontario and elsewhere whose housing problems are as acute as our own.

LIMERICK A LA 1925

There was a young lady named Stella
Fell in love with a bow-legged fella;
The poor little sap tried to sit on his lap,
And she fell clear through to the cellar.

**SOUTH-EAST GREY'S M.P.
REVEALS CONDITIONS
IN NOVA SCOTIA**

Agnes Macphail Gives Her Impression of Situation in Letter to Toronto Globe.

Writing in Saturday's Toronto Globe on the coal miners' strike situation in Nova Scotia, Miss Agnes Macphail, M. P. for Southeast Grey says:

"At Glace Bay today, I met the Relief Committee at their central station (the Y.M.C.A.); visited the headquarters of the United Mine workers; a relief station at No. 2 mine; met representatives of the Great War Veterans' Association, and visited fine schoolrooms, accompanied by a representative of the G.W.V.A., a truant officer and a member of the Relief Committee's Executive. I called in homes that were homes only in the sense that they were sheltered from the elements may be called a home. Two families visited live in one house. One paid \$20 rent; the other, \$10. Awful rooms, exquisitely ugly and barren of even the ordinary comforts of life.

"In one, an expectant mother with several other children, had had no bedding until a relief station gave her one blanket and one quilt. Their only food comes from the relief station, and the ration received by this family today was bread, milk and potatoes; very rarely is meat included. In the other part of this house, consisting of three rooms, lived a family of four. The man has had practically no employment for the past six months. One child, a girl of 12 years, has been sick for some time. This family is also receiving relief from the meagre supply available, and their condition is pitiable in the extreme.

NOT PICKED HOUSES

"I did not make a picket tour of only the most destitute cases, but visited at random houses in the Company's Rows—that is, houses owned by the company and rented to their mine employees. Words cannot make plain the total lack of beauty and comfort, exterior and interior, that obtains in the majority of the houses in Company Row. The outward features are open ditches for sewers, mud bogs for streets, and absolutely no provision for the removal of garbage and rubbish. The houses are unpainted, unattractive dwellings of the two-family type, and, in the main, have no sewer or water connection....

"To return to the question which I believe to be the utmost importance, that of the necessity for Dominion-wide response to the appeal for assistance for the destitute, let me cite one more case—that of an ex-service man, married with a family of six—five boys and one girl. This man served with a Nova Scotia infantry battalion and received a severe wound in the shoulder. Discharged as physically fit, he turned to his old occupation of mining and carried on, although admitting that his weakened shoulder bothered him. Two bare rooms house this family of eight. One room serves as a bedroom for all. They had had another room upstairs, but the roof leaked badly. The man is of a fine type, and uses neither liquor nor tobacco. Since the mine where he had been employed had been working very irregularly, he has had no work for the past two months, and almost none for practically two years. One child is an infant in arms. The next, a boy of two years, developed rickets since its birth and cannot walk; its legs are no larger around than a man's thumb. The mother said that it never had had sufficient milk. At the door, when I was leaving, the drooping, brown-eyed mother said, 'We are not people who should be living in a house like this.' She was right; they are not.

INTERMITTENT LABOR

"In three years, many of the men have not had one full year's work, and have been living a hand-to-mouth existence on meager credit from the company's stores. This credit was confined to the absolute necessities of life, and barely a sufficiency of these, clothing and shoes, unless the miner was employed more or less steadily, were refused. As a result, the clothing problem is almost as great as that of supplying food....

"Eighty-five per cent of the people affected are Canadians of pure Scottish stock, and nothing but the direst need would persuade people of this type to accept help. They are simply prisoners of fate, victims of circumstances over which they have no control. At the end of a long period of intermittent and irregular employment, during which the little money they did earn was spent for food, or taken up in what they call the 'bob-tailed pay-sheet,' they find themselves penniless and practically compelled to appeal for aid, not so much, the men say, for ourselves, but because it's hard on the women and babies. The women in particular feel the pinch of circumstance and appear pathetic and subdued.

SAYS NEED IS EXTREME

"A word of explanation as to the term 'bob-tailed pay-sheet.' This is a statement of a man's earnings, which has so many items—such as rent, coal, hospital, doctor, etc.—deducted by the company that no money is forthcoming on pay day. When a man works but two or three shifts per month, practically all his earnings are eaten up by this check-off.

"There is no minimizing the necessity for relief. I never knew what poverty meant before today. Surely Canadians will generously respond

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to the terrific need of these, our fellow-countrymen."

Evidently, however, there are two sides to this question, as in everything else, for in The Globe of Monday, Mrs. Flora Fraser, a resident of Toronto, but for many years a resident of Sydney, in the strike area, in a reply to Miss Macphail's communication, says she could "show Miss Macphail conditions much different from those described in her story." Mrs. Fraser insisted that the reading public was obtaining highly colored stories, favorable to the miners.

"From what I read, Miss Macphail is not thoroughly conversant with the conditions under which miners are living in Nova Scotia," said Mrs. Fraser. "There are houses built by the company, containing seven rooms, with hot and cold water, electric lights, and a garage with every second one. These are not described to the people of Toronto, nor is it told to them that the rental is from \$7 to \$7 a month. Neither are they told that numbers of miners own their own automobiles.

"There is another matter," continued Mrs. Fraser. "The miners are not forced to deal in the company's stores. There is a fine co-operative store there, as well as other retail stores. There is no difference in prices as between the company's and the retail stores. If anything, they are lower in the company stores."

Mrs. Fraser said the shacks referred to by Miss Macphail were never intended for families. They were built, she said, for transient labor from Newfoundland.

**SCHOOL HONOR ROLLS
FOR PAST MONTH****S. S. NO. 9, Glenelg.**

IV.—Annie Arnett, Dorothy Arnett, Mary Hopkins, Reg McFadden, Louise Jacques, Orval Hopkins, Roy Hargrave.

Sr. III.—May Collinson, Bertha McNally, Grace Hopkins.

Jr. III.—Irene Collinson, John McDonald, Edward Lawrence.

Sr. II.—Margaret Dunsmoor, Frederick Dunsmoor, Clarence Hargrave, Jr. II.—Susie Greenwood, Freddie Arnott, Don Lawrence, Clara Jacques, John Collinson.

Sr. I.—Ruby Lawrence, Clarence McNally, David Aljoe, Gordon Greenwood, Lilian Collinson, Olive Dunsmoor.

Jr. I.—Melville Harrison, Allie McGirr, Elmer Dunsmoor.

Sr. Primer—Margaret Brown.

Jr. Primer—Cecil Brown, Douglas Dunsmoor, Harry Lawrence.

E. M. PARK, TEACHER.**BENTON'S NO. 11.**

Sr. IV.—Carmen Roseborough, Alain Pickton.

Jr. IV.—Maple Armstrong, Lawrence Hopkins.

Sr. III.—Pearle Roseborough, Reta Vollett, Violet Armstrong.

Jr. III.—Sylvia Hopkins, Elvin Vollett.

II.—Clarence Ritchie, Allie Hopkins, James Armstrong, Annette Manto, Erving Webber.

I.—Fred Roseborough, Irvin Mountain, Minnie Manto, Dawson Vollett.

Primer—Daniel Armstrong.

—Eben Schutz, teacher.

ANTI-TRUST LAW NEEDED

(Listowel Banner)

Recently a Hamilton dentist broke the code of ethics of the dental council and advertised. As a result, he was suspended by the Council, and he appealed the case. It seems to us that the government should take this power out of the hands of the dental and medical Councils.

Every day some doctor or dentist is breaking laws, but the Councils say nothing. But when one of the profession, in order to work up a legitimate business, takes the best means known to get him that business and advertises, then the Council says it is "unpractical" and refuses to allow him to practice. Too much power has been given to these Councils.

This tragic part will be played by the man who up to now has been known principally at Ptomaine

THEY'RE OFF

Seeding of oats has begun in the neighborhood of Stratford earlier than at any other point in Western Ontario, as far as is known at present. D. H. Miller, on his small farm near the city limits, has plowed and sown a field of oats within the past week. He reports that the ground was in good condition and worked easily.

BABY PEGGY IN FEATURE DRAMA AT VETERANS' STAR

There are persons to whom a child is always a nuisance. Perhaps it's forgetfulness of personal youthful days, or just a selfishness that can harbor no patience with anything that is not obviously useful in a practical way.

Big Mike, the bully of the Ghetto, portrayed by Pat Hartigan in "The Darling of New York," was that sort of character. When his pals brought the little waif into the crook headquarters, Mike wasted not a whit of sympathy on the lonely child and abused his associates for the attention they showed her.

Yet when the bully learned that the ragged doll which the child had carried home in its stuffing gems valued at hundreds of thousands of dollars, he was the most enthusiastic of the gang in the search for the child. Mike had cracked her and her doll in an ash can, and it broke his mercenary heart to think that he had tossed away a jewel.

"The Darling of New York" is Baby Peggy's initial starring vehicle of multi-reel length, and it has paved the way for remarkable advancement along the ladder of popularity for this baby actress. Previously, she was playing featured roles in one and two-reel comedies.

She is now in possession of one of the most coveted contracts in pictures and is to be starred only in Jewel features.

The story is melodrama of the most gripping type and carries a high entertainment value. It was directed by King Baggot, who with Raymond Schrock, evolved the theme of the story.

Hartigan is excellent as Mike, and other players who do exceptional work are Sheldon Lewis, Gladys Brockwell and Max Davidson.

"The Darling of New York" comes to the Veterans' Star Theatre next Monday and Tuesday, April 6 and 7.

**COMEDIAN IS TRAGEDIAN
A FILM PROVES**

Born of a comedy prize fight picture—a new tragedian!

This is the strange rise to recognition of Edgar Kennedy, to be featured as "Lem Beeman," perhaps one of the most tragic figures ever put on a screen, in Perley Poor Sheehan's Universal production of his own story, "The Night Message," to be seen Friday and Saturday of this week at the Veterans' Star Theatre.

Lem Beeman is a country telegraph operator who accidentally shoots his best friend. He cannot leave his switchboard to aid his dying friend. The limited instructions are due at the wire, and failure to get them might mean a wreck. The remembrance fairly sears his soul through the years.

This tragic part will be played by the man who up to now has been known principally at Ptomaine

Corrected April 2, 1925.

Live Hogs \$12.75

Wheat 1.25 @ 1.30

Oats40 @ .45

Barley65 @ .70

Buckwheat65 @ .70

Pea 1.00 @ 1.10

Mixed Grain, per cwt. 1.40 @ 1.45

Hay 10.00 @ 12.00

Eggs, Firsts 25; Seconds20

Butter30

Potatoes, per bag50

Hides05

Sheepskins 1.50

Chickens45 @ .25

General purpose Clyde mare20

Massey-Harris binder, 5-ft cut20

Massey-Harris seed drill, 10 hoes20

Brantford mower20

Steel land roller20

Sulky Rake20

Fleury plough20

Set Tolton harrows20

Wagon20

Sleigh20

Light Sleigh20

Rubber-tired buggy20

Stock rack20

Steel-tired buggy20

Wagon box20

Grindstone20

Hay fork rope20

Hay fork20

Turnip pulper20</