

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 30, 1932

"THE DISUNITED FARMERS"

Under this heading, the last issue of the *Farmers' Sun* says: "There is no economic group in the Dominion more difficult to organize and more easy to disorganize than the farmers. The pages of Canadian history are strewn with the names and the dust of farm movements that have flourished and died."

After reading the above paragraph from one of the *Sun's* editorials, we wondered. Is the *Sun* really serious, or is it merely trying to further dissatisfy one of the country's major groups in industry? If serious, the editor cannot be very well informed on the conditions in other industries; if merely attempting to spread further dissatisfaction, then the *Sun* is most certainly more interested in forming wrong conclusions than dealing with the question on its merits.

There is no doubt that the farmers are disorganized. There is no doubt that they have had far too many troubles during the past three or four years, troubles that have caused them many financial worries and have placed the industry at a low ebb, but to hold them up to ridicule and say they are "more difficult" to organize and "easier" to disorganize than any other class of industry is rather wide of the mark. Farmers who read and know of the general conditions throughout the world know better than this.

It is true that "The pages of recent Canadian history are strewn with the names and the dust of farm movements that have flourished and died," but this same statement can be made of every other industry in the country. If the editor of the *Sun* doesn't believe this, he may easily find the proof if he looks for it.

The farmers as a class are just the same as those in any other business calling. When times are prosperous and they do not need it, they organize. When the pendulum of business swings against them, they drift away. If they are any different from other business interests, the blame should fall where it properly belongs, on their leaders, not on the individual farmers.

If the editor of the *Sun* wishes to confirm this statement, let him identify himself with any other business. What of the printers, the furniture manufacturers, or the hundred and one different industries of the country? Where are their organizations today? On paper, they may be, but in actual business conditions, we know of no great number of business institutions that are not out for business at any price.

There never was a time when price-cutting was worse than it is now. The travellers on the road know this. The heads of the various industries know it only too well. In the world of industry we do not believe business was ever more unstable, and the firm that wishes to do business is confronted with slashed prices, carry over conditions, and other departures that were never dreamed of a few years ago. Business conditions have become so bad that in a good many industries the busier the factory the more it loses. But still they carry on!

Printers are running all over the country looking for orders for idle machines, and if a job cannot be secured in one way it is in another. Business generally in any manufacturing industry is much the same as on the farm—you take what you can get and are thankful for it.

In spite of all this, however, the *Chronicle* simply refuses to become pessimistic. This country has weathered many a financial storm, and it will weather this one. Better times are coming if we but hold up our heads. The big trouble with us is we are working only half of that old British slogan: "Hang on and grow!" We are certainly doing plenty of growling, but have been so taken up with this phase that we have forgotten to hang on!

The farmers may be a "disunited" bunch but they have plenty of company, and are no more entitled to be told they do not stick together than any other of the country's industrialists.

The major difficulties with which we are faced today are caused mostly by pessimistic preachers who see nothing but failure ahead. "As a man thinks, so is he," and in times like these he can't progress very far if he listens to a daily enunciation of his troubles. Personally, we don't listen to these crepe hangers, but

let someone come along with a few constructive ideas and he has all our attention. We are more interested in some way of getting out of our difficulties than in tales of sorrow and ruin. Optimism may not be a cure, but it helps; pessimism only sinks us further, destroys our morale, gives us business headaches and leaves us worse off than before.

THE LOST MARKET

The *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* bewails the fact that where once Canadian farmers exported agricultural products valued at \$154,000,000, the tariff has reduced it to \$7,000,000, and says "the desirability of recovering that market is not to be questioned." With which we are agreed. But how to do it? The government of the United States keeps Canadian wheat out of that country, and so long as there is grain and other farm products for export will likely continue to keep the United States market for United States farmers.

No one who has studied trade conditions throughout the world believes in a sky-high tariff. Any tariff which strangles business unnecessarily is bad. But what can Canadians and their governments do about it? Nothing. In a world of tariffs Canada is perfectly justified in holding her own markets for her own people. It would be of no benefit to Canadians under the present conditions to lower their tariffs. Taking off the tariffs and allowing the world's products to flow into this country would not sell another dollar's worth of Canadian produce. The tariffs of the other countries must be removed before this could happen. Canadians may be convinced, but the trouble is to convince the other fellows.

These present-day arguments on tariffs remind one of the story of the dog that was barking at the stranger, who was afraid of the animal. The owner said: "He won't bite. Don't you see he's wagging his tail and I thought everybody knew a dog that wags its tail when it barks never bites?" The stranger agreed, saying: "Certainly, I know it, and I know you know it, but are you sure the dog knows it?"

This is about the position of the present-day tariffs. They may be out of all proportion, and may be throttling business, but no one country can help the situation one iota. It is a world proposition, and the world is not ready for it at the present.

FRIENDS VS. ENEMIES

All of us like friends, and, if we appreciate them sufficiently, should stick by them. Too many of us are friendly only so long as it pays us; when adversity sets in, we desert our friends and fly to other places where the going is not so strenuous. This can hardly be called true friendship.

We read a little skit the other day that ran like this: "Let us think carefully of what our enemies say about us. Our friends are kind and will lie to us." This started us thinking along an altogether different line. Are not our enemies oftentimes our best friends? Generally, if there is sufficient enmity, they are at least candid. True friends too often are not. They continue pouring sweet nothings into our ears until we imagine we are as perfect as they insinuate. We fool nobody but ourselves.

How many people have you met who absorb all the nice things you have to say about them, and then, if you forget yourself momentarily and tell them some truth they ought to know, fly into a tantrum and break up a friendship of years? Friends, to some people, are those who never cross our ideas and, so far as we are concerned, must become "yes-men" if they are to hold our regard.

Yes, sir, we can learn a lot from our enemies. If they sometimes disturb our peacefulness with ourselves, they many times tell us what our friends are thinking, but who, because of that friendship, refuse to speak.

Friends and prosperity go well together. These two give us an exaggerated idea of our own importance. Enemies and depression are the other team. They bring us back to sanity, and when through with them, if we are made of the proper stuff, we should be the better for it. Too many of us develop that "high-hat" attitude under prosperity, and it takes a period of depression to convince us that we are not so important after all.

Hang on to your friends, you need every one of them, but by the same token, hearken unto your enemies. They may have something to tell you that will do you good.

THE PEDDLER NUISANCE

While the *Chronicle* is not quite so strong a supporter of the "buy at home" movement as some weekly newspapers, it has little use for the peddler, that fellow who goes from door to door with some new-fangled gadget and insists on demonstrating his wares whether he is welcome or not. We had one of them in our office the other day demonstrating some sort of a squirt-gun arrangement for oiling the floor, and, like all the rest, he wasn't satisfied

when we told him we were not interested, did not use oil on the floors, and would not consider his article at any price. Apparently we did not know what we wanted, and then followed the demonstration. There is no question he oiled the floor. The spot is there yet, and has collected all the loose dust so successfully that it looks as if we shall have to use a chisel or caustic soda the next time we sweep. We don't want oil on our floor, we didn't buy the article, but had to yell so loud to get rid of him that for a time we feared we had sprung a hemorrhage. The day following there was a chap selling accelerators for automobiles, something we can buy at any garage at less money than he was charging and have it installed. Between the commercial travellers, who are as thick as cooties at an internment camp, the peddlers, and those who are collecting for this, that, and the other thing, we find it hard at times to get anything done for ourselves. Instead of opening up the office for business nowadays, one spends his time entertaining itinerants who try to talk one into a state of coma in the hope that when the chloroforming process is completed a sale will be made or a subscription collected. It is a great life, this being in business, and if it were not for the curiosity of finding out what kind of doo-dad the next fellow carries we should get discouraged. However, we have not yet lost our sense of humor, even if we are interrupted in our work by someone who wants to know if we are not interested in some new idea that takes the eye for the moment but is soon relegated to the ash heap.

Irvin S. Cobb will not write for the movies. Once, but never again, is his comment. Well, that's something to be thankful for.

The preservation of two ships of the War of 1812 is being sought by the Penetanguishene Board of Trade. More to the point would be the preservation of some of the ships of 1932, now tied up at wharves throughout the country for lack of cargoes.

BRITISH SINCERITY

Great Britain has made a substantial cut in both army and navy estimates while other lands continue to talk of ambitious programmes in both respects. It has long been the habit of the people of the old country to believe as much in others as they do in themselves by carrying out pledges.—Brantford Expositor.

A LOST MARKET

Not so many years ago Canadian farmers exported agricultural products valued at roughly \$154,000,000 annually to the United States. By its fiscal policy Washington has reduced that figure to a mere \$7,000,000. The desirability of recovering that market is not to be questioned. It would bring prosperity back to Western Canada by increasing the market for grain, live stock, dairy produce and a host of other articles.—Saskatoon Star-Phoenix.

A SUBSIDY TO FARMERS WHO TAKE URBAN UNEMPLOYED

A prominent farmer in Kent County proposes that Chatham should subsidize farmers prepared to hire men from the city to work in the fields as a means of relieving urban unemployment. He at present is employing 15 Chatham men on general work about his farm. The men were hired through the local unemployment service. The hiring arrangement is that the men be provided with three good substantial meals daily, and paid a daily wage of 50 cents.

The farmer claims that if the city paid a subsidy of 25 cents per day per man, the total per diem rate of 75 cents with meals, would be attractive to men in the city who are without a job. His contention is that a cost of 25 cents a day per man would be true economy to the city in providing relief to its jobless. At the same time, the scheme would be providing a measure of assistance to farmers needing help, but, who, owing to present low prices, cannot afford to hire men at the regular rates.

The farmer's argument is plausible, and the proposal is worth consideration in other cities which are under heavy obligations to meet the unemployment situation.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

UNITED STATES' TRADE

How the foreign trade of the United States has all but collapsed is shown by figures issued at Washington.

The year 1930 was a bad one for United States exports. But while April, 1930, saw the United States export goods to the value of \$215,000,000, April of this year produced exports of but \$135,000,000. A decline of about 40 per cent.

United States politicians, insisting that European countries pay up war debts to the last farthing, yet preventing them from paying in goods, may soon begin to take note of this collapse of United States exports. It is easy to indulge in loose talk about cancellation of war debts meaning higher taxes for the American taxpayer. But higher taxes for the American taxpayer might not mean so much if the United States could regain some of its lost trade, produce work and wages for its people.

The United States manufacturer and farmer are bound to come to see this, even though the average congressman remains dumb; and when the light breaks, as it long ago broke for the bankers of Wall Street, there will almost certainly be a change in the American war debt attitude.—Ottawa Journal.

GOLD HOARDING CONSEQUENCES

The New York banks still hold a third or more of the world's gold. Its accumulation has probably been the greatest single factor in bringing about the crisis. By producing a scarcity of money in other countries it drove down world prices, impoverishing the primary producer in the United States as elsewhere, and made it difficult for the rest of the world to buy American goods. Instead of oiling the wheels of internal and international trade it was used to finance an extravagant orgy of stock exchange speculation and made the basis of a gold inflation with the inevitably disastrous results. But now, if properly utilized, it is not hoarded as an African chief might hoard his cowrie shells, it might still be a potent force in restoring prosperity to the United States and to the whole of the rest of the world.—London Times.

Letters to The Editor

To the Editor of the Chronicle.

Dear Sir,—As letters to the editor seem to be a popular amusement at present, I take my pen in hand to make a few comments.

This being our national holiday, and Durham, as usual, being without any sort of amusement or entertainment, everyone able to get out of town will most likely be spending their time and money elsewhere.

There was a time when we could stay home and be entertained on a holiday. The calthumpian parades on Queen Victoria's birthday, the athletic sports and horse races on Dominion Day and an occasional circus or other outside show on other days, helped to make life more cheerful. Then, too, we had music supplied by the town band. But now, how different!

If we could have a reincarnation of a Bill Black or a Bill Calder some life might be injected into the old municipal corpse. That is what it is—a dead town.

However it should receive the proper last rites and sacrament, as there are two undertakers in the council. An infusion of new blood or an application of the pulmotor might bring about a revival. Hard to say. In the meantime let us "rest in peace."

OLD TIMER.

OTHER PAPERS' OPINIONS

Must Be Something Wrong

Many of our readers remember when the bogey of annexation of Canada by the United States was considered a menace to the national security of our country.

The great difference in ideals which existed even at that time made such a thought repugnant to practically every citizen. Since that time these differences have so greatly increased that the proposal has died a natural death.

Now thinking people in the United States are turning to Canada for safe and sound ideals. Just recently Irvin S. Cobb, American humorist and political writer, said:

"In the old days we good Americans thought that sooner or later Canada would get fed up with the British Government and would be quite willing to be annexed. Now it seems like a pretty good idea to reverse the thing. Maybe a lot of our problems would be solved if Canada annexed the United States—if we had your Canadian laws and methods of enforcement."

Perhaps Mr. Cobb's words are to be taken with a grain of salt, but when any citizen of the United States speaks in apologetic tones concerning his country, there must be something decidedly wrong with it.—Palmerston Spectator.

End of American Prohibition Is Now in Sight

President Hoover's new solution for the liquor problem in the United States as embodied in the Republican party's platform is hardly less puzzling than his famous introduction to the Wickersham Commission's report on prohibition. Such a stalwart wet as President Nicholas Murray Butler, of Columbia, is frankly disgusted and is on the verge of leaving his party, for the proposal, he says, is one of the worst ever made. Other wets are less outspoken, perhaps because they are still in doubt as to what the plank really means. What they had hoped for was a downright repudiation of the Volstead Act and a promise that if the party were returned to power the machinery would be set in motion at once to repeal the Eighteenth Amendment. In other words, Congress would vote for repeal and then pass the question on to the various State Legislatures as the Constitution of the United States provides.

But the Hoover plank does not reach this far by any means. It asserts the right of the various states to settle the liquor problem according to their

own needs. On the face of it this would seem to be as much as any wet could ask. But there are qualifying clauses. The Federal Government would reserve the right to protect the alleged benefits which have accrued from prohibition in those states that prefer to remain dry, and it would not sanction the return of the old-time saloon. Of course, the Government has already the power, and had it before prohibition, to forbid the shipment of liquor into a dry state. So there is some speculation as to what is meant by this assertion. Also the restive wets are demanding what is a saloon? What is the authority to settle this question? If the people of New York, for instance, should decide that their convenience would best be met by turning the liquor business into private hands, subject to licenses and taxes, what right would the Federal Government have to interfere?

But on the whole the Republican party is looking more in the direction of repeal than in the direction of strengthening the Eighteenth Amendment and that is where it has been looking until now. Tactically the President admits that the "experiment noble in purpose" has been a failure, but since it would only annoy dries to say so in so many words he refrains from saying so. Much interest now attaches to the stand of the Democrats on this question. If they should advocate repeal, they could be expected to attract such wets as Dr. Butler. On the other hand they might expect to forfeit dry support, and "on the other hand" is a magic phrase in politics. Our own guess is that prohibition will cut no such figure in the approaching campaign as was expected a year or so ago. Whatever happens the end of the experiment is in sight.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

"You should join our discussion club; it is no end of benefit."

"Do you cover a wide range of subjects?"

"Oh no. We confine ourselves exclusively to bridge and tango."

Son (entering office)—"Well, dad, I just ran up to say hello."

"To late, my boy. Your mother ran up to say hello, and got all my change."

Teacher—"Name six animals found in Africa."

Student—"Two lions and four tigers."

Are You Interested IN BARGAINS?

Read Over This List

Kiddies' Sun Suits	39c
Ladies' Crepe Slips, fitted styles	\$1.49
Boys' Linen Suits, Sizes 2 to 6	59c
Girls' Pantie Dresses, Sizes 2 to 6	39c
Fripled Curtains, colored borders	pair 49c
P. & G. Soap, 10 bars	33c
This week only	
5-string Bromos	35c
Closter Leaf Cups	4 for 25c
Breakfast Size Blue Band Plates	each 10c
Large Size Glass Water Jugs	25c

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