

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, June 2, 1932

THE WEST YORK ELECTION

The result in the West York by-election on Saturday must be taken as a vindication of the policy pursued by the government in power. The government candidate was elected with a plurality of 972 votes in one of the most bitterly fought campaigns in a good many years. When one considers that times of depression are hard ones on a government at election time, and that every advantage was taken of this fact by the Liberal, Labor and Socialist candidates, the return of the Conservative standard-bearer cannot otherwise be regarded than as a clear cut vindication of policy for the party in power.

The result of the polling showed an increase in the votes cast of some 33 per cent. The Labor candidate polled nearly the equivalent of this increase, and, curiously, apparently received the majority of the votes of the dissatisfied Conservatives, drawing few votes from the Liberal candidate, who polled some 1,400 more votes than the Liberal candidate who opposed the late Hon. Dr. Godfrey in 1929.

It was a hard-fought contest, with the political fur flying at every meeting, and was, it is said, the most exciting campaign ever staged in this historic riding. Apart from the Conservative, Liberal and Labor candidates, few votes were recorded for the fourth man, on the Socialist ticket, who received only 106 votes out of a total of 16,741.

After the above was written we found the following in yesterday's issue of the Toronto Mail and Empire which may prove of interest to those who like statistics:

Here and there an Opposition newspaper is fooling itself and unconsciously misleading its readers by picturing West York as a Conservative stronghold that has almost fallen before the assaults of the enemy. As the London Free Press remarks, this is hardly an accurate estimate of the situation. West York was the individual stronghold of the Hon. Dr. Forbes Godfrey. The late Minister had an amazing following in the riding. The electorate voted not for the Conservative party, but the popular doctor. His large majorities meant nothing with his personality removed.

If one goes back to the days before Dr. Godfrey, it will be observed that no candidate captured the seat by any large majority. Everything considered, therefore, Mr. Price's victory in West York for the Henry government was a real achievement in the face of a grave economic depression which operated to the disadvantage of the ruling administration. Even the disaffected unemployed refused to vote for the Liberal candidate, and his reckless leader, Mr. Mitchell F. Hepburn.

The Government's record in the by-elections that have been held since the last general election is a highly creditable one. It shows that even with a world-wide depression to assist them, the official Opposition is getting nowhere. In all, fifteen by-elections have been held since the last general election in 1929. Of these the Government has won Algoma, Brantford, Dundas, Grenville, Hamilton West, Lanark South, Nipissing, Norfolk, Peel, Perth South, Renfrew North, York North and West York. The Liberals have won Waterloo South and Wellington South. The score is thus 13 to 2.

SUNDAY FISHING

A game warden at Eugenia Falls warned a prominent member of the Ontario Anglers' Association that he was breaking the law by fishing on Sunday, and ordered him to discontinue his pursuit of the speckled beauties. As a result the fat is in the fire, and the Association may make a test case of an old law passed in 1845, which is yet in force in this province.

A first move will be to find out under what authority the game warden based his case. It could not have been under any section of the game laws, for there is no reference to the illegality of fishing on Sunday in these rules and regulations of the department of game and fisheries. It must have been based on the old section of 87 years ago, and there may be a legal battle to settle if this old law is still in force.

We have no argument to favor Sunday fishing, but it is worthy to note that the occurrence took place at Eugenia. Any interference with Sunday fishing in recent years, which is under those responsible for the enforcing of the

Lord's Day Act, has been in rural districts, and the manner in which these attempts are made to enforce the law would make one believe there is something unfair in its enforcement.

Sunday fishing is not the only breach of the Lord's Day Act. There is a law against the sale of tobacco, magazines, swimming, and numerous other things in this old Act, drafted when conditions were vastly different than now. Perhaps one reason why discretion should be used may be found in the statement of Rev. H. C. Huestis, general secretary of the Lord's Day Alliance, who says the Alliance seldom took action in such matters, and that the main object was to see that commercialized sport did not gain a foothold in Canada on Sunday.

If the Act is to be enforced, we think the enforcing should start considerably closer to Queen's Park or Chateau Laurier than Eugenia Falls or some other rural point.

We might include in this last statement the enforcement of a number of other statutes, winked at in metropolitan centres and enforced in the rural districts.

From what we know of the law as laid down in the fisheries regulations, and taking the word of Rev. Mr. Huestis at its face value, the warden at Eugenia must have been a law unto himself. This should not be tolerated.

SUNDAY OBSERVANCE

Hamilton city council has issued an edict that from henceforth it will be illegal for restaurants and lunch rooms in that city to sell tobacco on Sunday, that offenders will be prosecuted under the Lord's Day Act, and the only thing that would save them would be the fact they had previously bought a meal or purchased ice cream.

Hamilton is not the only city that has this bylaw on its books, in fact, it is the law all over Ontario, but this does not make it a just or right law. It is wrong to purchase tobacco on Sunday, why not prohibit the practice altogether? Why should the purchase of a meal or a dish of ice cream entitle one to indulge in the weed while another, perhaps having eaten at home and finding himself out of tobacco, has to do without—or break the law.

Toronto has a similar law, and every once in a while we notice that a raid has been made on some drug store or other. We never could see it. Why is it illegal for a drug store to sell tobacco, and legal for it to be dispensed in every hotel, at Sunnyside, and at every wayside resort along the highway? Why should hotels and resorts be allowed to sell tobacco, while the tobacco shops, which deal in this article exclusively, must remain closed?

Laws of this kind really invite citizens to break them. A man, strolling into a restaurant on a Sunday afternoon and wishing to buy a cigar or package of tobacco, can sit down at a table, order a ham and eggs, and a cigar, give the waiter a wink, receive the cigar and walk out. Or, rather, if he is too fastidious for this, can merely walk into a standard hotel and get what he wants. If he is at Sunnyside he merely walks up to the first booth, gets his weed, and walks on.

So far as the writer of this article is concerned, he has no axe to grind either way, but for the life of him cannot see why, in this supposedly British Fair Play country, certain privileges are allowed in one business that are prohibited in another.

NO SYMPATHY HERE

Any sympathy we had for Mrs. Thalia Massie, the central figure in the recent Hawaiian murder trial, has vanished. Last Friday night at Shea's Hippodrome, Toronto, she appeared on a news reel which showed her arrival at San Francisco. With her husband, Lieut. Thos. Massie, she smiled and nodded to the "camera" and was apparently little the worse for an adventure that would have put most women in an insane asylum.

We always try not to be too prudish, but we have our own private opinion of a woman whose sense of common decency is so twisted that, emerging from the mess in which Mrs. Massie was mixed for the past two or three months, she could stand up in front of a movie camera and pose for a news reel that she knew full well would be exhibited all over the country. One might also wonder what is the matter with a husband who would be a partner in such an affair.

KEEP SHOPPING AREAS OPEN

The Toronto Mail and Empire has drawn the attention of the Toronto authorities to the habit of citizens in that city parking their cars for an indefinite period in the shopping areas of the city, to the inconvenience of out-of-town shoppers. It is a good point to take and the Mail and Empire will be supported by a good many people from out of town who go to Toronto to do business and spend the greater part of their time looking for a place to park. It is hard

shopping in Toronto today. Whether one wants to visit the stores or the wholesale area, the parking problem is acute. One gets dizzy with looking at the various parking signs, the time allowed for parking, and the other regulations which only the outsiders apparently make any effort to obey. We have seen the "No parking between signs" area filled up with Toronto cars and have often been tempted to try the same thing ourselves, but were not sure we could get away with it.

The smaller towns, too, have their parking troubles, but only on Wednesday and Saturday nights, and these cars usually are owned by people out of town. Not many in Durham use the front streets for car parking purposes on busy nights, and we imagine this is fairly general all over the province. Of course there are exceptions, but no citizen alive to his own interests will do it. Let the outside public have the front street parking privileges Wednesday and Saturday nights. Keep the town cars off the front streets as much as possible.

RENDERING UNTO CAESAR

New regulations issued at Ottawa have barred United States dance bands from filling engagements in Canada, even for one night, and a dispatch from Crystal Beach, opposite Buffalo on the Canadian side, says that the officials at that place had at the last moment to cancel the engagement of a Buffalo band and engage a Hamilton orchestra instead. About the only comment we can make on this is "Bully for Bennett!"

We think the greater number of Canadians will agree with us in this, for we are sick and tired of hearing of this One Hundred Per Cent American stuff and heartily congratulate the Ottawa authorities on showing their teeth to the "big stick" wielders of the North American continent. If they think they can get along without the rest of the world, other countries are fast coming to the conclusion they can just as easily get along without them. The time is past when Canada will submit to being bullied, even by Uncle Samuel.

CHICKEN THIEVERY

The practice of entering the other fellow's chicken coop in the small hours of the morning and taking away the choice birds without his permission, is getting all too common, and we were rather surprised the other day when we read that in an Ontario court four men, who confessed their guilt, were let out on suspended sentence. There is a time and place for everything, but in the case of chicken stealing, we doubt if any lesson can be imparted by a court that allows suspended sentence, especially when this practice has become so common and minimum sentences seem to be ineffective as a preventive.

There are times when hot-headed youth gets itself into a peck of trouble unthinkingly and a suspended court sentence is not only justified but advisable, but in the case of midnight robberies of chicken yards, we think this can be termed in no other way than deliberate crime and should not go unpunished.

The Toronto hotel that advertised the fact that "our uninformed porters meet all trains" must at least be given credit for frankness.

The Bishop of Qu'Appelle in addressing the Synod of Toronto stated that the church is all one family. Perhaps he's right, but it is a mightily scattered family on a fine Sunday.

The Quebec Telegraph says there are not enough people who speak as they think. It might be said with equal truth that there are also too many who do.

New York investigators are after Mayor Jimmy Walker's hide. But keep your eye on Jimmy! He'll weather the storm, and doubtless be presented with a loving cup as well.

The statement of the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives that starvation is facing many citizens should not be taken too seriously. Even in times of prosperity people have starved to death.

Amongst the six prize-winning nurses to be graduated from St. Joseph's Hospital Hamilton, today, is Miss Helen McCarthy of Markdale, winner of the award for gynaecological nursing and examination. Not all the glory belongs to the cities!

A complete history of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire is to be placed in the Archives at Ottawa. It is to be bound in purple suede, beautifully compiled and lettered, and was presented to the National Chapter by Miss R. M. Church, convener of the committee which is responsible for it. The history takes in the complete history of the Order since its founding 32 years ago and will hang underneath the picture of Mrs. Clark Murray, the founder.

OTHER PAPERS' OPINIONS

Have Done Well

Since coming into power at Ottawa in August 1930, the Conservative party, headed by Hon. R. B. Bennett has, considering the times and the mess left them by their predecessors, the King Government, done well. Two outstanding principles can be pointed out. First, they have legislated for the people of Canada instead of in the interest of the people of other countries as the King government did, and secondly, they are re-instating a code of honesty in politics and government around services that their predecessors almost destroyed.—Kincaidine News.

Highway Menace

It would be interesting to know how many motorists, reading the warning given by Hon. Leopold Macaulay, Minister of Highways, about the importance of headlights, have bothered to check up on this particular equipment of their own cars. Every driver, out on the highway after nightfall, knows that the headlights of the majority of approaching cars are a menace to his safety but in all probability he hasn't taken the trouble to ascertain whether or not his own beams of illumination are as annoying to others. There were 250 accidents in Ontario last year directly attributable to faulty headlights, the Minister of Highways declares. Twelve of these had fatal termination.—Hamilton Spectator.

A Wrong Principle

Without wishing to stir up any religious feeling whatever, many citizens with whom the Post has spoken, deprecated the suggestion made at the nomination meeting last Thursday evening that one religious denomination has had and should have representatives at the council board. Hand-over council has been singularly free from political, religious and lodge influence and we believe it should remain so. It would be very undesirable if a man's politics, religion or fraternal affiliation should be the deciding factor in securing election to the town council. Of course, it is desirable that the council should be representative of the town—that workmen should be represented as well as business interests—but the final test should be a man's fitness to serve the town, irrespective of whether he is a Liberal, Conservative, Progressive, Orangeman, Mason, Odd-fellow or Knights of Columbus.—Hanover Post.

Premiers' Expenses

The Hon. Richard Bennett has a suite of eleven rooms in the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa. For this suite he paid \$11,943.47 in 1930. In 1931 he paid \$19,838.38; and in the present year to this date \$8,236.05. So it is stated in a management committee's report of the evidence given before it in the House of Commons of Canada. Mr. Bennett's evidence before this committee confirms the accuracy of this statement. These payments were for the entertainment of the country's visitors as well as for his own guests. All nations of rank of Canada have visitors and these are usually entertained at the nation's expense. A Fall Fair could hardly be conducted without visitors who required entertainment. Much less a country. Mr. Bennett paid it all himself. Other prime ministers had not the means to do it. The country met its own obligations for entertainment of this kind under these premiers as it should in every case.—Drayton Advocate.

Purity of the Press

That there is entirely too much publicity given to articles relating to crime, throughout the country in the daily press, is the sentiment of a large number of citizens. The primary idea is the giving of news. It may also serve as a warning to those who may be criminally inclined, when they learn of the conse-

quences of such a life. There is another phase of it however and that is the feeding of the young mind with something which is not wholesome nor does it tend to strengthen character.

The juvenile of today is largely a hero worshipper and although we would not suggest that any criminal is a hero, still there are those who for the sake of adventure might endeavor to emulate the so-called deeds of the one who cares not for law nor order. True we must have news but let it be of the right sort. The recent murder trial at Honolulu is a fair sample of what we mean. Let there be clean and pure reading material for old and young and the mind of the young will not become contaminated with that which is of no use and which in the end is rather more detrimental than helpful.—Kincaidine Review-Reporter.

Parents Can Help

Each successive summer, with its increased motor traffic, brings a toll of death and injury that is, to say the least, appalling. Motor cars are daily claiming victims and to make matters worse, a large percentage of these are children. Almost every day the death or injury of a child is reported in the press and with the summer holidays approaching the number is bound to increase. What is to be done about it? What safety precautions can be taken? To place the entire blame on the motorist is hardly fair. Neither is it fair to hold the child responsible because in the majority of cases the little victims are too young to realize the danger and go unheedingly on their way. It seems to us that here is an instance where parents can exercise a beneficial influence. Children who are instructed as to the danger of walking on crowded highways, crossing busy intersections, darting out on the street in front of traffic, and other dangerous practices, will usually avoid accident. Then, too, there are parents who allow their children to "run wild" on the street and passing motorists are always in danger of running them down. If our streets and highways are to be made safe for pedestrians and motorists there must be co-operation of both. Parents can do much to reduce the child fatalities by teaching their children of the perils of the highways and streets and exercising a little care about their play grounds.—Southampton Beacon.

IT PAYS To Shop at THE VARIETY STORE

- Ladies Cotton Hose, all colors and sizes. Good quality pr. 19c
 - Ladies' Broadcloth Slips, all colors and sizes 49c
 - Ladies' Full-fashioned Silk Hose. First quality, all new shades 79c
 - Children's Cotton Hose, ribbed, all sizes pair 19c
 - Blue lined Envelopes 50 for 9c
 - Good Quality Kid Finish Envelopes, Reg. 15c for pkg. 9c
 - Clover Leaf Cups 4 for 25c
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