

## The London Advertiser

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1924.

### Is Our Conscience Growing Dormant?

Hon. George P. Graham, acting minister of national defence, has made a frank statement about an investigation that has been under way for some weeks, looking into the purchasing of coal for buildings used by the militia department in Western Canada. The investigation covers a period of time between 1918 and the present, and there is enough in Mr. Graham's statement to warrant the belief that his auditor has found conditions that call for the use of that nasty word, "scandal." One sentence is very significant: "The commissioner finds that grave irregularities have occurred in respect to these contracts, both as to the quality of the coal delivered and the quantities involved."

It is evident that there were some parties who saw in the acceptance of office where public business was to be transacted, not an opportunity to be of service to the taxpayers who paid their salaries, but rather a chance to gouge these ratepayers for their own personal advantage. In Hamilton today the public are asking for the names of citizens who are alleged to have been conniving with employees of the tax collection department to secure a reduction in their share of the common burden. It serves no good purpose to enter upon a discussion as to which is the more guilty—an official who will use his office to defraud the municipality or the man who enters the conspiracy with him in order that he may reap benefit. Both are guilty of the common crime of failing to measure up to the trust that was theirs.

The Home Bank case has been before the public for over a year. Today it goes on before the court at Toronto, and about the only bright spot it has revealed was the record of one man who was dismissed because he refused to sign a statement he knew to be false. The whole story is a recital of the work of men who failed to meet the trust of the people who came in good faith to do business with them.

These three cases are cited here because they are gathered around one common point—disregard for the principles of old-fashioned honesty. They are significant because one of them represents a bank, with its nation-wide ramifications, through which it reached out and met the public; another because it represents a department of a government to which the people of the whole country pay levy, and the third because it represents the same unwholesome trait in a municipality, the expenses of which are carried by the people according to their ability to pay. Does it not give the Canadian people as a whole, and as individuals, something to consider? Have we a national and a personal conscience that turns from a wrong act as though it were a viper? Or can it be that we are lapsing, drifting, until the stage is reached where wrongdoing and grafting are all right, and the only sin in them that of being found out?

These are not the standards that guided the men who made Canada. They are not the moral ethics of the pioneers who came in here, invested their lives, and raised families who can look back and say "their word was as good as their bond."

It is a matter not to be passed over easily, nor one to be cured by the sitting of a court and the handing out of sentences suited to the various shortcomings. It is a force that bends the knee to the almighty dollar; it is a passion that spells success in terms of gains that must be taken in a dark room and counted with the blinds pulled down.

Canada can be no greater than the quality of her citizenship, and there is no one thing in this quality finer than a conscience—private and public—that instinctively rebels at a suggestion that is not right, or that abhors the mention of graft. We need a great spiritual awakening, and a recharging of our manhood with the rugged honesty that we so admire in the men who first gave form and being to our young nation.

### Government Control In B. C.

Ontario has the choice on October 23 of deciding between our present law regarding the liquor traffic or that of sale by government shops. It is well that government sale elsewhere should be considered. Is it a better thing than we have today? If it is, the people of Ontario should vote for it—if it is not they should turn against it in a very emphatic way.

British Columbia has government control, and we already have the echoes of it in the Ontario campaign. Ontario people have been in the coast province, many of them, and they bring back varying reports on what they have seen. These impressions do not form the most reliable documents on which to form a conclusion, because they touch only at various points; the trips were mostly of short duration, and for that reason preclude a well-grounded review of conditions as they actually exist.

A safer way is to take the evidence of men in British Columbia, regardless of politics or other interests. If they are reliable and in a position to pass an opinion on government control as they have it in British Columbia, their evidence is worth considering.

The first man of any province is its premier. Hon. John Oliver, premier of British Columbia, and leader of the Liberal party there, says:

"Conditions in Vancouver, so far as the sale of beer is concerned, are as wide open as they could be. When I was in Vancouver last week I saw welcome signs on the entrance to beer clubs. Nothing could be much more open than that. No matter what legislation we pass, certain interests will endeavor to weaken its effect."

Hon. H. H. Stevens, M.P. for Vancouver, who

was minister of trade and commerce in the Meighen government, has carried on business in Vancouver for years. He knows that province in thoroughly, and has taken an active part in its public affairs. Mr. Stevens' opinion of government control in British Columbia is as follows:

"Never in the history of the country was bootlegging comparable in magnitude and murderous results to what it is today."

Mayor C. E. Tindall of Vancouver, in his position as chief magistrate of the leading business center on the Pacific coast of Canada, should be in a position to size up the situation. He has seen British Columbia under prohibition and under government control. His opinion of present conditions is:

"We must do something at once. Conditions are deplorable. In every mail I get letters from wives complaining that their husbands are coming home drunk after they have spent their wages at the clubs."

Dr. Ernest Hall, police commissioner of Vancouver, is an official who should have a splendid chance of seeing government control in operation, and judging if it is a good thing from the standpoint of the sobriety of the people. Dr. Hall's views are:

"The government has set out upon a policy of alcoholizing our people for profit; a policy of saturation rather than of control. The encouragement of liquor drinking means the lowering of standards, the pauperizing of the public and the encouragement of lawlessness and crime, but never in the history of British Columbia has liquor been so extensively advertised as it has been in the last three years under government control; never has there been such a persistent attempt to debauch the public, to entice people to drink, to create an appetite for alcohol."

Drunkness, according to police records, has decreased in Ontario under the O. T. A. by at least 40 per cent, while British Columbia under government "control" furnishes the following facts:

An increase in the amount of liquor sold of 500 per cent; 70 per cent increase in police costs, 87 per cent increase in the cost of administering justice, and 200 per cent increase in prison population.

On that showing Ontario does not want government sale. In our present law we know what we have, and we know it can be strengthened and made more effective. Ontario does not want a system that is publicly denounced by the leading men of British Columbia, who have an excellent opportunity to observe the fallacies of government control.

### The Old and New Germany.

Despatches from Berlin indicate a state of affairs between the German government and the Hohenzollerns, a condition not generally understood. The former reigning house of Germany still retains estates valued at \$300,000,000.

Movements on the part of the state to take over these properties have invariably been unsuccessful because the cases have come before judges who had been put into office by the Hohenzollerns. The state has reason to fear that if the family continues to hold the properties, consisting of estates, castles and villas, that either by transfer or manipulation it will be rendered powerless to secure them.

There is a new Germany and an old Germany. The old Germany was that of the Hohenzollerns, with all its military swank, its building up of the few at the expense of the many. It worshipped at the shrine of war, and it made men fodder for cannons. The new Germany is struggling to get its feet on a path where there is equality in citizenship; in this move it is being financed by other nations whose only desire is that after the birth pains of years the new Germany shall be a nation in every sense of the word.

Between these two forces there may be an understanding, but there can be no compromise. The new Germany must swallow the old, and until this is done the old Germany is going to hold on to just as much as it can possibly sprawl its form across.

And where do these \$300,000,000 holdings stand in regard to reparations? Is it possible that the Hohenzollerns, who wrecked Germany, can continue to hold possession of their hundreds of millions, while the mass of the people in Germany have wondered for years past where the meals for the next day were coming from?

The new Germany must come clear of the old entanglements and do it quickly. To continue allowing the Hohenzollerns to hold these enormous estates is tying a chain and ball to the foot of the new nation.

### Note and Comment.

One fine thing about autumn is that the weeds die a natural death.

As one exchange aptly puts it: Britain and Russia have decided to be friends until debt do them part.

You may be a very ardent supporter of the O. T. A., but if your name is not on the voters' list, you can't vote.

Visitors to Moscow have to pay \$50 tourist fees, and the Montreal Gazette does not believe the show is worth the price.

People who object to paying for their paper a year in advance can easily overcome that objection by paying two or three years at once.

La Follette, leader of the third party in United States, is drawing fire from both the old parties, all of which indicates that he will poll a good vote.

After spending some weeks in New York the Prince of Wales stopped 15 minutes on the way through Montreal. Any comment to be filled in by the Montreal papers.

There's just one thing wrong with those bathing beauties that are stuck on auto windshields. They are shown in the act of diving, whereas in real life they only sit on the beach.

The shoe dealers may be responsible for the literature that is being put out showing the advantage of walking. The taxi drivers deny that they had anything to do with it.

## Rarebits By Rex

CULTURE UNAPPRECIATED.  
I was told, not in vain, that the best way to gain any pretty young maid's adoration was to make her realize I am wonderfully wise. By affecting high-brow conversation; So I studied enough philosophical stuff To write out a second rate thesis, And I learned (what a bore!) so much classical lore That I nearly got mental paresis.

Then armed from the ground with a wisdom profound, I called on a wealthy young siren, And started to quote all the stuff Browning wrote, As well as Defoe, Kant and Byron. On old Schopenhauer I spoke for an hour, And I thought as she sat on the chesterfield that Her eyes showed intense admiration.

Then abruptly she rose and my blood nearly froze As she yelled to her sister: "Oh, Daisy! Come down to me quick for I'm nearly scared sick— There's a guy in this house that's gone crazy!"

Mr. Robb is now making an inventory of how many people work in government offices. At a rough guess we would say about two-thirds of them.

The worst murderer we know is our next door neighbor who sings to kill time.

We understand now why that new Parisian color is called "messenger-boy-blue." It's guaranteed not to run.

Edgar Guest says poets are born, not made. But isn't a bit mean of Edgar trying to put the blame on his mother?

After smoking one of the cigars which the boss reserves for his friends we'd hate to try the brand he reserves for his enemies.

A girl who wants her own way before marriage usually goes on wanting it after marriage.

Our cafe waiter is nothing if not considerate. Yesterday he warned us to be careful of the soup because it was so hot it had scalded both his thumbs.

A campaign has commenced advertising sausages. We never thought any ad writer would descend to such doggerel.

### PUN.

Though Cupid pierces manly hearts With arrows that are sure and slow, I've noticed that it usually takes A pretty girl to draw the beau.

Edward Schultz, Cleveland millionaire, explains as his reason for going on the stage that his friends "egged him on." And we have no doubt but that the audience will egg him off.

"Coolidge Says He Began Life as Newsboy"—Headline. This disproves for once and all the theory that he began it as an infant.

Now that Jack Johnson has turned evangelist it won't surprise us to hear that Arthur Meighen has turned optimist.

"On the sea of matrimony are numerous squalls," says Havelock Ellis. The married man with a baby doesn't have to be told this twice.

### Fickle Things

Away last spring we took a barrel and in it sat a speckled hen, we handed her a dozen eggs and from that lot she hatched out ten. She tended them as best she could, she scratched holes in the onion bed, she strangled fish worms by the neck to keep her family fat and fed.

The birds grew up as all birds do. I looked at them each passin' day, and tried to figure out how soon the new hatched birds would start to lay.

Ah, there was one, a goodly chick, the pick of all that hen's old flock. I knew that bird would be a peach, descendin' from good layin' stock.

But just today when I was out a-wonderin' if they ceased to grow, this bloomin' thing he flapped a wing and showed me how he'd learned to crow.

Yes I had planned by winter time them birds would lay a egg each day, and I would feed them buckwheat cakes and nest 'em in the finest hay, but from the ten inside the coop, I heard 'em and I ought to know, there's eight who think their job in life is showing just how well they crow.

No matter what the words I say, nor how I stearn, nor yet how cruel, they're bent on makin' of that coop a sort of rooster crownin' school. This barnyard rumpus grates my ear, these chicks what ain't but six months born, they're crownin' all the afternoon, they're crownin' in the early morn.

It was a measly trick to do, that speckled hen she was a fraud, she handed me a lump of clay when I had wished for sun cured cod.

We'll swing the axe around, by heck, on wish-bones chant our hymn of hate, but then we'll have to go again and buy stale eggs from out a crate.—ARK.

### Romance in C

Charles Crasheim caught Clarence Coldest courting Constance Cuddley. Charles coughed clamorously, causing chaotic confusion. Constance's cheeks chalked. Charles called conflict. Clarence cheerlessly consented. Combatants circled cautiously. Charles caught Clarence couple crushing cuffs. Clarence, colliding chair, collapsed convulsively. Cool, collected, Charles east cowardly, cringing Clarence convenient clothes closet. Charles' countenance conveyed crustiness. Constance cried coyly. Confided, convincingly, cause commotion. Cupid cunningly captured Charles. Constance's consternation ceased. Consolated, continued Charles' captivity. Charles capitulated. Catastrophe collapsed. Conclusion: Chimes, church, cottage containing contented couple.

### Press Comment

A Great Thing To Learn.  
Teach your children that home is a place where everything should be pleasant, and you will have taught them one of the most valuable lessons in life.—Youth's Companion.

### He Eats Down Town.

A New York judge has ruled that a felonious assault on a waiter with a knife is only a minor offense. He is probably a frequenter of hotel dining-rooms.—Buffalo Commercial.

## Dr. Frank Crane

### The Aeroplane and the Future

There is little doubt that the means of rapid communication in the future will be the aeroplane.

Recently a thirty-three-hour service began between New York and San Francisco. This cuts the time by rail, sixty-three hours.

Most of the pioneer work has been done by the government and the army, which is but natural, as the railroads, who should have done this, are too conservative to undertake such enterprise.

It is not unreasonable to believe that in time to come the aeroplane will be as common as the automobile.

There are very many persons already in the United States who are running automobiles and who are familiar with their machinery. These can easily become drivers of aeroplanes.

For national defense, the aeroplane is a more sensible means than anything else. Keeping up great battleships, which have no use in commerce, costs a great deal. We need something which can be used in time of peace and can be easily transferred to the army in time of war.

This is the aeroplane. And a nation that can summon fifty or a hundred thousand aeroplanes at a moment's notice will be invincible.

The command of the air, therefore, if it can be made useful for commerce and transportation, can also be made useful for attack and defense.

It is always interesting to look into the future and see what will happen or what is likely to happen. We may depend upon

the future being a development of those tendencies at present in operation.

It is reasonable to suppose that the predominating forces of the future will be in the air and that nation will command the future which shall command the air. Communication by radio is being rapidly developed and radio will undoubtedly become a unit. If the aeroplane keeps pace with this, and if it continues to develop as a practical machine, we may look forward to its future with interest.

The attempt to unite all nations in a common government, and to induce each nation to give up such portion of its sovereignty as shall be necessary to that common government, was made at the close of the last war, but it does not seem entirely successful. We have chosen to fall back to the old order, which consists in making each nation impregnable to the other and, at least so long as we continue to be of this opinion, it shall be necessary to develop the internal resources of every country to resist attack by the others.

### To the Editor

#### Entering the States.

Best Way To Secure Information Is To State Your Particular Case To U. S. Consul.

Editor of The Advertiser:

Sir—Would you tell me through your paper what the laws are about

entering the United States to lived not at the present time, but in spring. Husband is a Canadian born, and his wife is an Englishwoman, who has lived in Canada fourteen years. CONSTANT READER.

Stratford, Sept. 18.  
The most satisfactory way to secure this information, as it applies to your particular case, would be to write to U. S. consul, R. Taggart, at London. In this way there would be no possibility of a misunderstanding.—Ed. Advertiser.

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