

OTHER PAPERS' OPINIONS

Murder and Insanity

The New York Evening Post, in a recent editorial paragraph, remarks: "Why not make murder an instantaneous, legal proof of insanity and save all these expensive trials, gallows and electric chairs?"

A Contrast in Sentences

Two armed boys in New York one night held up a pedestrian and robbed him of \$2.50. The other day they were brought to trial, and sentenced to serve twenty-seven years in the state penitentiary.

Real Gladiators

The death at Ottawa of Mr. Justice Ilington recalls his years of rivalry with the late James Pitt Mabey (afterwards a judge and then chairman of the dominion railway commission) when they were the leaders of the bar at Stratford, Ont., and on the opposite sides of most Perth County cases.

Piano Still Popular

When the popularity of the radio began to be manifest many persons expressed the opinion that all musical instruments would in time become obsolete, especially the piano.

Can Still Hear Them

The hundreds who were turned away when Rabbi Isserman occupied the pulpit of the Carlton Street United Church, and the other hundreds who were turned away when Rev. E. Crossley Hunter preached from the Holy Blossom Synagogue are reminded that on numerous Sundays in the future they can listen to the rabbi at the synagogue and the minister in the church.

An "Unthinkable" Proposition

Starting as an "unthinkable" proposition, the idea of war between this country and England stirs up an astonishing amount of talk, which always seems to stew along to the invariable conclusion that it is an unthinkable proposition.

On Preparedness

The fire whistle will be blown every day at noon to ensure that it is in good working order when it is needed. All will agree that preparedness for such emergency is good, yet there are many who will argue that preparedness for war is all wrong, and as such breeds war.

There is a lot in Miss Macphail's suggestion that nations should create Departments of Peace whose sole aim would be the promotion of international peace instead of war, and had the suggestion come from some one else who had not argued against common sense methods of preparation in case of the much dreaded scourge, war, it might have carried much more weight.

In commending Miss Macphail the Border Cities Star makes use of the following story: "A keen argument over Miss Macphail's speech was ended rather tersely by the elder of two men yesterday. The younger took serious exception to the elder arguing with Miss Macphail in her effort to do away with war. The rabid excitement over going to battle gleamed in the eyes of the debater against the woman member of Parliament. The older one simply smiled. The young man had been only 16 when the Armistice had been signed in 1918.

"Finally in exasperation the younger shouted angrily at the older to give any good common-sense reason for agreeing with Miss

Macphail that war should be abolished.

"Because I've been to a war," was the quiet, weary and effective answer."

If wars could be abolished by a simple act of Parliament the argument would be complete. If fires could be abolished we would not need fire brigades.

If the above conversation as related actually took place and if the veteran was asked if the unpreparedness of the allies was not responsible for the long duration of the war and for millions of needless casualties he would probably have answered "yes."

Abolition of war is perhaps the universal desire of the day and there is much to be done. At present that question and the question of preparedness should be kept separate and should not be confused.—Palmerston Spectator.

Adopting Policy of Parsimony

Bentrick Council is adopting the cheap-jack policy in the engagement of officials. Harold McKechnie, who lives near Durham and is a returned soldier was assessor last year at a salary of \$105. This year Wm. Adam has been engaged at \$100. The owners of teams that haul the little graders will receive \$4.00 for man and team this year instead of \$4.50 as heretofore.

Patrol men are continued at \$2.50 a day and shovellers get only \$2.25 per diem. I. E. Haug, the man who takes credit for defeating three members of the old council and was so overjoyed with the result of his work that he composed a poem on the event, has been engaged as superintendent at \$3 a day. He, virtually, had no opposition for the job for Ben Body of Elmwood who put in an application was delighted that somebody else got the job for he had to be coaxed by a member of the council to apply. The Government hasn't, so far, sanctioned the resignation of Frank Schmitt. Two members of the council, Deputy-Reeve Magwood and Councilor McCashin, voted against accepting Schmitt's resignation and the township clerk sent in their protest to the Highways' Department against a new man taking over control of the patrol men. The result may be the same as in Arran with two men on the job, one the Department's and the other the Council's. Schmitt and Haug are both stalwarts and if it comes to a conflict which is to boss the job it would be hard to predict the result. We doubt if the policy of retrenchment in officials' salaries is a wise one. Surely Bentrick can pay as high wages as other townships. It is to the Bentrick Council's credit that in cutting down salaries they were no pikers themselves, for they reduced their pay from \$2.75 to \$2.50 a day for attending council meetings without mileage.—Chesley Enterprise.

IODINE FOR LIVESTOCK

Mr. Frank Ewart Corrie, B. Sc., has written for the Chilean Iodine Committee, a brochure on the subject in which he has done considerable research during the past few years.

His conclusions show that an enormous amount of mortality and ill-health in livestock is caused by lack of sufficient iodine in the food. A minute quantity only is needed, but this is absolutely necessary. He claims that much of the food comes from soil which has been deprived of the iodine necessary to the health of animals. The remedy lies in restoring to the food the element it lacks.

Experiments show conclusively that cattle, hogs and sheep receiving a small amount of potassium iodide in their food make greater growth, give birth to healthier and stronger young than those fed in the same way but receiving no iodide.

Mistress (to cook who is leaving): "Well, Linda, I hope the man you are going to marry is a worthy one."

Cook: "He ain't of the best ma'am, but I'll make him do for a bit."

She's so dumb that she believes the foolish virgins were ones that didn't marry.

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WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE LEGISLATURE

Representations that have been made to the government in connection with the sale of a dairy product known as "cereal" cream are receiving the attention of the Committee on Agriculture of the Legislature. Representatives of the Ontario Milk Producers' Association have requested that the government amend, in order to correct what is termed the indefiniteness in the Act, the legislation respecting the sale of milk and cream within the Province. Objection is raised to the sale, by certain dairies in Toronto, Hamilton and Ottawa, of an 8 percent cream which is sold under the trade name of "cereal cream" or "cereal treat".

Milk producers contend that the product is in the nature of a substitute and that its general sale should be prohibited. It is also contended that this restriction should be imposed as a means of protecting the public. Dairies handling the product take the stand that the product is merely a mixture of milk and pure cream steeped down to 8 per cent of butter fat. Denial was issued that foreign substances were added to the mixture. Representatives of many dairies now handling the product stated that they did not desire to sell the 8 per cent mixture but were doing so only to meet competition of other firms. The committee has the question before them and will probably send on to the Legislature some measure to correct the situation.

Use of low grade butter rather than cream in the manufacture of ice cream is also to receive the attention of the government. Hon. J. S. Martin, Minister of Agriculture, has informed the Agricultural Committee that some step should be taken in this connection. Objection to this practice was raised before the committee when members stated that the ice cream sold in all parts of the Province had little or no butter fat content.

Revenue From Gasoline Tax

Net revenue received by the Government from the gasoline tax from 1924 to 1927 was \$9,383,434.43. Hon. George S. Henry, Minister of Highways, informed the Legislature. Gross revenue for the period was \$9,777,002, the rebates totalling the sum of \$393,570.94.

During the fiscal year 1924-1925 the revenue received amounted to \$1,976,847.98, the rebates totalling \$2,413.88, while the net return was \$1,974,434.10.

For the fiscal year 1925-1926 the gross revenue was \$3,533,744.82; rebates amounted to \$157,684.26. The net revenue being \$3,376,060.56. For the period elapsing 1926-1927 the gross revenue was \$4,266,379.90; rebates amounted to \$233,570.94, the net revenue being \$4,032,808.97.

While no commission was paid by the government, for the collection of the tax, agents were allowed to deduct the following fees: 1924-1925, \$40,294.59; 1925-1926, \$71,976.99; 1926-1927, \$107,012.80. Total fees allowed since the institution of the tax amounted to \$219,284.38.

Premier Ferguson informed the House that up until October 31st, 1927 exactly 444,476 operator's licenses had been issued for drivers of motor cars and 64,916 chauffeur licenses. In 1926 39,513 chauffeurs' licenses were issued indicating that about 25,000 people deemed it more in their interest to secure this form of license instead of the ordinary operator's license.

Domestic Science Course

Speaking in the Legislature, William Newman (Liberal, North Victoria) had more than a measure of

praise for the government. Discussing the Liquor Control Act, Mr. Newman expressed the opinion that it was in the best interests of the Province. He was, he said, not going to take a back seat to anyone in supporting a government that would get the best out of the Province. He believed that the Liquor Control Act had proved itself a beneficial measure. The Liberal member also urged the extension of the Domestic Science course for farm women at the Agricultural College, a question that is already receiving the attention of the government.

Relief from Highway Maintenance

Some measure of relief for townships from the financial burden due to their share of the costs of road construction and subsequent maintenance has been promised by Premier Ferguson. Speaking in the Legislature, Premier Ferguson stated that the Department of Highways had the matter under consideration and that he was confident that some action would be taken in the near future.

J. G. Lethbridge (Progressive Leader) assured the Premier of the hearty co-operation of the Progressive group in this connection. He pointed out that it was a step in the right direction and one that would meet with the approval of the farmers of the province at large.

"The government realizes that the cost of construction of such highways should be met by the people who get the use of them," stated the Premier. "The Highways Department is endeavoring to work out some method whereby they can give support and assistance to rural townships. People who are remote from Provincial Highways should not be burdened with the costs. The people who use them should pay for them."

Aid To Fall Fairs

Suggestion that aid be given by the government in connection with class "B" fall fairs is receiving the attention of the Department of Agriculture. Representations have been made by those interested in fairs in county towns. It has been pointed out to the government that these fairs are of vast importance to the Province as a whole and the suggestion that a grant towards the exhibitions be given by the Government is receiving the attention of the Minister of Agriculture.

Increase in Gasoline Tax Likely While it has been stated that no action will be taken this year at least, Premier Ferguson has intimated that the impost of gasoline is likely to be increased. Making his announcement the Premier pointed out that the people of the Province were clamoring for more good roads and forgetting the cost. "That means," he said, "the gasoline tax will have to be increased." Ontario Good Roads Association in convention in Toronto has already gone on record as favoring an increase in the tax.

Dealing with the costs of building highways Premier Ferguson stated: "We must cut down our expenditures somewhat, and we must rearrange our financial system. You will see that those who use the roads must pay most of the cost. That means that the gasoline tax will be increased."

Change in Regulation 17

Intention of the government to improve the racial feeling between the English and French population of the Province through the adoption of some new method following the decision to dispense with Regulation 17 has been received with approval by the Legislature. Speaking in the House, Hon. J. R. Cooke disclosed the government's viewpoint in this connection. Discussing the workability of Regulation 17, Mr. Cooke stated that owing to the knowledge which came to the Minister of Education in regard

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to conditions that prevailed in some schools a change had to be made.

"The Minister of Education," he said, "Would have been absolutely false to the trust imposed on him if he had failed to try and devise some other method," stated Mr. Cooke. "Report of the Commission to study the question shows that Regulation 17 was a sordid and dismal failure in respect to achieving what it was intended to do. We are now going to enforce more effective methods to bring about the result the Regulation had in view."

Mr. Cooke stated that even the experiment the government was now making might have to be subjected to review within a period of five years.

Rural Hydro Development

Mention of rural hydro development has brought the information to the Legislature that for every day last year the government had paid \$3,000 as a gift to take hydro power and light to the farms of the Province.

BOWES' PREDICTIONS SO FAR ACCURATE

January and February Forecasts for This Year Have Come True.

The predictions of Mr. J. B. Bowes, the local weather prophet, for January and February, so far, have been very accurate. Even the long distance forecast issued at the first of last year, which included the first two months in 1928, came out very correct. The predictions of Mr. Bowes are being watched more closely than ever before and a great number of people throughout the province are interested in following them. This is shown by the number of inquiries for copies of the forecasts.

Mr. Bowes' predictions for January and February, are as follows: January—First week very cold; strong winds; heavy snow falls; balance very mild and calm.

February—First fifteen days quite mild and calm; about 17th cold and unsettled; 24th strong winds, rain, snow and quite cold.

Mr. Bowes insists that he is 80 per cent correct in his predictions. At the same time he says he is

about 15 per cent short on facts which are necessary to compile a complete and accurate forecast. These facts are not available because of the expense of obtaining them. Mr. Bowes hopes to be in a position eventually to secure the necessary information and give the public forecasts that will be about 100 per cent correct.

One day a stable lad came to his master and reported that the six sets of harness had been stolen. "That's bad," exclaimed the master, "did the thief leave any traces?" "No, sir," replied the boy, "he took the traces as well."

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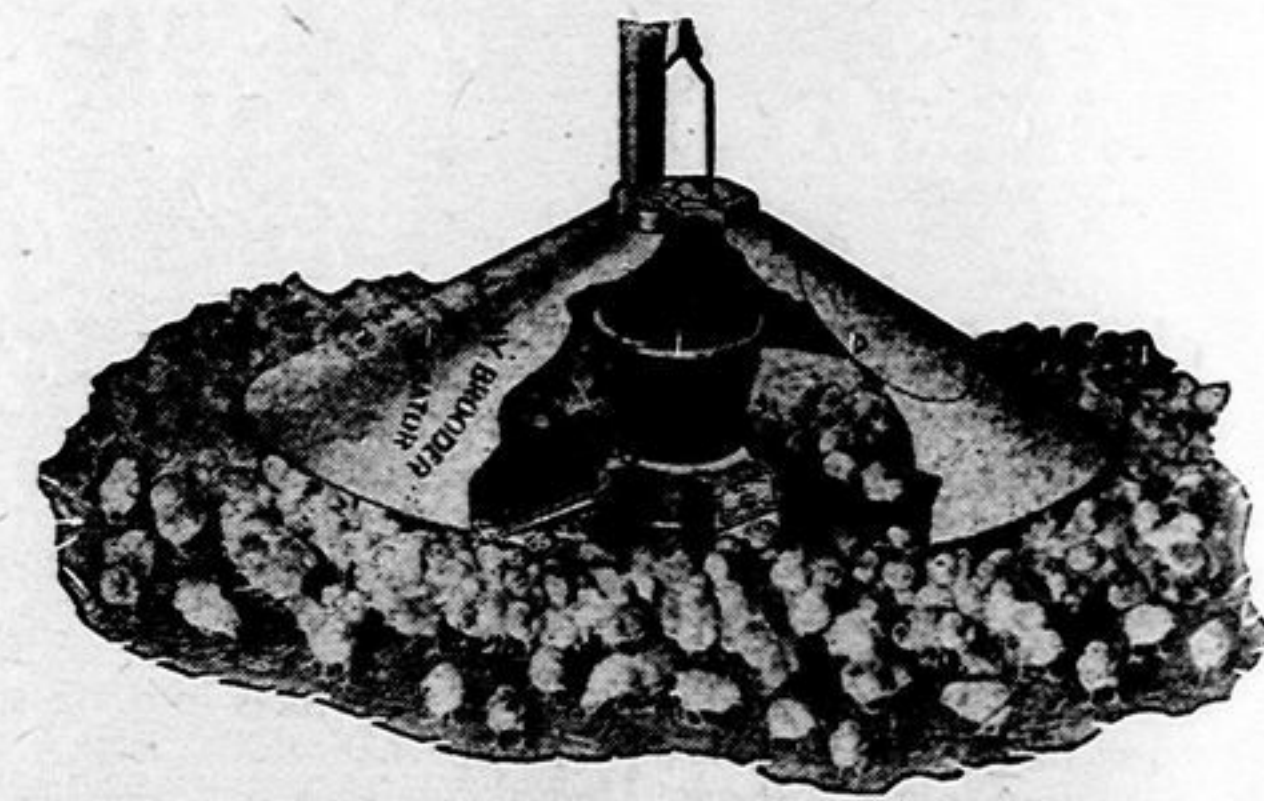
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DR. A. M. BELL Physician and Surgeon, 6 Lambton Street, Durham, Ont. Graduate University of Toronto, tested and corrected. Office hours 2 to 5 p.m., 7 to 9 p.m. Sun. excepted.

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