DURHAM CHRONICLE

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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 November 11, 1926

WHY CONTINUE O. T. A.?

The coming election on December 1 is becoming the daily topic, and although not very much has been heard around this section of the province to date, as the day of polling draws near, it will doubtlessly be a very warm topic. As in campaigns of this kind in the past, there are a good many questionable statements indulged in.

The big idea, judging from the majority of the Liberal editorials we have read, seems to be to "get Ferguson." The Ontario Temperance Act is the main topic, and to date we have seen not one single criticism of the Conservative administration on its administration of the affars of the provnce generally. The Liberal press, among them being the Toronto Globe, and Star, and the Owen Sound Sun-Times, have become almost frantic in their upholding of the awfulness of "this man Ferguson," and have been so busy attacking his stand on the liquor question that they have failed to find a single flaw in his adminstration since 1923, which is generally admitted to have been the most economical this province has had for a good many years.

The Conservative Government, the Government that has given this province all the temperance legislation it has ever received, is not even given credit for being sincere, and not content even with the charge of insincerity, have labelled the whole Tory Government as a bunch of "wets" just because they do not do as they say and think as they think.

Not only Premier Ferguson, but several of the prominent people of this and other provinces have had their veracity questioned because they spoke out in meeting and gave their honest opinion on a matter that concerns every decent citizen of Ontario.

Among these are such people as Judge Emily Murphy of Edmonton, Sir Joseph Flavelle, Sir Thomas White, Canon Cody, Archbishop Thorneloe and others whose reputations are beyond reproach, but who, unfortunately do not think as the editorial writers on these papers think, or write.

We reproduce below a letter written by Judge Emily Murphy of Edmonton. The statement of Judge Murphy, one of the best-known women writers and magistrates in Canada, should plainly show her views on the matter and be accepted as such.

"Government Control", says Mrs. Murphy, "may not control in other Provinces, but it does control in Alberta. Personally, I am one who claims that neither whiskey nor beer are hygienic drinks," said Judge Murphy. "We would be vastly better without them—better physically, mentally and morally, but as long as these are produced for consumption we must regulate them in the best manner possible. To argue otherwise, would be imbecility.

"There is no doubt that education along temperance lines is having an immensely powerful effect, and that one day, the gospel of abstinence will gain a vastly greater hold upon our Canadian people, but until this happens, we must rigidly control the consumption of liquor.

Opposed It First

"Before Government Control became the law of Alberta, I opposed it vigorously, both on the platform and by my pen. I was fearful that our last state would be worse than our first. It seemed only logical that if the restrictions were removed there would be more drunkenness and crime. No living person could persuade me to the contrary. I had a fine line of arguments on the subject, too.

"It was difficult for me to take this stand because I was a Provincial Official and paid by the very Government whose proposed Statutory Enactments I was opposing. In this, I was joined by the Hon. Irene Parlby, a Member of the Alberta Government. On one occasion, when we voiced our opinions in the Macdougall Methodist Church in Edmonton, the Lieutenant-Governor and some of his Cabinet Ministers came out to hear us.

Conditions Improved

"After a period of several years in which I have been called upon to enforce the present Liquor Control Act, both as a City and Provincial Magistrate, I am bound to acknowledge that my fears were largely unfounded. There was not even a rush of inebriety as I had predicted, the people showing a remarkable degree of restraint. The condition has steadily improved—again I say, not from any degree of spiritual enrichment on the part of our people—but because the law was well conceived, and is being well enforced."

Personally, we are not afraid to trust Premier Ferguson and his Government in their temperance legislation, for, despite what their opponents say, they have made an honest effort to enforce the O. T. A., and couldn't. As Attorney-General, the Hon. W. F. Nickle went into the Ferguson Cabinet on the understanding that he was to have the handling of his department unhampered. His demand was satisfied and from the time the Ferguson Government went into power in 1923 until this fall he was the big chief in the Attorney-General's department, did as he thought best, was a champion of the O.T.A., and fulfilled it to the best of his ability. His resignation from the Cabinet over the present issue signifies nothing, no more than the ravings of Mr. Raney, who, when he (Mr. Nickle) was in power, gave him credit for nothing, but now that he has split with Ferguson, tries to set him on a pedestal. Raney's object is too plain. He wants to "get" Ferguson. He tried this same thing on different occasions but the truth is that the Hon. W. E. Raney is not smart enough to "get" anybody, and he himself, from 1919 to 1923 made one blunder after another in his attempted enforcement of the O.T.A. and made even a worse job of it than Mr. Nickle. Mr. Nickle has "quit" Ferguson, but that should worry no one. Mr. Nickle quit Sir James Whitney, and he later quit Sir Robert Borden. His quitting Ferguson, instead of being anything exceptional, seems to have been his usual procedure.

To our mind the discussion of the merits or demerits of the Ontario Temperance Act is far too big and important a matter to be dealt with in the manner in which it is being handled at present. Temperance people, that is, true temperance people, are not concerned with the Ontario Temperance Act just because it is called the O.T.A. What the true temperance element of this country want most is to see the consumption of liquor controlled. There is nobody, we think, foolish enough to think that we are going to have prohibition. That is impossible as long as the people demand liquor, and the growth of the bootlegging industry is proof conclusive that they do. The only thing we can do under these circumstances is to control it as best we can.

Temperance people, too, should not regard the Ontario Temperance Act as it was intended it should be, but rather what it really is. Of course we do not expect Liberal newspapers like the Globe, Star and Sun-Times to look at it this way. If they did they could not play politics, and with them it would not matter which side the Ferguson Government took, they would take the other on general principles.

The idea that every man who does not embrace the O.T.A. is a "wet" is also a fallacy, and one that is resented very keenly in a good many quarters. With this class of people there is only one side to a question—their side, and anyone who does not follow along their line of thought is a "wet" and "allied with the liquor interests." Every man and woman in this country is entitled to his own opinion and if it is an honest one, and arrved at in a conscientions manner, we can find no fault with him. It is these cocksure fellows who know it all and want to classify all who do not think their way that we object to. We recognize as well as anyone the evils of the liquor traffic, but until the Province of Ontario can show a lot more than approximately 35,000 in favor of its enforcement, we can't see any relief in prohibitory legislation. It is our candid opinion that it will be hard enough to "control" with any measure, but the idea of total prohibition does not appeal to us at the present moment. Ontario, judging from past performances, doesn't want prohibition badly enough to enforce it, and until the rank and file of the electorate demand it and are prepared to lay informations and prosecute, get into the witness box and give evidence, the best that can be expected of the Ontario Temperance Act is the joke it has been for the past ten years. That the law is openly and flagrantly violated is generally admitted, and it is a coward's position to blame the government for it entirely. The Ontario Temperance Act would be all right if the people of the Proivnce of Ontario would get behind it, but they won't.

And we can't say that we blame them, either. Personally, we do not intend to turn private detective without salary for the Ferguson or any other Government, but in the pursuit of our business around the country we can see without very much effort that there are far too many people willing to break the liquor laws of the province to expect very much out of the present Act. We are not predicting as to the percentage of success the Government Control system will have, but with ten years of the present one we don't think we are saying too much when we say that a change can do no harm. It is all very well to talk theories, and theoretically the O.T.A. is sensible legislation, but a theory that won't work should in our opinion be discarded and something else put in its place.

Any temperance legislation the Province of Ontario ever got came through the Conservative party, and the talk in certain quarters that that party is now out to wreck the country and debauch the youth of the land is all politics and done for only one purpose—to get the Conservatives out of power.

We have still unlimited faith in the Conservative party, and have too much faith in Hon. Dr. Jamieson to entertain the idea that he has entered the Ferguson Cabinet on a policy that means ruin to the country. Sir James Whitney was under the same kind of fire during his whole political career in power and during the N. W. Rowell "abolish the bar" campaign, like Ferguson today, was allied with the "wets." Conservative voters would be well advised to have a care in the present campaign and not to pay too much attention to what some of the opposition press publish or what some of the opposition orators insinuate.

In Dr. Jamieson the Conservatives of the South Riding of Grey have a candidate they need not be ashamed to uphold. He has been in public life for nearly a third of a century, has an absolutely clean record, has been the friend of every one of his constituents no matter what their politics, has been a successful business man, and for twenty-five years represented his constituents faithfully and well. If experience counts for anything, if business ability counts for anything, then there should be little hesitancy in casting the ballots on December 1.

DURHAM MARKET

Corrected, November 11, 1926

Live Hogs	11.00
Wheat	1.20 @ 1.25
Oats	.40 @ .45
Barley	.55 @ .60
Buckwheat	.50 @ .55
Peas	1.10 @ 1.15
Mixed Grain, per cwt.	1.15 @ 1.25
Hay	14.00
Eggs	.45
Butter	.30
Potatoes, per bag	1.25

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PROPOGATION OF BROOK TROUT IN SOUTH GREY

To the Editor of The Chronicle.

Dear Sir.—To anyone who enjoys fishing for the speckled beauties that a few years ago abounded in the exceptional fresh water streams that nature has provided us so liberally with, it has become more and more a problem how to protect or prolong the pleasure of catching at least some of them.

Fishermen, usually motoring from a distance, have almost depleted our streams, and, disregarding the law which permits taking trout not less than 7 inches long, take them as long as four inches, and one vandal recently, because he had poor luck fishing, decided to dynamite the Rocky Saugeen, and killed many large fish that were not recovered by him, thank goodness. It goes without saying nearly all these streams are about fished out, and unless restocked will interest no one. No one can question the wisdom of the riparian owners—they are in every case farmers, and to receive small trout from the Government that after a lot of red tape might send a few, the owner would have to leave his work, trail in many miles to the nearest express office, and if the fish were not all dead before being put in his place, it would be a wonder, as they are very delicate things to handle. He would then have to bring back the cans (another trip), and have for his trouble and pains and expense, the recompense of being obliged to let the general public fish daily through his place, leaving gates open, etc., and no compensation to himself at all.

Under the plans now suggested he is given a yearly rental far in excess, perhaps, of what he could rent or realize from any like area on his farm—but surely he is entitled to it. He will likely be made a deputy game warden, from whom daily licenses to fish at $1.00 per day on these restocked preserves, which may and must be obtained in order to prevent being brought up for trespassing. Twenty-five per cent of the daily permit charge goes to the riparian owner and the balance after cost of rental, signs, etc., to the purchase of small trout and fry.

The average local man or boy goes fishing about half a dozen times a year—and it costs money for automobiles to do so, as the good places to fish are usually somewhat remote from towns—and if they could get the limit, or at least some trout, instead of none, or very few, it should be more satisfactory than under present conditions, where year by year aliens from Kitchener, St. Marys, and other cities, are gradually acquiring by long lease, the choice places to fish and closing them to the local public.

Boys don't hesitate to spend $1.00 to $2.00 a week or more to attend a dance. They should not object to a fee to fish in restocked private preserves. Anyway, something must be done, and if any have helpful suggestions send them in to The Chronicle. Much money is spent by our local people in the South in winter, and if they advertise this district as an economical, scenic, charming place it will soon bring an annual crop of tourists, all of whom spend some money, and some considerable.

Already a start has been made. The scheme is a non-profit one, except for the owner of the streams, who receives a fair remuneration. Many choice places have been leased for long terms, and several essential for breeding purposes acquired outright. The season may be slightly shortened for a time to facilitate spawning. It will likely end on these premises on August 15, a month earlier than on open streams.

H. A. Hunter,
"The Hedges,"
Durham.

THE HIGH SCHOOL QUESTION

To the Editor of The Chronicle

Sir:—

It has been suggested that the facts and figures as presented to the town Council at its recent meeting, re the proposed addition to the High School, be given publicity through the medium of the press. By this means the ratepayers and citizens generally will have the facts placed before them much more readily than otherwise could be accomplished. The accommodation at the High School at the present time is inadequate. This year the fourth form work was dropped and next year it looks as if the third form may have to be dropped also if as large an Entrance class presents itself for admission as last year. This is now almost sure to be the case. Realizing this a deputation of ratepayers waited on the High School Board and requested that steps be at once taken to enlarge the school so that the whole High School Course may be taken.

The Board, realizing the seriousness of the situation, approached the Town Council at its last regular meeting asking that a By-law be submitted to the ratepayers authorizing the issuing of debentures for $25,000 to build the proposed addition. This will be voted on at the January elections.

The question now presents itself: will this be a burden on the town or will it not? Let us see. The High School has three sources of revenue, namely the Province, the County and the town. The more money we get from the Province and County, the less the town will have to pay. Last year the town had to pay $4680 to the High School support; this year they are only asked to furnish $2,850, simply because the School Board received extra money from the county. That is one reason why the tax rate is lower this year than last year. The Province and County pay very liberally to the support of the High Schools if they comply with their conditions. It is good business to get every cent we can from these two sources in order that the town may get off all the easier. The overcrowding of the school is going to cause the County and Province to pay us less money. The building of the addition will be largely financed by the extra assistance received from these two sources. Twenty-five thousand dollars for 20 years at 6 per cent. would mean an annual payment of $2,179.61. We are allowed to charge 80 per cent. of this amount into our cost of maintenance which the School Board presents to the County Council each year. Based on last year's figures the County would pay us back $794.09 to help pay for this debenture. The school accommodation is only graded number 3 at the present time. It will be graded number 1 if the addition is built. This means $180. yearly increase in grant. We have no gymnasium grading at present as we have no room for one. In the new building we ought to be graded number 2, this means an additional $90. in grant. Making a total of $270 from the Province. The county has to pay dollar for dollar with the province, so that means they must pay $270. also. Thus summing up we have:

From the County $794.09+270=	$1064.09
From the Province	270.00
Making a total of	$1334.09

Take $1334.09 away from $2,179.61 and we have left only $845.52 for the town to pay. That is, if this addition is built, we should receive back approximately $1334 in additional grants from the County and Province with which we can meet most of our debenture. As 1 mill on the tax rate raises around $600, therefore 1½ mills would be more than sufficient to meet the town's share.

There is however, another source of revenue which we must consider. For every pupil living outside the town who attends the school the County paid our board last year approximately $95. There are at least 12 country pupils who would have been in attendance this year if we could have accommodated them. Suposing with our new addition we have only ten extra county pupils that would mean at least $950. more received from the County. This would more than balance the aforesaid $845.61 and leave the whole $2,179.61 wholly paid in extra money received from the County and the Province.

Now let us consider what is likely to happen if the By-law is defeated and the school is not enlarged. The first thing the High School Board fears is the lowering of the grading for adequacy of accommodation. If that should happen it would mean an immediate loss in revenue from the Province. But the main drop in revenue will come from the County. This has already begun to be felt. Next year we will receive less money from the county than this year because there are fewer country pupils attending, as we could not accommodate all who applied. The Inspector has stated that the condition is likely to become critical shortly. The Board have lost a lot of county money by being forced to cut off fourth form work. If through overcrowded conditions we are forced to stop third form work then our county pupils would leave us in large numbers, and who could blame them as we would not be taking up enough High School work to induce them to attend They would go to other schools where they

(Continued on page 5)

BORN

Morton—In Bentinck, November 7, 1926, to Mr. and Mrs. Alex. T. Morton, a daughter.

MARRIED

Mountain—Grierson—At the Presbyterian manse, Durham, on Wednesday, November 10, at 4 o'clock, by the Rev. B. D. Armstrong, Susan Jessie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Grierson of Bentinck, to Mr. Arthur Mountain, son of Mr. and Mrs Douglas Mountain of Normanby.

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We have decided to dispose of our entire stock of sweater yarns and in order to make a quick clean up we have made a big reduction in the prices.

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Mixed Chop, per ton	35.00	Cream of West Flour, bag	4.75
Corn Chop, per ton	38.00	O Canada Flour, per bag	4.50
Shorts, per ton	32.00	Pastry Flour, 24 lbs.	1.10
Bran, per ton	30.00	Tankage, per bag	3.50
Standard Screenings, per ton, sacked	28.00	King Edward Flour, bag	4.40
Feed Flour, per ton	42.00	Five Crown Flour, per bag	4.50

Poultry Feeds, Calf Meal, Oil Cake, Ground Flax, Rolled Oats, Wheatlets, Whole Wheat Flour, Salt, Bone Phosphate, Beef Scrap coarse and fine, Oyster Shell.

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