

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, May 12, 1932

DIRECT RELIEF FOR UNEMPLOYED

The die has been cast. Premier Henry has declared his policy for the relief of unemployment, but we never have and never can agree with it. Premier Henry does not believe in it either, but public opinion is hard to combat and the direct relief programme of the Dominion and Provincial Governments can be traced to the organized opposition against the building of roads, the extension of public works, and similar methods of supplying work for the unemployed. In the final analysis direct relief is nothing short of charity. We feel we can speak for the great majority of the country's unemployed when we say this scheme will not be acceptable to them. They want work, not charity; they want a job whereby they can support their families, not "food, fuel and shelter" doled out to them by a committee to which they must appeal and prove up that they are in such dire straits as to need the loaf of bread, the soup bone, and their allowance of other necessities. While the Chronicle states emphatically that it speaks for the great majority of Canada's workmen, we know full well there are also a number of the other class who would much rather do anything than work, but these have always been with us.

As we see it the difference between direct relief and the system employed so far, is the difference between the taxpayers paying for the purchase of food for those in need, and going ahead with public works such as the building of roads, and paying wages for the labor. It is the difference between paying for food, fuel and clothing and receiving nothing in return and supplying employment and receiving in return better highways or other improvements under the now discarded unemployment relief system.

From the agitation all over the country the Government has no other course than direct relief. The ratepayers have voiced their disapproval of paying for additional highways. These same ratepayers will be the first to criticize if the unemployed of the country and their families are allowed to go hungry. The question is one of supplying employment or supplying food. In announcing the new policy the Governments, both Dominion and Provincial, have but acceded to the public demand, and in this instance, we believe the public demand is wrong.

In addition to being a direct burden on the taxpayers from which they will receive no benefit, the direct relief system will destroy the morale of the unemployed. Men who have all their lives taken a pride in their independence and their ability to support their families may lose their initiative and develop the idea that it matters little how one lives, charity or otherwise, so long as one gets a living.

We hope we are wrong, but we can see nothing but disaster in any wholesale direct relief proposition. In his statement to the Canadian Club at Hamilton on Friday of last week, Premier Henry said: "It may seem like a step backward when we spend money without getting anything in the nature of an asset, but we have reached the stage where we must curtail expenditure. We will provide sustenance instead of employment, although the latter scheme is preferable."

The joker in the new policy is plain to all who care to look for it. The Government is to curtail all expenditures wherever possible. This will be the good thing the people were looking for. Committees of representative citizens are to be appointed in each community to deal with the direct relief problems of their community. These committees will recommend the dispensations of direct relief. These committees will spend all the money, which the Governments will pay. But who will reimburse the Governments? The people, of course, because Governments own nothing except that which they collect from the people in taxes.

Under these citizens' committees, the expenditures for relief will be entirely under the control of the citizenry. It will be their duty to recommend that the needy be fed; either this or let them starve, and public opinion most certainly will not submit to this latter course. This direct relief help must be paid for, for even governments have to pay, and as the government derives its income from taxes, it will be the people who pay eventually.

We have all along advocated the system of

public works extensions in times of unemployment rather than direct relief for the reason that one costs about the same as the other, and the municipalities get something for the money expended. We have always tried to keep away from fault-finding and criticism in which we had no constructive ideas, and with this in mind we intend (and hope others will do the same), to give the direct relief program a fair and square trial. We have yet, however, to meet a workman who favored direct relief, once it was explained to him. It seems the inherent principle of the majority of Canada's laboring men that they would much rather have employment and, giving them this, they can look after their families themselves.

The adoption of direct relief by the governments, too, may have a bad effect on citizens and firms who have for the past several months kept running or furnished work to unemployed. In a good many cases this has been work that has not been paid, or which could very well have been done without in these lean years. If direct relief is to be furnished unemployed by the government, is it not possible the business firms of the country will reduce their staffs, and a good many citizens decide against some of the not really needed work they are now doing?

There is little doubt the organized agitation against the government furnishing employment to the unemployed has resulted in the adoption of direct relief, but whether this new system will be any cheaper, better or more satisfactory, time alone will tell. In the meantime, let us give it a fair chance.

THE HONOLULU FIASCO

The trial of Lieut. Thomas H. Massie, his mother-in-law, Mrs. Granville Fortescue, and two United States naval men for the killing of a native Hawaiian who took part in a criminal assault on Mrs. Massie, is ended, and the four Americans go free.

It is but right and just that this be so, but the manner in which the verdict was reached will scarcely make for respect of the law. They were sentenced to ten years in Oahu penitentiary, which was finally reduced to one hour's confinement in charge of the sheriff. The funny part of the verdict is that the defendants were told of what was to happen before they appeared before the judge for sentence. There can be no fault found with the final verdict, but we believe it would have been a better way to have sentenced the defendants, had them removed to the penitentiary, and then pardoned in the regular manner. This would have accomplished the same end. As it stands, it looks like a cooked-up verdict, and these kind of things are not good for future law and order amongst a people composed largely of natives.

Outside of the actual court records of the case, as told by Walter J. Adams of the Honolulu Advertiser, we have read little of the dispatches in the Canadian press from that city. From these we would gather there are two sides to the story. We have also talked with Albert Vierra of the Vierra Hawaiians, a native Hawaiian. There is more to the case than appears on the surface. No sane person can condone the attack made on Mrs. Massie, but one must remember before passing judgment, that Americans themselves have not been altogether guiltless in their treatment of the women of these islands.

The writer has known a good many so-called "savages." In all our acquaintance with them, their crimes against women have been negligible. In Hawaii an ancient king had laid down the law of "Mamalahoa Kanawai." (Let the women and children and old men sleep beside the highway). This law was enforced, and well enforced until the influx of the white man. The United States has had control of the islands since 1898.

The conduct of the four native Hawaiians of mixed blood cannot at all be condoned, but it would be well to analyse all conditions fully before passing final judgment. The aborigines of all native races learn quickly. Unfortunately they adopt the bad points of those they imitate. We should therefore consider, in dealing with cases of this kind where "natives" are involved, is the native wholly guilty, or is he adopting a practise he has aped from his white brother and which his lack of balance allows to become vicious? A few years' residence in the South Seas, especially a few years ago, would convince anyone that the white man was anything but what he ought to be, at which time far too many of them had as little respect for the sanctity of womanhood as it affected the natives as the four half-breed Hawaiians had for Mrs. Massie.

Decent people everywhere condemn this sort of thing, but it must be remembered that natives in their native element, and especially those of the same race, were a pretty decent people in their own way, and that crimes against women have become more common since their association with the lower elements of the white race.

THE OLD AND THE NEW

The radio has brought back the songs of other days, and it is said the broadcast of old-time dance music boasts the largest audiences. The present-day crop of songs do not appeal to the radio listeners, it is said, as do those of twenty, thirty or forty years ago. It is even said the modern songs have not the appeal in them of those of two or three decades ago. Possibly the song writing business, since the introduction of the radio, has been placed on a "production" basis. There is more outlet for songs than there used to be. The writer can well remember touring the Western United States a good many years ago and selling the "latest, popular songs, words and music" to the patrons of the show. That business today is not done. The reason? The West gets the popular songs nowadays as quickly as any other section of the country, thanks to the radio, and the days when two or three-year-old songs could be sold as the "latest" is gone forever. A song that makes a hit on Broadway tonight is all over the country tomorrow. The same may be said for music.

Of late there is a rumor that old-time dancing is coming back. Not particularly the "square" dancing. This has never left us, especially in the country sections. The waltz, the minuet, the polka, mazurka, reel, is to replace the fox trot and those other dances which have sprung into prominence since the late Vernon Castle introduced the South American tango.

The Tango struck civilization during the period immediately preceding the war, was something new, and took like wild-fire. From it evolved the present dancing system, altogether different from the dances of twenty years ago. The present dances seem to suit the present generation, and we suppose that is all that matters, but it must be admitted they do not measure up to the old round dances in grace of movement. We feel we can say this without being considered an old fogy. As a matter of fact the majority of the present-day dancers would not recognize the old ones, and after more than fifteen years of flat-footing it around a la tango, we have our doubts if the intricate dances of yore would have any appeal.

Speaking of the songs of other days, we doubt if there is anything that has been written in recent years that will ever seriously compete with "Drink to me only with thine eyes," "Annie Laurie," "Kathleen Mavourneen," "The last rose of summer," "Suwannee River," (often wrongly called the Swanee), and many others that are still favorites after, in some cases, two or three hundred years or more. Perhaps the chief cause of these are the radio, or the superficial age in which we are living, when speed is considered ahead of quality. Even in our poetry, the best of present-day offerings are not much more than high-class doggerel compared with the old masters. The radio demands something new each day. There are a thousand songs written now to one thirty some years ago when the late Charles K. Harris started the present crop with his "After the Ball," "The Baggage Coach Ahead" and others, turning them out like grain from a thresher.

The age we are living in differs from the ones gone before, and while the next generation may have something altogether different it is a tribute to the old masters when some of the songs first mentioned will still be favorites.

It is rather unfair to compare the old with the new, perhaps, but from what we can learn, we doubt very much if the old time round dances will be as popular as some of their proponents hope. For one thing they are much too intricate and take too much time to learn.

LIGHT UP THE WATER TOWER

After a trip to Kitchener last Friday night and viewing the lighted water tower in that city, a citizen has suggested that it might be a good thing if the Durham water tower were wired and lights placed on it. The suggestion is a good one and we know of no other tower in this locality from which a cluster of lights would make a better showing. On a bright day the tower can be seen from the hill this side of Walkerton, and, in certain places, we are told, from hills the other side of that town. Coming in from the south it would be visible almost from Mount Forest, and we don't know how far north. Toward the east it would also be visible for miles.

It is not very likely much along this line will be attempted this year, but the suggestion is a good one and will be food for thought for those citizens who appreciate things of this kind and believe the scheme would be a good advertisement for the town.

Announcement was made from Ottawa on Wednesday that the contract of Sir Henry Thornton as manager of the Canadian National Railways System would not be renewed when it expires in 1933. Evidently the government did not like Sir Henry's expense account, although he had good assistance in raising the bills up to the amounts they finally attained.

OTHER PAPERS' OPINIONS

Not Proper Spirit

Premier R. B. Bennett and Opposition Leader W. L. Mackenzie King have "made up" their recent differences, which were said to be such that they were not on speaking terms, and, it is said, Mr. King declined to attend social functions at which Mr. Bennett was the host. This is not the spirit that has prompted other bitter parliamentary rivals to retain friendship out of the House. It is recalled that at one time Henri Bourassa, ardent Nationalist and Roman Catholic, after indulging in a fiery speech against Orangemen and all their works, accepted a challenge to dine with the late Dr. J. W. Edwards, Grand Master of the Orange Order in Ontario and the arch-enemy of the province of Quebec, and the Roman Catholic Church in particular.—Hanover Post.

And They Scoff at Our Good Money

The Canadian dollar is at a severe discount in the United States. Yet no Canadian city has failed to pay its debts promptly or has found itself unable to meet its pay rolls.

Detroit owes a million dollars to its employees. Chicago is practically bankrupt. Philadelphia is in dire straits. The banks turned down a loan to New York.

But here in Canada Toronto raises \$15,000,000 in two hours and a half; Montreal will sell a \$11,000,000 loan without trouble; Hamilton gets all the money it wants from the banks, and so on. There is absolutely no question about Canadian credit. Our people have a billion and a quarter on deposit in the banks.

Yet with this clear record we allow the U. S. to say what our money is worth.—Orillia News-Letter.

Expect Too Much

John Masefield, the well-known author, commenting on the prevailing depression in business, asserts that people have been asking too much from life, demanding greater wealth than life ought to offer. The author is probably right. There is the added trouble that many persons are not contented with demanding more wealth from their fellows but resort to all kinds of expedients—mainly crooked—to beat their fellows out of their hard won earnings. It is this lack of contentment with little that brings about the crashes in business and the downfall of the adventurous and unscrupulous manipulators. It is true that some of these gentry are punished by imprisonment, but far too many manage to escape while a crisis prevails, always ready to resume their nefarious trickery when good times come around the corner.—Flesherton Advance.

A Justified Murder

In the Southern United States they lynch violators of women, burning them at the stake, and if this practice had been followed with violators of Mrs. Massie, in Honolulu, we doubt if there would have been an accusing voice in the whole world. There was never a more brutal, fiendish assault committed. The husband of the victim, Lieut. H. Massie, killed Joseph Kahahawai to his everlasting credit. Now Lieut. Massie, his mother-in-law, Mrs. Granville Fortescue, and two United States navy enlisted men, Albert O. Jones and E. J. Lord have been convicted of manslaughter by a jury of Chinese, Danes, Germans, Portuguese, Hawaiians and Americans. Surely a fine outfit to decide the fate of outstanding citizens. If Lieut. Massie has to serve a long term of imprisonment, he will at least have the satisfaction of knowing that he put Kahahawai for all time beyond the possibility of perpetrating any further attacks on defenseless women.—Collingwood Enterprise.

Get Ready for the Tourist Traffic

While the spring has only just arrived and there is still a tang of frost in the air in the morning, nevertheless the time is not far distant when there will be a coming of visitors from the United States to Ontario in large numbers. Those license plates from Michigan, Ohio and New York, and other state are always welcome sights to the people of Ontario for it means increased business all along the line, and it is business we should not fail to cultivate to the limit.

It has been truly said that touring has become one of Canada's greatest industries, that \$250,000,000 spent in the Dominion by visitors from the neighboring republic last year exceeded by many millions of dollars the value of wheat and flour exports on which Canadians so dependently lean.

It will be the wish of everybody that our American cousins received full value for their expenditures, and leaving at the expiration of their vacations, take back with them the urge to come again and to tell their friends of the scenic delights and the sociability which Canada has to offer those who visit her. Therefore, much will depend on the manner in which they were treated when last here whether they will come back, and whether they will induce their friends to come. Our individual contacts count for much in this matter. We should be courteous, even go out of our way to please, to freely give information, to make our cities and towns as presentable as possible and to welcome them in our parks and our tourist camps. Canadians want more than the money of our American visitors. They want our friendship and their good-will and to get better acquainted with them.—Southampton Beacon.

"Principles do not die; ideals are imperishable; immortality is impervious to the ravages of time."—Henry Morgenthau.

"Pop, how soon will I be old enough to do as I please?"

"I don't know. Nobody has ever lived that long yet."

Read The Chronicle ads on page 7.

More for Your Money

Look Over These Bargains

Ladies' White Suede Gloves, long cuff pr. 69c
Straw Hats, for Men or Boys 15c
Children's Rompers 35c
Children's Overalls 29c
Children's Dresses 39c
Ladies' Fine Lisle Hose, all shades pr. 25c
Special sale Ladies' Silk Hose, Per pair 35c 3 pr. \$1.00
Men's Cotton Work Gloves pr. 19c
Ladies' Crepe Blouses \$1.49
Ladies' Summer Vests 25c
Children's Summer Vests 19c
Mouse Traps 3 for 10c
Clothes Pins 5 doz. 15c
Glass Fruit Nappies 6 for 29c
Fancy China Cups and Saucers 10c
Plates to Match 10c
Special Scribblers, 174 pages 5c

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350 ROOMS

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

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