

THE 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, March 3, 1932

WILL HE RUN AGAIN?

This is a question that has been put to us on a good many occasions during the past few months, the "he" in this instance being Dr. D. Jamieson, the chairman of the Old Age Pensions and the Mothers' Allowances Boards. Our answer is that we do not know. We have never asked him. There is one thing, however, if he should decide to be a candidate in the next provincial campaign, the fact that he is seventy-six or seven years of age will be no argument for voting against him, as we believe he is one of the hardest-working men in the vicinity of Queen's Park, is usually at his desk before his staff arrives, and is still going strong when they have decided they have done their day's work. According to Father Time's method of calculation, Dr. Jamieson is, well, getting up—but judged from the standard of efficiency, he has not yet reached the half-century mark, the time when a man should be at his best.

But we didn't start out to write a eulogy on Dr. Jamieson. He wouldn't thank us for it, and we may not exactly be appreciated for saying what we have. We just wanted to point out that despite his retirement from provincial politics, he has still a strong hold on the electorate of South Grey, which he served so long and so well. We might also add that this is no advance ballyhoo for the next election, and another funny thing about it is that those who seem curious regarding his possible political movements are those who have never claimed any particular allegiance to either Dr. Jamieson or the party he represented but who recognize in the man those qualities which make for stability and sanity.

No, we do not know if Dr. Jamieson will again offer himself as a political candidate in this riding. We haven't asked him, and do not intend so doing. We do know, however, that if he should take to the hustings again, he will be accorded support by a good many who have on all former occasions been on the opposite side of the political fence.

OLYMPIC AMATEURISM

It is rather disgusting at times to listen to the continued whinnings of those who apparently think there is nothing right in the world, and among them the ones who persistently try to pull the props from under the amateur standing of far too many of our athletes. The crepe hangers were justified, it seems, in handing Sonja Henie, the world's woman skating champion from Sweden, the razzberry, when, through her father, she demanded exorbitant fees for her appearance at the annual carnival of the Toronto Skating Club last week. Both the Toronto club and the Minto Club at Ottawa flatly refused to meet her demands, and the show went on without her. Further, other performers from Hungary, Germany, England and other countries, refused to perform if her demands were met, as it was feared it might involve all contestants in a merry battle to prove their amateur standing was not blemished.

It must not be inferred that either the Ottawa or Toronto clubs expected Miss Henie to perform for nothing. They were willing to pay a generous expense account, but when she demanded \$2,500 from Ottawa, and more than that from Toronto, for one night's work, she and her managers overstepped the mark. As a result she may be asked to turn professional, or at least forfeit her Olympic title. A rather peculiar situation developed when it became known that the demands of this Swedish "amateur" were almost three times as high as those of the biggest professionals.

So far as this part of the world is concerned, Sonja Henie has finished her career. The public at Toronto paid a wonderful tribute to the Lake Placid contestants at their carnival last week, a tribute they never could hope to obtain as professionals. The public likes professional sport, it likes amateur sport; but it fails to get the same kick out of professional encounters that it takes out of the amateur offerings.

In these days of commercialism and high costs it does no good to be too picky and possibly a lot of our amateur stuff is on the shady side, but when it comes to world's Olympic champions demanding three times as much as the professionals, it seems time to call the bluff.

CANADA IS ALL RIGHT

It is said that a man has to die to find out what a good fellow he was, and this may also be true, in a sense, of a country. Perhaps a country has to go away from home to find out the true position she occupies in the world's opinion. During the past few years the citizens of Canada have heard quite a lot about what is the matter with her. We have had our own troubles with the quack politicians, those who can forever tell us what our ailments are, but who have never yet prescribed a cure. The country is ruined, can never recover, and our only salvation seems to be to give the country back to the Indians, from whom we took it, or turn it over to the Esquimaux. It is therefore refreshing to hear what one leading United States financial journal has to say, sentiments which have all along been expressed by this newspaper, and which even as this is being written, are being borne out in actual experience. Here it is:

"It is possibly an exaggeration to say that Canada is in a relatively better position than any other nation today, but surely she will be in the forefront of any general return to prosperity. Canada is young, and youth is always confident of the future. Canadians are born optimists, and they have the right to be such. This country is fortunate in having such a vigorous and hopeful neighbor, and when the resources and potentialities of the United States are considered, the essential character of the people and their opportunities in the great territory to the north should never be overlooked.

"Like the rest of the world, Canada has its troubles. The railroads are proving a serious problem there as here. Farm products and newsprint have suffered. The country has large foreign obligations, and her dollar depreciated when Great Britain was impelled to suspend the gold standard. But the Dominion has had marvellous success of late in floating a large national-service loan, the proceeds of which are needed for unemployment distress as well as for ordinary services. These bonds were subscribed for by the public to a gratifying extent, particularly in Western Canada, despite two years of low-priced crops. The success of the loan is considered a national declaration of faith in the future and evidence of the ability of the country to finance itself.

"The Canadian banking system has proved sound thus far, and there is real evidence of inherent strength in face of worldwide depression. One striking fact is that the tide of Canadian migration to the United States appears to have stopped. Indeed, there seems to be a very substantial movement of Americans into Canada, more than 10,000 having migrated there in 1931.

"These movements may reflect temporary economic conditions rather than permanent trends. But the population of Canada is small in proportion to the extent of the land and its resources, so that a healthy growth in population should be of almost as great advantage to us as to Canada itself."

FREE PUBLICITY

Down Paris way there is an argument on as to whether the newspaper reporters should pay admission to the hockey games in that town. Let them argue. We have nothing to say about what they do in Paris, but up here in Durham, the reporter is received with open arms by the management of our sports organizations, for they know the publicity given them by the reporter is worth many times the price of the admission. The Chronicle sends a man to all sports events, and we feel that the expense of the man in reporting the game is sufficient for us to bear. If the publicity is not worth an admission to the event, then there would be nothing left but pay the shot the same as any other patron. However, there is no argument in this neck of the woods. The managers of our sports organizations are satisfied, and the sporting editor goes in free. This, however, does not mean that the whole newspaper staff enjoys this privilege. Outside the sports writer, all members of the staff wishing to attend an event go the same as other citizens. We pay our way and watch the game the same as the rest of them.

In our opinion newspapers have themselves to blame for a lot of this trouble. They publish altogether too much of this free publicity stuff, and in far too many instances lack the courage to say "no." We have always claimed it is rather unfair to expect the local newspaper editor to pay his way into every event when his only object in going is to report that which takes place. Other citizens attend those functions in which they are interested, but the newspaper must take in all. Far too many organizations hope to get free advance notices, and then fail to send in the account of the event,

the only part which can by any stretch of the imagination be regarded as important to the paper.

Some newspaper editors are funny people. We have known them to rush after bridal couples to present them with "free" yearly subscriptions of their newspaper, in the hope, no doubt, that they are getting ahead of their opposition, and that the couple would continue taking the paper after the first year. Sometimes they do, sometimes they don't. So far we have never heard of the grocers, the bakers, or the coal barons staging a marathon to the home of the newlyweds in the hope that they would arrive ahead of the other fellow and present them with their first year's supply of groceries, bread and coal, free of cost. Outside of certain newspapers, we have never heard of this being done. And so we say that some editors are funny.

We have received contracts for advertising space, and, accompanying the first advertising there sometimes arrives four or five dollars' worth of "free" reader. It is surprising how many newspapers fall for this, and more surprising they have not learned that the more free publicity they allow into their columns the less paid advertising they receive. In the good old days when a man bought a suit of clothes it was customary for the haberdasher to "throw in" a pair of suspenders. He does the same thing today, but charges seventy-five cents or a dollar for them. The haberdasher has learned there was nothing to this mode of doing business, but the dear deluded newspaper men still hang on to the old ideas that have gone out of style years ago, and continue dispensing the free publicity.

This newspaper does not believe in overcharging a customer, but it DOES believe that any business is entitled to receive pay for any and everything it has for sale. But what's the use? Why bring these matters up? The same fellows will continue doing the same thing, and all of them admit the principle is wrong. The whole trouble seems to be they haven't the moral courage to place their business on a business basis, or have continued so long on the old plan that they think it cannot be changed.

A GOOD LAW

The cheque bill Act, which has gone to its final reading at Ottawa, is a law that should have been on the statutes of this country years ago. There is altogether too much of this issuing of cheques with no funds, and while the bill is not intended to affect the man who may have overdrawn his account, but who will pay when notified, the artists who have formed the habit of paying with cheques which they know at the start will not be honored, are due for a quick checking up. While there was considerable objection taken to the bill, Hon. Hugh Guthrie, Minister of Justice, assured the House that the honest man had nothing to fear from the bill.

Under the old law, while it was a breach to tender cheques for which no funds were forthcoming, it was the duty of the complainant to prove that the cheque had been issued with fraudulent intentions. It was altogether too easy for the guilty party to convince the court it was a mistake, nothing more. The new law may not be the last word, but it will most certainly cause those who pay by cheque to see to it that they have a proper bank balance before purchasing goods and issuing a worthless cheque.

A writer with a mind for figures has discovered that in 3,421 years of history, there have been 3,133 years of war and 8,000 peace pacts.

Prohibitionist leaders are not pleased with the appointment of Canon H. J. Cody as president of Toronto University. But there would be only one way of satisfying these leaders—let them make the appointment themselves.

The Kitchener Record wants to know if a son born to Canadian parents on a train in Nevada could become President of the United States. Our opinion is it would take him a long time.

Oh for a couple of weeks of good old Jack Frost. Some real nippy weather at this time would do more to curtail the epidemic of colds than anything we know. Mild winters have their good points, no doubt, but there is too much illness from colds.

Canada is fifth in export trade, the only countries to exceed her being Britain, United States, France and Germany, in the order named. Canada seems to be more than holding her own, in spite of the hard times cry of the pessimists.

We congratulate Editor McDonald of the Chesley Enterprise, who last week won a \$5,000 prize for guessing the exact population of Canada. Now he won't have to worry any more over that \$25 hydro bill to which he recently referred.

OTHER PAPERS' OPINIONS

Religion in Stomach

True Christianity draws no distinctions. The church member who contributes a quarter during the year gets just as much to eat at the annual meeting as a "pillar of the church."—Fergus News-Record.

Immigrations Again

Reports from Ottawa indicate the possibility of a change in the government's attitude towards restricted immigration with the prospect of another attempt to bring more people to Canada.

This paper has in the past pointed out the dangers of such a policy. When more people are required in Canada, these people will naturally come provided conditions are good. The danger in an unrestricted policy is that undesirable people become citizens of Canada. Stimulated immigration is merely inflation and surely everyone knows the danger of inflation.—Palmerston Spectator.

Doesn't Like Mr. Drury

With Ontario Government employees taking a cut in wages, Drury, the super-patriot, the Moses of the downtrodden, the denouncer of unholly politicians, the austere hope of the farmer and the workman, collects \$8,000 of back wages he once renounced.

It only needed Mr. Drury's claim for \$8,000 back wages to complete the record of his Government. What a record?

Besides the \$8,000 back wages Mr. Drury secured a fine provincial highway past his own door. The province lost a 20-mile road along the shore of Lake Simcoe, where the road should have been located.—Sault Ste. Marie Star.

Other Depressions

Reviewing the history of depressions, a speaker addressing the Toronto Electric Club one day last week, showed that the collapse of 1849 was thought to have wrecked Canada's prospects, but was followed by comparatively rapid recovery. In 1857, he said, panic melted into progress, and in 1879, when signs of revival were not visible even to expert observers, commerce picked up and depression disappeared. At the time of the Riel rebellion still another depression went what was seemingly the way of all depressions. In the U. S. nine tenths of eastern industrial workers were unemployed in the depression of 1889, and farms went down to two per cent. of their value. In 1893 13 out of every 100 commercial houses collapsed and 169 railways went bankrupt. Both 1857 and 1873 were marked by conditions much more serious than those of today; but in each case the upturn was not long in arriving.—Alliston Herald.

A Political Football

In the Ontario legislature, Hydro has become a political football. The Spectator has expressed a fear that this would happen.

Very few people in Ontario have anything against the hydro principle, but there has been resentment at what has appeared to be a dictatorial attitude on the part of the Ontario Power Commission which has caused antagonism throughout the province which is not helpful to the hydro cause. The refusal of the commission to take the public into its confidence on many occasions, has created suspicion in the minds of many which should be removed before harm is done.

But making a political football out of this municipally-owned enterprise will not clear up the situation because nearly everyone knows that as soon as politics enters into a discussion, reason departs, and there is absolutely nothing to prevent this enterprise being managed in a way which will prove

popular, but mixing it with politics will not produce these desired results.—Palmerston Spectator.

The Irish Elections

The final results are now available in the Irish Free State elections and De Valera and his Republican party will have a slight majority and the Sinn Fein leader will be called upon to form a Government. A few years ago dispatches that De Valera had headed the polls would have been regarded as most alarming news. It would have been hailed as a definite sign that the Free State was to set up a new republic; it would have meant revolution and war. Now his success at the polls does not even cause a ripple. De Valera may talk Republicanism and independence, but there is no more likelihood of his establishing a state apart from the British Empire than there has been on the part of Gen. Hertzog, in South Africa. The South African Nationalist leader campaigned on this issue. Independence was the chief plank in his platform. Yet when he assumed office responsibility sobered him. He found that he had all the independence he could want in the confines of the Empire. He gradually forgot his old platform and no one today hears any talk of independence on the part of South Africa.—Tara Leader.

Fall Fair Advice

The Picton Gazette makes some suggestions for improving the fall fairs of the province. These come out of the home fair need, but may be used by any organization of the province. "Why not cut down on the horse races which are a heavy drain on the treasury, and substitute new features?" asks the Gazette, while it suggests that a bareback riding horse-race for young men and women, bicycle races and field and track sports would comprise an interesting program. It recommends a pageant in the evening, presented by the Women's Institute of the county, a fiddling contest, a corn-husking bee, a wood-cutting contest, a parade of men and women in oldtime costumes, a musical competition for church choirs and rural schools, acrobatics, wrestling and boxing by high school students, a Boy Scout demonstration and a dancing competition. The Gazette believes the exhibitions of carding wool, lace-making, rug-making, basket-weaving, etc., would prove popular with the ladies. In its opinion a dog and cat show could be staged at little cost and it would draw hundreds to the fair. Finally, what of a baby show?—Collingwood Bulletin.

Depends on Who Wins

Since Canada had such a close shave in the Olympic hockey games, sports "experts" all over the country have been pointing out that Canada could have been represented by a far stronger team if the star players of various senior teams had been gathered together as was done by the Americans. One Toronto writer, running true to his usual form, picked out a sample team made up entirely of Toronto players, and claimed this team could have won easily.

All of this recalls the defeat of the Canadian lacrosse team when they invaded the United States last year. After that dire tragedy, the sports experts were sure that Canada made a great mistake sending a team of all-stars, and that if the Brampton team had been sent as a unit, they could have won easily. More than one man who knows his lacrosse has assured us positively that the man who insisted on an all-star team made a mistake.

It will be noted that it is the intention to send the Brampton Excelsiors as a unit to the Olympic games at Los Angeles, if the money can be raised. All of which proves that it makes a big difference whether your team wins or loses.—Fergus News-Record.

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