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THE

DURHAM CHRONICLE

W. IRWIN, Editor and Proprietor.

DURHAM, NOVEMBER 14, 1907

SANCTUM SIFTINGS.

Some how or other it's hard to love the gossip monger as one loves himself. It may be a sin not to do so, but it seems like a sin that's hard to overcome. Women get the name of being gossips, but any person who keeps his eyes open can hardly fail to find gossips who are dressed in the same kind of clothing that the men wear. Under such circumstances it's hard to credit the women with all the gossip that's going. If gossiping essentially belongs to women, there are some men who have evidently got into the wrong stall. They seem to know everything about other peoples business. They are the only ones who were shaped in the right kind of mould and everybody else is wrong in his ideas. A woman can be quite an accomplished gossip, but the women haven't a monopoly of the business. No, not by a jug-full. Give the devil his due, and the sterner sex will share the honor of being good gossips. Don't imagine for a moment that women can't be found to hold up their end of the game, but they shouldn't get credit for carrying the whole load, even if some of them have more small-talk than you could find in a country newspaper.

The Presentment of the Grand Jury regarding the Grey House of Refuge has caused a lot of comment and in some cases severe censure of the Superintendent of the institution. We are pleased to give in full this week the Report of the Provincial Superintendent, who has evidently made a thorough investigation and finds the Grand Juries' report to be at variance with the evidence as brought out in the official investigation. We do not know who the Grand Jurors were who tried to bring discredit on the management. Though notified to appear at the investigation only one of them, it seems, had the courage to show up. Their action in making such a slashing denunciation against the House of Refuge, which they seemed to attack from every side, has not only brought reproach upon themselves but will have a tendency to discredit Grand Juries for many years to come.

"HAYSEED" AND "DUDE"

In an address on Monday last before the Canadian Club in Toronto, Mr. George C. Creelman, President of the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph, made a pointed denunciation against the words "hayseed" and "dude" as respectively inappropriate in referring to the farmer or the business man of the city. Such feelings, we think, exist only in the minds of the ignorant of both classes. There is no reason why the farmer of to-day should not be as respectable as his better dressed city cousin. Because each is suitably dressed for the work in which he is respectively engaged is no reason why the other should refer to him with a sneer. It is too often the case, however, but we are not prepared to say which side is the more guilty. There are ignorant farmers who bring reproach upon farmers as a class in the minds of the ignorant city chaps who in turn deserve but very little consideration. It's up to both classes to rise above the element that brings them reproach, and cease to join with them in the offensive epithets of "hayseed" and "dude."

In concluding his remarks, Mr. Creelman asked the business and professional men of the city to believe:

"That farming and farm operations have materially changed in the last few years;

"That farm life should not be more monotonous than life in the town or city;

"That there are problems being solved, and to be solved, on the farm requiring the application of the highest intelligence and most persistent and painstaking effort.

"That science in agriculture has materially assisted in placing and maintaining Ontario in the position she now occupies.

"That the possibilities for further improvement in Ontario's agriculture are enormous.

"And then, when transportation facilities have been further improved, when farm homes have been made more attractive, when farmers themselves have through co-operation a little more the advantages of broader education, with more social intercourse, may we not hope to see many—yes, very many—of the citizens of such a city as this make it their ambition to possess, not a mere mortgage, but a good Ontario farm."

Edward Payson Weston, 69 years of age, is on a pedestrian journey from Portland to Chicago, a distance of 1234 miles, which he expects to make in twenty-five days. He went over the same ground forty years ago in a little less than twenty-five days and now intends to duplicate his former feat. He is a total abstainer from liquor and tobacco, and has, during the greater part of his life, taken a lot of exercise in walking, going from ten to twenty miles a day to keep his muscles in good condition. He is five feet eight inches in height, and weighs 140 lbs. when trained for his walking condition. He wasn't a bouncing baby as he weighed only four pounds six ounces at birth. It is reported of him that during the past forty years he has walked in public a distance equal to three times round the world.

PROVINCIAL INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

On account of some recent criticism in regard to the management of this House of Refuge a special investigation was held at Markdale on Friday, November 1st, 1907. While making the usual inspection in accordance with the statute on the previous Friday every effort was made to ascertain full particulars in regard to the manner in which the institution was carried on, and particularly with reference to the care and welfare of the inmates. Every facility was afforded for a thorough inquiry. The Superintendent, Matron, Physician and all the inmates were interviewed. The books and accounts and all particulars of the receipts and expenditures, and especially in regard to the food supplies, were passed before me.

Notice was sent by the County Clerk to the Foreman of the Grand Jury and the members thereof who had signed the Presentment at the recent Assizes inviting them to be present at the House of Refuge, Markdale, on Friday, November 1st, for the purpose of conferring with me in regard to the conditions complained of. Only one member of the Grand Jury attended, and with him a full discussion was held touching the matters which had been referred to in the presentment of the Grand Jury.

As the result of my inspection on October 24, and my second visit on November 1, I beg to report:

1. The true object of the establishment of this House has not been lost sight of in an effort to make a good financial showing rather than to the comfort and happiness of the inmates.

2. The statement that the inmates have not been supplied with butter or sugar is somewhat at variance with the facts. Butter has been supplied to the inmates every week, but there

have been occasionally some meals when butter was not provided for the male inmates, but when butter was not provided milk and syrup were supplied. The accounts show that during the past year an ample supply of sugar was purchased, and the inquiry proved that this sugar was used for the inmates. The only evidence obtainable in regard to sugar not being supplied was that it was not provided for the tea supplied to the male inmates. The female inmates, and any who were in delicate health, were always provided with butter, sugar and any other article of dietary that might be desirable. The Superintendent and Matron informed me that skim milk was given to the inmates with their oatmeal porridge and also good fresh milk. The skim milk was also used for drinking purposes, and on examining the same I do not wonder that many of the inmates like it. The suggestion was made to the Superintendent that sugar should be provided for the tea for all who might wish to use it, and that the number of cows should be increased so that in addition to having abundance of milk a supply of butter would always be on hand.

3. In regard to the statement that the vegetables raised on the farm were sold instead of being used for the inmates, the records of the institution, as well as the testimony of the inmates, show that quite the contrary is the case. The vegetables produced on the farm are more than sufficient for the requirements and some have to be sold. An ample supply is kept, so that inmates have, in addition to potatoes daily, all the other vegetables that they should have for their use. The Superintendent was quite justified in selling the vegetables not required. Butter, eggs and milk were not sold.

4. The heating of the institution was found quite satisfactory. The amount of coal and wood used during the year is evidence of the fact that with such an excellent building and such a heating plant every room should be kept at a proper temperature. The Superintendent was advised to purchase a thermometer for each floor, so that the temperature might always be observed.

5. In regard to the deficiency in the furnishings, action had already been taken and a further supply of lounges and rocking chairs had been ordered by the House of Refuge Committee at the June session, so that in future there will probably be no reason for criticism in this particular.

6. Regarding the charge that the inmates were required to attend religious services on Sunday, there is no ground for any accusation against the management. In this, as in all other Houses of Refuge, religious services are held each Sunday, and every opportunity is afforded clergymen of all denominations to visit and administer to the comfort of the inmates. There must be discipline maintained, and after careful inquiry I find that there is no ground for complaint, but rather that the Superintendent should be commended for his care to see that the spiritual interests of the inmates are not neglected.

7. In the statement that there is a dark hole in the basement without proper ventilation, light or heat, into which the Superintendent forcibly places any of the inmates who disobey orders or who show the least sign of insubordination, there is evidence of considerable exaggeration. There is a locked room of good size and comfortable where an inmate could be placed if necessary. During the past eighteen months it was only necessary to confine two inmates, twenty-four hours at a time, in this room for conduct that amply justified the action thus taken by the Superintendent.

8. The institution is well lighted by electricity until midnight, and afterwards a lighted lamp on bracket is provided in the corridors for the convenience of the inmates. The Superintendent was quite right in refusing to allow any further use of coal oil lamps in the institution, and there is no cause for complaint in regard to deficient light. The Superintendent expressed himself as having always been desirous of providing all needed conveniences for the comfort of the inmates.

9. In conclusion, I beg to report that the management of the Grey County House of Refuge is undeserving of the severe censure that has recently been made in regard thereto. The Superintendent has, probably in his zeal to conduct the establishment economically, inclined at times to be parsimonious. I have failed to find, however, that the inmates have suffered on account of the Superintendent's perhaps too rigid economy. The County of Grey is to be congratulated on having one of the best Houses of Refuge in Ontario, and the result of the investigation clearly indicates that the management and discipline of the institution are excellent, that the officials are capable and efficient, and, what is more important, they are kind and thoughtful for the comfort and welfare of those entrusted to their care.

R. W. BRUCE SMITH,
Inspector.
November 4, 1907.

LOCAL OPTION AND GOVERNMENT CONTROL.

(By Rev. W. Farquharson.)

A means of curing some of the ills of our present license system much talked of in recent years is the placing of the whole liquor business under the direct management and control of the Government. With differences in the mode of management, the system has been in vogue in Norway, South Carolina and other places. The method came into popular notice for the first time in this country by the letters of the late Principal Grant, published prior to the taking of the vote on the Referendum. Since that time it has had a steady advocate in the Globe newspaper, it is fondly supported by Earl Grey, our present Governor-General, and to some degree recommended by the Presbyterian Assembly's Committee on Temperance and Moral Reform. In considering the merits of Local Option, it will be helpful to look at it in the light of this much commended reform.

In opposition to Prohibitionists, the advocates of Government Control believe that alcohol has a mission to perform for humanity, and that no man has the right to interfere with another in the use to which he devotes it. Clearly they see the ills of our present system with its army of drink sellers placed in such a position that their living depends on their drawing into their circle the fresh young life of every generation. To check this evil they propose that the sale of liquor be separated from the hotel business proper, and that the sellers be paid a regular salary, which in no way is to depend on the amount of liquor sold. By this means they hope to remove all motive from the seller to lure others into the drink habit, while they leave all at liberty to use liquor as they please.

As to how the business itself is to be managed there are differences among the advocates of the scheme. Some would have the Government control exercised through a Company, which would be incorporated on the condition that their dividends would not exceed a certain amount, the surplus to be devoted to education under the supervision of Government. This is the form in which it is practised in Norway and S. Carolina. In this form it was advocated by Principal Grant, and is to-day pushed in England under the patronage of Earl Grey. Others would have the governments of the provinces manage it directly by means of officers appointed as an extension of the Civil Service.

It is needless to say that the motives of the advocates of this system are above reproach. Nay, we are grateful to them for the interest taken in the subject and for the scheme they have matured at great labor and cost. At the same time there are in the plan proposed serious, if not fatal weaknesses.

First, as to the removing of personal interest from the seller, it is difficult to see how merely putting him on a salary would accomplish the end proposed. If drink is to be sold by the glass there will be no possible check as to the number of glasses a gallon will provide. With a little more air on top or a little more water in the mixture, there would always be room for an unprincipled man to pocket part of the profits. "To have a set of Government officials employed under circumstances when a strict audit would be impossible would open a wide door for personal wrong-doing and political corruption.

In the second place, if the management of the business were vested in a company, the whole success of the scheme would depend on their absolute faithfulness to the condition that their dividends would not exceed the prescribed limit. But what security is the public to have that this will be carried out? Mr. Starr suggests that there need be no objection at present to the Government granting licenses to "any body of men sufficiently respectable" under these conditions. But who is to guarantee the respectability of changing corporations proverbially soulless? In an age of joint stock companies it is needless to tell the public that watered stock is as common as watered whiskey, and even more intoxicating.

In the third place, if the Government take the whole business directly under its control, there would not only be the danger of the large amount of money received proving a means of corrupting the electorate, but there would be the added danger from the creation of a whole army of civil servants, which could not fail to have an influence on politics that would be decidedly degrading. Evidently Government Control has many and serious difficulties to contend with in its attempt to cure the excesses of the present license system.

Whatever difficulties Local Option meet within its own line, it has no such insuperable barriers to surmount as stand in the way of Government Control. It does not cut off the privilege of a man purchasing drink from outside places if he so desire. It necessitates no new machinery, as the officers at present appointed to prevent selling without license would still have their ordinary duties to perform. Its whole objective point is the cutting out the retail trade and stopping up that festering sore of modern society—the open bar room.

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