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MATTER FOR THE ATTENTION OF ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

While no one will claim that the O.T.A. is a perfect law, it is on the statute books of this province because the people, by their votes put there.

A most startling statement regarding the brazen way in which the O.T.A. is being flagrantly violated appeared in the Orillia News-Letter of Wednesday, March 17th, as follows:

No one has had a better opportunity to observe the effects of the present prohibitory liquor law than Major J. I. Hartt, who in his official capacity as inspector of timber limits has traveled through every section of the lumber country in New Ontario, and met all classes of citizens either in lumber and mining camps, or in the hotels and restaurants of Ontario's hinterland.

To the Major's enquiry as to where he procured the "stunt" his answer was that it came from Montreal in carloads, and was retailed to every part of the territory by bootleggers. He had no difficulty to "make da mon" and appeared very proud of the prominence his profession gave him among his compatriots.

New Ontario bars are running full blast, with little or no effort at law enforcement. The issuing of "scrips" is taking a toll of the forest wealth of the north country, as 174 acres of the finest spruce is required in the making of paper to convert into doctors' prescriptions.

It is alleged that it took seventeen acres of spruce trees to make the "scrips" used by the delegates to the recent good roads convention in Toronto.

Such a statement coming from an official of the Ontario government cannot go unheeded. An investigation should be made at once, and the offenders summarily dealt with. There is no reason in the world why Italians should be able to openly defy the laws of this province and boast about it.

A WONDERFUL SERVICE.

Probably nowhere in the country has the Bell Telephone Company rendered a greater service to the people during the past month than in Kingston, and a junior hockey team of champion calibre was the cause. With games in Toronto, Montreal, Fort William and Winnipeg, the local newspapers, with the co-operation of the telephone company, were able to tell probably two-thirds of the people of Kingston, between the hours of 8.30 and midnight, how the crucial contests were going. Queries came into The Whig over three of its main lines, and the rapid service rendered the public was probably never equalled in Ontario. There is no financial gain in giving this hockey information at night, either on the part of the

BIERE THOUGHT. THAT THOU GIVEST THEM THEY GATHER; thou opposeth thine hand, they are filled with good.—Psalms 104:28.

newspaper or the telephone company. Instead, it entailed additional expense to both, and members of the newspaper staff gave up ten evenings in order to give the public a hockey telephone service that was indeed marvellous. The young ladies in the telephone exchange had strenuous nights connecting several thousand homes with the newspaper offices. The Bell Telephone Company performed a great service. It might have refused to co-operate in such a scheme, but it joined hands with the newspapers and made the people realize that its object is to serve.

THE BRACKIN AMENDMENT.

The fate of the Brackin amendment was not surprising. It must be remembered that in the vote taken in October, 1923, 69 constituencies in Ontario gave dry majorities and only 38 wet. The dry column included both Brants, both Durhams, three Greys, two Hastings, three Hurons, two Lambtons, two Lanarks, three Middlesexes, two Norfolks, two Northumberland, two Ontarios, two Oxford, two Perth, two Peterboros, four Simcoes, three Wellingtons, and two Wentworths. There was quite evidently no demand for government control or local option in much of Ontario in the fall of 1923.

MARKING A CORRECTION.

Attorney-General Nickle, in the current Queen's Quarterly, corrects Prof. W. L. Grant, who said the late G. M. Macdonnell, Kingston, broke with Sir John Macdonald over the Pacific scandal, and save to cast his vote took no part in political life till 1891. The Attorney-General says the Pacific scandal culminated in 1873; in 1874 Sir John was endorsed by the Liberal-Conservative Association of Kingston in a by-election and Mr. Macdonnell supported the endorsement. The devoted Conservative citizen was president of the Association 1883-6. The facts show conclusively that Prof. Grant did not quote accurately. All who knew the late Mr. Macdonnell know full well that he was a follower up to the hill of Sir John. After his death, Mr. Macdonnell was the author of that forceful phrase: "After Sir John the deluge." And the accuracy of his statement has been fully sustained, for the Conservative party has, ever since the lamented death of the astute statesman, been sadly out of joint. There has never yet been a leader anywhere near his class.

OFFERING FIVE PER CENT.

The Legislative Committee of the city of Toronto approves the payment of five per cent. interest to taxpayers who pay their obligations in advance. The idea is a good one. Kingston gives a discount of two per cent. on taxes paid before June 30th and a discount of five per cent., we are satisfied would constitute an inducement suggesting economy, and would be taken advantage of by many who always leave off this supposedly unpleasant duty as long as possible, and chiefly because two per cent. is no real advantage in view of other investments.

It is in keeping with the modern move to give the public every opportunity to save by paying up promptly all their obligations. The scheme is worth considering.

TO PREVENT SPREAD OF DISEASE.

At the Bruce county council, Mr. H. Coleman, Kincardine, submitted a proposition to have breeding stock both of the animal and fowl families inspected, with the object of eliminating the danger of communicable diseases being carried to the human family through food products. Animals and fowls examined by qualified persons, that cannot show a clean bill of health should be disposed of by the Dominion government and the owners paid the real value of the same out of the Dominion treasury.

Mr. Coleman is of the opinion that such a yearly inspection plan followed for five years would clean up practically the whole danger from such communicable diseases. That this experienced pork-packer was correct in his idea as to this menace to business life is evidenced from the action of the Ontario Cattle Breeders' Association. At their meeting in Toronto a resolution was carried recommending a bonus of \$4 per head of cattle sold to associations holding pure bred cattle sales, provided the animals were all from herds accredited free of tuberculosis. Another important motion carried unanimously was that consigners of cattle to pure bred sales be required to make an affidavit that the animals consigned are free of contagious diseases, and from disease-free premises.

Mr. Coleman was quite in advance in advocating action along these lines for protection of public health, and may probably have the satisfaction of seeing legislation to that effect passed at this session of the Legislature.

CANADA'S POLITICAL SYSTEM.

An American writer in the London Spectator, discussing things Canadian, asks the question: "What do Americans think of Canada's political system?" He answers his query with the statement that Americans of the larger view acknowledge that Canadians are justified in preferring their system, "because it works better, achieves results with less delay, operates more cleanly, is more truly responsive to the people and puts better men into public life."

OPPOSED TO CAMPS.

Hamilton is not inclined to spend \$35,000 on a modern tourist camp. The merchants are opposed. They say that while it might attract tourists, it "would keep them on the fringe of the city and provide an inducement to them to refrain from patronizing uptown restaurants, hotels and shops." The retailers suggest that several small chalets be maintained on the highways outside of Hamilton as information bureaus and chalets. The retailers offer to contribute to the upkeep of these bureaus.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

This year Easter comes on April 4th. The next occasion, if we do not have a fixed date, will be on April 4th, 1999.

Queen's Quarterly in discussing the St. Lawrence deep waterways scheme says "it goes without saying that the logical deep water terminus is Kingston."

If there is money in hauling Alberta coal to Ontario for less than eight or nine dollars a ton, would not the C.P.R. be anxious to get its share of the traffic on those terms?

The heavy debt of the Hydro-Electric Commission of Ontario may be paid off on the same plan as is to be applied to the provincial debt. But of course it will mean higher rates for electric power.

The mayor of Hamilton, in presenting a golden key to Lord Allenby, said that it would not open anything that he knew of. Most men have that brand on their key rings, is a Brantford Expositor aphorism.

The United States tariff commission is to have its troubles. The U.S. Senate has forced an investigation of the body and its flexible tariff. The arc of contention, may snap back on the functioning body!

A funeral which cost \$85 in Watertown, N.Y. in 1891 now costs between \$450 and \$500. The Metropolitan Life Insurance Company after investigation contends "that pride has sent up the cost of funerals."

If there had been automobiles in the days of Solomon, think of the trouble the old gentleman would have had with 800 wives on the back seat telling him how to drive, is a cynical remark of the Watertown, N.Y., Times.

When parents lets boys and girls of tender years burn up the highways in automobiles until the early hours of the morning, who is to blame, remarks the Hamilton Spectator, if something happens—the youngsters, the speed cops—or the parents?

Legislation is proposed making ample provision for widows from the estates of their deceased husbands in case the husbands have not made such provision in their wills. Evidence accumulates that it is a mistake to suppose that a man has a right to do what he will with his own.

The path to the woodshed should be more used than it is for law breakers. This is the only way to correct the criminal tendencies of youth. All the orations of humanely minded people are so much soap cast upon the ocean. The day for giving thugs and bandits roses and prayers is long past.

A medical society is giving advice as to influenza cases. It says: If a friend is ill with influenza, write letters or send flowers, but don't visit him. When the first signs of a cold appears, with sneezing or sore throat, go to bed for twenty-four or forty-eight hours. Take a mild laxative and sleep as much as possible. If this is done in ninety-five per cent. of cases there will be no further trouble.

The proposals to wipe out the debt of Ontario contemplates the setting aside out of current revenue of \$1,500,000 each year, and the finding of the financial experts who comprised the committee is that it will cost the province only \$58,276,769 more to wipe out its entire net debt of \$219,600,000 in forty years than it would to continue to pay interest for the same period at the end and retain the debt.

News and Views.

Feel It Everywhere. St. Catharines Standard: Main street all over Canada has a feeling of optimism.

New Taxing Scheme. Boston Transcript: Judging by the pace at which many Americans are living, the Government might get a lot of revenue by shifting the tax from the income to the outgo.

Appearances Against Him. Cincinnati Enquirer: The King of Spain attended a bricklayer's wedding. Now he'll probably be charged with toadying to the rich.

A Discovery! Border Cities Star: Sir Josiah Stamp, the "feminist authority on statistics," has discovered that women have a habit of concealing their true age. Most likely the eminent authority's next astounding discovery will be that snowballs don't bounce.

The Loose Nut. Los Angeles Times: The paper spoke the other day about a loose nut wrecking a car. That is one trouble we have. There are two many loose nuts running around in cars. Some of them ought to be locked up. When a loose nut gets tight it may be worse, at that.

French Financial Chaos. London Daily Chronicle: French industry has gone ahead by leaps and bounds since the war. Trade is flourishing and there is no unemployment. Yet France is the only great country in Europe which has failed to stabilize her currency. That is a bad thing for herself and the whole Continent. Her lively industry is one of the bright spots in European reconstruction. But the whole fabric may be undermined by bad finance and declining credit.

A Tax on Betting. London Times: If the result of the tax were to diminish the volume of betting in this country the Exchequer would be none the poorer than it is to-day, while a most desirable social reform would have been achieved. If, on the other hand, the betting turnover (which admittedly runs into hundreds of millions) were maintained at anything like its present figure, then the Exchequer might reasonably look forward to a substantial contribution to the revenue, broad-based upon a community which need never realize that it was being taxed at all. Altogether the case in principle for a betting duty seems almost too good to be true. It is assuredly far too good to be dismissed out of hand except upon the very strongest practical objections.

Quebec Viewpoint

Le Droit approves of a law recently proposed in Manitoba with regard to the driving of automobiles.

"A Member in Manitoba wishes the Provincial Legislature to adopt a bill that would compel all automobile drivers to stop their machines completely before passing over a level crossing, even if they are morally certain that it is clear. Heavy penalties would call violators of this law to order. The idea is evidently to teach prudence, in spite of themselves, to a small number of foolhardy people who persist in disregarding road signs, who approach level crossing at such a speed that it is impossible for them to pull up when they wish to do so and who play too freely with danger."

Le Canada continues to proclaim that prosperity is on the way.

"Here are a few headings taken from the financial page of one of our daily newspapers: 'The liquid position of the C.S.L. has been much improved'; 'sugar exports increased'; 'the favorable year of the International Co.'; 'Trade is favorable'; 'notice of dividend'; etc."

"It is therefore easy to see that in all the domains we are to-day in a better position, then we were a few years ago."

Conditions are certainly hopeful but whether this is because of or in spite of the policies of the Government at Ottawa is a moot question.

A Word for the O.T.A.

(Hamilton Spectator) There are plenty of people who voted for prohibition who still regard it as a beneficent piece of legislation which has wrought obvious good to the province—obvious, that is, to every one who sees with unbiased eyes. There are abuses, no doubt gross abuses, arising from the fact that the law, duly endorsed by the community, is being violated, because of half-hearted support on the part of those who are themselves persuaded of its merit. Even with this half-hearted support, however, a great deal has been accomplished, as all fair-minded critics have to admit. Let the bankers, insurance people, society workers, magistrates and everybody with insight and a memory which goes back a decade or so, give unprejudiced testimony on this point, and the degree of failure, of which so much is heard, will appear comparatively insignificant. As for the "bootleggers and blind-piggers" there have always been individuals—who would sacrifice their self-respect and honor

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A Digest of the BEST in WIT. By Courtesy of ZIFFS MAGAZINE. Heard At Court. "Your Honor," said the young lawyer to Judge Titwood earnestly, "I trust you'll excuse the defendant this time; he is, I grant you, soured to the gills, puffed, pie-eyed, or if your Honor chooses, paralyzed, but we must remember he is a child of genius." "How old is he?" snapped the Judge. "Forty-four, sir." "Well, it's time the big lum-mox was weaned. We shall separate him from his bottle for thirty days. Next!" We'll Say So! Courtship gets many a man into court. The Lawyer's Fee. Doctor Brown and Lawyer Smith had adjoining country homes. One day the Doctor entered the lawyer's city office and inquired, "Say, Mr. Smith, could a man make a fellow pay for damages done by his goat?" "Most certainly," replied the lawyer. "Well, your goat chewed up about twenty dollars worth of clothes on our line this morning. Suppose you settle." "All right, fair enough," said Mr. Smith as he passed over the twenty dollars. Three days later the doctor received a bill for \$20.00 for legal advice.

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