

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, December 8, 1932

LIQUOR CONSUMPTION DECREASING

It will be good news to many to know that the per capita consumption of spirits in Canada is decreasing. We have no solution to offer as to the cause. Some attribute it to the Liquor Control Acts enforcement, and others to the scarcity of money. It is likely due to both. Anyway, government statistics say it has decreased and this is at variance with the opinions of some who would have us believe the country is drinking itself to death. We clip the following from the November issue of the *National Revenue Review*.

"Per capita consumption of spirits in Canada was lower in the fiscal year ended March 31, 1932, than in any other year since Confederation, amounting to only .21 gallons or about one quarter of the average yearly per capita consumption in the last 65 years. These figures, compiled by the Statistical Branch of the National Revenue Department, show a substantial decrease from the previous year's consumption, which stood at .32 gallons. Since Confederation per capita consumption of spirits has decreased over 80 per cent. Decreases were recorded, also, in the last fiscal year, in the per capita consumption of tobacco, beer and wines. In the last 65 years, however, per capita consumption of tobacco and beer in the Dominion has more than doubled.

"The year showing the lightest per capita consumption of spirits previous to last year was 1922-23 when consumption stood at .22 gallons, while the heaviest consumption occurred in 1873-74, amounting to 1.99 gallons per head. Revenue derived from duties on spirits in the last fiscal year amounted to \$2 per head and in the previous year \$3 per head.

"The amount of tobacco consumed per person in the Dominion in the past fiscal year decreased over seven per cent, the total being 3.72 pounds as compared to 4.02 pounds in the previous year, which was the heaviest per capita tobacco consumption since Confederation. The lightest consumption occurred in 1879-80 amounting to 1.03 pounds per head. The average consumption in the past sixty-five years stands at 2.74 pounds. Revenue derived from duties on tobacco in the past fiscal year amounted to \$3.62 per head and in the previous year to \$4.32 per head.

"Per capita consumption of beer decreased 15 per cent in the past fiscal year to 5.03 gallons from 5.93 gallons for the previous year. The heaviest per capita beer consumption occurred in the fiscal year 1913-14 when it reached 7.02 gallons, while the lightest consumption is shown in 1869-70, totalling only 2.16 gallons per head. The average per capita consumption of beer since Confederation stands at 4.16 gallons. Revenue from duties on beer dropped from 45 cents per head in 1931-32 to 38 cents per head in the last fiscal year.

"Canada's per capita wine consumption, which has never been heavy, dropped in the past fiscal year nearly 23 per cent to 0.8 gallons from 1.1 gallons in the previous year, with a corresponding decrease in per capita revenue which dropped from nine cents to six cents."

THE CHURCHES AND ATHEISM

Attorney-General W. H. Price, in addressing a gathering in Knox Presbyterian church, Toronto, Monday night, made a strong appeal for a league of Christian churches to combat atheism and Communism in this country. Those who read will admit that Mr. Price was not indulging in idle talk when he said that Communism was the chief advocate of atheism. An understanding of Russia, where Christianity is banned, where churches have been dismantled as such, and where humans have been executed because of their Christian faith, should teach others that Communism in this country is a real menace and will cause no end of trouble if it gets the upper hand. Communists, of course, deny this allegation, but conditions in Russia is the answer. With Communism the dominating factor, Canada will soon find herself in a similar condition.

Mr. Price is no preacher, but none of us need be even outstanding church workers to recognize that the world owes much to Christianity. We may not all belong to the one church, in fact we may not agree on any other one thing, but when it comes to discussing the merits of Christianity and the Christian church, we would hate to think what this world would be without its influence.

All Christianity, Roman Catholics, and Protestants of the various denominations, should sink their petty differences in combatting this movement, comparatively new in this country, which has wrought such havoc in countries where it has gained a hold. Canadians should not be deceived. Communism is a menace, not only to Christianity, but to good citizenship.

"THE PUBLIC BE HANGED"

The newly appointed Bishop of Hong Kong, China, says he refuses to be bound by tradition. He has taken a stand against wearing gaiters and an apron and says that at times he may even discard the clerical collar. He says further: "A Christian should not care two hoots about what anybody thinks."

We can't agree with Bishop Hall in his latter statement. We can't agree with his statements either as a Bishop. The person who openly boasts that he doesn't care what anybody thinks about himself or his religion is on the wrong track. If he doesn't care two hoots what the other fellow thinks, then the other fellow doesn't need to care even one hoot about what the Bishop thinks. If a sufficient number of his church members think this way, then his influence as a bishop is lost.

So far as we can figure out at the present there isn't much chance of the *Chronicle* editor ever becoming a bishop, but if we do rise to that position, we shall endeavour to give the office all the dignity of which we are capable. We have the idea we should feel rather uncomfortable in a bishop's dress. Even now a new hat makes us feel uncomfortable until "the gang" quits making remarks about it, but is we were to emerge in a bishop's hat, leggings, apron, and a hind-first collar, the chances are we should take a back street home.

Bishop Hall has said he refuses to bow down before convention. Then he should never have accepted the office for which he evidently has no respect.

Bishop or private citizen, we are all martyrs to convention. We do care about what our fellow citizens think of us. If we don't there is something the matter with us. In case you think there really are people who do not care, pick one of them out, make some derogatory remark about them and see how quickly they will rise to their own defense. That man was never born who does not care what other people think of him, and the tougher they are the louder they holler when the opportunity arises.

A slogan for Canadians: "Buy Canadian—Buy British—Buy Empire-made Goods."

A tramp drank the wine in one of the Owen Sound churches. This is what is meant by solitary communion, we suppose.

The *Fergus News-Record* reports roses still blooming in that town. Waiting for Hugh Templin, no doubt—but Hugh fooled them!

A Toronto policeman, pursued by an infuriated billy goat, did not "pass the buck". Instead, he kept ahead of it and saw to it that the buck did not pass him.

The new Governor-General of the Irish Free State may be within his rights in not permitting English to be spoken in his presence, but by this very action has demonstrated his unfitness for such a high, diplomatic position.

You can't hold some people to an agreement. Grand Valley bread dealers agreed to handle only bread baked in Grand Valley. The agreement lasted less than a week before two who had signed kicked over the traces.

The pest of grasshoppers is to be worse in 1933, according to entomologists. That's real news. After listening to some of the arguments of the pessimists we thought nothing could be worse than 1932.

A United church debate at Kincardine: "Resolved that the depression has tended to the betterment of man" was decided in the affirmative. That congregation evidently have heard nothing of those citizens who spend their time damning Bennett and his Government.

And now it is New Toronto! Big Toronto tried to "put it over" its smaller neighbor much as she has tried to do likewise with the rest of Ontario. Now New Toronto has stuck a \$100 license on all milk dealers, the fee to be returned to local dealers. New Toronto will have the backing of the rest of Ontario in her fight with Hogtown.

Private "No Parking" signs are to be removed from the streets of Toronto. It is about time. Last year at Exhibition time you couldn't get within half a mile of the grounds, and the writer had a hard time getting a place to "park" his car for a few minutes when he tried to collect his passengers to come home. They were private signs at that. We know of hundreds of people who never go near Toronto during the Exhibition period because of the unwarranted parking conditions imposed by private individuals.

"Judge Reduces Hay Assessments" says a news heading. That's what the farmers want done at the Union Stock Yards, Toronto, too.

One of our exchanges asks editorially: "Do you take sufficient interest in municipal affairs?" Well, the most of us fail to go to the polls on election day, and spend the rest of the year talking about the mollycoddles and noodleheads on the Council Board. Isn't that sufficient?

It is a fact that, generally speaking, those who are advocating improved ditches along the highways, and paths for pedestrians, are those who also find fault with the expenditures on the highways. If the government does not build them they find fault; if they do, they criticize them for spending too much money.

The *Toronto Telegram* says: "The failure of the public to quickly take up Canada's latest long term loan is a warning to governments . . . for a rigid adherence to economy in all lines of expenditure." May it not also be a sign that the people with money to invest are preparing to put it back into business? They probably see a light ahead in business enterprises, and that there are great possibilities in the Empire Trade Conference.

The law is funny. Down in New York city, in delivering sentence on Daniel O'Connell, a former investment house president, the judge said he had conducted his business "in mad speculation, forgery and thievery, the like of which I have never heard of before" and that "humble people, some of whom were domestic, some illiterate, lost all their savings." After getting this off his chest, he sentenced O'Connell to from 5 to 10 years at hard labor. Briefly O'Connell had ruined people for life; the judge gave him 5 to 10 years, with the chance that he will be again walking the streets and on the lookout for more unfortunates in three or four years. The law is funny.

The *St. Thomas Times-Journal* complains of the superfluous "u's" and "l's" in hono(u)r, wool(l)en, travel(l)er and the like, when the common usage in Canada is to leave them out. It suggests that "it is time the old fogies who prepare textbooks were superannuated." Surely the *Times-Journal* knows this is merely the difference between the English and American spelling and that Webster's (American) dictionary does not object. Using the same argument, why not have "enuf" for enough, "kik" for kick, and a lot of others. Phonetic spelling, like synthetic gin, may be all right for those who do not know any better, but it causes a bad mix-up in the long run. It is true that the omission of these letters is the general practice in Canada but that is no reason for berating those who would stick to the true English manner of expressing ourselves.

HOW COUNTRIES GOT BACK ON THE GOLD STANDARD
(Londonn Advertiser)

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has issued an interesting bulletin on the mutations of the gold standard within recent years. It says that comparisons have been made and are still being made to the detriment of Great Britain, contrasting her departure from the gold standard with the maintenance of that standard by really poorer countries such as France, Italy, Belgium, Germany and Holland (the Netherlands.)

Most people have forgotten already the great deflation which the currencies of all these foreign countries, excepting Holland, went through before the currencies were re-established on a new gold par very much lower than that which existed before the war. The Belgian gold franc has been reduced from its pre-war equivalent of 19.3 cents to 2.78 cents. In France, too, the franc with the gold equivalent of 19.3 cents before the war was on a paper basis until 1928, and it was then put back on a gold basis of 3.918 cents or about 20 per cent of its pre-war value. Italy's gold lira before the war was valued at 19.3 cents, and after a long period of inconvertible paper it was re-established with a gold equivalent of 5.26 cents. In Germany the paper money orgy ended in a crash in 1923, and the next year the country started all over again and created a new mark, the Reichsmark, with a gold content equal to 23.82 cents which is about the same as that of the old German mark.

By these policies, Belgium wiped out six-sevenths of her international obligations, France about 80 per cent, and Italy more than 70 per cent. The Netherlands, although not in the war, found it necessary to go on a paper currency for a time, but in 1925, re-established its money on the former gold contest. It was in the same year that Great Britain returned to the gold standard with the pound sterling at its pre-war value of \$4.86 2-3. Britain maintained this basis until September 21, 1931, and now the pound is quoted in New York at \$3.32½ and in Montreal at \$3.77¼.

The Bureau of Statistics points to the significant and interesting fact that the British paper pound today, although worth only three-quarters of its old par value in Canadian dollars, has a purchasing power approximately the same as that of the pound before the departure from the gold standard. According to the British Board of Trade Journal, an official publication, index numbers of wholesale prices last month averaged 84.4 per cent of the 1930 base, as compared with 83.3 per cent in August, 1931, in gold standard days. The official index number of the cost of living on September 1, 1932, was 141 per cent of the 1914 base as compared with 145 per cent on September 1, 1931, in gold standard days.

Had the Bureau of Statistics carried its inquiry further it would probably report that although the Canadian dollar was yesterday worth only 87 13-16 cents in New York, it has as much purchasing power as a year ago September, when following Britain's suspension of the gold standard the export of gold from Canada, except under official license, was forbidden. Just how long the pound sterling can maintain its present purchasing power at home, in view of the necessity of paying higher prices for imports in terms of British currency, remains to be seen.

OTHER PAPERS' OPINIONS

Somebody in the West must have thought our health was bad. In the mail recently, we received a tract, headed: "I am going to a Christless Grave—Are You?" We're feeling better than you.—*Fergus News-Record*.

Quadrupleticide

A New Haven man, when informed that his wife had presented him with quadruplets, left the hospital and disappeared and the police are now looking for him. Probably he went home, grabbed his shotgun and went hunting for the stork.—*Kincardine Review-Reporter*.

Six Cent Bread

Grand Valley has bread at six cents per loaf, and this not on account of competition, either. The Grand Valley bakers and dealers got together and decided on a scheme which, to our way of thinking, is the correct proceeding for any village. The baker agreed to supply bread at a price where it could be sold at six cents per loaf, and the merchants agreed to handle the homemade products exclusively. There were seven signatures to this agreement.—*Flesherton Advance*.

A Personal Matter

Recently, Mr. Hugh Templin filled the editorial page of the *News-Record* with clippings from his exchanges and with comment thereon. Reading over the page, we were struck by a significant fact. When an idea expressed in the *Durham Chronicle*, the *Warton Echo* or the *Dundalk Herald* was reproduced it was referred to as the opinion of Mr. Duncan, Mr. Irwin and Mr. Frank MacIntyre. When a clipping from a Toronto daily appeared it was just from the *Mail* and *Empire*. The identity of the writer was not given and possibly not known. There is one of the chief differences between a large daily and a local weekly and one which explains why there must be a decided difference of policy in some important details. The daily paper is a

great institution possessing an individuality, no doubt, but free or almost free from the personal touch. Its editorials are in a sense, corporate or institutional. The writer of them is unknown to the reader and is never thought of. The ideas presented in some mysterious way came into being and found expression on the printed page. If feelings are wounded or toes stepped on, it is all a matter of course and no person is blamed and no friendship affected. With the country weekly it is very different. The opinion of the local paper is its editor's opinion, and its editor is known personally to probably ninety-five per cent of its readers. Because the local paper's editor generally knows a great many circumstances connected with almost everything that happens in his community from which a good story might be developed, quite legitimate news is frequently withheld out of consideration for a friend or to prevent pain to an acquaintance who would have become an innocent sufferer. Such sentiment is non-existent in the editorial rooms of the metropolitan production. The city daily attacks what it likes and its editorial writers have little to worry about it. When the smaller journal takes such action, it quite frequently means a personal row for the editor. The large daily has an important part to play in moulding public opinion, so has the smaller weekly. Both, we think, try conscientiously to discharge this duty, but in the case of the latter it is not difficult to see why it is more pleasant to praise than to blame, and to realize why well-deserved commendation is generously given, while condemnation is more sparingly dispensed.—*Arthur Enterprise-News*.

Jones—"Well, how are you getting along in your new eight-roomed house?"
 Smith—"Oh, not so badly. We furnished one of the bedrooms, by collecting soap coupons."
 Jones—"Didn't you furnish the other seven rooms?"
 Smith—"We can't, they are full of soap."

SAVE MONEY
by doing your Christmas Shopping at the
VARIETY STORE

- Handkerchiefs, hand embroidered, some pure linen. Get yours before they go at 5c each
- Fancy Handkerchiefs, 25c values for 15c
- Boxed Handkerchiefs, 2 in box for 15c, 3 in box for 25c-39c
- Fancy Towel Set, cellophane wrapped 39c-49c-75c
- Girls' Silk Pyjamas, ages 8, 10, 12 at \$1.35
- Girls' Silk Gowns, ages 8, 10, 12, at \$1.00
- Ladies' Silk Pyjamas, beautiful fine silk, with fancy trimming. 98c set.
- Fine Silk Hose, full fashioned in gift boxes \$1.00. See the new shades

CHRISTMAS SPECIALS

- Hand Sleighs, round steel runners 29c ea.
- China Cups and Saucers ½ price 2 for 25c
- Associated Chocolates 19c lb.
- Fancy China Tea Sets 23 pieces for \$1.39
- Ladies' Crepe Scarfs, hand painted \$1.00 ea.

- Men's and Boys' Handkerchiefs, colored borders 10c ea.
- Christmas Cards and Booklets 1c. 2 for 5c and 5c
- 12 Booklets in a box for 25c
- White Tissue Paper 15 sheets for 10c
- Boxed Writing Paper 25c, 30c and 49c
- See our GIFT CHINA, GLASSWARE, BRASSWARE and NOVELTIES.
- Kid Gloves new French kid \$1.98 pr.
- Ladies Scarf and Tam Sets \$1.35 set.
- Children's Toy Broom and Dust Pan. The two for 29c
- Pyrex Pie Plates, with silver frames, special at \$1.98
- Bead Necklaces, boxed 15c
- All kinds of Fancy Wrapping Paper, Tags Seals, etc.

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