

The London Advertiser

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The O. T. A. Is Working.

One of the most frequent remarks of those who favor government selling is that the O. T. A. has failed. It has not helped conditions at all; there is just as much drinking now as there ever was.

The weakness of the reports that the O. T. A. does not do its work lies in the fact that they will not stand up beside facts. When they are measured in the light of figures it is seen that they are incorrect, and for that reason not fair evidence to put before the people.

Statistics taken from government year books provide safe evidence; they are impartial and have no motive other than to record facts taken from official documents. The figures below are taken from the dominion criminal statistics for the year ending 1922, and Ontario's record is as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Year, Drunkenness, Year, Drunkenness. Rows for 1914-1917 and 1918-1922.

It is worth noting, in analyzing the figures, just where the decreases in other crimes came in. The records comparing 1914 and 1922 show:

Table with 2 columns: 1914, 1922. Rows for Assaults, Cruelty to animals, Threats and abusive language, Trespass, Vagrancy, Indecent exposure, Indecent, obscene, profane language, Keeping and frequenting bawdy houses, Loose, idle and disorderly, Drunkenness.

To follow the figures to the three largest centers in Ontario—Toronto, Hamilton and Ottawa—the records show the following in regard to charges of drunkenness and disorderly conduct:

Table with 4 columns: Year, Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa, Total. Rows for 1914-1923.

These figures should be studied with the laws that were in effect in the various years. In 1916 the O. T. A. came into effect within three and a half months of the close of the year; a decrease in the number of court cases resulted.

In 1918 (April) national wartime prohibition became operative, and there was a further decrease. The repeal of this measure (Dec. 31, 1919) showed an upward tendency in court cases for 1920. In 1921 (July) the transportation of liquor was declared illegal, and the records show 6,766 court cases that year, as compared with 8,321 the previous year.

Figures such as these are stubborn things; they cannot be easily set aside, because they show exactly what has taken place. They are not opinions or rumors, simply facts. They show that the prohibitory laws did actually make a very material reduction in drunkenness, and its companion, disorderly cases.

Figures for Toronto show that the more restrictive legislation there is the greater the decrease in drunkenness. The following table explains the different measures. O. T. A., wartime prohibition and the making of transportation illegal. Note the decreases according to the increased restriction:

Table with 3 columns: Year, Legal Status, Drunks. Rows for 1914-1916.

Table with 3 columns: Year, Legal Status, Drunks. Rows for 1917-1922.

There can be only one answer to all these figures—the O. T. A. is operating. It can stand up beside the acid test of official figures and prove its case. With a longer trial, and the strengthening of its weak spots, the records will be brought to even lower levels. Ontario has a law now that is working; it can be proved by figures that it is accomplishing the very purpose for which it was framed. It is too good a law to be discarded.

A New Department Not Needed.

London city council will recommend to the provincial government that a department of municipal affairs be established at Toronto. It is found that some matters come up that cannot be dealt with on their merits because there is not the machinery at present to handle them.

be done on the basis of the council financing the portion belonging to the street railway. It cannot be argued that it was not good business to have a fine road and a good piece of railway track, but it was not according to the law. Other places have had similar problems, and hence the demand for a department to deal with such matters.

The same end could probably be served by changing some of the existing departments. The case does not warrant the establishment of a new department, and adding to the amount of government for which the people will have to pay. New departments have a faculty of growing. They may start in a very humble way, one man sitting at a desk. In time he decides that he needs help, and perhaps a deputy, and so on it goes until there is a good-sized organization built up.

The Dam and Sanitation.

Londoners will not have an opportunity of voting on the erection of a new dam at Springbank at the civic elections on the first of December, the council having decided not to send the matter to the people.

The reason why a dam has been desired at Springbank was that the water might be raised to a sufficient level to provide facilities for boating and probably bathing, but there is no certainty that such an end could be safely secured. The matter is one of sanitation as well as an engineering problem in construction.

The bed of the river, as it stands today, is not clean; in many places it is far from it. What is needed is a good yearly scrubbing out of the river bed, such as would come from a fresher carrying all the dirt before it. If a dam were built to back up a great body of water on top of a river bed that it does not clean, it is reasonable to suppose that the process of contamination would become operative, and the expanse of water would be good for nothing but to look at. It could not, under such circumstances, be safely used for boating or bathing, and it is doubtful if we would want it at all with the element of insanitary conditions remaining as a very grave possibility.

As long as present conditions exist, Londoners should think very seriously before building a dam at Springbank. The first consideration is a clean river bed, and that at present is something we do not possess.

Taking the Vote From U. S. Negroes.

A suit, entered at New Orleans, seeks to prevent Walter Cohen, a colored official of the customs department, from holding the office to which he was appointed by President Coolidge. The ground of complaint is that Cohen is not a citizen of United States "but a person of African blood and descent, and is inherently incapable of being a citizen of United States."

The wording of the complaint contains a deeper meaning than might appear on the surface—if Cohen is not a citizen of United States on the ground of his African descent, neither are any of the other millions of colored residents in that country "citizens." Not being "citizens," they have not the right to vote.

That is probably the reason of the suit now being started at New Orleans—the disfranchisement of the negroes of United States. Strange that no one ever thought of that when the war was on, and when the colored residents were being drafted in United States by the thousands; odd that the point was never raised in all the years that negroes have been called upon to provide cheap labor in the south and parts of the north as well.

The New Orleans move is as dangerous as it is unfair. No nation can attempt to disfranchise one-twelfth of its population and expect to retain respect for its laws and social or political institutions.

Note and Comment.

As Timothy Hays says: "You can't make a country drier by shtarint' out to make it wetter."

A park used to be a place with benches to sit on, now park means that there's no place to put your car.

New York public library shows a falling off of 500,000 in circulation during the year. Gas tanks show a corresponding increase.

The street railway matter was once more referred to No. 1 committee of the city council. Isn't it time to hand out a transfer to some other destination?

John M. Davis, Democratic candidate for president of United States, is rich, good-looking and smart. It's hard for a man to carry such handicaps and win.

If the Prince of Wales keeps on liking this continent, it may yet be printed in the court news at "ome that 'The Prince of Wales spent the week-end in England.'"

Stranded five miles from a garage, with your last spare shot to pieces, a person fails to appreciate the abundance of country air because he can't put it where he wants it.

An exchange credits a clipping about the present O. T. A. campaign to the Guelph Herald, which went out of existence six months ago. Is it possible that communication has been established with the world of spirits?

Ald. Douglass had somewhat to say to the members of the public utilities commission who appeared at the council meeting in regard to the sale of the old registry office for a gas station; rather than for the purposes of the commission. Ald. Douglass' climax was, "We were led to believe if the utilities commission didn't secure the corner the whole of public ownership would be put out of business." Shortly after the deputa-tion from the utilities commission retired, fagged and knocked out by this dashing bit of ironical oratory.

Rarebits By Rex

REPORTORIAL ROMANCE.

An enterprising young reporter fell for a dame and tried to court her. Said he: "Although my pay's not large, dear, I can't repudiate the charge, dear, That I've become infatuated; What say you, sweet, to being mated?"

"I have official information That you return my adoration, I love your ways and kindly nature, How do you view my candidature?"

Said she: "In fine and cloudy weather We'll do the daily beat together, And when we're married you can mention The bride attracted much attention." Cried he, confused with joy: "Sure, Mary, I'll write a nice obituary."

THE BASEBALL SCANDAL.

"Evidence has been unearthed which indicates the scandal will involve the whole of organized and disorganized baseball," Goochs McGoochs, infamous sport critic, declared early tomorrow. "President Coolidge himself is suspected of bribery. According to the most unreliable mis-information John McGraw gave Coolidge a match just before the first game. Another corrupt attempt to buy the Senators is reported in New York when Ban Johnson is said to have given each member of the team a toothpick.

"The whole uproar started when 'Saphead' O'Connell of the Giants offered Sand of Philadelphia \$500 to 'throw' a game in the National pennant race. Sand was insulted. With the purchasing power of the dollar at its present level, who wouldn't be insulted?"

Shortly after this it is claimed that McGraw offered Walter Johnson a cigar. At the present writing Judge Landis has not decided whether this was an attempt to bribe or an attempt to exterminate Washington's best pitcher.

Nehf was also approached by a Washington official and offered a cough-drop. But he declined it. This eliminates him from the scandal entirely.

"Saphead" O'Connell says he is the "goat" of the whole affair, and now all self-respecting goats are suing him for libel.

After all, you can't blame Sand for refusing \$500. The average man wants more than that for throwing a mah jong game.

On the other hand, most politicians will throw the ball for nothing.

A gang of prospectors have been digging up our street now for four months. We aren't sure whether it is for gold or oil.

We thought they had given up hope last week when they left the place for two days after replacing the pavement. This morning, however, they came back and tore it up again to dig another hole. That's the kind of persistency we admire.

They haven't struck it yet, but we have hopes they will before next winter. By that time we will have some money to invest and may be able to buy a few shares.

The advantage of investing in a hole on your own street is that you can keep an eye on the prospectors and see that they don't get away with any of the nuggets.

The last oil stock we bought, the promoter said he was going to sink a shaft. But he sunk our money instead.

Every oil stock man that interviews us, in fact, speaks about the great value of his gushers. Just the only gushers we know are those we meet at bridge parties and dances.

University Degrees

University of Western Ontario will confer honorary degrees on ten recipients at formal opening.—News item.

It is with interest that I read about this ten most honored men, who'll have degrees tacked to their name, a parchment traced by college pen. It is a pleasant thing, it is, to be a-bearin' a degree, to hear from some one high in rank, "Now, mister, you're a LL.D."

But don't you think there's more'n ten what should be honored at this time, why don't you look about a spell and do the thing right down the line.

There's Jared Vining, take him now, he knows a heap of legal lore, and when election time comes round he stamps upon the school house floor, and tells about the P. U. C., and of the seeds what it has saved, and how the men a-sittin' there has been so smart and well behaved. He ought to get some handle now to hitch upon his civil name, why can't you put Jed on your list and nail him in the hall of fame?

Now next upon my list there comes a Stevenson, now hark, I mean the one what's W. J., the chap who looks beneath the bark, and carves men up ten different styles, and does it sixty different ways, but always sticks 'em right again and trots 'em out in twenty days. He ought to be upon your list, it's only right it seems to me, before he goes and grabs himself a title labelled "our M.P."

There's the Forrester, some call him Charles, he's chief here of the C. N. men, when engines jump from off the tracks he goes and sticks them on again. Now can't you fix him up this year, he's got the looks and manner too, of one who carries titles well and wears 'em humble through and through.

Then Miller at the Central C., he ought to be considered too, he's spendin' of his time each day a-tellin' youngsters what to do. He's been to school for quite a spell, he knows an awful heap of stuff, and he's a diplomat as well, a-cannin' all the ways what's rough. He ought to be put on the list, I'd awful well now like to see, this man called up unto the front and comin' back a LL.B.

There's lots of other folks around, their names would measure up a peck, I'd like to see 'em honored now with titles strung about their neck, but if you'll just take this small list and fix it up all will be fine, and then I'll get another list to decorate some other time.—ARK.

Dr. Frank Crane THE HEART OF THE HOUSE

I love the Spanish idea of building a house. They do not put the garden out in front, as Americans do, nor behind, as do the English, but in the center of the house.

It looks as if they built the garden first and the house around it. This seems to me to be the proper appreciation of the value of outdoors. Only when one has inclosed a little bit of it does it seem his own. It means a bit of earth more private than in any other way.

Perhaps this form of building may be applicable only to warm climates. But every climate is warm at some time of the year, and if one is going to be outdoors at all, how much better to be able to sit in the seclusion of one's own walls, in one's own garden.

This gives the house an aloofness that is exceptional. It is self-contained. One gets the impression that a court full of flowers and trees is the heart, or gracious soul, where it might be possible to live beautifully as one could never live in an English suburban villa with its terrible uniformity and complete lack of imagination.

The garden in the center of the house gives an opportunity to sit outdoors and, at the same time, an opportunity for privacy. There is a delightfulness about sitting or dining under the open sky that one cannot find under any roof, and the garden in the house supports not only with a bit of ground that is our own, but a bit of sky that is ours.

It is characteristic of America, and all our western civilization, to confine most of the attention to the house one lives in. It would be better if the garden space were considered an integral part of the residence and if the garden was inclosed in the house.

Perhaps such things are the result of instincts that lie deeper in us than we imagine, but very probably it is the result of custom and the present custom of having the garden added as an adjunct to the house is one more honored in the breach than in the observance.

We do not live enough out of doors. Probably this is because of our unfavorable climate, but there is many a day and many a night which would better be spent out of doors than in the house.

To the Editor He Wants the "Kick."

Glen Williams, Resident Things Have Been Very Bad Since the coming of the O. T. A. Editor of The Advertiser:

Sir,—As we are to vote on Oct. 23 to determine whether or not we are to continue the O. T. A. in force or to have government control, I, as a temperance man for many years, would like to give your readers my views on this all-important question. The O. T. A. has been in force for some years and I have yet to see what good has it ever done in the way of restricting the sale of liquor. Not any as I can notice for have we not bootleggers, moonshine whiskey in large quantities, made and sold throughout the country, which is much inferior in quality than what we had the open bar. Prohibition, I claim, has failed to dry up the province as those temperance advocates claimed it would do, and if we were to have whiskey let us have good stuff, instead of that poisonous stuff, which in many instances kills instead of preserving the lives of people who drink it. The rotten stuff stuns people's brains and causes a diseased mind to commit many crimes to an alarming extent, and who can say that Hangman Ellis in his official capacity, hasn't a real fat job of springing death traps of many murderers on the gallows more so than he ever had to do before the O. T. A. made the law of the province. We all can remember the time of the flu in Toronto and elsewhere when people who were sick with the flu had a little good whiskey many lives might have been saved from untimely graves. The O. T. A. is responsible for the loss of a large revenue to the country, which had to be made up through a heavy tax on the people, increasing their burdens, causing hard times and unemployment, and throwing out of jobs and a cold winter approaching.

Now, Mr. Editor, I wish to define the classical uses of beer. Beer is the poor man's drink, and really nourishes and strengthens him, provided there is some kick in it. But the O. T. A. has robbed it of all its virtues; 2 1/2 per cent isn't enough; it should be increased to at least 5 per cent; then it would have the right twang of spirits in it. That would be beneficial to a person that drinks it. With a good 5 per cent kick it would give it more of an efficient strength to do a sickly person some good. We all know, or at least should know that there must be enough kick in it to have the desired power to vitalize the body, driving out all waste matter before it cleanses the body, making one healthy and strong.

I have experienced it myself when I just drink two glasses of good beer with a 5 per cent kick in it, and it sure will revive you and you will feel as fresh as a new-born babe. And as to whiskey, whiskey is no good without any kick in it. Why? Simply because without the kick, it has no power to do any good. There is nothing in the world better than good whiskey. Why, the doctors can't dispense with it. They must have it to use in their medicines, which I claim accounts for many of the cures of their sick patients. Good wines also are highly necessary as a tonic for any person that is delicate and poor in health.

J. W. BOOTH, Glen Williams, Ont., County Halton, Oct. 6, 1924.

A GUARANTEED RELIEF FOR ASTHMA

"I want every Asthma sufferer in this city to try my treatment entirely at my risk," Dr. Schiffmann announces. "Go to your druggist and get a package of my Asthmador and, should it fail to give instant relief, the druggist will cheerfully refund your money without any question whatever." The Doctor says further: "No matter how violent the attack, how obstinate the case, or what else has failed, my Asthmador or Asthmador Cigarettes will give instant relief, usually in 10 seconds, but always within 15 minutes. Hundreds of unsolicited testimonials abundantly prove what my remedy has done, and I know it will do the same for others. I am so positively certain that it will produce instant relief and will be found the best remedy ever used that I have no fears of authorizing these druggists to give this guarantee, or of their being called upon for the refunding of money." Druggists anywhere handling Asthmador will return your money, you say so. Persons preferring to try it before buying will be sent a free sample by addressing Dr. R. Schiffmann, 1734 N. Main St., Los Angeles, California.

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