

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, June 9, 1932

DIRECT RELIEF OR EMPLOYMENT

It is not the desire of this newspaper to attempt to dictate to the county council; neither do we wish to load the taxpayers of the county up with unnecessary taxation, but the labor conditions of the past few months make it imperative that something be done for the working men of Grey. They must live. Premier Henry has given his word that no person in this province is to be in want, and it takes no financial expert to point out that either employment must be furnished or direct relief resorted to. If the former, then the working men will have work; if the latter they will receive certain amounts on which to live. It looks as if we shall soon have to choose between supplying employment and receiving something for it, or resorting to direct relief and receive nothing but a higher tax rate.

At its January session the county council passed a resolution requesting that no more paving be done in this county this year. Until this resolution is rescinded it is not very likely any will be done. Since January, however, other circumstances have arisen, and two or three weeks ago Premier Henry announced that direct relief would take its place. The next move is up to the county councillors at their session this month. They must either rescind this motion and allow a certain amount of road-work to go on or be prepared to assist financially the unemployed of the county.

There is no use in trying to hide the situation any longer. There are many unemployed in this county today, farmers and townsmen. Going ahead with the paving scheme assures them a job during the summer months, and with the new enactment of the government that local labor must be employed wherever possible, the greater part of the money spent on these highways remains in the municipality in which the work is done.

There are two reasons why paving should be done this year. First, the lack of other work for the workmen in the rural and urban centres, and second, because the cost of paving this year is even lower than last year. One more reason, and perhaps the best, is that by supplying employment, workmen will earn their living and maintain their pride and self-respect, leaving us something for the expenditure. We have not yet met anyone who has studied the situation who would say to curtail paving and go on direct relief.

There is little doubt the members of the county council will have studied the situation, and we doubt very much if they or anyone else are of the same opinion now as when the county met in January and passed the resolution requesting that no more paving be done this year.

It is a peculiar thing that while Bruce and Grey counties have gone on record as opposed to paving, our sister county of Simcoe is taking advantage of the unemployment situation, the low cost of paving this year, and laying more than ever. As one resident of that county puts it: "We are paying a 6-cent gasoline tax. We intend to get that back, and part of the Grey and Bruce tax as well." With no paving, and Grey county now paying more money in gasoline tax than either of the others, this county is denying herself and helping pay for the paving work going on in some other county. It might pay us to think this over before making a snap verdict and jumping to conclusions.

In any event, if the unemployment situation is not helped in Grey county this year by providing work through paving, the county council must take the blame, not the government, which is willing to do its share if the county is willing to consent.

A FALSE IMPRESSION

A dispatch from Toronto in Tuesday's London Free Press says that "Anglers Win Fight On Sunday Fishing." The first paragraph of the news dispatch says "Ontario anglers are victorious in their campaign to maintain the enjoyment of Sunday fishing." There is a positively wrong inference here, one that will get someone into trouble. It has not yet been decided whether the old law of 1845 which prohibits fishing and swimming on Sunday is still in force. We have known of Sunday fishers being convicted and fined. We know of no one instance in which an appeal against the conviction has been sustained.

Reading further down the article we learn

that County Constable Purvis, of Flesherton, has stated he would not summon the fishermen to court. This puts a new complexion on the matter. If some influence has been brought to bear on the constable and he does not go ahead with the charges, then the court case is dropped, just as any other case would be dropped under the same conditions. This does not say that the law is not effective, or that the Anglers Association has been "victorious in their campaign to maintain the enjoyment of Sunday fishing."

Personally, we think the law will stand. There is nothing in the game and fisheries laws that will prosecute, but there is a clause in the Lord's Day Act that will.

Sunday fishing or no Sunday fishing, however, this newspaper still sticks to its original view that while golfing, bathing, the sale of beverages, cigars, and other things of like nature are permitted at Sunnyside Beach, Toronto, at service stations, and in hotels, the people responsible for enforcing the Act have no right to step out into the rural sections and complain. Neither can we see the justice of forcing a tobacco store to close on Sunday when hotels and other places are allowed to keep open and do business in these lines.

If it is against the law to buy a cigar in Durham on Sunday, it is wrong in Toronto; if it is wrong and illegal to fish at Eugenia Falls on Sunday, then it is wrong and illegal to fish at a hundred other places in the province. The fact that some certain spot is a summer resort and another is not should not have any influence in the laying of a charge or registering a conviction. Personally, we are sick and tired of having rural Ontario told what it should and should not do while the cities and the summer resorts do much as they like. Let the officials of the Lord's Day Alliance get busy everywhere at once, miss nobody, and enforce the law fairly and justly in all parts of the province.

U. S. POLITICS AND PROHIBITION

With the United States presidential election to be held this coming November, the Republican and Democratic parties are scrambling for position with the electors. About the most important thing today having to do with the return of either party seems to be their stand on the Volstead Act. Heretofore the Republicans have been the "dry" party and the Democrats the "wets." All Republicans are not "dry" nor all Democrats "wet" by any means, and the trouble seems now whether it would be better politically for either party to give in a bit on previous opinions in the hope of corraling some of the dissatisfied vote that will vote either wet or dry as their convictions lie.

The latest development came on Monday when John D. Rockefeller, Jr., a lifelong prohibitionist, a teetotaler, gave it as his opinion that the Eighteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution had done more harm than the good it had accomplished. He summed up his reasons for withdrawing his support from prohibition by five points.

1 Drinking generally has increased; the speakeasy has replaced the saloon probably two-fold if not three-fold; a vast army of lawbreakers has been recruited; crime has increased.

2 The benefits (of prohibition) are more than outweighed by the evils.

3 Repeal is a prerequisite to the attainment of the goal. (Restoration of public respect for the law).

4 States should be given time, if repeal is effected to set up such safeguards for handling the liquor traffic as will insure promotion of temperance.

5 Repeal should be submitted without alternate suggestions for control methods, because "it will be so difficult for our people as a whole to agree in advance on what the substitute should be, and so unlikely that any one method will fit the entire nation."

No matter what individual opinions are regarding liquor, attention must be paid to Mr. Rockefeller's statement. There is no doubt he is sincere. A lifelong teetotaler, he says: "I was born a teetotaler; all my life I have been a teetotaler on principle. Neither my father or his father ever tasted a drop of intoxicating liquor, nor have I." Mr. Rockefeller has contributed heavily to the funds of the Anti-Saloon League to wipe out the liquor evil. He is still anxious to see a sober America. But he has no hope that it can be accomplished by the present methods and is further of the opinion that the evils of prohibition far outweigh its benefits.

He makes the statement that prohibition has not decreased drinking in the United States, but that "rather than drinking generally has increased; that the speakeasy has replaced the saloon, not only unit for unit, but probably two-fold if not three-fold; that a vast army of lawbreakers has been recruited and financed on a colossal scale; that many of our best citizens, piqued at what they regarded as an infringement on their private rights, have openly and unabashedly disregarded the Eighteenth Amend-

ment; that as an inevitable result respect for all law has been greatly lessened; that crime has increased to an unprecedented degree."

This is a rather different story than some brought back from the States by a few of Ontario's touring prohibitionists who recently visited Washington and either wilfully or ignorantly misrepresented conditions in Ontario under Government Control, and told the people here that the Volstead Act was working well in the States. We have no other course than to believe Mr. Rockefeller. He has told the truth as he found it, and if only a few more of our prominent citizens had done likewise, crime in this country might not have been as frequent as now.

No one can fault the principle of prohibition. It is all right. But it is one of those theories that won't work. The people of Ontario did not obey the prohibition law. There were too many "reputable" citizens, law abiding in everything else, who would not be dictated to where refreshment beverages were concerned. Like the citizens referred to by Mr. Rockefeller, they considered prohibition an infringement on their personal rights. It has been definitely proven that the men who made possible the huge bootlegging ring that used to operate in this province were men of influence and financial standing. Prohibition could not be enforced, not because it was not enforceable, not because it was not right, but because they did not want it. It was popular on paper only.

Mr. Rockefeller is still a total abstainer, and probably always will be. He does not believe in the use of alcoholic liquors as a beverage. He says he is not unmindful of the great blessing which the abolition of the saloon was to his country, but says: "It is my profound conviction, however, that these benefits, important and far reaching as they are, are more than outweighed by the evils that have developed and flourished since its (the Eighteenth Amendment) adoption."

Evidently Mr. Rockefeller has come to the opinion expressed by the people of Ontario some years ago when they voted in favor of Government Control, that while prohibition may be right, it is sometimes not in the best interests of the country to use coercion and force on the people something for which they are not prepared.

Mr. Rockefeller can by no means be regarded as the last word in a question of this kind, but it is interesting to note that after a lifetime spent in the interests of prohibition has, almost against his will, been forced to admit that while he was right in principle he was wrong in thinking that a vast minority could be made to abide by the decision of the majority in a question of this kind.

What effect Mr. Rockefeller's change of opinion may have in the forthcoming election is hard to prophesy, but it is safe to say that both of the great political parties in that country will burn a lot of midnight oil (Mr. Rockefeller's, if you please) before they announce their final platforms for the November contest.

A dispatch from the United States says that the liquor question "agitates two parties." For once, Canada can go the U.S.A. one better. The liquor question in Canada agitates all parties.

Down in St. Thomas they take their religion seriously. A choir tenor sneezed and his false teeth flew out and landed in the lap of a dentist sitting in front of him. Up here in the north where men are strong, when the tenor sneezes the opposite wall caves out.

Who say burglars have no sense of humor, or honor? The thieves who robbed the Willow Grove Creamery, near Stratford, last week, stole the insurance policy against loss by theft. A few days later it was returned, and the creamery company can now collect.

An attempt was made Sunday night to assassinate Premier (El Duce) Mussolini, of Italy. There's one advantage in being a country newspaper editor. No one loves you well enough to want to shoot, bomb or stab you. Either that, or they need the ammunition to hunt rabbits.

Hamilton police captured a cow on one of the lawns of the city, where it had wandered. Hamilton is original and considerate. It might have just as well been a pig. Hamilton may in future be labelled "Cowtown" but she balked at any chance of having "Hogtown II" hung to her. That title is reserved for the exclusive use of another Ontario city.

Down Brantford way they apparently take their liquor seriously. A case is being tried in which a man, having legally procured liquor and having it in a legal place, poured some of the stuff into a flask. The charge was laid that a flask was not a legal place within the meaning of the Act. If the defendant is convicted, it means that many who keep their liquor in decanters will find themselves outside the law and liable to prosecution.

OTHER PAPERS' OPINIONS

Holding An Inquest

In West York the Conservatives received 6,715 votes, the Liberal 5804, the Laborite 3786. Liberals now say that if you add Labor and Liberal votes together the government candidate was beaten by 2875 votes. That is mathematically correct, but it is also mathematically correct that if you add Labor votes to Conservative votes, the Liberal candidate was beaten by 4697 votes. If the Labor candidate were not in the field it is impossible to say how those 3786 would have gone. Many of them might not have voted at all.—Kincardine News.

A Big Question

One of the big questions at Grey County Council this month is the matter of sticking to the economy measure adopted at the January session in respect to the paving of provincial road within the county. Durham and Owen Sound are quite anxious that the unpaved stretch between Rocky Saugene and Chatsworth be paved. The province will pave if the county gives its consent. Grey pays part of the bill. From this distance it looks as if economy will win, but one can never tell.—Dundalk Herald.

An Educated Person

With the expression "an educated person" is used, as it is so often, it is interesting to wonder just the answer one would get if they inquired for a definition of this phrase and questioned the speaker as to the requisites of an "educated person."

After making some inquiries along this line, we find that this phrase is used to indicate the person spoken of as one who has just learned to observe closely and then able to give expression to his thoughts in his native tongue. This in itself should not require any great amount of schooling, yet how few people there are, who can qualify for this distinctive description of their educational attainments.

Possibly this is because our educational system has neglected this fundamental desire to give expression to our thoughts.—Palmerston Spectator.

Let Them Spend

There will probably be considerable comment in the Ontario weeklies about the large attendance at the running races at the Woodbine and we expect to read criticism of those who spend money on pleasure in the midst of poverty.

Leaving the moral question of the propriety of horse racing and gambling entirely out of the question, this paper is glad to see that the people who have money to spend are again spending it. There is no doubt that the present system was aggravated by people who have money to spend following the trend of the times by hoarding it up.

Returning prosperity may not be very far behind this returning desire to purchase, not only the necessities, but the luxuries of life. We know that many will hold an entirely opposite view, but hoarding has had its day and has not produced the desired result.—Palmerston Spectator.

RATHER EMBARRASSING

An amusing incident believed without parallel occurred on Sunday evening in one of the St. Thomas churches. During the singing of one of the anthems the leading tenor took a particularly deep breath—and sneezed. Out came the soloist's false teeth and landed in the lap of a local dentist sitting in front of him. The incident kept the choir members in inward convulsions for some time and only with extreme difficulty did they maintain enough composure to continue their choral work.

"Poor Jims, the postman, has got the sack."

"What on earth for?"

"To carry his letters in, of course."

ALLAN PARK U. F. W. O.

The June meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Wm. McCulloch with fourteen members and six visitors present. The meeting opened by singing the ode and repeating of creed. After the roll call the minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The roll call for next month is "Hints on Club Improvements." The secretary is to pay the county fee on or before June 11. Mrs. Fred Torry was appointed delegate to Flesherton. Mrs. James Turnbull donated a cushion to the club, which is a real beauty. The club wishes to thank Mrs. Turnbull for the gift. They decided to sell tickets to make a little money for running expenses.

The social for this month is cancelled but a picnic will be held in its stead, at the river at Mr. George Migh-ton's.

Mrs. Joe Porter thanked the club for Mrs. MacGregor for fruit received when sick. It was decided to send Mrs. Robt. Johnston something she likes while in the hospital.

A programme by Mrs. John Bailey and Mrs. Joe Brown opened by singing "Old Folks at Home." Readings by Miss Mary Hopkins, Mrs. John Bailey and Mrs. George Reay were enjoyed. Community singing was also entered into heartily. A bean contest by Mrs. Joe Brown was won by Mrs. George Migh-ton.

A hearty vote of thanks was tendered Mrs. Wm. McCulloch for her home. The club certainly appreciates all members who gladly open their homes for the club meetings and social evenings. Miss Vina Baker took a snap of club members and visitors. "God Be With You Till We Meet Again," closed the meeting. The hostess and her assistants served a dainty lunch. The next meeting will be held at the home of Miss Mary Hopkins on June 30. All are welcome.

The pancake supper held at the home of Mrs. Geo. Reay was a real success. It sure went over big, everyone enjoying themselves. Supper was served from 9 to 11, when games and dancing were indulged in till the wee hours of the morning.

"This baseball fever seems almost contagious, doesn't it, George?"
"Yes. See that fellow behind home plate? Even his job is catching."

Real Bargains on Summer Goods

Children's Ankle Socks, pair 25c
Ladies' Summer Vests and Bloomers 25c
Full-fashioned Silk Hose, Service or Chiffon Weight, new shades, per pair 79c
White Suede Gloves, long cuffs, per pair 69c
Ladies' Silk Vests and Bloomers 39c
Ladies' Silk Slips, all sizes and colors 98c
Children's Summer Vests 19c
Ladies' Lisle Hose, all colors 25c
Factory Cotton, 2 yds. for 25c
Remnants of prints, 2 yds. 25c
Remnants of ginghams, 2 yds. 25c
Rexolium Floor Mats, 18" x 36" 2 for 35c
Oilcloth Table Squares, new patterns 79c
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