

## 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, July 21, 1932

### THE FARMERS AT OTTAWA

Prime Minister Bennett received the committee of the United Farmers of Ontario at Ottawa on Saturday last, but was unable to attend the gathering of 2,000 agriculturists who had assembled and the fat is in the fire. Some there are who say they see in his refusal to attend the mass meeting a direct affront to the farmers of the country. Sitting on the sidelines, and, might we say, we have heard a good many farmers in this section express the same opinion. Premier Bennett did nothing wrong and nothing which should have caused the furore alleged by press dispatches to have taken place when the announcement was made that Mr. Bennett could not attend the meeting. A review of the events showed that Mr. Bennett did exactly what was agreed upon between himself and Mr. Morrison, secretary of the U.F.O. organization.

Mr. Morrison wrote Mr. Bennett a month ago asking for an appointment. Mr. Bennett replied that he would be pleased to receive a small delegation last Saturday. He asked that the representations of the United Farmers be placed in writing that they might be submitted to the Imperial Conference, the committee being given the right to further supplement these representations. Mr. Morrison thanked Mr. Bennett for the appointment, but instead of bringing the small committee agreed upon, arrived in the Capital with approximately 2,000 followers.

As the host of the Imperial Conference delegates, Premier Bennett and his Cabinet, on the evening of their arrival, had many things to attend to, and, knowing the conditions upon which he had made arrangements for the meeting, Mr. Morrison, or whoever, was responsible for the farmers' excursion, most decidedly showed very poor judgment in arbitrarily taking it upon himself to invade the Capital with a party of 2,000.

We have learned since the meeting last Saturday that there are a good many members of the farmers' organization in and around Durham who are not in sympathy with their leaders in the Ottawa occurrence. As one of them said to the *Chronicle*, the farmers are more interested in the success of the Conference than in the size of the delegation that went to Ottawa, and expressed the opinion that had the leaders adhered to the original programme of a small delegation or committee, as much or more good would have come out of it.

To those who know Mr. Bennett the accusation that he was discourteous will not bear much weight. Mr. Bennett is a most courteous man, received the committee with every courtesy, and will place the representations of the farmers before the Conference. This is all he could do, and so far as any consideration of these representations before the Conference is concerned, his attendance or non-attendance at any mass meeting would have no effect whatever. Instead of accusing Mr. Bennett of discourtesy, we think it would be nearer the point to admit that he did everything he promised to do in his letter to Mr. Morrison a month ago, and everything he could reasonably do, and everything he could reasonably be expected to do. Admitting he had the inclination to attend the mass meeting, we doubt very much if he had the time, as no doubt other committees and other business were awaiting his attention. The United Farmers can rest assured of one thing. Their representations as presented to the Prime Minister last Saturday will be placed before the Conference, together with any others which may be made.

Government ministers at Ottawa are busy men these days, and it is hardly fair to insinuate they are discourteous when the fact is they have many things to look after and only a limited time at their disposal for any one question.

Since writing the above, we have read the view of the *Toronto Mail and Empire*, which should help clear up any idea that the delegation was subjected to any slight by the Prime Minister. The *Mail and Empire* points out that the gathering "assembled on the eve of the Imperial Conference, when everybody knows that the head of the Government is driven almost beyond human endurance by the multifarious duties resting upon him.

"On the Saturday in question the finishing

touches were being put upon the St. Lawrence Waterways Treaty. As a matter of fact, the Prime Minister and his experts spent all afternoon upon the document in order that Mr. Herdridge might leave for Washington by the evening train and be on hand for the signing of the treaty on Monday morning.

"Besides attending to the Waterways Treaty and to the task of completing the preparations for the Imperial Conference, the Prime Minister had on Saturday to welcome some of the overseas delegates to that conference. Mr. Bennett notified the gathering that he was ready to receive a deputation or a petition. He was unable to spend the time which would have been necessarily involved in a trip to the Fair Grounds, where the farmers met."

Which, we think, explains the situation fairly well to anyone who needs or cares to have it explained.

### JOBLESS VS. FARM WORK

Down Woodstock way there are many men out of work, but they consistently refuse to work on the farms of the surrounding country. Why? Word comes from that city that despite the numbers who besiege the city hall for work, none have availed themselves of the offers of farmers for workers during the harvest season. True, the wages offered are not large, \$15 a month for experienced men and \$10 for boys, with an occasional offer of \$20 a month, these offers including board and lodging, but the wages are in harmony with the price of farm products, and certainly better than nothing at all. The argument advanced that these wages are for two or three months at the most is discounted by the experience of one farmer who approached four men and offered \$15 a month all found, with a guarantee of work for one year, and was refused.

It is true that \$15 a month is scarcely sufficient to keep a family in town, with house rent to pay, but there must be a number of unmarried men among Woodstock's idle to whom a wage of \$15 a month and board should be attractive.

The unemployed should place themselves in the same position as the employers. Many shops today are being run at no profit, or with a decided loss each month. Farmers as employers are in the same position as the manufacturers—they are not making any money, and, like their brothers in the cities and towns, are trying to hold on until times improve. It takes a lot of conniving and scheming nowadays to keep a business on an even keel, be that business rural or urban, and the man who depends upon industry for his living must also be content if he can pull through and keep his head above water, or even be forced to use some of that which he had saved when times were better.

We are not one of those super-optimists, neither are we a super-pessimist. We feel that one of the conditions of a return to normal times is a full co-operation between employers and labor and this cannot be accomplished by the campaigns of agitation at present being carried on.

### FALSE PRETENSE

A Beloit, Wisconsin, city councilman is entering legal action against a minister in one of the churches there for obtaining money under false pretenses. The alderman attended church, placed a dollar on the collection plate, and then was treated to a political address instead of a sermon. The alderman in his statement said:

"When a minister of the gospel pronounces himself the Ambassador of God, inveigles me into his church, whether by suave voice or silvery tongue or alluring advertisements in the local newspapers, to hear the word of God preached, which undoubtedly my soul needs very much, and then delivers a political oration instead, which I have heard many times in the past and expect to hear many times in the future, I feel that he has obtained my money under false pretenses.

"He (the Rev. Studebaker) has taken me for a ride and I should have my dollar back. And another thing I didn't like and that always looks suspicious to me was taking the collection up in advance."

We are not sure what disposition a United States court will make of this charge, and it is scarcely likely we will hear more of the one in question, but in a sense we are of the opinion that the alderman is right. People usually go to church to hear a religious sermon. Some, possibly, go there to sleep, and others may put in an appearance because they think it is the correct thing to do; there are still others who attend church because they know if they do not they may be asked for an explanation by the preacher or the church officials, and yet others for the reason that it is easier to attend church in the morning than spend the rest of the day arguing with the feminine part of the family, to whom most of the church work is delegated.

Whatever the reason, one expects to listen to a sermon, not a political address.

Freak services in churches are becoming too common. Like some business houses, there are churches which put on "specials" to encourage attendance. The end may justify the means, but we believe it eventually reacts on the church itself.

There is nothing that will put the skids under a church and split a congregation more successfully than a preacher who uses his pulpit for political purposes, or who insists in selecting his discourses from the numerous controversial questions always in the forefront in all community life. Not only churches have this to face, but business places as well. The business man who allows his store or shop to become the headquarters for heated argument is foolish, as argument does little else than break friendships and wreck business.

We do not mean from this that preachers and business men should not take an active interest in politics both legislative and municipal, but there is a place for everything, and that place most certainly is not the church pulpit or your business headquarters.

"Al Capone Gang Appears Doomed" says a newspaper headline. Is that sigh we hear one of relief or sympathy?

A newspaper heading grandiloquently announces that "Mollison to Wed Before Starting Flight." The first time we looked at it we read it "Fight!"

The Irish question is to be discussed at Ottawa, according to a dispatch from that city. If the argument gets hot enough they may, before they are through, "discuss" it with the first three letters removed.

A farmer's wife near Saskatoon is said to have milked a cow 57 times and received 57 cents for the cream. This would not pay for the wear and tear on the milk strainer or the farmwife's disposition.

Sir Henry Thornton is leaving the C. N. R. and there will be the opportunity of finding out if Sir Henry or just plain business conditions are responsible for the big deficits piled up every year.

With the Reno divorce mill working overtime in the United States, some foundation is lent to the statement that a citizen upon securing his papers, had the band strike up: "The old gray mare, she wasn't what she ought to be."

J. V. McAree, in his Fourth Column in the *Toronto Mail and Empire* explains "How Game of Crap Came to America." We wish Mr. McAree would give us a review of the whole Crap family, especially the part played by Mr. and Mrs. Political Crap in their attempts to belittle the work of the Economic Conference by placing stumbling blocks under the feet of the individual members, and their continued fault-finding with everything.

### DOING HIS BEST FOR CANADA

No other man in Canadian public life has been more indifferent about the result of the next election than the present Prime Minister of Canada, the Hon. R. B. Bennett. Faithfully doing day by day what he believes is the best for Canada, striking the axe to the roots here and there at many things which raise a hue and cry, but steadily pursuing a straight course with only one thought in view, what is best for this Dominion, Canada's Prime Minister has set an example to all politicians, councillors and all those who are dependent upon the popular vote—do what is right, hew to the line, let the chips fall where they will, taking absolutely no thought of the next election.—*Pembroke Standard-Observer*.

### BETTING FAVORS ROOSEVELT

Betting odds favor Governor Roosevelt, and in the past betting odds have usually been right, though there was a notable exception in 1912, when the odds were 2½ to 1 against Wilson. What confused both betters and voters was the presence of Roosevelt at the head of a third party. Nevertheless, the assumption that between now and November nothing unexpected and vitally important is likely to crop up in American politics is rash indeed.—*Toronto Mail and Empire*.

### SAYING IT WITH FLOWERS

Between North Dakota and Manitoba, a 3,000 acre peace garden to perpetuate goodwill between the two countries has been officially opened. Thus saying it with flowers has an international aspect.—*St. Catharines Standard*.

### DAMMING THE WATERWAY

In the St. Lawrence waterway negotiations, as we understand the press reports, Canada held out for two dams. Hoover said, "I don't care, one dam or two." And as localities are not to be named, the treaty will not fall by a dam site.—*Woodstock Sentinel-Review*.

### HEALTHFUL HIKING IN BRITAIN

Hiking, or tramping, has become the popular recreation in Great Britain. Thousands of people have organized and joined hiking clubs. Hostels for hikers have been established in out-of-the-way places, for the convenience of those who spend their leisure hours tramping along the highways and byway, over the hills and down into the valleys.—*Oshawa Times*.

After looking over President Hoover's plans for money-raising we've decided to let the government have our income and we'll keep the tax.—*Judge*.

If the worst comes to the worst, England can bring De Valera to his knees by a threat to stop buying tickets in the Dublin Sweep.—*Toronto Telegram*.

## OTHER PAPERS' OPINIONS

### Still Kicking

According to an early issue of the *Shelburne Economist* forty-six years ago, the pedestrian considered that the drivers of vehicles were disregardful of his safety. But the vehicles were wagons and buggies drawn by horses. As time went on, the bicycle became popular, and pedestrians renewed their complaints. They were at the mercy, now, of man-propelled as well as horse-drawn vehicles. They called the fast riders "scorchers" and wrote letters to the newspapers about them and demanded that something be done to restrain this unholy habit of bicycle riding that made life hardly worth living for folks on foot. Today with the increased and more hazardous modes of travel he is still kicking and longs for the good old days when he was complaining even about the bicycle. Surely it is out nature to be finding fault no matter what our lot may be and in what age we live.—*Meaford Express*.

### Quite True

"It's the loafer at the corner who criticizes the man at work with shovel on the street. It's the idler who talks of the unfair distribution of wealth and the airs of the wealthy. It's the man who refused to attend school in his youth who talks about the airs of the educated. It's the man who knows nothing about economic conditions that is the loudest in expressing his views on the cause of the depression, and lack of employment. It's the farmer who leaves his machinery exposed, who spends most of his time talking about the hardships of the farmer, and who would sooner attend a public meeting of grumblers than stay home helping his wife, who fails to make farming pay. Some men find plenty of time to gossamer about the country finding fault with the way public affairs are managed, who could make a comfortable living and a contented home if they would attend to their own business, and gave the same amount of attention to the wife and family. These fault-finders, grumblers and public regulators may have a place in our public life, but they are a terrible nuisance.—*Winchester Press*.

### The Bright Spots

It takes an optimist to pick out the bright spots in a mass of gloom, but nevertheless in the past few weeks, there has appeared one or two signs which point towards the better times to come.

Probably the most interesting from a local standpoint is the higher prices for livestock. True, even these prices leave much to be desired, but the swing is in the right direction and everyone hopes for a continuance. Price changes come in cycles and extreme follows extreme and there is always a logical reason for these cycles. The Spectator has stated that high prices for hogs must inevitably follow extremely low prices, and the farmer who correctly guesses when these changes will appear will be the fortunate one.

People who are just returning from Canadian West are very enthusiastic over prospects there. It is stated that crops never looked better than at the present time. Of course the price which these crops will bring will have a large influence in determining the buying power of this large portion of the country.

The hopes of many are based on the probability of a successful outcome of the Imperial Conference which opens in Ottawa next week. The final benefits of such a gathering may not materialize for many years but a good start should be very beneficial to trade in general.

In the meantime it may be well to note that despite the catchy haying weather, crop prospects locally are very bright and pasturage is good. This particular silver lining can be easily observed by a short trip anywhere in the nearby territory.—*Palmerston Spectator*.

### The Great Event

The outstanding event of the past week has been the signing of a treaty whereby German war reparations are ended. For this the credit is largely, in fact chiefly, due to the continued and unwearying efforts of Prime Minister Ramsay Macdonald of Great Britain, who through days of disappointing deadlocks never gave up hope of bringing Germany and France to an accord.

The treaty, signed by Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium and Japan drops the reparations annuities which, under the Young Plan, were to have run on for another fifty-five years, at a total figure of about twenty-five billion dollars.

"Now it is up to the United States," Prime Minister Macdonald said, as he signed for the British Empire, a fact that our neighbor Republic is apparently realizing, as already, the intimation has been given that a re-hearing would be granted European debtors.

By the treaty which comes at the time when it was probably most needed the reparation slate is wiped clean, yet is said to be only a step toward what the Lausanne conference hopes will be accomplished, if the United States, give the necessary co-operation in lifting the load of debts weighing down the nations. Amongst other benefits it will permit Germany to start anew, while other countries will cease anticipating payment of heavy indebtedness which, if paid, would swell their current revenue, and turn in with the incentive of achieving success by their own activity and their own industry.

It is a treaty of momentous importance and demonstrates the determination on the part of national leaders of broad minds to place the world again on its feet.

The next event of world importance will be the Imperial Economic Conference which opens in Ottawa next week. For the British Empire especially, and for the nations its decisions may have a distinct bearing on the future. With a gathering of representative men from all parts of the Empire it cannot be otherwise. Its work will be watched with intense interest.—*Collingwood Enterprise-Bulletin*.

From the point of view of the hat-seller, two heads are better than one.

## IT WILL PAY YOU To Take Advantage of These Bargains

Boys' Cotton Sweaters, all sizes	25c
Ankle Socks, assorted colors, per pair	25c
Large Size Grass Mats	39c
7-piece Glass Berry Sets	59c
Half dozen white Cups and Saucers and Plates	98c
Fine Glass Tumblers	6 for 29c
Ladies' White Silk Gloves, long fancy cuff	pair 98c
Fine-fashioned Silk Hose, chifon or service weight	pair 79c
Special Talcum Powders, large size tins	15c
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