

**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 16, 1932

**THE EVIL OF THE DOLE**

The Port Rowan News is another Ontario weekly that does not favor the "dole" or direct relief as a solution of our present unemployment conditions. It points out that the great trouble with this system is it shifts the duty of hustling for jobs from the shoulders of the laborers to the shoulders of the government. Is this is not the truth?

While it is true that people will not be allowed to starve in this country, it is equally true that the people of this country should never be allowed to forget that it is our own ability that governs our personal success. It is our ability to go out and get things that preserves our independence and retains in us that pride in earning our own living that has placed Canada in the front rank among the world's powers. There is the danger that the dole may destroy this independence, and the destruction of this attribute of the Canadian workmen would be about the worst thing that could happen to us. Take away our pride in ourselves and in our work and we destroy the cornerstone of whatever good may be in us. Man is placed on this earth to toil, and if we interfere in any way with this idea we destroy the very foundations upon which our civilization is built.

It is said a busy man gets into very little trouble. The "dole" makes dullards of the best of us. When the governmental policy of direct relief was first announced we did not think very much of it, and as time goes on we think less. There is little to be gained by finding fault. The direct relief policy is the result of a widespread "economy" cry, and there are some people who see economy in only one way—the cessation of expenditures. There are some people so economical that they would let their homes go to rack and ruin to save the money it would cost to put on a new roof. This is little use, either, in telling them that this is false economy of the most expensive sort. And what of the economy that is now being advocated, which replaces government public works with the "dole" or, as we are to call it, "direct relief"?

If business executives throughout Canada followed the system some people now demand of the government and closed up their plants because they were not paying, or making money, then we would have an unemployment problem on our hands. Despite the railings we hear occasionally against the "big interests", there are a good many plants in the country today running at a loss, but still they are being kept open to furnish a certain amount of work to their employees, always living in the hope that something will turn up that will better conditions. Those people who try to create the impression that employers care nothing for their employees simply do not know what they are talking about. There are few plants today that could not close down and be further ahead financially.

This is the angle of the situation which forces the Chronicle to request the County Council to rescind its motion of last January protesting against the construction of more roads in Grey. Direct relief was not in sight then, but it is now, and with the possibility of having each county declared a "municipality" the farmers and rural dwellers will have to contribute pro rata. The County of Grey will soon, very soon, have to pay out for direct relief or join hands with the Government in building highways to furnish employment. There is no dodging this phase of the situation no matter how much we may care to.

One important thing about road making is that about nine-tenths of the costs goes for labor. The ingredients used are not costly, and for this reason the greater part of the expenditure goes into the pockets of the working men. W. C. Markham, secretary of the American Association of State Highways, estimates that for every man actually employed in roadwork two others are employed preparing or transporting materials.

In times like these we know of no other way in which more money could be distributed amongst a greater number of the unemployed than by road construction. This newspaper does not by any means care to dictate, or seem to do so, but having made a pretty close study of the conditions throughout the county, we have come to the conclusion that the residents of Grey must either supply work for the unemployed this summer or pay out a good many thousands

of dollars next winter in direct relief. These are circumstances over which none of us has any control, and we do not think it takes any financial wizard to see that it is better to supply the work and have something for it than to pay out the money in direct relief and have nothing. We have little doubt the County Council will give the matter due consideration when it meets next week, and will probably consider well there are times when apparent economy may develop into a real extravagance.

**WHY NOT MAIL BY MOTOR?**

Now that the railroads have definitely decided that the passenger service is not a paying proposition, and are serving numerous towns with combination freight and passenger trains on a one-a-day basis, is it not time to consider the feasibility of having a motor car mail service? We cannot see why it should not work.

Our mail service at the present is not very satisfactory. At the best, a letter taken from the office in Durham one day cannot very well be answered and dispatched for a further 24 hours, and many other towns are in a like situation. Take No. 6 Highway for an example. Why could not a mail service by motor car be inaugurated between Fergus and Durham? This would serve Arthur, Kenilworth and Mount Forest as well, with their large areas of important territories.

The railroads claim the running of passenger trains does not pay. They cut them off. They should know, and no fault can be found with them for this economy move. On the other hand we think it is the duty of towns to look to their own interests, and with buses running through these territories, and private motor cars that could handle a mail contract, we should insist on a mail service consistent with our requirements. Taking a guess at it (we have no time table in front of us), we would say the morning train arrives in Fergus around 10 o'clock. This would mean that the residents of Durham would have their morning mail before noon, something we have not had for a good many years. We believe, also, this service would not cost more than the present unsatisfactory service.

Surely there is some way of working this thing out if these four places will get together and make representations to the post office department!

Personally, we would favor the private courier idea. For one thing, it would give employment to some one who needs it, but if this is not possible, we can see no valid reason for continuing a mediocre mail service by train when it is possible to have a good service either by bus or contract mail courier.

**CANADIAN VS U. S. DEPRESSION**

Rev. Father James Cox, pastor of St. Patrick's R. C. church at Pittsburgh, Penna, was in Quebec city the other day en route to Dublin, Ireland, to attend the Eucharistic Congress. He expressed himself quite freely regarding the present depression as it affected Canada and the United States. Perhaps a few paragraphs of the interview he gave the press will be interesting to Canadians, especially those who think Canada is the centre of the world's depression.

"You Canadians don't know what depression is," he said. "If you want a real description of depression, take a trip to the United States. There was never any real panic in Canada. There were no periods of inflation or deflation. This depression in the United States has been used by capitalists as an excuse to cut down wages and make men slaves. Instead of improving conditions they are making present problems worse. Every time there is a wage reduction four or five families are added to the long list of hungry Americans. Already there are 18,000,000 men out of work, and if present conditions continue, in a short time there will be between 25 and 27 millions without work."

Father Cox said that farmers in Canada were in a "heaven" compared with those in the United States. "Up here," he said, "the farmers have wheat, cattle and horses. They possess material wealth if not gold. In our United States the farmer has nothing and what he has he cannot sell."

We believe that Canada's depression is a fifty-fifty depression—fifty per cent real and fifty per cent imagination. We have allowed our minds to dwell so much on it that conditions are very much worse than they would be if we forgot our troubles and let these conditions adjust themselves. In contradiction to the policy followed by the United States employers, Canadian industry has made an honest effort to keep going, and while wages have dropped from the figure of a few years ago, we do not think there has been very much tendency to take advantage of the unemployment situation to beat down the workingman, or hire his labor at less than his just due.

Perhaps, too, Canada's superior condition over the United States is attributable to a more

stable government, a solid banking system, and her connection with the grand old British Empire, which always has, and will again, weather the storm and emerge financially stronger than before.

**SHOULD POLICE BE RESPONSIBLE?**

The suicide of Violet Sharpe, the Morrow home waitress, because she was to be questioned by the police as to her connection with the Lindbergh kidnapping leads us to ask how far should the police be held responsible in cases of this kind? Miss Sharpe was so scared by what she thought the police would do to her that, although innocent, she preferred death to the examination by police officials, and their "third degree" to obtain a confession. This young girl was a respected employee of Mrs. Morrow, the mother of Mrs. Lindbergh, and was never under suspicion by any members of the Lindbergh family.

We are aware that police officials in the unravelling of murder and other mysteries, resort sometimes to questionable methods, but how far should they be allowed to go?

Policemen are human. Some of them, anyway, but unfortunately there are too many who take their positions much too seriously and instead of making themselves guardians of the peace develop into community nuisances. The fact that a man is flat-footed, tall and of good physique, does not mean he is a superman in any means. The fact that he has been sworn in on a police force does not mean that everyone in his beat should kow-tow to him, or that he is anything more than a common, ordinary citizen.

Some policemen are real gentlemen; others are nothing more than "interferers" and should be removed. A decent citizen may make a mistake. It may be an innocent one, and of insignificant importance. This does not mean that he should be bawled out by some fresh policeman.

We notice that the powers higher up have exonerated the police of New Jersey for any responsibility in Miss Sharpe's suicide, but the public is altogether dissatisfied with the circumstances under which this young girl took her own life.

**THE OLD, OLD STORY**

Four Toronto residents are dead and four others seriously ill as the result of drinking wood alcohol, obtained surreptitiously from the cellar of a rooming house. Somehow or other, we cannot scrape up much sympathy for these victims, as the can containing the alcohol was plainly marked "poison" and had they exercised any discretion at all would have known they were taking chances on a short cut to eternity. Their drinking of the stuff cannot be excused.

It is hard to conceive how humans can develop tastes of this kind, or how they will take chances and risk their lives or flirt with permanent disability by drinking these poisons. To excuse conduct of this kind is out of the question, and while sympathy may be had for those whom they leave behind, there can be little for the victims. The dangers of these kinds of poisons are so well known by everybody that innocence of the dangers cannot be accepted as an excuse.

**THE WEST AND THE EAST**

It has been said that one-half the world does not know how the other half lives, and it is a good thing this is so. This old gag ran through the editorial head when we read an article from the Kelvington, Sask., Radio that "Several loads of clay are being distributed along Elevator Road and will help quite a lot in smoothing out many of the bumps." What would happen in this section of the country if the council were to put clay on the town roads? We have our own troubles in Ontario, and we have clay roads, too, in some sections, but not around Durham. The moral of this, of course, is that despite other hardships and inconveniences, we don't have to motor on clay roads and, on a wet day with the tail end of the car ahead of us, wonder what antic it is going to do next.

A new clock operated by wind has been invented. We presume for exclusive use in parliamentary circles.—Kincardine Review-Reporter.

The newest women's dresses button down the back. This should relieve the unemployment situation—as far as husbands are concerned.—Southampton Beacon.

Don't be a quitter. Be like the child who, when someone asked him how he learned to skate, replied "By getting up every time I fell down."—Drayton Advocate.

The election of Harry I. Price, the Conservative candidate in the West York election of Saturday, indicates that the people of Ontario still have faith in the Henry Government.—Kincardine Review-Reporter.

James W. Ford, an Alabama negro, has been nominated by the Communist Party as its candidate for the vice-presidency of the United States. He'll start as the dark horse in the race.—Chesley Enterprise.

The Duke of Montrose, now visiting in Canada, says that Scottish coal doesn't give much smoke. Nobody expected that Scottish coal would. But will it give much heat?—Fergus News-Record.

**OTHER PAPERS' OPINIONS**

**Sunday Fishing**

Sunday fishing has been discouraged at Eugenia and anglers in other parts of the province chiefly Toronto, are fearful lest they be deprived of their Sabbath day pastime in the good old summer time. If the practice were stopped or discouraged the streams in this part of the country would benefit as the fish that are taken out of them every Sunday are numerous, so numerous that local anglers wonder how the finny tribe are able to survive in any numbers and propagate their kind.

Last Sunday there were four cars bearing Toronto license plates parked at the bend in the fifth sideroad of Tecumseh at the Nottawasaga river bridge, there were half a dozen cars parked at Nicolston, a couple at the third line bridge a mile east of this town and some more at the fourth line bridge across the Boyne river in Essa. And every car brought up from two to four and five men with rod and line. Along the Hockley road we are told every Sunday brings hundreds of anglers from Toronto and this is no doubt true of other trout streams all over the country.

To conserve trout in a stream it is necessary to keep a warden on duty all the time. At Horning's Mills last year we were told by Mr. L. C. A. Strothers that to keep poachers out of his lake on Sunday it is necessary to keep a perpetual vigil from daylight till dark. The car has made it easy to cover the distance from the city to streams 50 and 60 miles away and even further and the enthusiasm of the anglers breeds a determination that nothing short of physical violence will curb it. It is therefore necessary to take extraordinary precautions to guard the fish in a preserve. Should the old law against taking fish from the water on Sunday be enforced the action will perpetuate the pleasure of fishing some years as the streams in these parts cannot be hoped to provide fishing very long should the present rate of depletion without any renewals of fry be continued a year or two. The last few Sundays have seen more fishermen in this district than an ordinary first of July would bring to the Holland River, east of Bradford.—Alliston Herald.

**Gardens for Unemployed**

The suggestion made at last week's relief meeting in Hanover that the unemployed should be provided with a plot of land and possibly the seed whereby they could raise a goodly amount of food for themselves is one worthy of support. It may be true that nearly everyone in Hanover has a garden, but there are some who have not and there are a goodly number of men who might well be put to work raising food. Down in Cornwall, we are told by the Simcoe Reformer, 15 acres of land in and near the city are under cultivation in a municipal garden scheme and 66 lots have been plowed and turned over to unemployed and needy persons for planting and cultivation, while fifty more applications have been made. The Federal Charities of Cornwall and the City Employment Bureau are directing the plan and the results so far have been eminently satisfactory. As the director stated: "We believe in helping those who will help themselves, but we do not intend to give relief to able-bodied persons who are too lazy to work a garden and raise a little food for their families. We certainly intend to remove those who fail to make application for gardens from the list of those eligible for relief. There is plenty of land available and we supply the seed, so there is no reason for these people failing to make application."—Hanover Post.

**A Poor Spirit**

By its own avowal the Toronto Star has gone on the comic opera stage. Its latest attack on the Canadian Manufacturers' Association is worthy

of Gilbert and Sullivan. It represents the manufacturers as profiteering at the expense of the workers—as obtaining favors from the Government to the disadvantages of the nation. It charges the Government with granting tariff changes and alterations in the customs regulations as special benefits to a small protected class in charge of the nation's industries. The Toronto Star knows very well that advances in the tariff and changes in the customs regulations have been made in the last two years for the sole and deliberate purpose of protecting Canadian workmen and Canadian farmers against devastating competition from countries engaged in liquidating their inventories below cost. Our contemporary is quite aware there are not enough manufacturers in the country to maintain a protective tariff in their own interests. It is perfectly aware that the present Government was voted into office by farmers and workers for the specified purpose of affording the farmers and workers fiscal protection in a fiscally armed world. The average Canadian must wonder what purpose our evening contemporary hopes to serve by trying to stir up class warfare in a time of world-wide depression, when all the forces in the country should unite in defence of the national interests and particularly in defence of the workers and farmers.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

**REV. J. T. PRIEST ELECTED MODERATOR**

(Continued from page 1.)

Rev. L. E. Mason, of Paisley, had charge of the song service and devotional period at the opening of the closing session of the convention Thursday evening. An address by the newly-elected moderator, Rev. J. T. Priest, B.A., of Durham, on "The Revivalist or the Evangelist: Which?" was the outstanding feature of the evening meeting. Rev. Mr. Priest defined a revivalist as a person who preys on the emotions, while an evangelist is a man with a permanent, steady, constant message. The evangelist is always in demand, the revivalist is not, the speaker said.

"I make good money from my pen." "I didn't know you were a writer." "I raise hogs."

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