

THE DURHAM CHRONICLE

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Whoever 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 13, 1930

POLITICS AND OLD AGE PENSIONS

The Collingwood *Bulletin* last week asked editorially, "Is the Old Age Pensions plan being abused?" A quite natural question after some of the recent accusations. Continuing, the *Bulletin* makes the remarkable statement: "As is well known, the number of pensioners is steadily increasing, busy body politicians being given much credit for building up the list." We wonder where the *Bulletin* got its information, or rather, misinformation.

Surely a well-informed newspaper man must know by this time that politics cannot possibly have anything to do with the enforcement of the Old Age Pensions Act! The enforcement of the Act is, generally speaking, not under the control of the Commission at Queen's Park at all. To receive a pension, application must be made through the local, or County Pensions Board. This Board must pass on it first.

The County Pensions Board is composed of members appointed by the County Council, and usually from the members of the County Council itself, though this is not necessary nor advisable. What chance is there for politics or politicians to get in their work here? We do not know the political leanings of the members of the County Boards generally, but would think they would naturally belong to all political parties.

While the list of old age pensioners is growing daily, it might fairly be assumed, it is also diminishing in about the same ratio. If there is any appreciable increase in the number of pensioners, rather than convey the impression that it was a case of busy politicians, we would incline to the opinion that if any blame is to be attached it should be laid at the door of the County Boards, who "have erred on the side of humanity" in their disposal of applications.

In any event, the County Boards must first pass on the applications, and if there is anything in the *Bulletin's* rumor that busy politicians have been responsible, it would be well to get at the root of the trouble—the County Pensions Boards.

LIQUOR CONSUMPTION DECREASING

Despite the statements in the press by those who oppose Ontario's Liquor Control Act, statistics prove that liquor consumption in the province is decreasing. Only recently a statement issued from the office of the chairman contained the gratifying information that last year the purchases of liquor had fallen off, and while there is still far too much money spent in alcohol as a beverage, we believe that a fair trial of the Liquor Control Act will prove it to be the best temperance measure we have had in this province so far. Liquor Control will not stop drinking; neither did prohibition. But Liquor Control does allow of the legal purchase of liquor by those who insist on having it, and does not force those who do not care for it to do so.

Liquor Control has not eliminated the bootlegger absolutely. We still have those with us who peddle a drink or two at a time, but they were here under prohibition, and have been pretty well weeded out since the Act came in force. There are some of the smaller bootleggers still operating, but the big fellows have been put out of business.

No doubt there are some who think the object of the Liquor Control Board is to sell liquor. Nothing is further from the facts. There is scarcely a week passes that some new method is not adopted to curtail the sale of liquor. The 1930-31 permits have a space in them for filling in the amount of the purchase in dollars and cents, with a space for totaling the purchases at the bottom of the page, and a "Brought Forward" space in the next. In this manner the purchaser is never allowed to forget how much he is spending in liquor.

Last year the Control Board made a ruling that no unmarried man under twenty-five years of age who was living at home could legally possess a permit without the consent of his parents. And many other similar enactments have been made since the Act came in force.

In a circular just issued, bearing the date of November 8, and sent to vendors, brewery warehouse and winery inspectors, permit issuers and other officials, the Board calls attention to the fact that up to November 8 a total of 36,926 permits had been issued this year, as against 53,810 in the like period last year, a decrease of 31.37 per cent.

"This decrease," says the circular, "is welcomed." Further, the circular points out that liquor must not be sold to those who abuse it, and "sales should not be made so as to render possible a continuance of drunkenness." Another section says:

"Liquor must not be sold when the financial standing of the purchaser is such that the sales must be followed by a diminution of the comforts of life in the family."

It will be seen from the above that the present

Liquor Control Board is doing everything in its power to curb the liquor evil, and should have the support of all who have temperance at heart. If there is any control to liquor we feel safe it shall be ultimately accomplished under the present Ontario Act, but the Act should have a fair trial. The mere fact that there are those who would abolish alcohol entirely who are not satisfied with anything short of absolute prohibition, is no proof that prohibition is better than some other measure. This paper has taken the stand that prohibition never was as good as its advocates believed, nor as bad as its opponents said. The same might be said of the Liquor Control Act.

People who oppose the Liquor Control Act should not think that those who favor it are not supporters of temperance. It is merely a matter of opinion as to whether you can win a man over to your way of thinking by coercion, or whether you stand a better chance of getting him to see his error by a system of education that is lenient so long as he acts fairly, but strict if he refuses to listen to reason.

This is the idea of liquor control anywhere and is the system under which Ontario is endeavoring to solve its liquor problems. The saying of Junius that "The subject who is truly loyal to the Chief Magistrate will neither advise nor submit to arbitrary measures" is as true today as in the late sixties of the eighteenth century when they were penned by Sir Philip Francis.

A BLAST FROM PALMERSTON

Referring to the Dr. Bair case last week the *Palmerston Spectator* says:

"We are glad to note that *Durham Chronicle* is able to devote so much time and space to political matters outside of Grey County and suggest that after it has cleaned up the Dr. Blair episode it might start a crusade to clean up the situations created in other parts of the province by Clifford Case and Dr. Forbes Godfrey."

We appreciate the compliment paid us by the *Spectator*, and would respectfully call its attention to the fact that the Dr. Forbes Godfrey case, as well as that of Clifford has been pretty well cleaned up by Premier Ferguson and the Conservative party. So far as taking an interest in politics outside of Grey County is concerned, the *Chronicle* is interested politically on a larger scale, apparently, than the *Spectator* thinks it should be. Had the *Spectator* editor read our comments at the time of the Godfrey-Case episode, he would know our opinions, which were expressed when the question was before the public.

In the paragraph immediately following the one above quoted the *Palmerston* paper admits that Dr. Blair should be willing to go into further details, and that with the municipal elections coming on, should any of the municipal candidates be involved, the electors would be able to deal with them. "If none are involved," says the *Spectator*, "they certainly should be cleared of any suspicion."

The *Spectator* apparently objects to the *Chronicle* taking any interest in the Dr. Blair case, for the reason that he is outside of Grey County. In the very next breath it advocates the same thing as the *Chronicle*.

But why worry? The *Spectator's* editorial contains about the same kind of argument as it has had for some months with the *Fergus News-Record* over Wellington County Council matters.

WELL DONE, LADIES!

There was a dinner in the Royal York hotel in Toronto last Saturday attended by those who had won the Victoria Cross in the last war. They arranged for it themselves, and expected to pay for it. When they came to settle the bill they were told there was none. The hotel management had assumed all the expense. It was a credit to the management that they did.

Durham and district war veterans thought they would like to have a dinner and "get-together" meeting on Armistice night. They were willing to pay for it. But Durham had no Royal York Hotel, so the soldiers approached the local Red Cross Society. The ladies accepted the challenge, but on one condition—there was to be no charge. The ladies of the Red Cross Society would see to it that the war veterans had their party. They solicited the aid of the I.O.D.E. and the Women's Institute. These two societies were glad of the chance to serve. And they did. It was to their credit.

The ladies of Durham only did their duty. But they did it. We are not going to even thank them for what they did. They would not appreciate it. They do not want it. But these are the kind of things that "taste" good twelve years after the Armistice. They taste even better to us than the meal did to the war veterans. We liked the idea, and we trust that next year the same thing happens again.

Durham, or Canada, can never repay what its army of fighting men did for it. The war veterans saw their duty and did it. They do not ask for thanks for the months of service they put in over in France, with its shell-holes, its trenches, its "cooties" and the filthy conditions under which they were forced to live.

And so we say: "Well done, boys; well done, ladies!"

OTHER PAPERS' OPINIONS

Thug Treatment

Mr. Justice Raney did a good day's work for law and order when he sentenced those convicted before him at Windsor of a variety of atrocious crimes. The record runs:

For robbery while armed, 20 years in the penitentiary.
For burglary, 15 years.
Conspiracy to break jail and do bodily harm, 14 years.
Receiving stolen goods, seven years.
Attempting to deliver a loaded revolver to a prisoner, seven years.
Manslaughter, ten years.
Attempting to wound an officer, ten years.

This is the sort of language understood by professional criminals, and the lesson will not go unheeded in the neighboring underworlds of Detroit and other United States cities. Canada has few more important duties than to preserve her courts stern and fearless, free from all the entangling alliances and the sentimentalities which have cursed American courts for many years. Mr. Justice Raney has interpreted his responsibility in terms of public safety and public interest.—*Alliston Herald*.

Great New American Industry Under Prohibition

Wine growers in Italy and France are rejoicing over the rising sentiment against prohibition which was made clear in last Tuesday's national election in the United States. Vintners in both countries already see the Eighteenth Amendment repealed, and a great market opening in the American Republic for their wines. Taking cognizance of this foreign optimism, a New York newspaper declares:

"It would be only fair to warn the would-be exporters to our shores of Marsala and Chablis that even if American prohibition were done away with, there might be still barriers to their wares seeking to enter this country, largely driven in upon their own efforts for ten years past, Americans have, under the spur of prohibition, leaped forward a long way in the art of distilling their own wine and fermenting their own wine and beer. By the time prohibition is repealed, we may have developed, under its stimulus, a great new infant industry which it will be necessary to protect by prohibitive duties."

This is a highly significant confession of what the Volstead Act has done for our neighbors. It is not to be expected, however, that the domestic American beer, wine and hard liquor industries will suffer legalized competition from abroad for some time to come. As we have frequently remarked, the wets have a considerable distance to travel before they can repeal the Volstead Act or take the Eighteenth Amendment out of the constitution. In the meantime, more or less imperfect alcoholic beverages produced in the United States will continue to satisfy American thirst, with the aid of such contraband liquors as can be smuggled across the border from Europe and other countries.—*Toronto Mail and Empire*.

Ask for South African Oranges

The purchaser of oranges in Alliston or even in Toronto is accustomed to seeing "Sunkist" or "Blue Goose" stamped in black letters on the fruit and might very easily fail to notice an orange with no brand name stamped on it. In the last week or two oranges have been sold in town that were grown in South Africa. The individual wrapper containing the orange had printed on it this legend: "Citrus Estates, Zebedeia, Transvaal". In flavor the South African orange is indistinguishable from the California product, there are few seeds in it and its size is about the same as the average California orange. In color the Transvaal fruit is much darker than that coming from the Southern States. But the most interesting feature of the sale of these oranges is that they were shipped by boat from South Africa to England and by vessel from England to a Canadian seaport where they were picked up and brought inland by rail. Yet the price is the very same as that paid for a California orange of similar size. It would no doubt be beneficial to both South Africa and Canada were an extensive trade in the products of the two countries developed. Canadians can help by asking their dealers for South African oranges. And there are other products of South Africa that can be brought to Canada and sold just as cheaply as is the product from some country outside the British empire. Allistonians have a special interest in developing trade with South Africa in order to create a market for seed potatoes grown in this district. It is but a few weeks ago that Mr. Thos. Cassin shipped a trial order of Dooleys to Durham. National trade is no different from individual trade. The United States has shut its market to Canadians and to use a street expression Canada is sore just as an individual would be in like circumstances. New markets for Canadian goods must be found. If South Africa will buy a lot of our goods that the United States refuses to buy then by all means let Canadians demand South African oranges and other fruits.—*Alliston Herald*.

SCHOOL TEACHING POPULAR

In a vocational questionnaire issued by the school board in a Canadian city, electrical engineering was the leading choice of the boys, while the vocation of school teacher led among the girls.

LARGE DEFICIT FACES AUSTRALIA

Balancing Budget for Fiscal Year Is Thought Impossible.—Shortage For Year May Reach Total of \$50,000,000

Australia finds it impossible to balance her budget within the remaining eight months of the fiscal year, Hon. J. A. Lyons, acting treasurer, announced in the House of Representatives on November 5 in Melbourne.

After the most careful survey, he said, new taxation and reduction in public expenditures had been decided upon which would result in a reasonable deficit between eight and ten million pounds (roughly \$40,000,000 to \$50,000,000).

The minister, however, expressed confidence that, given a revival of trade and a restoration of confidence, the commonwealth would find it able to redeem its undertaking after the present measures had been in operation for a full financial year.

New taxation is expected to produce an additional \$3,700,000 this year, while public economies are expected to realize \$3,180,000 a total benefit of \$6,880,000 (roughly \$34,400,000).

The Government's financial proposals Mr. Lyons stated included:
A supertax of 7½ per cent on all incomes from property valued at more than £100.

A 15 per cent increase in the tax on earned incomes of more than £500 per annum.

A supertax of 10 to 15 per cent levied on the salaries of ministers of the Government, members of Parliament and civil servants.

New customs and excise duties, estimated to yield an additional £2,000,000 within the present fiscal year.

If the depressed condition continues, if trade continued to lag and unemployment consequently increased, it was possible the country would face a deficit of between £12,000,000 and £15,000,000 when the financial year closed, Mr. Lyons pointed out.

But, with a restoration of confidence and revival in trade and employment, it was reasonable to estimate the deficit would not exceed \$8,000,000 to \$12,000,000 he added. A most careful survey of the financial position showed it was impossible, within the remaining eight months of the fiscal year, to reconstruct the budget that a balanced ledger could be secured.

The most that could be achieved without undue sacrifice was to plan the

budget on such a basis that when it operated on a full financial year, the Commonwealth would have redeemed its undertakings, he declared.

WHEN STARS UNFOLD

When stars bloom out against the sky,
As lilies on blue waters lie;
When they unfold
Their petals gold
And drift on night's tranquillity.
Then is man's thought most calm and pure,
Hope then is most serene and sure,
Freed from all doubt
When stars shine out,
Bright stars that evermore endure.
For peace like incense fills the night,
Released on rays of starry light;
Life holds no fear
And heaven bends near
As far worlds lend us their delight.

EVERYDAY BARGAINS

- Ladies' Silk Bloomers, good quality silk, all shades 49c.
- Vests to match 49c.
- Children's pure wool cashmere hose, all sizes, pr. 39c.
- Ladies' Silk and Wool Hose all shades, pr. 49c.
- Bobby Hair Clips, 36 on cards for 10c.
- Ladies' Silk Neck Scarves all colors. Special 98c.
- Ladies' Fall Weight Chambray Goggles, pr. 39c.
- Large Sized Bath Towels, 25c.
- Pillow cases, hemstitched, 25c.
- Ladies' Fall Weight Underwear, per garment 59c.

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THE QUESTION OF THE HOUR
Lord Beaverbrook wants some information from Engineer Baldwin.
—Daily Express, London.