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THE LONDON ADVERTISER COMPANY.

London, Ont., Friday, March 15.

A HARSH SENTENCE.

MOST people will regard the term of five years imposed by Chief Justice Falconbridge at Woodstock upon a young Londoner who was convicted of the theft with another man of a quantity of furs, as one of the most severe sentences ever meted out in Ontario. Confirmed crooks and those guilty of slaying their fellow-men have escaped with lighter sentences, and when it is considered that this was the first time the accused had been tried for a serious offence, and that the man believed to have been his partner in the crime was a notorious character, one wonders if there should not be some law established whereby first offenders found guilty of an indictable offence should be given an opportunity to prove themselves worthy of another chance.

Five years in penitentiary! Five years taken from the life of a mere boy, a member of a most respectable London family who fell into an evil environment and who could be won back to an honorable place in the community! The action of the state in imposing such a sentence seems to be a greater offence than that of the boy. But in many cases the state is blind. Did it examine the influences that surrounded this young man for the last few years? Did it take into consideration the chances he had for going right and the counter-balancing chances he had for going wrong? What if his father had lived rather than perished in the city hall disaster many years ago? That father was the kind of man who would have seen his boy through school and kept him in the proper path. The state didn't step in to take this father's place when fate struck the parent down. The state let the boy run wild, and the boy winds up marked with the jailbird brand for life.

Great public thieves who run their "swag" into millions do not get five years in the penitentiary. How long did they keep Kelly, the contractor who worked with the Robin Government crowd, in the penitentiary? Not a full year! Did the rest of the gang go with him? Not one slice of jail bread did they eat! Kelly was the "goat" and Kelly is no doubt living on the fat of the land and making more contracts at the present time.

In the case of the young Londoner given five years in the penitentiary at Woodstock on Wednesday, the measure of justice was not gauged according to the sentences that the great thieves of our country serve (or do not serve). He will be "sent up" for those five years, and will languish in the rotten prison air—rotten morally and every other way—until he has become a graduate of crime. No convenient and arranged "illness" will bring him out of those dark, forbidding corridors to set his feet in the ways of freedom, until a good part of his life is gone—unless public opinion can make the minister of justice feel that a wrong has been done, that a sentence too severe has been passed and that the case should be opened again. The influences for good will not reach this boy in Kingston penitentiary. There is a chance for him somewhere in the great outdoors.

This young man was not vicious or depraved any more than his warped mind made him. He was not a boy whose relatives would cast him off. No doubt they would have been willing to make restitution had the stolen goods not been recovered. The penitentiary is not the place to take the warps out of men's minds, not the kind of a penitentiary Kingston has been shown to be, at any rate.

So far as his proper mental development is concerned this boy is still in the juvenile class. Those who believe in "child welfare" should be active in his interests. Surely the hope of rescuing this life cannot have passed. Nine men out of ten are utterly lost after they have been marked for life with the convict stamp. A five-years' course in the big school for crime for this London youth? Or a strong demand that the sentence be reduced, and if possible suspended on condition that the young man prove his worth while on parole?

THE SOLDIER VOTE MYSTERY.

DESPITE the inspired protests of that chief newspaper lackey, to the Borden Government, the Ottawa Journal-Press, that "the truth about the election is that no such clean political contest ever took place in this country, and that it was cleaner among the soldiers than anywhere else," the Great War Veterans' Association of Hamilton has demanded an investigation of the overseas soldiers' vote from Premier Borden.

Does this demand indicate a clean election? Does the fact that the candidates chosen by the men who had shed their blood freely on the fields of France were unable to secure the votes of their comrades in England and France make it look like the cleanest political contest that ever took place in this country? No more damning evidence that crookedness and coercion were prevalent on all sides is required than the fact that the men in France were placed in the position of having denied their support to the candidates who represented them at the polls.

The Ottawa Journal-Press likes to gloat over the defeat of soldier candidates. With very evident glee it points out that Col. MacLaren, the soldier candidate in Hamilton, received only four votes from the soldiers in Europe, while his opponent, the Union Government choice, received 734 votes. Col. MacLaren will have to await the return of his fellow-soldiers from France before he receives the truth about the matter. No doubt,

as in the case of other soldier candidates, his name was deliberately left off the official record. The Government organ goes on to cite more of these cases in the following manner:

Similarly, in a list published of some of the votes cast in England for Ontario men, the following are shown: In Lincoln, Chaplin (the Government candidate) 567, Capt. Lovelace (returned soldier), 27; in Brant, Harold (Government candidate) 248, Col. H. Cockburn (soldier and Conservative) 4; in North Oxford, Nesbitt (Government choice) 240, Lieut. Col. Den Sutherland (soldier, wounded three times) 75. In Parkdale, the Opposition candidate (Major McCormack), although a soldier and a conscientious, received only 11 votes from soldiers overseas, and in East York, Major Cockburn, another soldier and conscientious fighter for the Union Government candidate, got not a single vote from beyond sea. And so on. A dozen additional striking contrasts could be cited.

It will be most difficult to make the general public believe that not one soldier in France gave his vote to Major Cockburn. It is simply unbelievable that these soldiers in France to a man turned down the candidate who was pledged to conscription and to a special devotion to the interests of the soldiers. There was something rotten in the state of Canada during the period for voting before December 17. The Government which must bear the stigma of appointing men who were well qualified for any sort of manipulation will be judged for its actions. That Government enters power with an election record which will become the more unsavory as the light is directed upon it. Not a single trick in the whole box of election paraphernalia was overlooked. The machine was in the hands of crafty and capable operators. The methods and the spirit of the last campaign did no credit to the good name of this country. In many respects "the gentle Hun" was emulated. It is to be hoped that the Great War Veterans' will get to the root of the mystery in France. Truth will out.

WASTED PUBLIC MONEY.

Col. Mulholland and John Webster go to the Senate as further evidence that the Senate is merely a haven for politicians. This pensioning of political favorites at the expense of the general taxpayer is a serious matter.

It was not necessary to fill the vacancies in the Senate at this time. The \$5,000 which will go to these two gentlemen this and succeeding years could have been saved, at least until some one could be found who would give to the country some outstanding return in service.—From a local Conservative paper.

Everyone at sundown should put his head back and gaze into the heavens. After the above has appeared it is only natural to look for two moons in the sky.

CAPT. HEZZLEWOOD AGAIN.

CAPT. OLIVER HEZZLEWOOD of Toronto admits that it was he who asked Capt. G. T. Bailey to refrain from mentioning the name of the officer who, Capt. Bailey said, told him the yarn about Canadians' drunkenness on Christmas Day. Is it to be inferred from this that Capt. Hezzlewood knew in advance of the offence Capt. Bailey was about to commit? If so, did he take any steps to dissuade him or prevent the slanderous statement being made?

Capt. Hezzlewood will be remembered as the man who sent out shoals of letters and telegrams in Western Ontario, just prior to the December election, leading recipients to believe that they would be exempted from military service. These communications were pronounced worthless when tendered, by those who had received them, to examination boards.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

One of Col. Roosevelt's sons is among the first Americans to be wounded. Grief and pride will struggle for victory in his father's heart.

Now authority has been given municipalities to deal, partially, with wasting of foodstuffs it remains to be seen what use will be made of the power.

If G. H. Gooderham has his way, reckless motorists may be forbidden to drive cars. That should have more effect than the imposition of a few dollars' fine.

Petrograd's celebration of the anniversary of the revolution was decidedly quiet. Expression of jubilation could hardly be expected with conditions as they are.

Victor Sinclair, M.P.P., for South Oxford, objected to the Liberals asking so many questions about expenditures on the up-keep of the Government House. That's a true Tory attitude.

It pays to work hard in Britain, since those who do so are to have their meat ration increased. Those engaged in "very" hard labor get even more. That's one instance in which the word "very" is important.

Germany is grabbing all Russian territory possible, apparently having forgotten the story of the monkey which reached into a jar and was so greedy that it took too big a handful of the contents and could not get its hand out again.

The hydro-electric authorities here ought not to forget the help they have had sometimes from the London Electric for instance, when it was found necessary to utilize the latter's current to light the postoffice without going through the usual formalities.

BACK TO THE LAND.

The London Advertiser thinks the Legislature of this province is not paying sufficient attention to the all-important matter of getting back to the land in old Ontario. It says:

The advertising columns of most newspapers are carrying many advertisements regarding the sale of farms. There is a movement in land, and the real estate men are not slow to realize it. A man of vision at Queen's Park might take advantage of this feeling and quicken the movement that is seen in its early stages. Ontario might experience a rush to the land not only from her own cities, but from other finest land, does not believe in advertising. Ontario might be performing a colonization work that would offset the inevitable outburst of persuasion that will come from the west. A small proportion of the land is under cultivation for young men on farms to move to the cities. A right city people may soon be noticed. Thousands of a start, but determined that they shall and some certainty of existence without wearing the grilling harness of city existence that makes of the average wage-earner simply a slave to high prices.

The Ontario Government has made spasmodic efforts to promote the settlement of New Ontario, with results of a very inadequate character, but there has been no system of efforts to more compactly settle the non-attractive lands in the older parts of the province. New Ontario offers a tempting opportunity for men who are looking for cheap homes and are willing to undergo the hardships of pioneer life, but there are many people who cannot be thus attracted, with whom missionary work of an entirely different nature must be carried on. After the war, Canada is likely to bulk more largely than ever in the eyes of the European countries now fighting, there will be returned soldiers by the thousands to place on the land, and there are American farmers who are always looking for a change of location and who ought not all to go to the prairie provinces of this country. Wake up, Ontario!

GROUNDS FOR ANGER.

"What's up, Alf? You don't seem half in a rage!" "So 'ud you be if you saw a blinkin' civilian fanning your best girl with his beauty's empty card."

Wait a Minute!

By J. H. F.

Somebody stole the constable's "evidence" in a booze case at Blenheim. Nothing like ringing a bell when there is something luscious in the office. Just as tempting to some folks as spring chicken to a cooped gentleman.

The way the Germans are manhandling the Russians makes one feel assured that the only way to stop the Russians from running is to move the Pacific Ocean close to Russia.

Capt. Bailey is quite convinced now that it does not pay to allow his face to go off half-cooked. Jaw discipline is quite badly needed in many places in this country.

Ben Spence has been refused permission to distribute "The Parasite." A lot of folks will be deprived of some nice reading. Ain't that awful? Read Nick Carter, and the handi stories. Just as lively, and not nearly so bad.

Bill Sunday fell down \$15,000 in meeting expenses in Washington, D. C. in the home of congressmen and senators and such. William was badly outclassed in locating the mint. Bill is good when the competition is not so keen.

"Buy your food with thought," says a food expert. That's about the only collateral some of us have left.

The American Government wants 1,000 goats. Bill Bryan ought to count for at least three.

The Germans are on the Black Sea, a black day for the Russians and a few other folks.

Fighting the Huns is getting to be the universal pastime, but some of these days Kaiser Bill is going to run out of places to go, and then he will go back.

Teddy Roosevelt's son has been wounded in war, and a lot of folks are more pleased than ever that they voted for Teddy instead of the Pussy Footing Bill Bryan.

Experts say that only roosters should be killed, the hens being saved. The female of the species may be rougher than the male, but the male always gets it in the neck.

Old Man Hindenburg is an awful drinker, but we wish he would get over the habit of beating up somebody after every jag. We will have to call the police.

Women are entered in the navy as yeomen, but they are not "yo ho and a bottle of rum" men. No, not yet.

Chorus girls must wear knickerbockers in New York shows. Oh, well, the season is about over now anyway. We should worry.

A guy has come out with a "fish in the back yard" idea. Great. Those fellows who have some stuff in the cellar can go on fishing now.

Cocoanut Oil Makes

A Splendid Shampoo

If you want to keep your hair in good condition, be careful what you wash it with.

Don't use prepared shampoos or anything else, that contains too much alkali. This dries the scalp, makes the hair brittle, and is very harmful. Just plain mulitised cocoanut oil (which is pure and entirely greaseless), is much better than anything else you can use for shampooing, as this can't possibly injure the hair.

Simply moisten your hair with water and rub it in. One or two teaspoonfuls will make an abundance of rich, creamy lather, and cleanses the hair and scalp thoroughly. The lather rinses out easily and removes every particle of dust, dirt, dandruff and excessive oil. The hair dries quickly and evenly, and it leaves it fine and silky, bright, fluffy and easy to manage.

You can get mulitised cocoanut oil at most any drug store. It's very cheap, and a few ounces is enough to last everyone in the family for months.—Adv.



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