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**THE LONDON ADVERTISER COMPANY,  
LIMITED.**  
London, Ont., Friday, Sept. 26.

**AGAINST DIRECT ACTION.**  
It is reassuring to find that many of the  
greatest labor leaders are openly and actively  
opposed to extremism as a means of advancing  
the interests of labor. The fear that constitu-  
tional methods would be swept aside, that a  
minority would be enabled to ride roughshod  
over the rights of all others, is lessened when  
we know that big leaders of British and Ameri-  
can trades unionists refuse to sanction any-  
thing that approaches the revolutionary, and in  
fact, in many cases are strongly conservative.  
Mr. Arthur Henderson, recently re-elected to  
the British Commons by a large majority and  
who during the first years of the war was  
labor's representative in the cabinet, is un-  
compromisingly hostile to the use of any but  
legal weapons in industrial warfare. The use  
of direct action, for instance, he considers  
foolish and dangerous. In a recent issue of an  
English labor organ, he says:

When the policy of direct action is exam-  
ined from the Parliamentary Labor view-  
point there do not appear to me any argu-  
ments to be advanced in its favor. In a  
country such as ours, with its broadened  
franchise and where representative institu-  
tions count for so much, it appears to me  
that such a policy is both unnecessary and  
dangerous. . . . To endeavor to force  
the country, and upon the Government  
by illegitimate means, the policy of a sec-  
tion of the entire community—it may only  
be a minority of the community—is, I re-  
peat, a dangerous policy, and is altogether  
undemocratic. Such a course involves the  
abrogation of Parliamentary Government,  
establishes the dictatorship of the minority,  
and might easily destroy eventually all our  
constitutional liberties.

This is sound common sense that should  
tend to steady the reeling industrial situation  
in the old land and curb certain labor leaders  
who would take a short cut to the securing  
of their demands, regardless of the injustice  
it would put on the great mass of the people.  
It is significant that Mr. Henderson should  
have had such a sweeping victory at the polls  
in view of his stand on this question. It is  
quite within the range of possibilities that he  
will shortly be premier of Great Britain. In any  
event he will hold a strong position in the next  
cabinet. That he is immovably opposed to any  
political progress for labor that is not based on  
constitutional procedure will restore the con-  
fidence of the general public in British democ-  
racy, the trust in the world.

**IT DOES NOT PAY.**  
One of the great issues in the momentous  
liquor question soon to come up for decision  
by the people of Ontario is the matter of na-  
tional economy. The stringency of the war  
brought attention everywhere to the waste of  
the vast trade in intoxicants.  
Everywhere food is wanted. In devastated  
Europe, where the male workers of robust age  
have been destroyed in millions, in India where  
a terrific famine combined with plague is rag-  
ing, and here in America, where bread is twice  
the price it was before the war, and sugar rises  
gradually out of the poor man's reach. By  
many it is considered criminal to waste any  
grain and sugar in either five or ten per cent  
drinks that might keep from starvation an  
Italian or Hindu family.

Then again, it is held that the  
adoption of prohibition in thoroughgoing  
form by the United States is going to  
give that country a start over other  
countries in sheer economic power, unless  
those countries similarly remove from them-  
selves the handicap of the liquor waste. Many  
occupations have already long observed the in-  
dustrial advantage in total abstinence of the  
workers employed. When this industrial ef-  
ficiency is made national by prohibition en-  
forced as the leaders of the American people  
are evidently determined to enforce it, the ad-  
vantage that will be possessed by the United  
States becomes readily apparent.

If it be argued that "personal liberty" will  
offset the efficiency of teetotalism, the answer  
is that personal liberty is no liberty at all when  
it conflicts with the general welfare, but only  
anarchic license. An army would accomplish  
nothing if not rigidly disciplined. So it is with  
the industrial accomplishment of a nation, it  
must be secured by regulation of all by all and  
for all.

Drink must be curbed, if we are to keep  
our place in the strenuous period of world life  
and reconstruction that is now opening. We  
need all our strength, and not only for our-  
selves, but for the general service of humanity.

#### WHY THE NEGRO IS RESTLESS.

The migration northward of negroes in the  
United States during the last three years has  
been an interesting phenomenon of the war-  
time period and illustrative of the very marked  
industrial changes that may take place even  
within the limits of one section of the popula-  
tion. According to a report of the department  
of labor at Washington, between 200,000 and  
300,000 negroes moved out of the south after  
1916, attracted by the high wages and oppor-  
tunities for employment, and despairing of any  
improvement in either their social or economic  
position in the old south. That this movement  
of population was not without its effects in the  
north has been seen in the series of race riots  
that have taken place in Chicago, Washington  
and elsewhere, and even by some small mani-  
festations of displeasure with an increasing  
colored population in one or two border cities  
of Canada.

The migration in itself is economic, the  
desire of the colored man to better his position.  
In a recent number of the Journal of Negro

History a large number of letters are reprinted  
that were written by negroes in the south to  
employment agencies in Chicago, asking about  
the prospects of securing work. In their curi-  
ous, illiterate wording and spelling they be-  
tray all too well the seeking after some more  
satisfying existence than that which the south  
can provide. But there is more than merely  
the desire for change; there is evidence of an  
awakening in the negro mind that is very large-  
ly due to his participation in the war. Like all  
other citizens of the republic, the colored man  
was called into service. That he was shown  
no favors goes without saying; that he was  
discriminated against in several particulars is  
a matter of common knowledge. Of this there  
was an example no later than July 14, Bastille  
Day, in Paris, when in the Victory Parade,  
participated in by every nation that had been  
in the war, there was not one black face among  
the thousands of Americans who marched be-  
fore Joffre, Foch, Haig and Pershing, although  
at that very moment there were over 1,000  
negro troops just outside the city. The French  
papers drew attention to this fact, recalling  
that three regiments of American negro troops  
had been decorated by the French Government  
for bravery.

This treatment corresponds to that which  
has been meted out to the 200,000 colored men  
who went to France and have returned. With  
rare exceptions the negro troops have been  
hurried through the cities, disbanded at some  
outlying point and scattered to the four corners  
of the country as quickly as possible. The con-  
trast between this treatment and the bands,  
arches, and triumphal processions accorded to  
divisions that did far less, but whose skin was  
of another color, was sunk deep into the negro's  
mind, and is one of the causes of the discon-  
tent that prevails. Southern influence has been  
responsible for this, no doubt, as it was respon-  
sible for the fact that almost all the officers  
in charge of colored troops were drawn from  
the south. They made the most of their op-  
portunity to "put the nigger in his place."

It is not the place of Canadians to sit in  
righteous judgment upon their neighbors to the  
south in this matter. The best minds that the  
republic has produced have not been able to  
solve the difficulty, nor will the solution be  
easily found while one section of the country  
is determined that the colored race must be  
kept in ignorance and sloth and ruled by fear.  
The constructive element which seeks to ele-  
vate the race by education and training faces  
a barrier almost insurmountable when it finds  
prejudice still able to control the action of the  
federal power. Their efforts are nullified by  
the fact that culture, education and morality  
seem to count for so little when weighed in  
the scale against color. It is not a hopeless  
situation by any means, but it is one that  
directly or indirectly is affecting every citizen  
of the United States.

#### THE MAN WHO DIDN'T DRILL.

When the war came to Canada in 1914 and  
patriotic fervor moved citizens in all ranks of  
life to do something "to win the war," members  
of the faculty of a certain Canadian university  
met in solemn session and decided that though  
not eligible for active service, they would send  
a certain number of hours each day in military  
drill on the campus. And so they lined up, the  
professor of Greek and the instructor in Eng-  
lish, the associate in mathematics and the  
lecturer in anatomy, all solemnly determined  
to "do their bit." No, not all, for there was one  
man on that faculty who laughed when they  
invited him to join them and he seemed to  
smile in a curious way whenever he passed by  
where the awkward squad were engaged in  
their patriotic task. But very shortly after-  
ward this lagard took passage for England, and  
he was a specialist in lines upon which the  
King's navy was likely to need advice, and was  
promptly given an office and set to work. In  
the Admiralty he has remained until the last  
week or so, and for two or three years past  
he has borne the title of Scientific Advisor to  
the British Admiralty, a title which has real  
meaning, for his contributions to winning the  
war were outstanding. In a letter to one of  
his colleagues some little time back he rather  
mischievously asked: "Are you all drilling  
yet?"

Moral: It is the man who doesn't do the  
obvious that gets there.

#### EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Prince of Wales has reached the  
Pacific coast, and thus has captured half a  
continent.

Villa accusing Carranza of many crimes is  
the most vivid instance on record of the pot  
calling the kettle black.

Herbert Hoover says the way to bring down  
the cost of shoes is to refuse to buy them.  
About the only folk to whom this will not sound  
foolish are those who are taking the dew cure  
for bunions.

To those who may still be confused as to  
the referendum ballot it is explained that on  
the ballot there will be a "yes" and a "no"  
column. Four questions will be put to the  
voter, to each of which answer must be made  
by marking a cross in one column or the other.  
A cross must be placed opposite each of the  
four questions in one column or the other. Un-  
less this is done the ballot will be spoiled.

#### THE GLAD HEREAFTER.

"What do you know about the hereafter?"  
asked the Sunday school teacher.  
"We're going to be very rich then," spoke up  
the small boy.  
"That so? What makes you think so?"  
"I overheard Pa telling Ma last night that  
hereafter they were going to cut out all foolish  
expenses and start in saving money."

#### NO ALARM.

The big navy men of England are trying to  
alarm the country by saying that the United States  
navy is now more formidable than that of Great  
Britain. The big navy men of the United States  
are saying that nearly all the American naval ves-  
sels should be in drydock; that the vessels are all  
undermanned, and that half of the officers are  
trying to resign because the pay is too small.  
There is no noticeable alarm among the taxpayers  
of either country.

#### REGRETTABLE.

The new dinner gowns, says an alarming Paris  
fashion note, will be mostly below the table. It  
seems a shame to waste so much lovely material.

## From Here and There

### FOREST FIRES FROM FRICTION.

It is usually assumed that forest fires, when not  
the result of a stroke of lightning, are the result  
of carelessness on the part of lumbermen, campers,  
picknickers, or wayfarers. A French scientist, Mr.  
G. Raymond, denies this, and offers several interest-  
ing hypotheses in a brief article in La Nature (Paris)  
to account for spontaneous fires. He notes first that  
such fires always occur under the same conditions,  
namely, when the weather is dry, hot and windy,  
as for example during the blowing of the "mistral"  
in Southern Europe. To begin with, he considers it  
entirely possible that the dry and resinous branches  
of a pine forest might develop enough friction in a  
high wind to start a fire, the case being analogous  
to the method in which various savages obtain fire  
by a "fire stick." Again, minute drops of resin,  
spherical in form, might act as lenses to bring the  
sun's rays to a focus, thus setting fire to the in-  
flammable materials around them.

A third suggestion is that since the ground of a  
pine forest, covered with needles and other de-  
composing matter, often acquires a very high degree  
of heat in the summer months, even a temperature  
above 100 degrees Fahrenheit, there may result  
catalytic effects in the presence of impalpable  
resinous substances.

Lastly, Mr. Raymond considers the effect of a  
possible engendering of frictional electricity in scraps  
of bark, pine needles, etc., driven hither and thither  
by the wind. It is, indeed, a well-known fact that  
in the right weather conditions many persons can  
light a gas jet merely by pointing a finger at it,  
after shuffling rapidly over the carpet so as to de-  
velop a large amount of electricity through fric-  
tion. Similarly the mere shaking of a blanket in the  
Sahara often causes it to emit a shower of sparks.

Aprons of this, the African explorer, Fourreau,  
often mentions that the lightning being the blowing  
of the simoon in the desert his pocket compass was  
rendered utterly unreliable by reason of the elec-  
tricity developed in the glass cover by the friction  
of the sand against it, driven before the burning  
wind. So it appears eminently reasonable to con-  
clude that some, at least, of our forest fires may be  
attributed to such causes as these, and that locomo-  
tives and campers and lumbermen may be acquitted  
of responsibility.

### GIVING AWAY THE AUTHORS.

Authors as well as actors are prone to give  
away the game under the lure of "good advertising."  
With the stage it has more than once been pointed  
out that interest has flagged when the mystery, and  
consequently the glamour, has been removed. When  
an acute critic as Mr. Heywood Brown gets a new  
cue can never tell what use he'll make of it to  
strip the glamour from popular writers, as he does  
in the New York Times about Mark Twain and  
others, and all on the basis of a publisher's dis-  
cretion.

It seems to us that Booth Tarkington belongs  
at the top of the list of American writers. We  
will be surprised and disappointed if "Penrod" does  
not persist for a century or so. And yet much of  
Tarkington's work is flawed by a curious failing.  
Almost invariably the novels are carefully thought  
out to a certain point, and then they weaken. This  
point occurs, as a rule, within a chapter or so of  
the end. The story hangs, as the race track re-  
porters express it, in the last few strides. In  
"Ramsey Millard," for instance, it seemed to us  
that Tarkington, after a minute development of a  
theme, cut it off abruptly. He was, according to  
our impression, a little tired and anxious to have  
it over, and he had been very carefully reaching the  
finishing mark. Today we received a story which  
may provide an explanation. "Booth Tarkington,"  
says a publisher's note, "probably uses more lead  
pencils than any other writer in America. Always  
he has disdained a typewriter."

"He works at an artist's drawing-table, and,"  
the story continues, "with a little stock of paper  
before him, he then sets about the actual business  
of composition very slowly, very carefully. Every  
phrase—almost every word—is pondered, balanced,  
scrutinized before it is permitted to pass. As often  
as not a dozen phrases have been rejected before  
the final one which seems to read to his own satis-  
faction has been arrived at. Individual words are  
scored out again and again."

"All this makes the slackening of vigor toward  
the end of a long novel very noticeable. Though  
a man begin with a dozen well-sharpened pencils,  
catastrophes are sure to occur in the course of fifty  
or sixty thousand words. Finally, the author finds  
himself with an aching wrist and only one pencil,  
which has grown a little dull. If he is to write  
another chapter he must pause to find a safety razor  
blade and sharpen up. And so instead he rounds  
off the tale while lead remains."

"On the other hand, we feel certain that Harold  
Bell Wright composes on a typewriter, pausing only  
once every twenty-four hours to oil the machine  
with a little treacle.  
"Robert W. Chambers uses an adding machine,  
and Theodore Dreiser favors an axe."

### THE DRINK PROBLEM IN BRITAIN.

(London Spectator.)  
There are two or three points in the liquor  
problem upon which the whole country, with the  
exception of the extreme temperance people on the  
one side and the liquor trade on the other, is agreed.  
1. The first of these is that total prohibition,  
i. e., "going bone dry," in the American phrase—is  
neither practicable nor desirable in this country.  
complete abstinence from alcoholic liquors ever  
comes, it will come, and ought to come, as a result  
of parliament, but by the conversion of the population  
to the belief that alcohol, even when not taken in  
excess, is a poisonous and harmful drug, and there-  
fore one to be as much shunned as opium or arsenic.  
Personally we do not think that day will ever come.  
Though we believe that alcohol is for the mass of  
mankind not only unnecessary, but, except in small  
quantities, harmful, and believe also that it is a  
sedative which slows down man's physical powers  
instead of increasing their energy, we are inclined  
to think that mankind will always demand a sedative,  
even though in growing moderation.

2. The next point is that the majority of sensible  
people in the country are determined not to go back  
to the pre-war system in regard to the sale of liquor  
—i. e., to allow the trade in intoxicants to be un-  
affected by rules and regulations to as those  
imposed by the control board. The immense bene-  
fits conferred on the nation by the control board are  
too patent to permit such a relapse to what one  
can only describe as the negation of civilization.  
Let anyone who does not see already the sense in  
the trouble to compare the statistics, criminal and  
medical, before and after the establishment of  
control. They constitute perhaps the most poignant  
and illuminating set of figures and figures of ex-  
istence. The result of the strict control of intoxi-  
cants—of forcing moderation in drink upon the  
people of this country by withdrawing excessive  
facilities for consumption of liquor and by reducing  
its strength, was at once immensely to diminish  
what one may call the semi-crimes of the overlying  
and prosecutions, not only for being drunk and dis-  
orderly, but for the more serious crimes caused by  
alcoholic excess, greatly decreased in number. Next,  
what one may call the semi-crimes of the overlying  
of children by drunken and half drunken women, and  
of suicides among both men and women, were cut  
down by something like a half. Finally, the medical  
returns of alcoholism and delirium tremens suffered  
the same startling and beneficent diminution. One  
may add without fear of contradiction that no think-  
ing man, nor doctor, could deny that these tables  
without saying: "Come what may, and whatever my  
own opinion or habits in regard to the taking of  
alcohol, we will not go back to the pre-war horrors  
resulting from the free sale of alcohol." Even if  
responsible people who have never exceeded, and who  
never by any possibility could become alcohol maniacs  
or criminals, or commit suicide, or overlay children,  
should be inconceivably glad if it only they  
know what it has done, and will continue to do, for  
the morals and health of the population. We should  
be eternally disgraced as a nation if we were once  
more to let loose uncontrolled trading in intoxicants  
upon the country.

3. A third fact which has emerged from war  
experience is that, though the state cannot and does  
not make a very successful trader in liquor or in  
anything else, restaurants and public-houses run by  
public authorities like the control board can in  
essentials give the public what they want. They  
can also convert bars and drinking-shops into poor  
men's restaurants, places where the non-alcoholic  
beverages and foods stand out in their proper  
proportions, and are not the shop-soiled and poor  
relations of rum, beer and whiskey—the true aristocrats  
of the licentious house.

## The Advertiser's Daily Short Story

(Copyright, 1919, by the McClure  
Newspaper Syndicate.)

"ARTIE."  
By Dora Molian.

When Sarah Moltrope married Ar-  
thur Allen she changed the style of  
"doing" her hair. Grandmother Mol-  
trope disapproved. "Sarah," she said  
in her precise, mild way, "your hair  
was very becoming part-d the mid-  
dle as you have always worn it. Now  
that you have changed the parting so  
far to one side it gives you a very  
unbalanced appearance. And I have  
noticed in my long life," she added  
whimsically, "that exterior looks exert  
a pronounced influence on one's men-  
tal processes." To which Sarah an-  
swered one word, "Nonsense."

Two months later, in January, Mol-  
trope again spoke to her favorite  
grandchild on the same subject:  
"Sarah," she said gently but decid-  
edly, "you are giving too much time to your  
house and not enough to Arthur. I  
will give you a more balanced ap-  
pearance." Sarah shut her mouth  
tight on some words she would have  
spoken had this repeated advice come  
from anyone but her beloved gran-  
nie. It was directly after this that  
night that Arthur proposed to his wife  
Sykes' house next door. "I hate to  
miss a day, dear. The poor fellow  
looks forward so much to my visits.  
It's no joke to be confined to one room  
for months you know, and I've made  
anyway, excuses to Mr. Sykes on your  
account," she pleaded. "He came along  
this time."

"It's not necessary for you to make  
any at all," Sarah answered. "You  
know what I think of that woman—  
she's a perfect nuisance. She's inter-  
fered with my hair and my dress, and  
my manner and in her dress. Any-  
way, it's impossible for me to go to  
work. I never leave my supper dishes, you  
know."

This last was a thinly-veiled  
accusation of Mrs. Sykes's house-  
keeping methods Arthur knew. "Yes, I  
know," he said, "but I don't care. I  
want to do on my account. With  
these words Sarah's husband slammed  
the kitchen door behind him.  
For a moment Sarah felt stunned. It  
was the first time Arthur had ever  
spoken to her in that way. She had  
even harsher things of her next-door  
neighbor, who had only recently moved  
into the village. A married woman  
who wore her hair bobbed and went  
on the street dressed as Mrs. Sykes  
did was capable of anything, Sarah  
decided. Could Grandma Moltrope's  
words have carried a hidden meaning?  
Were they intended as a veiled  
warning? Was the invalid the only  
attraction next door? In spite of her  
queror dress, Mrs. Sykes was pretty.  
Here Sarah's thoughts were inter-  
rupted by the sharp ringing of the  
telephone.

It was an out-of-town call. Mr.  
Allen was wanted. Sarah ran out to  
the edge of her lawn and called. There  
was no answer. She went farther—  
to the foot of the Sykes front steps—  
and was about to repeat her call from  
there. But she didn't. And this is  
why: "Through the screen door came  
the soft contralto voice of Mrs. Sykes:  
"Oh, Artie dear! You don't know how  
heavily it is just to sit in your lap  
a while and feel your comforting  
arms."

It was enough. Sarah paused to listen  
no longer. Even ignoring the receiver  
left off the hook, she ran straight  
down the street to Grandma Mol-  
trope. That wise old lady listened  
silently, stroking the one-sided part  
in her favorite grandchild's hair mean-  
ingfully.  
"My dear," Grandma Moltrope spoke  
in her usual gentle voice, "you stay  
right here. I will go and see what all  
this is about." Sarah didn't remem-  
ber to repeat her call from the street  
strut, just buried her head a little  
deeper in the sofa cushion and waited.  
All her life she had gone to Grandma  
Moltrope when in trouble and she  
had never failed her yet.

It seemed hours since grandma's cane  
had tapped down the front walk, but  
in reality only a short time had elapsed,  
when Sarah again heard the familiar  
sound. When the old lady entered the  
room, her expression was noncommi-  
tal.

"Now, child," she said, "go upstairs  
and comb your hair over. Part it  
straight down the middle. Then I will  
have something to tell you." Wonder-  
ing, but knowing well that when her  
grandmother used that tone she ex-  
pected to be obeyed, Sarah went  
upstairs. Grandma looked appraisingly  
at Sarah when the latter returned. "It's  
much more becoming that way, child,  
way of naming her furniture after the  
persons who gave it to her. They have  
only a tiny income and she sold most  
of their household things to pay Mr.  
Sykes's hospital bill. So when her phy-  
sician advised her to take her hus-  
band to the country their friends gave  
them enough things to start in on  
again. Now, tonight, just as you went  
over, she sat down, after a particu-  
larly hard day, in a big easy chair  
given by an old cousin of Mr. Sykes  
whom they affectionately call 'Artie.'  
She was talking to it, not to you  
Arthur."

Grandma Moltrope laughed so in-  
fectiously that Sarah joined in against  
her will. "Now, run along home, child,  
and take a notional old woman's ad-  
vice. Never judge a person before  
you know him. He is a clum to you  
husband—not merely his housekeeper.  
And part your hair in the middle,  
child; it's much more becoming."

"Still up visiting with Mr. Sykes  
straight in the middle. Then I will  
have something to tell you." Wonder-  
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