

**THE DURHAM CHRONICLE**

**W. IRWIN, Editor and Proprietor**

Thursday, June 14, 1923.

**SOME MORE GOVERNMENT ECONOMY**

The Drury Government's "economy" cry of 1919, like a good many other of their planks, has been but little observed since the Government swept into power. The business methods of the old parties, though criticized by the late Government previous to their elevation to office, have as yet not been replaced by anything nearly as good by the Drury party. To the credit of either of the old parties be it said that they at least had responsible business men at the head of the Government. Big Business, like any other trade or profession, has to be learned, and the running of the financial end of the Province of Ontario is nothing more or less than Big Business. Some of the business transactions of the Drury Government would be ludicrous if they did not involve the taxpayers. Just one instance will suffice to give an idea of the business acumen of the late Government.

Having increased the number of civil servants from 790 to 1,250 (another step in their "economical" program), the Government required additional office room. The old Knox College had been purchased by J. A. Mitchell for \$160,000. The Government leased this building for a term of 10 years, instead of buying it. The rent for the first five years is \$20,000 a year; for the second five years \$25,000 a year, or \$225,000 for the ten years. The Government also contracted to expend \$56,34 on repairs and \$93,835 on extensions. That is, the Government rents a building which cost its owner \$160,000; they pay in rent, repairs and extensions \$375,219; they also pay taxes during the ten years.

This is but one sample of the way the Drury Government squanders the people's money. It would seem up to the electors now to put them out in the interest of economy.

**HOUSE OF COMMONS VIEW OF BACKUS DEAL**

Both Mr. Drury and Mr. Raney are now stumping the country and in their campaign speeches defend to the last ditch the notorious "Backus deal," in which over 3,000 square miles of Northern Ontario timber limits were sold to E. W. Backus, the Minnesota millionaire, for a pittance of \$50,000. As Conservative criticism and Drury defence of the Backus affair are at such variance, the opinion of Mr. McCrae, Liberal M. P. for Sherbrooke Que., in a speech delivered in the House of Commons, will be of interest. Hansard of May 31, 1921, says of Mr. McCrae's speech on the Lake of the Woods Bill:

"Inasmuch as I am going to vote with the Government on this matter, I feel that some explanation is required. The name of Mr. Backus has been brought into the debate to some extent. It has been argued by hon. gentlemen on this side of the House that he has no bearing on the case. I am not quite of that opinion. Less than a year ago the Government of Ontario advertised a large area of limits for sale. As I have been a lumberman and have done some business in Ontario, I received one of these notices. There was a whole string of conditions attached to the sale, and if I recollect aright, one of the conditions was that the successful bidder for these limits was bound to construct certain works, and amongst them, I believe, was the building of a very expensive dam. In fact, the sale was hedged around with so many conditions set forth in the advertisement—the building of a mill in a certain place, the building of dams and so on—that it was practically impossible for any other person to bid, and I came to the conclusion right off that Mr. Backus had some controlling power. Another feature was that the time between the notice of sale and the time the tender had to be in was so short that nobody who was not already acquainted with the limits had any chance to examine the location. To my great surprise, a short time afterwards it was announced that the limits had been sold to Mr. Backus for the amount bid, and there was a bonus of \$50,000, if I recollect aright, in addition to the regular Government fees. That to me seemed a mere bagatelle compared with what the limits were really worth."

Does it not look that there is a great deal more in the Backus deal than Mr. Drury and Mr. Raney care to admit. Even supposing that there was something wrong with the Shevlin Clark deal (though Mr. Drury has said Mr. Ferguson is clean in the matter), does that justify the Drury Government in so framing its conditions that Mr. Backus was the only man who could comply with them? Coming from one of the "old" parties, this thing must have been expected, but coming from the Drury administration, the party that was going to cut out the patronage, drive out the grafters and run an honest and economical government, it is no wonder people laugh. Judging the government from the standpoint of promises fulfilled, it will be little surprise if they go out with as big a rush as they came in.

**RECORD OF DRURY THE ONLY ISSUE**

Speaking to an audience of 700 people at Guelph last Friday night, F. Wellington Hay, Provincial Liberal leader declared with emphasis that notwithstanding anything said by Premier Drury or Mr. Raney to the effect that the issue in the present campaign is the O.T.A., such was not the case. Mr. Hay said the big and only issue was the record of the Drury administration during the last four years.

And so it is. Mr. Drury, Mr. Raney and others who speak from the platforms of the late Government may say much about the temperance policy of the province being the issue at stake in the present campaign, but they will have a hard time to convince the electors of

South Grey that the temperance program of this province was not laid down in the referendum of 1919. Mr. Drury and Mr. Raney are merely marking time when they talk temperance from the public platforms of the province.

The real issue of to-day has to do with the record of the Drury Government since it went into power. Has it lived up to its pre-election promises? Has it practised the economy it promised? Has it given the people of the province the capable, honest and business-like administration that it promised it would. And, what is of more interest to the farmers of the riding—Has the Drury Government passed ONE piece of legislation of benefit to the farming community?

There are a good many questions that might be asked in connection with the administration of the past three and a half years. The question of the merits or demerits of the administration, however, is one that will have to be dictated by a man's own conscience. It is a big question, one that requires thought, and one that cannot be decided other than by the man himself. The Drury Government is standing now on its own record. We cannot see how anyone can regard it otherwise.

**THE COST OF MOTORING**

We have heard a great deal about the cost and upkeep of a car and have noticed frequently that non-owners have an idea that it doesn't cost much. At different times we have had estimates given with totals high enough to frighten a person. One man who claims to have kept a close tab on the ordinary expenses of up-keep, including gasoline, oil, tire repairs and the necessary tire replacements, tells us his estimate for the season in running a Ford car for business amounted to eight cents a mile. This, as we understood him, made no provision for the big breaks and repairs that are sure to come some time or other.

The ordinary light car requires about a gallon of gasoline for twenty miles of travel. At the present cost of 30 cents a gallon, it means a cent and a half a mile. Add half a cent a mile for oil, which brings it up to two cents. Then there's the tire cost, and tires are wearing constantly. Some say the tires wear out anyway, whether a car is running or not. We are old they lose their "life" and soon go to pieces after lying idle for a year or two. We don't pretend to know whether this is true, but we know that rubber deteriorates with time. The ordinary tires for a light car cost about \$65 a set and are guaranteed for 5,000 miles. Suppose they go dead at the end of that distance, the cost distributed over the distance comes to a cent a mile, or 3 cents a mile for gasoline, oil and tire costs. Is this right? If it be right we must have mistaken the estimate of cost per mile given by the traveller who claimed to have kept an accurate record.

Of course there are other things to be considered. The original cost of a light car such as a Ford is around \$700.00; the license is \$14.00. The interest on the investment for a year at 7 per cent amounts to \$50, the gasoline for 5,000 miles' run in a season will cost about \$80.00 and say \$10.00 for oil. This amounts to about \$154 for a season's trip covering \$5,000 miles. Add to this the cost of a new set of tires and we get \$219. In this calculation there is nothing included to pay for a possible broken spring, a broken axle or some other needed repairs. Suppose we have no accidents, we consider ourselves fortunate, but we can't escape the depreciation that must be accounted for. After a season's run of 5,000 miles the \$700 car will not bring more than \$400 if put on the market. Here is \$300 of additional expense through depreciation and is chargeable to the cost of the season's service, making in all \$519 for the first year.

This calculation, if correct, will run the mileage cost to over 10 cents a mile. Of course, the depreciation for the first year at \$300 is probably too high, but quite low enough if the car be offered for sale. We doubt, indeed, if such car could be sold for more than \$400. The second year, the depreciation, though equally great, will not reduce the selling value so rapidly, but will easily bring it down to \$300. The repair and replacement costs will come in faster in the second 5,000-mile season and with a smaller depreciation allowance and larger repair bills the total for the second year will not be far short of the first. All considered, a cost of 10 cents a mile for running a car is not far out.

We are not condemning cars; they're good for any person having business, or good for pleasure for persons who can afford them, but we haven't yet got away from the idea that they're an expensive luxury. In many, in fact, most lines of business, they have become a necessity, and it would be hard to get along without them.

**MANY REPAIRS ARE NEEDED**

The Town Council has a big repair bill staring them in the face. The sidewalks in many places are in very bad condition and the sooner they can be attended to the better and cheaper it will be. Another big item of expenditure will be the repairs necessary on the retaining wall on the south side at Lambton street bridge. That never was a good wall and showed weakness from the first. To make things worse, the filling in was done before the wall was "set" and it soon began to lean outward. Of late it is getting worse and seems as though it might topple over at any time. The Council is preparing to prop it up but a new wall threatens to be the ultimate outcome. The wall on the north side, too, has never been satisfactory but is in a better condition and may run for some time without much attention.

In many places all over the town the sidewalks are in need of repair. In fact, they should have been looked after years ago. If an appropriation could be made for yearly maintenance the cost would seem lighter than to allow things to run and pile up a big bill all in one year. We are not advising the Council as to how they should do their business, but suggestions are in order at any time. Most of us think the tax rates are high enough and are loath to have additional costs incurred. However, it isn't wise to let things get too bad before attending to them. A stitch in time saves nine is as true here as elsewhere.

We presume the water tanks are in proper condition and accessible in case of fire. A few platforms for the engine along the river banks in the business section is a matter worthy of attention.

**WALKERTON RETURNED MAN IS VICTIM OF 'DRURY GOVT. PATRONAGE'**

At election time the voters hear a good many things about themselves and their party that they never even dreamed of, and in turn say a good many things about the "other fellow." With the exception of extreme cases, it is all over the day after the election, but while it lasts the air is sometimes blue with invective. Tales of graft are also common talk about the government in power about this time, but it is a most peculiar thing that the most of the wrong-doings of the government under fire has taken place away out of the riding of South Grey and was therefore of little or no local interest.

When the Drury Government, or, more correctly, what later became the Drury Government, for Mr. Drury was not then a member of the Legislature, was appealing to the electors, it will be remembered that a great hue and cry arose over the old-time party patronage system. Put them in power and this must end, they said. But did it. We give below an editorial in Tuesday's London Free Press, citing two cases, one in Toronto, and one right in Walkerton, seventeen miles from Durham. The Walkerton incident has never been duplicated in the past by either of the old parties and it is not easily understood how it came about even under the Drury Government. The Free Press says:

"In the 1919 election campaign much was heard on the hustings in regard to the question of patronage. The wicked old parties were vigorously and violently denounced for political patronage. A promise was made that patronage would be wiped out and a new political era inaugurated in Ontario. The province was to have a sort of political millennium.

"However, no effort has been made to carry out this election pledge and during the past four years patronage has been just as rampant in Ontario as it ever was. On the very eve of the elections there have been two glaring instances of patronage. J. W. Curry, K.C., Liberal M.P.P. for Southwest Toronto, during all the years of the Drury regime, was Mr. Raney's right-hand man and worked overtime in an effort to secure a union of Liberals and Farmers. Mr. Curry had no chance of being re-elected and Mr. Raney evidently felt that he owed him something, so, after dissolution, he was made Registrar of York County at a salary of \$8,000.

"An even worse case of patronage was exposed by Fred W. Lippert, Conservative candidate in South Bruce, at a meeting of Hon. Howard Ferguson's at Walkerton last Friday night. The position of Bruce County jailer and matron recently became open. Archie Ferguson of Walkerton, a returned soldier with three years' record overseas, three months of which were spent in a German prison, was appointed to the post by order-in-council on the recommendation of W. W. Dunlop, inspector of prisons and asylums. His wife at the same time was named matron and they were sworn in on May 1. Taking the appointment in good faith they spent several hundred dollars on furnishings.

"Five days later, according to Mr. Lippert, came a telegram, stating that the appointment could not be confirmed and telling Mr. Ferguson to cancel his arrangements. A new order-in-council was then passed and Mr. and Mrs. William Hyndman, farmers of North Bruce, and political friends and workers of the present Government, were named for the post.

"Seldom in the political history of Ontario has there been such a glaring instance of political patronage. It is no wonder that nothing is heard from Drury Government orators on this subject."

**DURHAM BOWLERS HOLDING LOCAL TOURNAMENT**

In the local bowling tournament for June, keen competition and great enthusiasm is manifested. Monday and Friday nights are set aside especially for these games and visitors are very welcome. The following is the result so far:

Skips	Won	Lost	Play
W. Calder.....	0	1	9
J. S. McRath.....	1	1	8
H. Cross.....	2	1	7
W. S. Hunter.....	1	1	8
T. Henderson.....	1	1	8
S. D. Croft.....	0	0	10
J. H. Hunter.....	2	1	7
W. C. Pickering....	1	0	9
O. Hahn.....	0	2	8
T. G. Goodchild....	0	2	8
S. McBeth.....	2	0	8

Jimmie Simpson is mentioned as a candidate. It is pretty tough on the Telephone City.—St. Catharines Standard.

Government cuts out the working-man's beer. Next it cut out his oleo. But he's still got his appendix.—Ottawa Journal.

**SOCIAL AND PERSONAL**

Mrs. P. Gagnon entertained on Friday afternoon for Mrs. Cole, who is leaving shortly for Elmira.

Mr. W. Calder was in Toronto on Tuesday.

Mrs. E. W. Limin spent a few days visiting her daughters in London, Woodstock and Stratford, and arrived home on Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Graham, Mrs. A. McKinnon and Mr. and Mrs. John Burgess visited Mrs. Graham's father, Mr. Burgess, Southampton, the first of the week.

Mrs. Dale and son of Magee, Sask., are visiting her mother, Mrs. Robert McGowan, for the summer.

Mrs. Arthur Atkinson of Gore Bay is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ritchie, Edge Hill.

Mrs. S. McCracken is visiting her daughter, Mrs. G. Bretz, Shelburne.

Miss Etta Twamley, stenographer of the Royal Bank, spent a week-end with friends at Weston and Toronto.

Miss Stella McCrae left Tuesday of last week to visit friends at Leamington.

Mr. T. Bradley of the Toronto police force is visiting his cousin, Mr. Andrew Derby, and other friends in town.

Mrs. P. Gagnon and mother-in-law, Mrs. Gagnon, Sr., are visiting in Detroit.

Mr. and Mrs. Musgrove and Mr. and Mrs. Jamieson, of Meaford, visited with Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Jucksch on Sunday.

Misses Marie and Gertrude Cole have resigned their positions on the Public school staff and have secured positions in the Lloyd George school, Hamilton. The initial salary is \$1,000 each.

Mr. and Mrs. John McGowan, John McGowan, Jr., and Wallace McGowan, spent Sunday in Fergus.

Ye Editor and daughter-in-law, Mrs. Frank Irwin, left this morning to attend the annual convention of the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association at Halifax. They will be joined at Toronto by the former's daughter, Mrs. Alex. Kearney. The convention will be held on Monday and Tuesday and at the close the train party will go to the Sydneys in the eastern part of Cape Breton Island and to Summerside and Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. Sunday, June 24, will be spent in the quaint old city of Quebec. The special train consisting of ten pullmans will leave Toronto this afternoon at three o'clock and be back in Toronto

**LIFE BURDENED BY DYSPEPSIA**

**Health and Happiness Come With "Fruit-a-lives"**

Made From Fruit Juices and Tonics "Fruit-a-lives", the wonderful medicine made from the juices of apples, oranges, figs and prunes, is one of the greatest means of doing good that this country of ours has ever known.

"Fruit-a-lives" is bringing health to hundreds and hundreds of people who suffer with chronic Constipation, Biliousness and Dyspepsia.

Mr. Frank Hall of Weyvale, Ont., says, "I purchased a box of 'Fruit-a-lives' and began the treatment. My condition improved immediately. The dyspepsia ceased to be the burden of my life as it had been, and I was freed of Constipation."

50c. a box, 6 for \$2.50, trial size 25c. At dealers or sent by Fruit-a-lives Limited, Ottawa, Ont.

at 6.30 a.m. Monday morning June 25. Mr. Fred Search of Toronto spent a day in town visiting old friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Isaac and daughter visited friends at Stratford over the week-end and took in the John Robinson circus on Monday.

Miss Alice Ramage left this morning on the annual Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association trip. The meeting this year is at Halifax.

Mr. Robert Hughes of Guelph was a visitor here with his sisters this week. He returned home this morning.

A Council Bluffs baby was born in a woodshed. If he is taken back to his birthplace once in a while he may become president some day.—Cedar Rapids Gazette.

See that Cecil B. DeMille is to film the Ten Commandments. Fair enough. Some record of them should be preserved for our children.—Toronto Star Weekly.

**DURHAM MARKET**

Corrected June 14, 1923

Live hogs.....	\$8.25
Wheat .....	1.15
Oats.....	48 @ 50
Barley .....	.65
Buckwheat.....	65 @ 68
Peas.....	1.20 @ 1.25
Hay.....	10.00 @ 12.00
Butter .....	.25
Eggs .....	.22
Potatoes, per bag.....	.75
Hides .....	.07
Sheepskins .....	.75

**Every Day Is Bargain Day**

AT **THE PEOPLE'S MILLS**

**Sovereign Flour Eclipse Flour**  
**White Lily Pastry Flour**

**Wheat Cereal and Rolled Oats**

Bran or Shorts Feed Flour Oat Chop  
Crimped Oats Mixed Chop  
Mixed Grain for Poultry Food  
Blatchford's Calf Meal  
Pig Meal and Poultry Feeds

**Our Feeds are of the Best Quality, and our Flour is Guaranteed. Prices right for Cash**

**Highest Price Paid for Wheat delivered at the Mill**

**Goods Delivered in Town Every Afternoon**  
**Phone 8, Night or Day.**

**JOHN MCGOWAN**  
**The People's Mill Durham, Ont.**

**GAY PAREE**

**The Newest in Toilet Preparations**

We have a complete stock, including **PERFUME, TALCUM, TOILET and FACE POWDERS, COLD CREAM, VANISHING CREAM and SKIN FOOD. ROUGES and COMPACTS.**

**Gainsborough Hair Nets**

**Largest Selling Hair Net in the World**  
**EVERY NET GUARANTEED**

Single Mesh, 10c. 3 for 25c. Double Mesh 15c. 2 for 25c.

**S. MacBETH DRUGGIST and STATIONER**

**Store Open Wednesday Nights.**  
**Closed on Thursday Afternoons.**