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Toronto Special Representative
Mr. Smallpiece, J. P., 32 Church St.
Toronto, Ont.

A CHVIC-WHITE ELEPHANT

The loss of money which the city has sustained through the purchase and operation of the gas plant has been heavy. What the total will amount to is not now clear but when calculated it will be found to be a large sum indeed.

Analyzing the figures furnished by the Public Utilities Commission which has the responsibility of administering the affairs of the plant for the last year or so, it will be found that they reveal a statement of annual fixed charges which nothing but a miracle could overcome. There seems to be absolutely no possibility of undertaking a policy which will put the plant in a position to earn even eighty or ninety per cent. of its cost of maintenance etc.

In the past, of course, it has been the unfortunate practice of those who have had to do with the utility to fail to take the interest and sinking fund charges into consideration when audits were being made and when estimates were being given to the public as to receipts, expenditures, etc. In other words it was assumed, evidently, that whatever had to be raised annually to meet these two debts should not, in any case, need not be included in the statement put in the yearly audit report of the city. Had these charges been included as indeed they should have been, there would have been a loss of several thousand dollars yearly. Since the plant has gone into the hands of the Public Utilities Commission that body has properly entered these charges with the inevitable result that when they are provided for, there is a deficit for the last year of about \$16,000.

It is a serious reflection on civic administration that the losses on this plant should not have been made known more frankly and completely in the years that have gone. It seems incredible that the ratepayers should have been led to believe that the earnings were meeting the fixed charges and cost of operation when as a matter of fact the loss yearly was several thousand dollars. It is only within the last year that the people have been given a true conception of what they have been facing and what they will have to face till the white elephant is disposed of in a definite and business-like way.

Good news spreads rapidly and draughts here are kept busy dispensing freezons the recent discovery of a Cincinnati man, which is said to loosen any corn so it lifts out with the fingers.

A quarter of an ounce costs very little at any pharmacy, but is said to be sufficient to rid one's feet of every hard or soft corn or callus.

You apply just a few drops on the tender, aching corn and instantly the soreness is relieved, and soon the corn is so shriveled that it lifts out without pain. It is a sticky substance which dries when applied and never inflames or even irritates the adjoining tissue.

This discovery will prevent thousands of deaths annually from lockjaw and infection heretofore resulting from the suicidal habit of cutting corns.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Evidence shows that London, Ont. has a magnificent technical school, splendidly equipped but the attendance is small being in the day classes around one hundred. It does not warrant a policy of large expenditure for an inter-community school in this district.

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'DALLYING WITH THE DEMON'

By H. F. Gadsby

The Demon Rum—in the soft disguise of beer and light wine—is coming back for an intelligent answer. What will Parliament say to him? Will Parliament vote as it drinks? These are delicate questions.

What is the attitude of Parliament toward the liquor problem? Well, I should say it was this—that the boldest holds his breath, which doesn't require much boldness or much holding now that breaths are weak through the increasing scarcity and dearth of strong drink.

One thing is certain—Union Government is not going to give Canada any more prohibition than she actually wants. Prohibition is not a moral question at Ottawa—it is a political one—and it will be decided on the basis of the greatest good for the greatest number of votes. If Quebec says, beer and light wine—if Ontario says the same thing—it's a cinch that Ottawa is not going to say something different.

All of which leads up to the statement that Parliament will not interfere with the domestic arrangements of the provinces further than to see that their domestic arrangements are made secure by federal legislation. In other words Parliament will see to it that the wet provinces keep their wetness to themselves by passing the necessary law to prevent the wetness spilling into the dry spots.

As usual the "drys" are perhaps more evident in their earnestness. They have taken to heart the advice "write to your member of Parliament" and the personal letters come in shoals. Also the petitions—they keep falling like leaves on an autumn day. What the letters chiefly dwell on is the moderation of their request. Nail it down for another year—that is all they ask. It is almost a sign of weakness—an admission that they have bitten off more than they can chew.

But the wets are very much in earnest too. They assail the public with full page advertisements—the newspapers must be waxing fat on these alarms—so that the member of Parliament who runs may read. More over if he doesn't read he may never run again. The result is that timid politicians are finding the courage of their convictions. They begin to indulge in real talk instead of the old cant. They do not overlook the fact that fifteen hundred trades and labor unions, out of nineteen hundred, have asked for better beer and more of it. These are the days when Labor must have its lead. This fact alone is support enough for anything Parliament may do for Labor to make Capital easier in its mind.

It's the poor man that has suffered most. The rich man has had his whisky, his gin, his wine all this time in his well-stocked cellars. As the supply ebbs and the danger of thirst comes nearer, he feels his views of absolute prohibition changing. When he gets another chance he will probably vote for a reasonable liquor policy—something that will lay the ghost but will not banish spirits altogether. But the poor man has had no so-lace. His good beer—his chief substitute for riches—has been taken away and a two and a half per cent. belly-ache put in its place.

Major Power, M.P., believing that this is outrageously unfair, will introduce an amendment, if the situation warrants it, confining all the private supplies so long as the working man does not get a square deal. Major Powers amendment is well contrived. Even the prohibitionists can vote for a policy which puts everybody on an equal footing. If Canada goes bone-dry clear across and clean through—no class exemptions—no hoarding. Sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander.

It is Labor which throws a new light on this question of prohibition—a light which Parliament cannot help seeing. From the great republic to the south comes a cry—no beer, no work. The common sense of Parliament construes that this way—better beer, lesser Bolshevism. Last year, while the war was still on, there were a few parlor Bolshevists who aired their views in Parliament. But now that Bolshevism is a real menace these amateur anarchists have hauled down the red flag and are now saying "anything for a quiet life."

When the Government passed that bone-dry order-in-council Bolshevism was only a platform plaything and beer could be kicked in the bilge. But now that Bolshevism is getting saucy—well something must be done to make us forget our taxes. Moreover, the Government has to scratch up three hundred million dollars a year to carry on and the twenty-two million dollars we throw into the gutter a few short months ago is now worth picking up again.

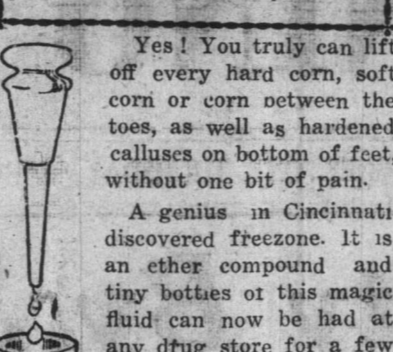
I cannot prophesy accurately what Parliament will do with the liquor problem but I can set down some of the questions that reasonable men in Parliament are asking. For instance, they are asking what is the moral effect, on the national character, of a law which engenders the lowest class of decent citizens into law breakers and liars? How about "increased efficiency"? Is it better to have beerless, driven, sulen labor—or labor reasonably contented with its lot? How about "economic waste"? Is waste just waste—or is it thrift in disguise, something saved from the strain of life? Does the workman feel more cheerful when he hands Mr. Flavell seven cents a pound for bacon or when he pays five cents for a cool drink after a hard day's work in the foundry? Does he feel that prohibition is a blessing or simply a curse of the employer to get more work out of him and of the food profiteer to get more money?

Parliament is disposed to admit that the war is over and that circumstances alter cases. The altering circumstance, as I see it, is the attitude of Labor toward the liquor question. If Labor doesn't get a little mild refreshment it may take up with something a great deal worse—anarchy or example. Besides there are our allies, the French, Ethier of Two Mountain, made a palpable hit in the House the other day when he seized on the presence of General Paw to score a point for light French wines. Are we going back on our comrades in democracy now that the war is over or is the Entente Cordiale—all the more cordial, of an advantageous trade arrangement—to continue?

Parliament shows a new frame of mind toward prohibition this session which leads to certain honest questions. Did somebody slip something over on us while the casualty lists glided our eyes with tears? Did the old water people get by while we were looking the other way? Was prohibition a mood—at blue—of was a conviction? Did we give up drink because giving up things was the fashion—horse races, baseball, banquets, time, money—all as nothing compared with the lives our boys gave up on the battle field? Did we give it up because it was the easiest, safest, long-distance way of martyrizing ourselves—of suffering something for the war which implied personal discomfort? Why did we give it up? And when we gave it up did we mean it?

Union Government has a ticklish job ahead of it to make the right diagnosis. It's the doctor.

Ladies! Why Keep Corns?
Life a corn or callus right off without one bit of pain.



Yes! You truly can lift off every hard corn, soft corn or corn between the toes, as well as hardened calluses on bottom of feet, without one bit of pain. A genius in Cincinnati discovered freezons. It is an ether compound and tiny bottles of this magic fluid can now be had at any drug store for a few cents.

Apply several drops of this freezone upon a tender, aching corn or a callus. Instantly a soreness disappears and shortly you will find the corn or callus so shriveled and loose that you lift it off with the fingers. You feel no pain while applying freezone or afterwards. Just think! No more corns or calluses to torture you and they go without causing one twinge of pain or soreness. Keep a tiny bottle on the dresser and never let a corn or callus ache twice.

SEND IN YOUR ORDER
Any one desiring to have The Journal delivered should call telephone 59, circulation department. Carrier boys are now going to all parts of the city and arrangements can be made to have the paper delivered every evening at your home.

LUCILLE STEWART
IN HER BEST PLAY
Beautiful Emotional Actress Declared to do the Greatest Work of Her Career in "The Eleventh Commandment."

Lucille Lee Stewart, the emotional star who appears in "The Eleventh Commandment," the Ralph Ince production released by Exhibitors Mutual, is credited with the greatest success of her career in this big dramatic play. Miss Stewart's portrayal of the character of Dora Chester in her new picture is said to afford the popular star a role in which the power and charm of her distinctive emotional talent is given full sway.

Never overacting the surety with which she approaches her part and the magnetism of her personality gives an individuality to everything she does. A big scene in "The Eleventh Commandment," which calls upon her resources to the utmost is when as a happily married young bride, worshipped by her husband, she is confronted at the privacy of her sleeping quarters by a visitor who turns out to be her former fiance, determined to bring her happiness by revealing to her husband an unhappy episode of her past.

The culmination of the scene is dramatic in the extreme, resulting in the death of the midnight intruder, but only after a succession of dramatic situations that call upon all the resources of this great actress. Grand, 3 days, commencing Thursday, March 13th, with six Vaudeville Acts.

Turner's Weekly, published in Saskatchewan, argues strongly in favor of free hospitals being maintained by the government.

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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC—S. Domingo, Puerto Plata, Sanchez, S. Pedro de Macoris and Santiago de los Caballeros.
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