

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, March 10, 1932

OUTSTANDING ONTARIO WEEKLIES

The Sault Ste. Marie Daily Star, one of the most quoted of Ontario's dailies, and edited by J. W. Curran, in its issue of March 3 last, paid a glowing tribute to the weekly newspapers of Ontario, as follows:

"The weekly papers of the province seem to have come to life in recent months. Some of them have always been well edited but today to judge by quotations from them in the daily papers there are a large number which print as well written and as vigorous views as any daily. We speak only from seeing the excerpts in the daily press. The Fergus News-Record, the Durham Chronicle, the Port Rowan News, the Orillia News-Letter, the Barrie Examiner, the Oakville Star, the Collingwood Bulletin,—to speak from memory of recent articles reprinted in the dailies,—are exceedingly bright papers. These are only a few of the papers we can now recall having seen quoted. There is a freshness and vigor about their articles, a homely directness and an independence of view that augurs well for the province. The weekly newspapers are filling an exceedingly important place in the life of the province. More power to them."

SWEEPING THE WRONG WAY

We read a rather interesting story the other day of two men, one a junior clerk, in a big firm, the other the junior partner. They both commenced with this firm, both had the same chance, but were soon separated. The story said it was because one of them always "swept the wrong way." In their junior days it was the duty of both of them to sweep the sidewalk in front of the premises. One boy invariably swept against the wind, the other with it; one did his work right, the other wrong. One rose to high position with his firm, the other still occupies an inferior post, and always will. He swept the wrong way.

How true this is of life! How many of us are sweeping the wrong way! Good fellows we may be, perfect in intelligence and general disposition, likeable and popular, but we never get anywhere. We simply don't "click" right. We may be careless in small things, slovenly when we should be particular, and this all counts when the firm is looking about for a man to climb on to the first rung, in his ascent to the top of the ladder, as time passes and the older men die off or retire.

To any young boy starting out in life we would say: "Do everything well, it is as easy as doing it the other way." Herein lies the secret of success and promotion. Two boys may appear alike to the casual observer, and it is a puzzle why one rises while the other apparently stands still. The chances are that one of them passed out of the picture because he invariably "swept the wrong way."

DIVISION COURT COSTS

The last issue of the Dundalk Herald complains that the village receives no fee for providing accommodation for division court, and that the village is required to pay the regular division court fees for the hearing of cases that affect residents of the surrounding townships. The Herald naturally thinks this is not fair, but apparently sees no way out of it.

The Chronicle does not profess to be an authority on matters of this kind, but we think the Herald, and the officials of Dundalk, pay these division court costs for no other reason than they have kept on doing so, and have never entered any complaint with the division court judge. It might pay them well to call these conditions to his attention the next time he is in Dundalk. We'll bet he'll be surprised; we'll venture the further statement that he knows nothing about it.

As we understand the law, these division court jurisdictions are divided into areas, and certain municipalities are grouped together for judicial purposes. Each must pay its share, and each will pay its share if the matter is placed before the judge.

Not so long ago Durham found herself in the same fix. She thought she was the philanthropist for this district and for years paid all the costs of the division court, supplied the building

and what-not. When the county judge issued an order regarding the court room equipment, the town council demurred, and in the argument it was stated that Durham did not feel it quite fair that she should be assessed for these things and the surrounding municipalities, which derived much the greater benefit, went free. The judge was dumbfounded, assessed the surrounding municipalities for their share, not only for the one year, but for the six preceding years.

If the Dundalk officials will but inquire, we think they will find out that while they are required by law to pay their share, the other municipalities must also bear their share of the cost. We would ask the Herald to try this out. We may be wrong but we don't think so. We would also be pleased to learn the result.

THE HYDRO INVESTIGATION

It would be too bad, indeed, if the suspicions of the Ottawa Citizen, that private interests are behind the agitation for a full investigation of the Hydro, were true. Since its inception, Ontario Hydro has been the target for the private interests, and no matter whether anything is proved or not, this continued anti-Hydro agitation can not be good for this great-est of public utilities.

So far as politics are concerned, the average consumer of Hydro cares for nothing more than that the system be run on business lines, and run honestly. It is but natural that the professional politician should not be too particular in his methods, providing he can destroy the confidence of the electorate in the government in power. He will do this in order to enhance the chances of his own party, and, probably with no intention of hurting Hydro as a public utility. Speaking generally, however, any anti-agitation, no matter what the objective, must weaken the system, hence the rank and file of the people of Ontario are not in sympathy with the present investigation, which, according to those who claim to know, will absolve the Government or the Commission of maladministration.

So far as the Hydro is concerned, this newspaper believes that if anything is wrong it should be cleared up, but from the evidence so far submitted, it looks to us that the business of this province is being held up and in the end things will be the same as when they started.

It is all very well to say that the Hydro should never be in politics, but if being in politics means that the Government should not at any time have anything to do with its management, then it is our belief that, no matter which party is in power, Hydro will never be out of politics. In the final analysis, with the Government guaranteeing the debentures, it is the Government which will be responsible to the people for the proper administration of this big utility, and the Government is, quite naturally, politics. Relieving the Government of all managerial responsibility should also mean relieving the Government of financial responsibility as well. To date this is not possible.

GANGSTERS VS POLICE

Colonel Lindbergh, whose baby was kidnapped some days ago, has passed up the police in the effort to recover his son, and has placed himself in the hands of the gangsters in the hope they can accomplish what the police failed to do. It is a peculiar situation in a country like the United States that the head of an underworld gang should be recognized as having more power to promote justice than the authorized authorities. The failure of the police to uncover even one clue was the subject of a rousing radio address last Sunday by Rev. Father Coughlin of Detroit, formerly of Hamilton, who blames the American people themselves for such a condition of affairs. Father Coughlin certainly does not mince his words in speaking on the subject.

It is a situation that might arise in any country, this kidnapping game, but it is a curious fact that these conditions fail to thrive in a country where any semblance of law and order prevail. Not so in the United States. We may not care to admit it, but when one looks back on the history of crime in that country, with its dynamitards, murderers, gangsters, one must acknowledge there is something radically wrong. Father Coughlin denounced the condition that permitted more murders in a year in the one city of Detroit than occurred in a like period in the whole of the British Isles and Canada. The gangsters seem to rule the roost.

We believe Father Coughlin is right, that the American people have themselves to blame. For generations they have submitted to corrupt politics, with its resultant corrupt judiciary. This could have but one result—complete national corruption. Then it is but a step to the rule of gangsterdom, which seems just now to overshadow the police.

It is a well known fact that down in the States a man with sufficient money or political pull can get by with almost anything. He sim-

ply must not be punished. He controls so many votes. While there may be a bluff of throwing him into gaol, political wire-pulling and the judicious greasing of palms will soon have him out. It is not for lack of laws in the United States that such conditions prevail. There is no country in the world where there is so much law, and no country where it is so openly disobeyed. Some may point out that Albert B. Fall and Al Capone are both doing sentences, but they are the exceptions. The McNamara brothers dynamited the Los Angeles Times building with great loss of life. They are in gaol. Tom Mooney planted a bomb in Seattle in the middle of a parade. It nearly killed hundreds of marchers. He is in gaol, also, but during the past few months a slobbering public is demanding his release. Leopold and Loeb, two Chicago offspring of Windy City aristocrats, brutally murdered and mutilated a boy named Franks. They, also, are in gaol. They got a life sentence but will be released while still young men. Emma Goldman, the real spirit behind the assassination of President McKinley in 1901, was never even tried, much less convicted, and while she is at present living to a good old age in England, she has sense enough not to start similar antics there.

These are only a few instances going back over the past 30 years, which will show that this "gangster" idea has not grown overnight. It is a vicious system, the result of corrupt politics, ward bosses, and one of the prices the country must pay for its system of electing judges by popular vote, when they will be forever under the thumb of the ward boss or party grafters who put them there.

Colonel Lindbergh has acted as a lot of us have been thinking for a long time. If you wish to get along happily, safely and successfully in the United States, pal up with the gangsters, the political bosses and the underworld. You may not rank quite so high in your own or decent people's estimation, but you'll be in less danger, have more liberty, and stand a better chance for longevity. It is not a pretty picture, but it's about all one can get if he judges the country by the net results.

DEMAND BRITISH GOODS

It will pay purchasers to demand British goods, especially foodstuffs, if the statement attributed to a Toronto hotelman is correct. He is one of the far too few who believe that we, as British, and members of the Empire, should demand and insist upon receiving goods made within the Empire so far as is possible.

This hotelkeeper complains that wholesale dealers in this country are discriminating against the British article, especially grapefruit and oranges. They always try to shift Florida or California citrus fruits on to him instead of those from the British West Indies, South Africa, New Zealand or other Empire countries. Asked point blank if they do not have these fruits, he says they squirm around and seem reluctant to make quotations, which, when made, are cheaper than the products grown in the United States.

The hotelkeeper thinks from the antics of the wholesalers that the fruit business must be in some way controlled by the United Fruit Company, a United States monopoly. There is only one thing for Canadians to do—insist on British Empire products, and if any one particular store cannot supply them go to one that can. By so doing we not only boost Empire trade, but in boosting this we boost the pound sterling and the Canadian dollar, which is at present at a discount in the United States.

Buy Canadian if possible, but, lacking this, Buy British, and by so doing Boost British Business. It will pay us well.

The Fergus News-Record is another newspaper which cannot work up any enthusiasm over the Hydro investigation, seeing in it a skillful game of politics. Whatever it is, the investigation is on, and the public is awaiting the result.

Lucknow is up against the proposition of purchasing a fire alarm signal, the cost of an electric siren, \$500, being deemed too expensive. Nothing is expensive if it works, especially in time of fire. A fire alarm at \$50 that refused to work when wanted can be considered dearer than a \$500 instrument that works. The first five minutes at a fire are worth more than the next ten.

The Collingwood Bulletin says it would not advocate that the Hydro Commission return every surplus nickle "above cost" to hydro patrons, but thinks the reserve funds behind the hydro are too great. The question then resolves itself in one of about how much should be regarded as an adequate reserve fund, an amount the Bulletin does not suggest, and the Chronicle does not know. That being the case, we believe too big a fund better than one that is just sufficient, or perhaps not large enough. The main thing is that the Hydro treats the patrons fairly and squarely.

OTHER PAPERS' OPINIONS

He's a Canadian and a Gentleman Entering the post office the other day a local man met an Indian coming down the steps and held the door open for him. As he emerged the Indian said in a clear and kindly tone, "Thank you." How many people make an acknowledgment of this courtesy? Very few. Most people take it for granted and pass in or out of an opened door without as much as a nod to the person who holds it ajar for them. And yet, if manners were taught as they should be, everybody would extend the simple acknowledgment that this Indian gave. He ranks as a Canadian and a gentleman.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

A Lesson from the Old Country Canada can learn from the old country in the matter of dealing with drunken drivers. Recently a drunken driver in Aberdeen was fined \$500 and had his license suspended for 10 years in that case a boy was seriously injured. The St. Thomas Times-Journal also cites the case of a drunken driver who did not injure anybody, being fined \$375 and losing his license for 10 years. If we were to adopt the old country idea in place of our meagre penalties, the number of drunken drivers would soon be reduced and our busy highways would be much safer.—St. Mary's Journal-Argus.

Sad But True Most of us are old enough to remember when it was hard times all the time. Hard times are normal. Our fathers before us never lived in easy times. Life is a battle, not a picnic. We get a fleeting taste of prosperity once in a while, but permanent prosperity is simply ballyhoo, that you get on the radio during political campaigns. We must face things as they are and go to work. There are people who reach for the paper in the morning to see if good times are coming back. They want to see what the government is going to do for them. They think the latter is Santa Claus. Let us all get down to real business and work.—Collingwood Enterprise.

Tax Electric Power

The proposal for a tax upon electrical power used throughout the province to augment the Provincial Government's revenues, has been revived. Mr. Drury made a similar proposal when he was in office but the opposition of the large power users in the city districts was too much for him. The same influence will doubtless prevent the adoption of the proposal by the present Provincial Treasurer. The proposed tax, however, would be more equitable in its effects than some of the taxes we now pay. It would offset to some extent the handicap placed upon people of the smaller municipalities by the present system of power rates. A dollar per horsepower tax on power selling at \$15 per h.p. would be greater proportionately than one dollar per h.p. on \$40 or \$50 power. The city fellows, however, will squeal at paying \$16 while the power users in towns and villages are expected to be happy when they pay \$40 or \$50. We shall be greatly surprised if the present Government imposes such a tax. It will probably find something that will not be so displeasing to the city interests.—Goderich Signal.

Partisanship and the Hydro

Private interests, both Canadian and American, are only too ready to capitalize honest and friendly criticism of the Ontario Hydro and to turn into an attack on the principle of public ownership of utilities criticisms that are designed to maintain that principle inviolate. Herein lies the danger of the extravagant attack on the Hydro administration and upon the Conservative government's policy with relation to that administration. Every Liberal criticism, every oppo-

sition sneer and charge, is picked up by the propagandists for private enterprise used as evidence of the failure of the Hydro. Propagandists against the Hydro throughout Canada and the United States are following the controversy over the Middleton investigation and the charges against the Hydro with enthusiastic assiduity. Mr. Hepburn's speeches, the Toronto Globe's editorials, will be clipped and quoted for many a day throughout Quebec and the United States to prove that private corporations are pure and glorious in comparison with the dark corruption of public ownership.

The Liberals, if they sincerely support the Hydro, might remember this when they gallop from platform to platform muttering charges against the Hydro. They might remember that their eagerness for an investigation in the interests of the Hydro may well prove seriously damaging to the principle upon which the Hydro is based.

Ten years ago it was necessary for the National Electric Light Association, the propagandist body of the North American electrical utilities, to finance expensive attacks upon the Hydro. Accomplished propagandists spent week-ends in Toronto and then toured the continent giving their learned views of the inefficiency of public ownership. S. S. Wyer, for example, was paid \$3,000 to write a pamphlet against the Hydro. He was paid by Merlin Aylesworth, then managing director of the N.E.L.A., now president of the National Broadcasting Company. The pamphlet was issued under the imprint of the Smithsonian Institute and was paid for by Mr. Aylesworth's organization. The attack was typical of numerous other attacks made by anti-public ownership interests, attacks which called forth the powerful indictment of Sir Adam Beck and caused great resentment throughout the province.

Is there not a danger that Mr. Hepburn may unwittingly perform the work of the National Electric Light Association and do today the very injury that Mr. Aylesworth and his cohorts signally failed to do ten years ago? If there be Hydro abuses, they should be corrected. But, the effort to correct should correct, it should not damage the Hydro.—Farmers' Sun.

This Week's Bargain List

- SILK HOSIERY
- See our new shades in Full Fashioned Silk Hose. The new shades are:
 - Morning
 - Afternoon
 - Evening
 - Pepper
 Per pair \$1.00
- NEW 5c STAMPED GOODS
 - Budget Sets
 - Vanity Sets
 - Centre Pieces
 Any piece 15c
- BOWL SETS
 - 3 Bowls to a Set
 Reg. 40c for 25c
- 15 GREEN GLASSWARE
 - Large Jugs, Bowls, Sherbets, Goblets, etc.
 Special each 15c
- DUST PANS
 - Japanese covered 15c

The Variety Store R. L. Saunders, Prop. PHONE 4 DURHAM

Featuring Economy

FORD

3000 ROOMS IN FIVE CITIES SINGLE \$1.50 to \$2.50 NO HIGHER MONEY SAVING RATES POSTED IN EVERY ROOM FOR AN ECONOMIC TRIP PLAN TO STOP AT

BUFFALO
Delaware Ave. near Chippewa St. 750 ROOMS

ROCHESTER
Elm and Chestnut Sts. 350 ROOMS

ERIE, PENN.
State St. or Perry Square 400 ROOMS

TORONTO
Bay at Dundas Sts. 750 ROOMS RADIO IN EVERY ROOM

MONTREAL
Dorchester St. at Bishop 750 ROOMS RADIO IN EVERY ROOM

FORD HOTELS