HE IS A PHILOSOPHER

THE HON. ANDREW BRODER, OF DUNDAS COUNTY.

He Is One of the Best-liked Men in the Canadian Commons—Arthur Hawkes Writes About the Venerable Member.

The Hon. Andrew Broder is a natural born philosopher, says Arthur Hawkes in The Toronto Staf Weekly. If he were not his musings on the rewards of political life would be bitter, and he would have the taste of Dead Sea apples in his mouth. But he is a philosopher, plus a sense of humor.

Last Christmas-time he had to undergo a serious operation. It would have been serious if he were in the prime of life. For one who was past 70 it was a grave risk. His family had been compelled to cheat him before he would see a doctor. Doctors had always been professional strangers to him. But when he reached the hospital and learned that, though the calendar and his birth certificate said 71, his arteries and tissues said only 58, and he was told that they could open him up without resort to chloroform—using one of the new fangled flesh paralyzers—he saw a fine chance to deepen his philosophy and enlarge his reminiscences. He watched the operation and joked about it with the doctor, till he was asked to desist, in the interests of science.

I think Andy Broder is the best-loved member of the House of Commons. He never was and never will be loved for the enemies he has made.

In his own constituency of Dundas the Grits like him as well as they like mortal man. When he went to Winchester, his old town, to recuperate after the operation, Grits as well as Tories used to send delicacies to the house of his niece.

The Hon. Andrew Broder has a fine ideal of public service. His fun is only the handmaiden of his integrity. He has a unique record of having seen 26 years of legislative service without supporting a Government. When Mr. Borden became Prime Minister in 1911 Mr. Broder sat for the first time on the right of the Speaker. For his own comfort it was not a happy day for him. The shadow of patronage hangs over the disarming member of Parliament like a funeral pall. One of the Hon. Andy's oldest friends and staunchest supporters told me that four years' patronage had made an old man of him. He steadily refused to have any man moved out of his job merely because he happened to be a Liberal. It is said that so little does he like the patronage business that most of the appointments for which he has been responsible have been to posts out of his own riding—unlike some doctors, he prefers that the monuments of his skill go out of sight.

The father of two sons in the army, the Hon. Andy has a kindly sympathy for statesmen who are childless. Sometimes he lets them guess what they have missed. It is difficult enough for a high officer of State, to whom everybody kow-tows, to keep near the people at the best of times. When he has not graduated in the paterfamilias class—well he is not to be blamed, but he will bear watching.

Down in Dundas they have a fixed idea that their member was to have been in Mr. Borden's Cabinet. They believed agriculture to be his destined sphere. They said that if he had gone there the Department would have become an Agricultural Department pure and simple. What has it got to do with copyright, for instance? Farming is not a literary pursuit.

They do not trouble about that any more. They think their man was passed over because there were clamorers from Eastern Ontario who did more than clamor, and Mr. Broder is too big to be a mere self-seeker.

Russia and Canada.

War and trade and immigration will bring Canada and Russia into closer and friendlier relations than would have seemed possible a few years ago. The distance between them is not as great now as it used to be. The road across the Pacific is clear, and the way is direct. Siberia already has not only Pacific ports, but Arctic ports, and navigation in these once-impossible waters is now safeguarded by wireless stations along the coasts. New railroads are building, too, and as late as last November a 500-mile road was opened into a rich region of Siberia that hitherto had not been within reach of anybody. A few weeks before fifteen locomotives and 6,000 tons of steel rails were landed at Vladivostok for another railroading enterprise in Siberia. In all of these signs of the times there is promise of opportunity for Canada.

New Hospital for Canadians.

Another compliment given by Britain to Canada is the offer made by Premier Asquith's sister-in-law, Mrs. Tennant, of Lympne Castle as a Canadian convalescent hospital. Offers have been made to Mrs. Sandford Fleming to transfer her hospital now at Selling, near Canterbury, to Lympne (pronounced "Lim"), which is near Hythe. The castle is an enormous, great stone structure 200 feet above and overlooking the English Channel. The proposal is now receiving the consideration of the director of medical services.

Prof. Simpson, inventor of the famous septic ray, has made an offer to Mrs. Fleming to install a complete "S"-ray apparatus, of the type which is working wonders in cleansing and healing wounds.

Not to His Liking.

"You could tell by the way he held his head he had once been a soldier. Time had not stooped his shoulders nor robbed him of erectness, though his hair had grown sparse and grey during the procession of peaceful years. He stood at a window of Ontario's Parliament Buildings watching the drill of a certain company of citizen soldiers. Silently he watched and long, then, turning in high disdain, remarked:

"Thank God we've got a Navy!"

CAFETERIA IN SCHOOL.

Novel Experiment is Being Carried Out in Toronto.

The Faculty of Education of the University of Toronto is to be congratulated on an enterprise which is novel in Toronto, and which is being successfully carried out at the University School in Bloor street west. The headmaster, progressive and farsighted, has solved the difficulty of having his pupils provided with a good, nourishing hot meal in the middle of the day, and has opened a cafeteria in the basement, where meals can be had at prices ranging upwards from the nimble five-cent piece. He secured the provision of funds for the equipment of the lunch room and placed in charge Miss Frances Elliot, who then faced the problem of how to give attractive home-made food at low rates, and yet such as in these days of high cost of living should yield a profit for herself. This result she has achieved and the pioneer example might well be followed by other educational establishments in the city and elsewhere.

Miss Elliot is a Canadian by birth and an enthusiast in women's work. She gained her first experience of such cafeterias at the Horace Mann school in connection with the Teachers' College at Columbia University, of which she is a graduate in domestic science. Six hundred students were served daily in the lunch room.

That the cafeteria which was opened at the Faculty of Education about a month before Christmas is appreciated by the pupils and their parents, and also by the professors, there is ample testimony. A mother is able to go away with an easy mind for two or three weeks, knowing that her boy is getting a good dinner every day at school. A professor is able to secure a substantial meal in the middle of the day and so save the trouble of an evening dinner in the absence of his wife from home. It saves all the discomfort of a cold and cheerless pocket lunch, or from a considerable walk in search of a hot one when time is short.

Although, as I have mentioned, the cafeteria is in the basement, there is no lack of light and air, and a comfortable warmth prevails. Everything necessary for the equipment of the modern kitchen has been supplied, and the well-kept appearance of everything and the shining crockery and kitchen utensils are a joy to the housewifely mind. A homelike feature of the place is the light-hearted Maltese kitten, whose serious business in life is to attend to the mice, which function she is fulfilling very satisfactorily. The arrangement of the room is for convenience in serving. A long serving table stands near the gas range, and at right angles to the table, like the prongs of a fork, are four long tables for the boys, so that it looks rather like a gridiron without the bottom bar. The boys file in singly so that there is no disorder.

For the small price of five cents a favorite dish can be obtained, namely, hot baked beans between good slices of bread and with a rich tomato sauce poured over. Even this five cents is subject to a modification, four 20 tickets can be bought for a dollar. Many other tasty dishes are to be had, both savory and sweet, and there is always a large joint, so that for 15 cents one may have a good plateful of meat and potatoes and gravy.

Prince Rupert is Progressive.

Prince Rupert, the jumping-off place of Canada, the city that has sprung into existence on the Pacific coast of the Dominion, the great railhead terminal and port of British Columbia is, withal, an amazingly modern and up-to-date place.

While it has a population of only 6,000, there were less than 30 deaths last year, and the births were 150. It has good public schools, including a high school, with a building of four storeys. It has three daily papers and a public reading room, and its people are quite as intelligent and much more progressive than those of similar sized towns in the east.

The town believes in municipal ownership. It has a hydro-electric plant that cost more than a half million dollars, from which it not only supplies the several public utilities, but also sells power to factories and individuals at $13 per horse power per annum. The town has its own telephone and electric light plants. The telephone rates to business houses are $4.50 per month, and the plant pays a profit to the municipal treasury.

Prince Rupert believes in the single tax, and the most of the revenues of the city come from a tax on land only. Improvements pay nothing. The Prince Rupert Hotel, for instance, cost $125,000 to build. It is on a lot 100x200, and this lot is valued at $50,000. The tax is levied on the lot only. There is nothing paid on the building. Just across the way is a vacant lot of the same size, and it pays just as much taxes as the big hotel. The result is that people cannot afford to hold valuable real estate without improving it. The present taxes are a little over 12 mills on the dollar of assessed values, which are about 60 per cent. of the real values.

To Build Toy Industry.

To promote if possible the manufacture in Canada of dolls and toys on a scale sufficiently wide to take the place of the German-made articles which are now under a ban throughout the British Empire, the Department of Trade and Commerce at Ottawa has arranged an exhibit of samples of German-made toys which have been imported into this country in vast quantities during past years will be on exhibition, and also a collection of American toys, showing the steps already taken in the United States to replace the German article. The manufacture of toys in Canada has been a greatly improved trade since the war started, but it is felt that a great industry might be created here.

Thomas W. Gilmore was found dead in a gas-filled room at 35 Walton crescent, Toronto.

Joseph Rattenbury, a hotelkeeper well known throughout western Ontario, died at Clinton.

SCOTCH MARRIAGE NULL?

Toronto Widow May Lose Pension for Loss of Her Mate.

Scotch marriages are still legal in Scotland, but in Toronto a ceremony is still insisted on.

This fact cuts a considerable figure in the case of a Toronto woman, whose mate has been killed in France fighting the battles of Britain. She is now trying to get the $1,000 insurance which the city placed on her man.

She is left with three children to care for. She may get the city's $1,000, but it is hardly possible that she will get a widow's pension unless Ottawa stretches red tape until it breaks.

She and her soldier "husband" stood up in a Jarvis street house some years ago, in the presence of witnesses, and announced that they took each other as man and wife. The man did not believe in forms and ceremonies. There were ministers aplenty to be had for a small fee but the couple, as a matter of principle and preference, decided to dispense with ceremony. They simply pledged themselves to each other. That is a binding marriage ceremony in Scotland to this day. But when the widow went to claim her insurance the facts were made plain and there were legal snags in the way. The civic committee on insurance, City Clerk Littlejohn, City Solicitor Johnston, and Property Commissioner Chisholm, have not yet passed on the case, but the chances are that they will give the woman the money.

But the law of Canada must be followed in the granting of pensions to widows, and the law insists on a marriage ceremony, a license, a certificate, and all that sort of thing. So the pension may be refused unless rigid rules are smashed.

Incidentally it is pointed out by City Hall authorities that this case of a Scotch marriage is not isolated. It is said that a free-thinking son of a well-known Methodist minister in this Province is married in this way. He and his wife do not believe in ceremonies. They have agreed to live together only so long as their love lasts.

END JUSTIFIES MEANS.

So Thought the Lieutenant Who Was New to His Job.

He was a young lieutenant. The manœuvres in Queen's Park were the first in which he had taken part. He knew his men were watching him critically. He became confused. He gave the wrong order, and marched his company away from the point where other companies were converging.

"Where are you going, Mr. X——?" roared the officer in command.

Pink to the ears, the young lieutenant turned himself and his company in the right direction. He kept on trying to lead his men, but being "bawled out" like that in the hearing of the whole regiment, had not tended to lessen his confusion.

A few minutes later, though he knew where he wanted to place his company, he again gave a wrong order. The men wheeled about, then realizing their officer's mistake, turn-structions. He had lost his grip on ed back quickly and followed him.

The boy would have given his new spurs for a peep into his book of instructions. He had lost his grip on his memory. The pink of his smooth cheek became scarlet. He floundered and struggled through order after order. Some of them he gave correctly, those that he did not the men interpreted for themselves. They stopped listening to him. They followed his lead like sheep. They wound up at the right place at the finish with the rest of the regiment.

"Stand easy!" came the order.

Then, all unconsciously, the young officer wiped out the memory of his greenness and endeared himself to his subordinates. Taking off his cap and mopping his forehead and his face, he heaved a heartfelt sigh, looked sideways at his men, grinned boyishly and remarked:

"Well, we got here anyway."

Legion of Honor Historic.

Among the French decorations just awarded a number of Canadian officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, the one of chief fame and historic interest is the French Legion of Honor. This decoration confers honors upon those who serve the State in civil as well as in military life, but three-fifths of all the medals awarded must go to either the army or the navy. Napoleon instituted the order in 1802, and it has since been modified so that there are now five classes. There are fewer than a hundred men who hold the grand crosses, which are the highest award of the order. Including both civil and military chevaliers, the order numbers 25,000. The badge of the order is a five-rayed white enamelled star. On the obverse are two crossed flags with the words "Honneur et Patrie." The star is suspended from an oak and laurel wreath by a ribbon of scarlet watered silk. The members rise in rank from the lower to the higher orders, except in the case of distinguished foreigners. No ignoble punishment can be inflicted in France on any member as long as he remains in the order.

Old Wooden Steamers Back.

The Newfoundland sealing season is well under way with the departure of the fleet for the Labrador coast and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The only steel steamer in the fleet this year is the Florizel, which during the summer is regularly run in the New York-St. John's service. All of the modern sealing vessels have been requisitioned by the British Government for ice-breaking at Archangel, where some of them are now frozen in. To replace them many of the old wooden steamers formerly engaged in sealing and many coastal steamers have been equipped for work among the floes this season.

Conductor Francis Nelson and News Agent Bortz, of the C. P. R., charged with conspiracy to defraud the company by trafficking in tickets, were acquitted by a jury before Justice Clute at Ottawa on Saturday.

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EXPOSE THE WRONG-DOING

An Ottawa Paper Speaks Out And Expresses Current Opinion.

Ottawa Citizen.

A person using the nom-de-plume "M.P." and professing to write from the House of Commons to the Toronto News regarding the Dominion shell profiteering recently uttered the following lament:

The efforts of Carvell and Pugsley are not wasted. What they said has appeared in the newspapers all over the country and has been read by men who are glad to believe it and circulate it. Mr. Meighen's exposure of the "tissue of falsehoods" will never catch up. It will never have the circulation and the prominence of the "charges."

"M.P." went on thereupon to speak bitter words of The Citizen for advising people to get the Hansards containing F. B. Carvell's speech; and for saying that the opposition, having failed to impel the government to appoint a commission, should publish the evidence and give it the fullest possible publicity.

Much capital apparently is to be made by the defenders of the shell profiteering out of the fact that Attorney General Meighen discovered, in the long list of exposures made by Mr. Carvell, some inaccurate charges regarding dates of delivery. But the fact of Mr. Carvell not being accurately informed regarding every shell contract instance he mentioned, quietly as it is pounced upon by the apologist attorney, does not excuse the government for shielding the profiteers, nor palliate the guilt of making profits out of the nation's agony—so sternly denounced by a more independent Conservative member, R. B. Bennett.

There is a way for the government to overtake any falsehoods uttered by the opposition critics and utterly to confound any falsity in the opposition case; namely to grant the commission of inquiry asked for. Why does it persistently shield the guilty profiteers by refusing to grant the commission? The public will be justified in thinking it has something to conceal, some pillars of society to shield, and apparently some of its own pillars.

No amount of sophistry about the inquiry being untimely in the interests of the munition work will serve to delude an aroused public opinion. Even the autocratic Russian government has instituted a vigorous inquiry into the conduct of the highest officials, including the minister of war, regarding Russian munitions scandals. A no less searching inquiry should be instituted by the government of this Dominion, instead of employing the government attorney to defend it. Until the commission of inquiry is appointed the Canadian people will be justified in thinking that the government's hands are not entirely clean, or at least that it is concealing the disgraceful conduct of some of its friends.

John Flook, Chatham, a well-known marine contractor in western Ontario, died suddenly at the dinner table.

The Militia Department at Ottawa is watching the appeals for funds for overseas battalions.

L. A. Wedge, Blenheim, was burned to death in a fire that destroyed a garage there.