The Moderation League of Ontario

President: I. F. Hellmuth, K.C

Government Control Is People's Control

Government Control, in the present plebiscite, is simply a mandate by the people to the Government (which the Government has announced its willingness to accept) to proceed with legislation which, while dealing with and as far as possible eliminating excesses in drinking, will restore respect for law, will contribute to the revenues of the Province and thereby reduce taxation, and will recognise the right of the citizen to regulate his private life in accordance with the principles of moderation and sanity. Government Control does not interfere with the habits or principles of the total abstainer but gives him a share, legally and without violation to his conscience, of the profits at present being made illegally and immorally by the boot-legger.

GOVERNMENT CONTROL MEANS BETTER SOCIAL CONDITIONS

A system which drives underground and into hidden places the performance of an act which was quite legal in 1916 and which is considered not only legal but quite proper in almost all the world, creates bad social conditions. It has magnified the importance of drinking liquor and because it has been forbidden has invested it with an attraction. Under Prohibition parties and dances have become places where the flask is passed around, and because the drinking has been done in circumstances where social conditions and habits have imposed no restraint, excesses have become common.

GOVERNMENT CONTROL HAS ALWAYS OUSTED PROHIBITION

In spite of what extremists may say, the conditions created by Prohibition have never been satisfactory. Undoubtedly, in abolishing the old-time saloon, a step was taken in the right direction. But that the public considered Prohibition a solution of the liquor problem has never been the case. Something better and more effective has always been desired, and it has been found in Government Control. Every Province in Canada has had Prohibition. Some Provinces have had an opportunity, of saying whether they preferred Prohibition to Government Control. In every instance, by overwhelming majorities, one after the other, the Provinces decided against continuing Prohibition and decided in favor of Government Control.

Let Ontario do likewise.

GOVERNMENT CONTROL MEANS BETTER LAW ENFORCEMENT

Under Government Control the toleration at present extended to breaches of the law will be withdrawn. The reasonable requirements of the people will be met by legislation and there will be no sympathy given to those who break the law. Law enforcement cannot exist unless there is public support of the law. Police officers and prisons have their place, but unless each man and woman in the Province is prepared to look on breaches of the Prohibition law with the same severity as is done on theft and other crimes, there can only be a small percentage of offences discovered, and the cost of administration will be enormous.

In seven years, according to the Public Accounts of Ontario law enforcement of the O.T.A. has cost over $2,000,000. All that Prohibition can offer is to increase this cost.

GOVERNMENT CONTROL IS THE ENEMY OF THE BOOT-LEGGER

Who heard of the boot-legger before Prohibition? What brought the boot-legger into existence? What keeps him in existence? Would the boot-legger like another seven years of the present law?

Answers to these questions will demonstrate at once what Government Control will do to the boot-legger. Let it be done on the 23rd.

GOVERNMENT CONTROL WILL ABOLISH THE PRESCRIPTION FARCE

Last year more than three-quarters of a million prescriptions for liquor were issued in Ontario, and it is remarkable that around festive periods the sicknesses only curable by liquor prescriptions reached their peak. No one pretends that the prescription business is anything but a mockery. Prohibition imposes an intolerable burden on the medical profession which all self-respecting doctors are anxious to have removed. Government Control will remedy this.

GOVERNMENT CONTROL IS GOOD FOR OUR YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN

The youth of our Province should be brought up in an atmosphere of respect for law and temperance. Where liquor is consumed at all it should be done in such circumstances as will not attract the adventurous minds of young men and women, and where excesses take place the social ostracism of the offender should be inevitable. Prohibition puts a premium on the forbidden nature of the act of drinking and it has produced thousands of instances where young people who, but for it would have never touched liquor, have been tempted and fell.

GOVERNMENT CONTROL REDUCES CRIME AND DRUNKENNESS

On page 8 of his annual report to Parliament the Minister of Justice in dealing with convictions for all offences for the past year says: "The number of convictions for the past year has decreased by 19,054, or 12.3 per cent., the principal decreases being found in Quebec (Government Control), Yukon (Government Control), Nova Scotia and British Columbia (Government Control). In British Columbia the decrease was 2,740, or 18.9 per cent., while in Ontario it was 859 or 1.3 per cent." Regarding drunkenness, the Minister's report (page 7) says: "The number of convictions for drunkenness per 100,000 of the population is thus established: Ontario 338, Manitoba 280, British Columbia 200. Ontario needs Government Control.

GOVERNMENT CONTROL MEANS TAX REDUCTION

Wherever Government Control has been adopted there have been large profits received by the Government. Millions of dollars have been added to the public treasuries of Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia. These millions are not visionary. They are real and have been spent on roads, hospitals and public works. Part of the total has gone to the municipalities to reduce local taxation.

Prohibition has diverted enormous sums of money into the pockets of bootleggers. Government Control proposes to put it into the pockets of the tax-payers.

On a much more modest scale than prevails in other Provinces, Ontario should on the the basis of its population receive from Government Control each year more than *Five Million dollars* to apply in tax reduction. And Ontario badly needs it.

Above all Government Control does not mean a return of the bar or saloon. The Moderation League of Ontario is absolutely opposed to it, and the Premier has said clearly and emphatically that a majority for Government Control will not bring it about. Citizens can therefore vote for Government Control without a doubt in their minds.

1 Are you in favour of the continuance of The Ontario Temperance Act?	
2 Are you in favour of the sale as a beverage of beer and spirituous liquor in sealed packages under Government control?	**X**

MARK YOUR BALLOT HERE

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