The Weekly Ontario

Morton & Herity, Publishers

The DAILY ONTARIO is published every afternoon (Sundays and holidays excepted) at The Ontario building, Front Street, Belleville, Ontario. Subscription $3.00 per annum.

The WEEKLY ONTARIO and Bay of Quinte Chronicle is published every Thursday morning at $1.00 a year, or $1.50 a year to the United States.

ADVERTISING RATES on application.

TELEPHONE MAIN 99, with private exchange connecting all departments.

W. H. Morton, Business Manager. J. O. Herity, Editor-in-Chief.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1915.

HIGHER TAXES.

The assertion is being very generally made that the passage of local option will increase the tax-rate in Belleville. Many people would be willing to pay the difference in order to have a dry Belleville, but there are others who would hesitate to support the by-law if they thought it involved an increase to their already high taxes.

The payment of the annual fine imposed by the city assessor is never a popular pastime. And, if local option involved going a little deeper into the pocket, then local option would become about as popular as a poor relation who came to board with you through a long winter when provisions were scarce. We are told that the cutting off of licenses will result in a reduction of the value of the buildings now used as hotels and a reduced assessment. We will also lose the license fee and the business assessment.

Belleville now has fourteen licensed hotels. Thse hotels are assessed, it is said, for $170,000 at the present time.

We do not know how correct the impression may be, but there is a very general impression abroad that if local option does not carry here that the License Commission will apply the axe to about six or seven of these alleged hotels. As to the remainder, it is a fair question to ask if they will be likely to pay less taxes if they are deprived of the bar, and also how that deficiency if it comes, will be made up and by whom.

To answer that question, let us consider the experience of Stirling, because Stirling's experience is somewhat typical and its location is near at hand.

Under license, Stirling had three hotels and a liquor shop. It now has two hotels only. The store where liquor was dispensed now accommodates a boot and shoe merchant. The block formerly used as a hotel has been purchased by Reeve Coulter. In one section of the block the Union Bank finds a home. In the very place where the bar was located the Agricultural department for the district has taken up quarters. At the other end a laundry is housed. In the upper flats several families are comfortably domiciled. We were informed that Reeve Coulter actually derives a larger income from his building than the previous proprietor obtained as rental from the license-holder.

There is not in all Stirling a vacant house or a vacant store. A man tried a short time ago, so we were told, to rent a couple of rooms for the winter and did not succeed in finding them. More important still, there is not a poor family in the whole corporation.

We do not know whether or not the rate has actually increased, but if so there is a prosperous, thrifty, sober population that has the ready money to pay all demands. Stirling has put up nearly twice as much in proportion as Belleville has done for patriotic purposes.

We have not the exact figures, but it is probable that Stirling's three hotels and its liquor shop received in the neighborhood of $40,000 per annum from the sale of liquor. In exchange they paid a certain amount of taxes and license fees. They also gave to their patrons big heads, irregular and dissolute habits, empty pocket books and, in many cases, half-starved or neglected families. We all know only too well the process of degeneration worked by booze.

That same annual expenditure of $40,000 has, since the passage of local option, gone into other channels of trade, and for products that leave no big heads, addled brains, mania for bar-room loafing or polluted family atmosphere. The result is bigger stores, better stores, and business men who are prosperous because their customers are steady and prosprous and pay for what they get.

"What! go back to the slop, and whiskey and booze?" said Mr. Luery, a leading merchant to our representative, "not on your life!"

That $40,000 has gone into general circulation and a lot more along with it. For the men who supplied that $40,000 of revenue for the bars are now, many of them, working full time for higher wages or are looking more strictly after business. They spend more because they earn more.

Look this question of increased taxation fairly, squarely, honestly in the face and you will find that it is a dream, a supposition, quite as empty as are most of the arguments that are this week being over-worked.

If Stirling were being taxed to extremes, and local option increased drunkenness and drove farm trade away, the merchants there would be piling over one another in their anxiety to secure local option's repeal.

Have you heard any talk of repeal at Stirling? If so, it has never been loud enough to reach the ears of the council or the clerk.

And what about those 252 other municipalities that might have brought on repeal votes this year and didn't do so? Are they all so wedded to their crazy "half-baked" temperance notions that they will go on year after year meekly submitting to ruinous taxation?

Local option increases taxes? To those who make such a claim we would answer in the chaste, beautiful language of Jimmy Simpson, "Fergit it."

AN ORDERLY CAMPAIGN.

One of the outstanding features of the present local option campaign in this city has been the freedom so far from the intense personal feeling and bitterness that has almost universally characterised contests at other places and times. Exceeding deep earnestness there is on both sides, but up to the present there has been less of the yellow kind of campaigning than we sometimes have seen in parliamentary elections. Some episodes there have been that border on the humorous, others there were in which the argument was warm and sparks began to fly. But on the whole the campaign has been until now the most creditable to both sides that has come within the range of our experience. It is to be hoped that the same restraint will be observed up till the polling of the last vote on Monday afternoon.

It is of coruse expecting too much to look for hotelkeepers and others, more or less directly connected with that business, to sit quietly by and not put up a vigorous fight to retain their special privileges.

This is a democratic country. The people rule. It was by our representatives, elected by a majority of the people, that the license laws were framed and the hotel-men given their exclusive rights, year by year, for the sale of intoxicants.

Hotelkeepers are therfore doing nothing more nor less than any other citizen has a right to do when they seek to influence the people by legitimate means, to continue to extend those exclusive privileges.

There is nothing wrong about the fight as long as the fighting is fair. The rules of the game are clearly defined by statute and no one has any reason to complain as long as local optionist or licensed victualler adheres to the letter and spirit of the regulations.

But where great financial interests are involved the temptation is exceedingly strong to use methods and employ weapons that are no credit, if indeed they are not a source of weakness, to those who take them up.

The license system should stand or fall by its own merits as a method of dealing with the liquor traffic. But where its devotees have sought to perpetuate the system by the purchase of saleable voters, by intimidation of invertebrate business men, by wholesale misrepresentation, by savage use of the boycott, by freshets of free whiskey and cart-loads of election cigars, by breaking every known law for the government of polling that it was safe to tamper with—when they have done these things recklessly, brasenly, brainlessly, they have sometimes gained their own immediate ends, but they have imposed upon their decent law-abiding brethren elsewhere a load of obloquy as heavy as it was undeserved.

As long as the rules of the game are decently observed neither temperance crank nor bar-polisher will have any right to complain.

Will Belleville witness the miracle of a local option contest where both sides put up a clean fight?

Having had experience we indulge in no prophecies.

THE SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS.

The shortage of doctors in the London hospitals is leading to serious difficulties. In one central hospital where there are normally three house surgeons and three house physicians the work is now being done by three doctors who are badly overworked, and in some hospitals senior students are being employed on the staff. A London inquest recently brought out the case of a surgeon who had to act as anaesthetist and surgeon at an operation. It is expected that in the New Year matters will become much worse. Students who are now completing their course are being urged by the military authorities to join the army as soon as they are through, and in the meantime to get preliminary training in the Officers' Training Corps.

It is well known that the British medical schools are extremely disquieted by the prospect of a still more severe drain upon the diminishing supply of doctors. It does not appear that in London, at any rate, any large number of women have been taken on the staff, although there are special hospitals entirely staffed by women doctors. A suggestion that is being made that a limited number of doctors now serving in the field should be allowed to return home is not at all likely, according to the Manchester Guardian's London correspondent, to be acted upon unless there is a change in the policy of the army medical authorities.

The Repairs to O'Brien's Bridge

(While The Ontario permits the utmost freedom in the expression of opinion by its readers through its columns it does not in any way identify itself with the writer's expressions or opinions.)

To the Editor The Ontario—

Dear Sir,—As a ratepayer of the County of Hastings I would ask you to allow space in your valuable paper to call the attention of the other ratepayers of the County of Hastings to the expenditure on the O'Brien's bridge near Plainfield which to me appears reckless, wasteful, uncalled eachah.ihfN vcT cyponcmfwype for and not in the best interests of the public.

A few years ago a new bridge was built at much expense to the County and the South pier had settled a little on one end and could have been levelled up with very little expense, but the parties who have been appointed to look after the matter evidently did not know what they were doing and would lead one to think they wanted to spend public money instead of saving it. They only had to make enquiries from those who lived near the bridge and had a knowledge of the river and of the conditions before going on with the extravagant expenditure which to my opinion is being incurred.

Mr. Daniel Poucher who has lived close to the bridge many years and crosses it nearly every day informed the engineer and foreman that it had not settled one inch in the past two years, Mr. John Latons who owns the land on both sides of the river, just at the bridge, and crosses it very often in connection with carrying on his farm business, states that it has not settled any for two or three years. These men are both men of judgment and experience in these matters as they have spent many years around the Moira River building dams and bridges and from practical experience are able to form good opinions as to these matters. Mr. William Thrasher who owned the land on which the bridge was built and see it almost daily, affirms that it had not settled in three years, but the men in our county council who have been responsible for this work do not look for information from the sources where they could get the best and reliable information but appoint some one of their number to the office because he is a good fellow or because it is his turn and the idea of fitness for the office is rarely, if ever, considered.

It appears to me that the public money, particularly at this bridge, is expended in such a manner that to the careful ratepayer it would be considered reckless and uncalled for. Why the Council should be so indifferent at the present time when the war is on and we are not only taxed without limit now, but may have to bear a good deal heavier taxes, I cannot undertsand. Our taxes are going up by leaps and bounds and our County debt increasing in an alarming manner and we do not know where it is going to end.

If anything is said to them about the bridge they inform you that they are working under an engineer.

Great loss to the ratepayers by the destruction of the two bridges previously built at great expense at this same place and great loss to the public has been made through the mistakes of the parties who then had control of the matter.

From the facts it does not appear that these men seem to care how much they spend in this matter. I asked the foreman at the bridge if before making all this extra expenditure they had gone down outside the pier to ascertain beyond doubt if the cement pier had settled down on the old pier and found out if it had settled on the old pier if it would not be permanent, the old pier having stood so many years. He said he could not get there because the rip-rapping was too high. Any person who has had experience at all in this matter would know that the rip-rapping at the top, which is made of loose stone, could easily have been removed to ascertain if this was the case and if the cement pier had settled on the old pier that there could not be any further settlement because the old pier had been there for nearly 100 years and had long ago settled as for as it could. Instead of this at great expense they built a coffer dam, drew large amounts of new material, iron, cement, lumber and timber and prepared to pay out a large amount which many of us believe could have been avoided and saved to the County by using good common sense and judgment.

I do not think the ratepayer is entirely faultless in the matter, he elects men without any thought of economy and is happy until his tax bill comes in when he sits up and squeals. He can see the effect but does not look for the cause and I claim that great care should be taken in selecting men for our council and especially in selecting men for these committees and men should be appointed not because of partisan influence or because it is his turn but because he is efficient and suitable for the work.

In reference to this coffer dam, for the last three months enough material has been landed there to build a railway bridge of ordinary dimensions, first a car-load of cement, then a large amount of steel which cost I am informed over $3,000 and a large quantity of timber and lumber, two old boilers, an engine for hoisting purposes, a steam hammer and a lot of machinery for performing this work. Then the work is going on without being pressed and with a wastage of time, in my opinion, and the County has to pay for all of this.

The more this matter is investigated the more it shows a lack of careful management, business detail and good judgment. For two weeks the time has been spent pumping out the water from the coffer dam and to the onlooker it appears to be a perfect failure, the water has not been lowered and still the pay goes on out of the ratepayers' money.

Why a man who claims to be an expert and others who pretend to be competent to act on these committees and manage the matter allow a continuance of such work, is a matter, which to my mind, should be fully explained and investigated. I am of opinion that in the hands of competent parties all of this wastage and blundering could have been avoided. I am still of opinion that if competent parties are placed in charge that a large expediture can be saved to the County. I have been informed by practical men and those who have had experience that this could be done at a much less expenditure of money than is being used there.

I do not think we ought to sit quiet and allow this kind of thing to be going on and if this place is not suitable for the bridge why was the new bridge ever built there when they could go a few rods down the river and find a place which is known to all people around there to be a good bottom and a suitable place for that purpose.

The traffic on one of the busiest roads in the County has been interrupted since the 14th of September and the blundering in my opinion still goes on. It appears to me that somebody should be answerable for all of this and I have taken the liberty of bringing this matter before you because I think it is of the greatest importance to the public and because I would be only too glad to have this matter settled right not only to save unnecessary expenditure in this case but in the many large contracts which must of necessity arise in connection with our county improvements.

Yours truly,

G. N. Brintnell.

STOVES

AT 15 PER CENT DISCOUNT

Before buying, come in and look over our Stoves

DEALER IN ALL KINDS OF

FURNACE SUPPLIES

311 Front St. **H. C. PETTET** Phone 704

John Street Jots.

"Hearing the Angel's Song" was the subject of Sunday morning's service in John Street Church, and the singing of hymn 28 was most appropriate and gave point to the theme. Rev. Mr. Currie chose as his text—Luke 2-14 and his discourse dwelt upon the need of the age when the song was first heard; our present day needs; the many things which interfere with the music; the new message of praise, and peace, and good will brought by the song; the great significant fact of the Incarnation which provokes the song; and the new joy and hope which are become our possession. "Mighty hopes make us men." The preacher then pointed out the following Christmas thoughts, which by their retention will help the coming days—

1 Stars still shine to lead us to the Lord. The Magi saw one but many shine for us.

2 Angel songs are still sung to bear to us the "glad tidings of great joy." This is preeminently the age of song.

3 The humblest may find the Christ. He manifests Himself to the shepherds, humble men without presents or preeminence.

"He lay His infant head
In the manger where the beasts were fed
So that the poorest here might cry
'My Lord was lowly born as I'"

4 Having found Him I've found the world's best, and the central figure in history. All our dates are Anno Domini

5 Angels depart and their song may not longer be heard but Jesus remains and better than the song of angels is His fellowship.

6 Christmas and its observance can have lasting value for us only as we carry its song and its spirit with us through coming days.

The evening service was of a more varied character and the choir provided an interesting musical program some unusual features in the service were the recitation of the creed followed by the singing of the gloria; the responsive reading of Psalm 136 in which the congregation read the refrain in each verse; and the following severe questions on the temperance situation in the city

1 If the traffic in strong drink is an evil, (which every government and church pronounces it) then how can we as a people or I as a man justify its license to do its deadly and nefarious work?

2 Since the Local Option Law is part of the Liquor License Act, and all the machinery available for the enforcement of the license law is available for the enforcement of local option, how can I refuse to support local option on the pretext that it cannot be enforced? This is not British in spirit.

3 Supposing the open bar to be a continued institution in Belleville, it will become necessary to furnish and procure patrons, then what family in John Street Church is ready to furnish the first regular customer—say the father or one of the boys over 15 years.

4 Granted that it is a duty to inculcate self-control in ourselves and others, yet who can justify the setting of a perilous trap for those in whom such self-control is still imperfect.

5 Can I regard myself a person of normal intelligence and be imposed upon by the delusion that the closing of the bars is bad for business.—Owen Sound, Orillia, Bowmanville and a score of other places with years of experience with local option conditions speak of it as "An unqualified success"

6 How shall we defend ourselves in the eyes of the present generation which in the schools, we teach the evils of intemperance and of the use of alcoholic beverages while we license the traffic in these? Hypocrites and fools they will surely call us in less than 50 years from now.

7 Facing an important moral issue I may be helped by a high moral example, and so other questions come What would Jesus do? What would He have me do? Would He vote for the open bar that kills more men than any war? Do not be deceived.

"A New Beginning for 1916" is the watchword announced for next Sunday.

Mr. W. E. Armitage has enlisted in the 155th Battalion, and so the church is about to lose a most efficient and enterprising janitor.

DO THE FARMERS OF PRINCE EDWARD AND HASTINGS WISH TO ADVERTISE THEIR SEED?

Seed fairs are undoubtedly one of the best means for advertising seed grain. Apart from winning prizes, the publicity the seed gets is surely worth while. For instance this year some Prince Edward and Hastings farmers are fortunate enough to have surplus red clover seed. What better place could they get for reaching a wide constituency than the Ottawa winter fair, to be held January 7th, 1916.

During the winter fair at Guelph, the exhibitor of the first prize red clover got $19.50 for his bushel, which he had catalogued at $15 at the public auction of seeds shown in the open class.

Ear corn in Prince Edward and Hastings might find a good market if samples were exhibited, even in competition with western grown corn.

Anyone interested should write W. D. Jackson, secretary of the fair, either at Carp, Ont., or Ottawa, for a prize list. It will show that twice as much money is offered in prizes this year in the open class as a year ago. Send some of your clean, well graded pure seed.

T. G. RAYNOR,
Eastern Ontario Representative of Seed Branch

Another Large Audience

At the Griffin opera house last night another large audience turned out to hear the Empire Players in that sparkling comedy "The Girl Over There" and enjoyed it to the limit. This company is gaining popularity each night and no doubt the capacity of the opera house will be taxed to its utmost during the balance of the week. The company give a change of play each night together with new pictures which are of a very high class and entertaining nature. Tonight "The Girl and the Gambler" will be given. The play is among the best of the Tabloid dramas

OYSTERS

Get your fresh oysters for New Year's here. Nice fresh stock. Solid Meats.

35c a Pint. 70c a Quart.

Christia's Salted Oyster Biscuits

10c a Package.

CHAS. S. CLAPP

MONEY

Private money to loan on Mortgages on farm and city property at lowest rates of interest on terms to suit borrowers.

F. S. WALLBRIDGE,
Barrister, &c.
Corner Front and Bridge Sts., Belleville, over Dominion Bank.

FOR SALE

Four Registered Ayrshire Cows, or Grades, either cash or time. Twenty-four to choose from. T. C. Trevertom, R. R. No. 1 Latta, Ont
d21,23,24-3tw.

FOR SALE.

Lot 25 and 26 in 7th con. Thurlow, 165 acres more or less, good state of cultivation, at Latta, good frame house, two good barns, basement in one for 16 head cattle, first class water. Convenient to church, school, grist mill, blacksmith shop and store Good orchard. For terms apply G. W. Henderson, Latta. s16-wtf

BEDOUIN WOMEN.

They Know Little or Nothing of the World Beyond Arabia.

Time seemed to turn back twenty centuries when I stepped off the Tigris river steamer at Bagdad. Old Testament men in turbans, sandals and quaint flowing robes ("abbas") crowded about, calling each other "Yusif" and "Musa"—Joseph and Moses. From the river's edge veiled women walked away, gracefully upright, carrying on their shoulders tall jars of water—the same style of jars no doubt that held the water when it turned to wine. Sheep are slain to seal a vow, and the blood covenant is common.

With their own shapely hands Arab women still wash the feet of honored guests; upon their own heads they heap handfuls of dust when they mourn for their dead children, and should a Bedouin woman sin her brother may cut her throat, and the tribe will applaud his awful act of righteous wrath.

Arab women live, love, slave and die knowing little of their Christian sisters in the western world

Few Arab women I met had ever even heard of America. One or two, whose husbands sold wool and dates to Bagdad traders, knew there was such a place as "Amerique," but they believed it merely a part of that far away land called London, whence came their bright calico and the cheap guns used by the sheiks in tribal wars. Even the men can tell the women little of the world beyond the desert's rim.

For all the average Arab woman knows of America, she might as well live on Mars. My serving maid, Nejibah (the star), asked me if I came to Bagdad from Amerique by railway train. Once on this ancient plain, however, lived wise women—the consorts of kings—whose names and fame come down to us through the centuries.—National Geographic Magazine.

$100 REWARD, $100

Thereaders of this paper will be pleased to learn that there it at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure inall its stages, and that is catarrh. Catarrh being greatly influenced by constitutional conditions requires constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally and acts through the blood on the Mucous Surfaces of the System thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in the curative powers of Hall's Catarrh Cure that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials.

Address: F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, Ohio Sold by all Druggists, 75c.