

HON. W. F. ROBERTS ON DISCUSSION OF PROHIBITION

Unable To Be Present At
Recent Meeting of N. B.
Medical Society

SOME SUGGESTIONS
ALREADY ACTED UPON

Real Voice of Medical Society
Expressed in Resolution and
Not In Remarks of Few—
Believes Doctors Really In
Favor of Prohibition.

Hon. W. F. Roberts, minister of public health and a life-long advocate of prohibition, was asked by The Telegraph Saturday to express his views on the recent discussion at the meeting of the New Brunswick Medical Society.

He said: "For some few days previous to the meeting of the New Brunswick Medical Society I had been physically indisposed with which fact many of my conferees in the profession were acquainted; and as a result of which I was forced to miss two of the sessions. Because of my eagerness to hear Dr. McAusland's address, whom I had personally invited to address the society, I made a special effort against my own physical feelings at the time to be present, and it was with a great deal of difficulty that I remained until the close of his paper, immediately after which I went to my home, and it was found necessary within an hour of my arrival home, to have one of the physicians come directly to see me professionally.

Intended to Speak.

"I regretted then, very much, my inability to remain, as I not only wished to have something to say regarding the prohibition act, but wished at the same session to discuss the workmen's compensation act, but I have since regretted more that I was physically forced to be absent. I was both interested and surprised the following morning in reading the newspaper report of the discussion which took place upon the prohibition act by several of the physicians present. It is interesting to note that not more than ten or twelve took part in the discussion out of some eighty or eighty-five present. In following closely the newspaper report of these gentlemen's addresses, I could not help but feel surprised and chagrined at the attitude assumed by them. I feel satisfied if the reports were accurate, that the extreme statements made by these several gentlemen were not only untrue but I feel satisfied did not represent entirely what they meant.

"As a physician I can appreciate many



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of the short comings of the prohibition act, but when we consider that the traffic and the habit in alcohol and alcoholic drinking has existed since the time of Adam, it is unreasonable to expect that practically the first attempt at total prohibition would result in a perfect solution of the problem, and that, naturally we must expect grave breaches, evasions and inconveniences consequent upon its action, and it has taken the better part of two years to fully demonstrate these short comings.

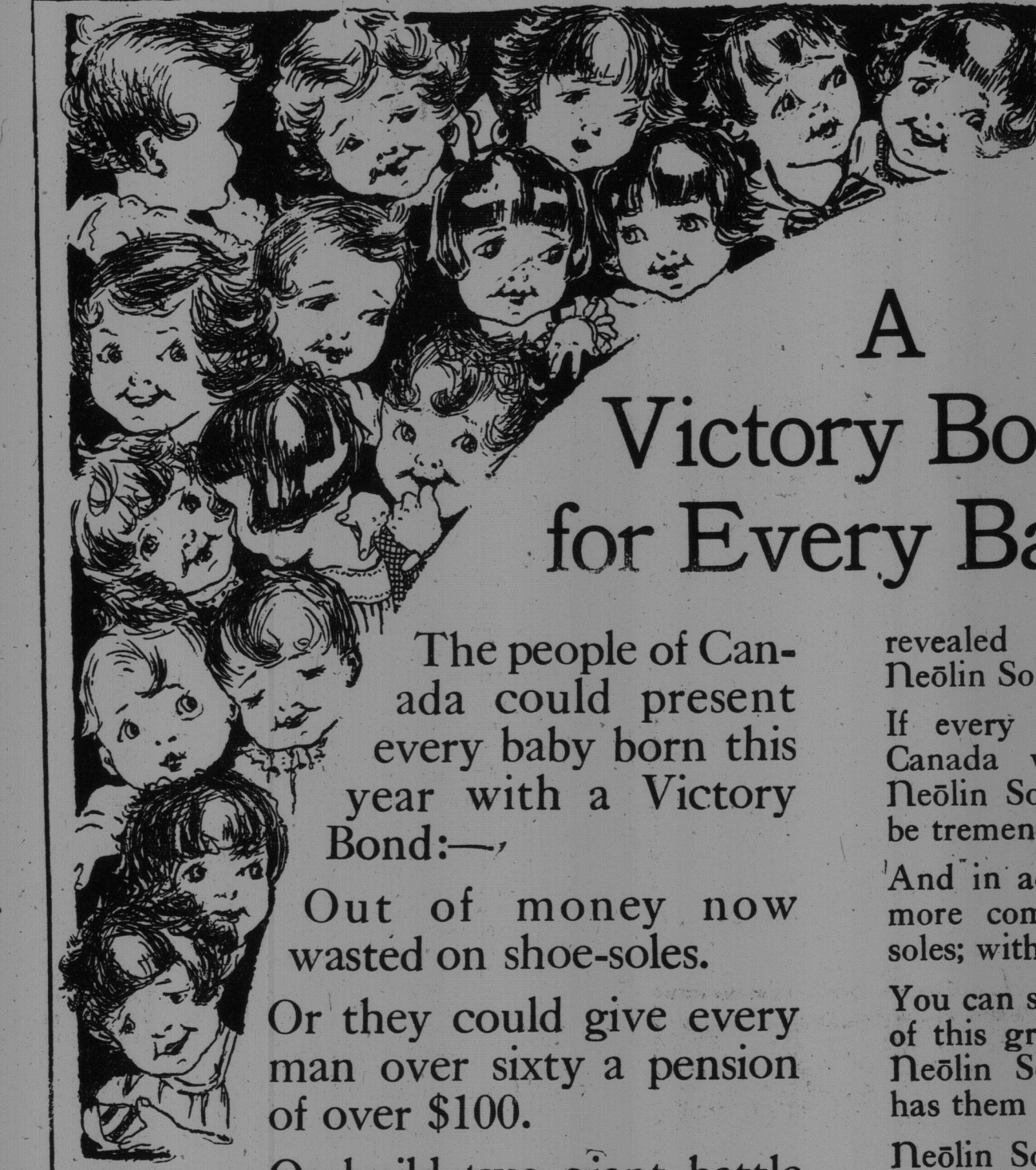
"I can naturally understand the feeling of irritability that frequently presents itself to the physician when he comes face to face with these circumstances and perhaps can understand to some little extent, such, formulating the law is a tergo for some of the utterances of the above referred to speakers. But no better opportunity was ever offered by a body of men, to show their sympathy with the object which prohibition represents, viz., to entirely abolish the indiscriminate use of alcohol as a beverage—a sentiment with which everyone is in agreement in these days of advanced views both from scientific and humanitarian standpoints (than that on the occasion referred to). But on the other hand they have given the public the impression that they are absolutely opposed to the principle of prohibition which is with very few exceptions, I feel sure, a misrepresentation of their own real views. Indeed this seems very evident from the almost unanimous support which the resolution, which is the real voice of the society, received.

The Charge of Illegality.

"Those who saw fit to criticize the New Brunswick Medical Society upon their attitude upon the question of prohibition should have confined their remarks entirely to the resolution adopted, for, as just intimated, that was the final and consummated opinion of the society then in session. There is one criticism that has been offered, viz., that the physicians have been responsible for illegally connected with prohibition and its enforcement. This one criticism naturally irritated several of those who spoke. Both sides, indeed, it seems to me were unfortunate in their remarks, for, on the one hand, as a medical organization in this province if we have members who are constantly violating the law, then it is the duty of those elected to direct the profession, I mean, the council of physicians and surgeons to suspend, or even to expel such violators from the ranks of the profession. On the other hand I feel that it would have been more in keeping with charity had those who have so severely criticized those who spoke at the medical meeting given thought to the fact that the society speakers had some cause for irritation, and that only a small minority, as noted before, really expressed their opinions; in addition, I feel it the duty of those who know of physicians who are violating the law, to report such to the medical council. Had the criticism of the society's action been confined to the resolution adopted it would, in my opinion, have been much milder and wiser. I cannot help but feel that Dr. Bentley's paper was a timely one and an honest effort to place before the society and the public the weakness of the act which have been demonstrated by its two years of operation, and with a desire, I feel satisfied, of giving to those in authority data that would aid materially in making its application more practicable. I am frank to confess, however, that there are a few statements made by Dr. Bentley that I would not altogether coincide with.

Valuable Suggestions.

"Regarding the resolution, apart from the discussion connected with it, I believe to have been fairly practical, and with few exceptions has my corroboration; for therein are disclosed by practical experience a number of imperfections which must necessarily be corrected if prohibition is to attain any degree of success. I think I am safe in saying that the government have already taken into consideration the question of standing behind the quality and price of liquor, two extremely important points, the very points most dwelt upon and most strongly urged in the discussion and by the resolution, and I feel satisfied that the government's chief inspector will only be too glad to carry out any suggestions which they feel will be of practical import to the future success of the act. While much has been said pro and con,



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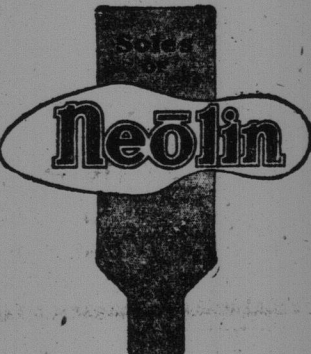
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PRESENTATION TO LANCE

CORPORAL E. D. MARR

On Friday evening, July 25, a very pleasant and interesting ceremony took place at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur C. Marr, Fair Vale, Kings county.

many others from a considerable distance. The occasion was the presentation of a gold signet ring to Lance-Corporal Ernest D. Marr, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur C. Marr, who returned with the 18th Reserve.

TONIGHT'S CONCERT

The City Cornet Band will render the following programme in King Square this evening:

March—Pride of Virginia King
Selection—Rose D'Amour Beger
Waltz—American Students Misses
Solo—One Fleeting Hour Lee
Grand Opera Selection from Il Trovatore Verdi
Operatic March from Precioso Weber
Overture—Poet and Peasant Suppe
Sextette from Opera Lucia De Lam-

REPEAL RECIPROCITY ACT

Washington, D. C., July 26—Repeal of the Canadian reciprocity of 1911 was recommended today by the house ways and means committee. Some Democrats joined with the Republicans in voting

for repeal, but others said that action should be deferred pending further investigation.

The committee also voted to recommend the repeal of the ten per cent soft drink war tax. Though no record vote was taken Democratic members urged that all repeals be deferred until means for replacing the lost revenue was found.

Repeal of the reciprocity measure will not affect the removal of tariff duties on wool, pulp, wheat, potatoes and poultry products. A bill yet to be acted upon by the committee proposes the repeal of those provisions expect that applying to wool pulp.

MUTT AND JEFF—JUDGE JEFF BELIEVES IN RUNNING HIS COURT ON A PRACTICAL BASIS

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