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MR. BRACKIN'S AMENDMENT.

Mr. R. L. Brackin, the brilliant young criminal lawyer of Windsor, who represents West Kent in the Ontario Legislature, has introduced an amendment to the Provincial budget providing for the government sale of liquor under a system of local option. The amendment was seconded by Mr. J. A. Pinard, of East Ottawa.

Mr. Brackin and Mr. Pinard may be acting in the interests of their constituents, or, as Mr. Sinclair indicated in the Legislature yesterday, in the interests of themselves, but we are glad to know that these gentlemen do not speak for the Liberal party. We are sure that thousands of Liberals all over the Province will appreciate Mr. Sinclair's statement in the house Wednesday, when he repudiated the Brackin amendment. The Liberal party has always stood for advanced temperance legislation because it believes it is in the best interest of the province. We are glad to know that Mr. Sinclair still feels himself guided by the 1919 convention.

The liquor question is one that is undoubtedly going to play a very large part in the next Provincial election, and perhaps it is just as well to know where the individual members stand on this important question. What the people will do will be determined at the election time.

ST. LAWRENCE WATERWAYS.

Congressman S. Wallace Dempsey, Lockport, N.Y., father of the All-American Ship Canal across New York State, thinks the St. Lawrence waterway is a far-away scheme, and he bases this on the belief that Canada is too busy in fostering industry and exploiting its undeveloped water power to give thought to the waterway project.

Mr. Dempsey is quoting as his authority for Canada's new position, the Canadian diplomatic representative in Washington, who has expressed himself openly and frankly to the Congressman on the Canadian plan. This Canadian has been declaring, so Mr. Dempsey says, that for many years Canada has been seeking to develop its farming country, particularly the wheat growing districts of the west, and to populate those provinces removed from the seaboard. Canada has drawn hundreds of thousands of rural population from the British Isles as immigrant farmers, and has taken thousands from the United States. The farming country is well developed, as the production in wheat and grain demonstrates, Canada can feed herself and Great Britain for some years to come. But in Britain, there are hundreds of thousands of persons, city dwellers who will not farm lands, or work other than in industrial plants, who are now out of work and have been. It is Canada's task to find work for these people, and incidentally to build up Canada industrially.

Consequently the power development goes on apace. At the Saguenay a tremendous water power is turned into electrical energy to drive great industrial plants. A city of 60,000 is to be created inside of a year. Mr. Dempsey says Canada has dozens of such water powers available. The Dominion will not permit the exploitation of Canadian water power rights for export to the United States.

A critic in the United States referred to President Coolidge of the United States as a "trivial attorney." The phrase, as in the case of the Ottawa Journal calling Hon. J. C. Elliott, a "small town lawyer," must have given the writer a feeling of sublimity. The Watertown, N.Y., Times remarks: Perhaps President Coolidge was a trivial attorney, but this same trivial attorney has lifted himself to the highest office of the land. Lincoln was a "trivial rail

of States, but will retain control for developing Canada industrially to furnish work for Canadians and employment for English immigrants unable to find work in the old country. Mr. Dempsey argues that America will not enter into any pact on the St. Lawrence, and pay at least one half the cost of the project, unless the United States gets one half of the power. On this, he argues, the St. Lawrence canalization scheme will not come for one or more generations.

For these reasons he asks the United States authorities to develop a ship canal through New York State, pay all its cost and derive all of the benefits, as well as to enjoy those national defense returns which the Secretaries of War and Navy state they believe are necessary and desirable.

The statements of Mr. Dempsey are certainly flattering to Canada and give us reason to be proud of the material resources we have. But the Congressman is amiss when he thinks Canada can handle only one task at a time. Will we spend over \$100,000,000 on the Welland Canal to give an advantage to the Southern Republic, or will we as Canadians, seek to develop our waterways so that western trade will flow through the St. Lawrence to Canadian ports at the seaboard and even without shifting cargo cross to European ports? The activity in the New York assembly should not be lost sight of at Ottawa, but the best thought and energy of the department in charge of transportation should see to it that trade is not lost to Canada. Aggressive action is immediately required.

SHIP THE BEST.

At a meeting of apple growers in Goderich a speaker said that hereafter they would have to give the people of Great Britain what they wanted in apples and not what they were willing to ship them. The British market was willing to pay a good price if they got a good article. The same thing applies to all commodities. Ship the best, make good money and use the seconds for home uses. This is the plan adopted in some of the most progressive export countries.

MOUNTING SCHOOL COSTS

Cost of conducting the public schools in Philadelphia has risen from about \$12,500,000 in 1919 to over \$32,000,000 in 1925. Ten years ago the school tax levy was fixed to yield about \$8,500,000. Last year it was called on to produce more than \$26,000,000. When the board took over the management of its finances in 1911 the school debt was less than \$6,500,000. Now the net debt amounts to nearly \$26,000,000 and the annual debt charge to nearly one-fourth of the cost of running the schools in 1919.

Teachers' salaries have increased. Materials cost more. But when the need of new schools has been met and the deficiency of accommodation overcome, the debt charge ought to remain fairly constant and ordinary expenses ought not to mount as rapidly as they have in the past few years. Ontario schools costs equal to anything above described.

Let us take a few figures for the City of Ottawa. The Corporation of Ottawa contributed to education for the year 1925 the following amounts: Public school maintenance \$713,926.40; interest and sinking fund, \$187,965.60; total, \$901,892.00. Rate \$8 per \$1,000 of assessment.

Collegiate maintenance, \$324,306.42; interest and sinking fund, \$101,035.33; total, \$425,341.75. Rate \$2.15 per \$1,000 assessment. Separate school maintenance, \$267,780.00. Rate \$12 per \$1,000 assessment, making a grand total of \$1,595,003.75, rate \$13 per \$1,000 assessments. Total rate for public school supporters \$11.15 and Separate school supporters, \$15.15. The expenditure on Primary and Secondary Education was 28.93 per cent. of the total municipal expenditure.

CANADA HOLDS THE JUG.

The Farmers' Sun points out that under the Canadian-Australian treaty Canada in six months sent \$6,000,000 worth of manufactured goods to Australia and Canada imported \$23,000 worth of Australian goods. Canada thus got a market for seven times as much as she bought from that country. The Sun very properly remarks that if the treaty is jug-handed, Canada certainly holds the jug.

CALLED A "TRIVIAL ATTORNEY."

A critic in the United States referred to President Coolidge of the United States as a "trivial attorney." The phrase, as in the case of the Ottawa Journal calling Hon. J. C. Elliott, a "small town lawyer," must have given the writer a feeling of sublimity. The Watertown, N.Y., Times remarks: Perhaps President Coolidge was a trivial attorney, but this same trivial attorney has lifted himself to the highest office of the land. Lincoln was a "trivial rail

splitter" or a "trivial country store keeper." Washington was a "trivial surveyor." Roosevelt was a "trivial rancher." Wilson was a "trivial schoolmaster." Nice smart phrase which doesn't mean anything!

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Be happy; it helps to make others happy.

Spring is the best substitute for coal that we can suggest.

Pretty soon Briand of France will be made premier emeritus.

Scientist says some day we'll all wear glass clothes. Not such a big step from present summer garb.

It is said that motor cars are crowding camels off the highways in Palestine. Is that an Oriental tale?

There are three kinds of people—those who do all their own thinking, those who have it sent out, and those who don't bother.

Motor caravanning across Canada may be a popular sea-to-sea summer holiday stunt this year. Why not see one's own country?

The Province of Ontario has contributed \$100,000 to the campaign fund of the Hospital for Sick Children. A worthy act, indeed.

The charge is made that there is too much card playing among M. P.'s in Ottawa. Women holding hearts and diamonds are accusers.

Ontario's mineral production for 1925, was \$85,792,636, or \$8,500,000 higher than 1924, and \$5,000,000 higher than 1918, previous high.

The Watertown, N.Y., Times thinks that with five aero expeditions to the North Pole planned for this summer, the traffic cop will be needed up there.

In reminiscing, Horatio C. Hocken, M.P., concludes: "Boys seem better today." His adventures at school were thrilling. His comment is justified.

Seeing an old steam fire engine thawing out the manholes made us think of the days when one could get a square meal for a quarter with an extra helping of butter.

It would be the part of wisdom if the country accepted the King Government as an established fact and the legislators direct their energy to business instead of party politics.

Hon. W. E. Raney holds that the great fault in Ontario's education system is that French is left out in everyday schooling. There are many English folks who agree with Mr. Raney.

Scotland is rebelling against the bagpipe. Those complaining Scots don't know when they are well off. If they banish the pibroch, the first thing they know they'll have an American jazz band.

According to J. H. Putnam, senior inspector of public schools at Ottawa, Ontario's adolescent school attendance law is impracticable in its present form and badly in need of revision. He has said something.

The women of pioneer days did not face the rigors of winter with skirts above their knees and wearing only silk stockings. The women of to-day can be classed as the hardiest of history. Some of them can stand any weather without a shiver.

The party is over. The stock market's big drunk lasted nearly two years. In that time it stepped high, wide and handsome, says the New York Post. America has been speculation-brazy. The country will be all the better for the cooling of this speculative fever that has been in its blood.

Vessels are to run weekly between Chicago and England. The enterprise is purely experimental. If the line can be run profitably and advantageously, it will prove a powerful argument in favor of the proposed larger channel on the same route, to increase the waterway facilities.

Canada's progress is evidenced for new companies to the number of seventy with capital of \$25,617,220 were reported during the week ending March 6th, compared with ninety-one companies with \$25,268,900 capital the previous week and with eighty-four companies with \$12,505,800 capital, the corresponding week of last year.

Parks a Paying Proposition. New York Evening Post: The mistake the city has made is not in buying land for parks, but in not buying it soon enough. In 1853 Central Park land was obtained at less than \$8,000 an acre. Six years later, when the park was extended from 106th street to 110th street the additional land cost \$20,000 an acre. In a pamphlet issued by the Metropolitan Conference of City and State Park Authorities and entitled "Parks as Investments," the experience of other cities, as well as of New York, is given. The story is everywhere the same—parks pay not only in a scenic and recreational way, but financially.

LOOKING AROUND

There are a number of Queen's University graduates in the House of Commons at Ottawa, including the members of Kingston and Frontenac. The member for Winnipeg South Centre is also an old Queen's man. The three mentioned are Tories, and this reminds one of a medical student who attended Queen's years ago and during an election campaign caused a great stir by declaring from a platform that if there were to be any Brits in Heaven he did not want to go there.

The printer's devil draws attention to the word "broadcast," which some people are inclined to write "broadcasted." The little fellow wishes to say that he is unable to discover any such word as "broadcasted" in the Oxford or any other dictionary. There is the word "half-masted," but only men like Shakespeare, who sometimes used singular verbs for plural ones, would be permitted the liberty of using the word "broadcasted" for the purpose of lofty phrase effect.

It is officially announced that there are 3,334 persons in Ontario who have the lawful right to make home brew, but it is not even unofficially announced how many are unlawfully making it.

Papers scattered over the roadways make a sorry sight, yet one sees this every day. It looks bad enough in early springtime, but when the lawns are green, scattered paper makes the streets look far more untidy. People should make it a point to throw no paper on the roadways or in their yards, for the wind carries it long distances. School children should be taught to be careful about throwing paper about. A good deal of the paper seen on streets appears to be from school books.

Progressive Leader Raney thinks that one weakness of Ontario's education system is the absence of the teaching of French in the common schools, and the writer agrees with him. One cannot learn English properly without having some knowledge of both French and Latin, on which our language is largely based. Leading men of the past generation recognized that they would have been better equipped had they been given the rudiments of French and Latin in the higher classes of the common schools. Ontario may come to it yet.

The reports that two Brockville citizens are mentioned for the position of lieutenant-governor of Ontario recalls to us that Kingston gave the province two of its ablest governors in the late Sir Alexander Campbell and Sir George A. Kirkpatrick. It was the son of the former who two years ago left the Kingston General Hospital a legacy that yielded about \$350,000. Kingston may well honor the memory of the Campbell family.

News and Views.

Canada Leads.

St. Mary's Journal Argus: Canada exported more goods to the United States during the year 1925 than any other country in the world, according to a report of the U. S. department of commerce.

Local Esteem.

Exchange: Local esteem is far more conducive to happiness than general reputation. The latter may be compared to the fixed stars which glimmer so remotely as to afford little light and no warmth. The former is like the sun, each day shedding his prolific and cheering beams.

The Golden Opportunity.

Detroit Free Press: This is a time of golden opportunity to put the administration of national affairs on as nearly a true business basis as any public machinery can be put. If it should be done, there is every reason to believe that the taxes could again be materially lowered and the Government at the same time have more money for essentials than it now has.

National Stealing.

Brantford Expositor: When one stops to think the action of the United States senate in allowing a bill to be brought before it for the purpose of legalizing the diversion of water by Chicago is an amazing example of international discourtesy. It is a matter that affects Canada equally with the United States and that should be dealt with only by an international tribunal. Why not the World Court?

The Censor Got Busy.

Calgary Albertan: The Calgary Herald in its early edition on Thursday published a very interesting editorial page, including the following sensible comment: "Regina Conservatives are well advised in refraining from a contest in the Dunning bye-election. Mr. Dunning would be as nearly certain of election as one can be. Apart from that certainty, Conservatives would do better to wait for the general election, which cannot be long delayed."

In its later edition, on the street three hours later, it had the same interesting page, word for word without change, except that this unexpected comment about Dunning was omitted. What happened in the three eventful hours?

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