

THE WEEKLY ONTARIO

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1919.

LIBERTY AND THE LIBERTY LEAGUE.

For several weeks past Organizer Kelley has been making strenuous endeavors to establish here at Belleville a branch of the "Citizens' Liberty League," an association of gentlemen with headquarters at Toronto who are advising the electors of Ontario to vote "Yes" on all four questions of the prohibition referendum. So far, we are told, Mr. Kelley's efforts have proved unavailing as no men of any prominence would allow their names to be connected with any such organization. The experience of the League at London, Stratford and many other centers of population in Ontario has been similar. The people of Ontario value liberty but they apparently do not want the Liberty League.

The Liberty League, by its own advertising, proclaims itself a society of narrow prohibitionists. It prohibits men connected with the liquor business from joining the League. Why? Are not the distillers and brewers honorable men? Why should they be prohibited from joining the League and entering upon the pursuit of happiness?

The League also states that it seeks to prohibit many other things. Read any of its advertisements and it will tell you of a lot of things it doesn't want or would, in other words, prohibit. It should change its name and call itself the Citizens' Prohibition League or the Dominion Alliance and maintain consistency.

The Citizens' Liberty League is concerned only with the liberty to drink booze. For liberty in the larger sense it cares not at all. We never heard of the League until an opportunity was presented in the proposed referendum to bring back the whiskey to Ontario.

The League tells the electors to vote 'Yes' on the first question on the Referendum ballot. This means that the League desires the restoration of the once popular bar-room with all its slop and swill and souse.

What does all this fine talk about personal liberty mean? What boon do the philanthropists represented in the League wish to confer upon the people of Ontario? Do they desire to bestow upon us complete personal liberty? If so, we tell the League frankly that we do not want it.

Let us examine this theory of "personal liberty" and see how much there is in it.

An Irishman landed in New York and he went up and kicked the first man he met. He had heard that the United States was a land of liberty and he proposed to put the matter to the test. He was illustrating his conception of personal liberty.

The only man upon this earth who ever enjoyed full personal liberty was Robinson Crusoe, when he landed upon Juan Fernandez. But even Crusoe's liberty was curtailed as soon as Friday arrived, Crusoe's personal liberty ended where Friday's personal rights began.

Adam and Eve in the Garden were prohibited from eating of the fruit of a certain tree and the Children of Israel were prohibited in the Ten Commandments from having other gods, from killing one another, from committing adultery, from stealing, bearing false witness and covetousness.

To adopt personal liberty would be to accept the rule of the jungle where tooth and claw and brute strength determine individual rights.

But even the wild animals in their associations recognise certain laws of motherhood and family and herd relationships that are far more strict and unchangeable than the laws of the Medes and Persians are reputed to have been.

Personal liberty, as it is talked about, with owlish solemnity, by the Liberty League and other champions of the whiskey interests, is a jest. There "ain't no such animal."

Organised human society is only made

possible by the surrender, for the common good, of certain individual rights.

Then governments are formed, constitutions framed and laws are passed.

Just the moment that a law is passed the personal liberty of the individual who is subject to the law is curtailed to the extent of the provision of the law.

Get this fact clearly into your mind, gentle reader,—complete personal liberty never did exist, does not exist and never can exist. Complete personal liberty would mean the absence of all law.

Every statute within the law code of Canada or of Ontario, every by-law passed by the council of the Corporation of the City of Belleville is a curtailment of personal liberty and a prohibition. You can't get away from it.

The League recommends the electors of Ontario to bring back the license system and the open bar.

But the License System itself was a prohibitory measure. If John Smith, grocery-keeper wanted to sell some of the hard stuff and swell his dividends the License Act at once arose in its majesty and informed Mr. Smith that he had no personal liberty to engage in any such transaction. It was verboten and a term in jail would await him if he proceeded to vindicate the principle of individual freedom.

The Citizens' Liberty League recommends the electors to vote "Yes" in answer to the question if they want the bar and the bar-room brought back.

If the electors of Ontario vote "Yes" to that question in sufficient numbers certain important liberties will be restored.

For instance a man will be at liberty to take his weekly pay envelope and hand it over regularly to the ruddy-faced, corpulent, bustling gentleman behind the bar. The man in exchange, will be at liberty to stand up in front of the bar and drink whiskey until he is dull of intellect, unsteady of step and quarrelsome in temper. He will then be at liberty to go home as best he can.

The man's wife will also have valuable liberties returned to her. She will be at liberty to have her body bruised by brutal blows from the fist of her drunken husband. She will be at liberty to go about in rags and without sufficient food in order that the landlord and the stockholders in breweries and distilleries may be at liberty to appropriate her husband's earnings. She will be at liberty to watch her children grow up without opportunity for home training or education while she goes about scribbling or washing to keep body and soul together.

Merchants will be at liberty once more to see bills go unpaid and business turned over to the bar-keepers. Manufacturers and employers of labor will be at liberty to have their workmen unsteady and inefficient, business disarranged and contracts not fulfilled.

Will the Liberty League in its next advertising announcement discuss personal liberty as it applies to the wives and children of drunkards.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION AND THE O.T.A.

In conversation with a commercial traveller whose business takes him on frequent tours from one end of the province to the other, The Ontario gathered some first-hand impressions as to the effect of the Ontario Temperance Act on hotel accommodation. The gentleman was neither a temperance extremist nor an ardent advocate of prohibition. He viewed the subject in a very practical manner from a judicial standpoint.

Before the passage of the Ontario Temperance Act, remarked our informant, ninety per cent of the commercial travellers of Ontario were opposed to prohibition. Their opposition was occasioned by the belief that the prohibitory law would ruin the hotel business by depriving it of the highly profitable sale of liquor.

Today, he continued, sentiment among travelling men is just about reversed. Almost ninety per cent of their number would oppose repeal of the Temperance Act and any attempt to return to old conditions under the License system.

Hotel accommodation was never so good in Ontario, he stated, as it is now. There was no comparison between the quiet, orderly, clean, home-like hotels that have now become a feature of our commercial life and the loud, disgusting, sloppy boozeries of the past. Hotel-keeping had become a decent, respectable business. The bar, with its tobacco spit, jangling and baritone brawls, was no longer pranced out to the front as the big feature in the establishment. The keepers of the standard hotels were for the most part keen business men and gentlemen. The old, beer-soaked, big-waisted, purple-nosed landlord loafer was

pretty well eliminated. He was merely a saloon keeper whose dining-room and dormitories were regarded as troublesome encumbrances to be passed off with as little attention as would enable him to retain his license.

The traveller told us of two brothers who conduct a first-class hotel in one of the larger cities of the province. They have been in the business for over a quarter of a century and have thoroughly tested out both license and prohibition. When the Referendum ballot is handed to them on October 20th they are going to vote "No" all the way down. They made good money under license but they state they are making more real money now. They are relieved from the necessity of replacing broken furniture and dishes, torn bedding and articles damaged by guests made uproarious through booze. Their help is more contented because of the repulsive duties, thrust upon them because of the presence of intoxicated men and women, are no longer required of them. The hotel proprietors and their families are now received into the best circles of society because of the stigma attached to them because of participation in a dishonorable and dishonoring business has been taken away. They can now hold up their heads and feel that they are serving instead of destroying their fellow men. Their business is so much more agreeable and satisfactory in every way that they are now actually preaching the gospel of prohibition.

There are many other keepers of standard hotels who feel the same way about it.

What travellers want in hotels is quiet and a place to rest; with tastefully prepared meals and clean, well aired rooms. They tolerated the old licensed hotels, with their all-night disorders, because of a mistaken belief that hotels could not be maintained without the profits from whiskey. They failed to understand that hotel-keeping was just like any other business and subject to the same laws of supply and demand. Mix it up with bad associations and the dispensing of intoxicants and it degenerates to the level of the groggery. Evil communications corrupt good morals. Relieve the hotel of its wicked partner and it becomes clean and honorable. And it also becomes profitable if the ordinary laws governing business are observed.

Hotel-accommodation has increased in price but the increase has not been greater than in similar lines of service that have been affected by war costs. We consider the present charges of hotel men as exceedingly moderate when it is remembered, for instance, that the dollar that would at one time buy twelve dozen eggs on Belleville market is not now big enough to buy two dozen eggs.

The doleful predictions that were made by the anti-prohibitionists have practically all proved false by the stern logic of events. But perhaps the most notable failure of all has been the prophecy that O. T. A. would bring disaster to hotel accommodation. Instead of disaster it has brought about a revolution that has transformed a predatory business into a profit-bearing public benefactor.

The Kaiser nominated as the Liberty League appears to be having so much difficulty to obtain a local chairman, a citizen has suggested to The Ontario that the nomination be tendered to former Kaiser Wilhelm. He is undoubtedly the most consistent and logical example of the practical working out of the doctrine of personal liberty on earth. The Kaiser ruled by divine right. He owed obedience to no law. He acknowledged no authority save his own. By the doctrine of the law of personal liberty that is now being preached so earnestly by the philanthropists of the League the Kaiser was fully justified in everything that he did. The cruelties and crimes and murders for which he was responsible are fitting illustrations of the working out to a legitimate conclusion of the law of personal liberty. All that the Allies did was to put into effect against him the law of prohibition. The gentlemen of the Liberty League, however, are concerned only about the liberty to plunder the slaves of the booze habit and to put into effect the slow tortures of starvation against the wives and children of the slaves.

AN ENCOURAGING OUTLOOK
 Nearly a year has passed since the Armistice was signed. Some four prophets foretold grim things for Canada in this twelvemonth, but, happily, the times have been amazingly good. Such serious problems as appeared were met manfully and with wisdom. Even the Winnipeg strike was not an unmixed evil. Perhaps the worst workers and employers alike the disadvantages of acting on sudden impulse.

There is less talk about "direct action" to gain certain ends. Most of the class-groups continuing in the vocative mood are accepting constitutional methods of agitation and this has a steady influence. The expenditure of \$610,000,000 raised by the Victory Loan of 1918 did much to sustain general business in a period of transition, and consequently, many of

the returning soldiers found employment without difficulty. Considering the scope of the war, and the fact that every man and every business in Canada was affected by it to a greater or less degree, the change to a time of peace has caused surprisingly little friction.

If the first year of Re-construction has been encouraging, the second year is full of promise. The work of demobilization is practically complete. The crops have been moderately good. Trade payments have been satisfactory, and the oversea demand for Canadian surplus products continues eager. All that is needed to make the road back to normalcy easy and safe is the success of the Victory Loan 1919.

Much of the expenditure from the proceeds of this loan is necessary to complete the military commitments of Canada. The pay, allowances and maintenance of the soldiers are in the nature of a contract assumed by the nation when the men enlisted. The outlays are the inescapable charges of war and readjustment.

The co-operation of the people is urgently desired to clear up these national obligations. Every patriotic Canadian desires to see the continuing prosperity of the Dominion. The best means of ensuring that prosperity is to subscribe for Victory Bonds.

THE BUSINESS ARGUMENT

When it was first reported that a mission of American temperance advocates was going to Great Britain, the comic papers turned broadsides of ridicule upon what they regarded as the presumptuous crusade of Mr. "Pussy Foot" Johnson and a band of cranks, and ponderous journals which have not attempted to provoke a smile for several generations were moved to levity. Apparently the idea was that Mr. Johnson and his merry men would give some sort of Carrie Nation performance, and in the classic language of Horatio-Bottomley, editor of John Bull, make the welkin ring with the sentimental appeals of freaks and faddists and the noisy rhetoric of Stigginses and "kill-joys" But Mr. Johnson and his new crusaders have hardly opened their campaign; and already they have conquered the serious attention of the great proportion of the press. Some papers which have their own correspondents in the United States seem to be surprised at Mr. Johnson's method of attack upon the liquor question; which indicate that cable reports of the prohibition movement in the States, while they may have fully described spectacular incidents have given a rather inadequate impression of the real reasons underlying what is a great popular revolution. Apparently it was expected that Mr. Johnson would preach extravagant sermons on the sin of drinking, and call down the wrath of God upon a habit to which the Anglo-Saxon race has long been addicted, but which has not prevented them playing a great part in history. Instead Mr. Johnson merely made some matter of fact observations upon the connection between prohibition and business efficiency. Of course, there is nothing novel in the attitude that the main argument against the liquor traffic is that it detracts from the efficiency of the business man as well as the worker. But for various reasons Mr. Johnson's campaign immediately aroused an unexpected interest. The circumstances in which the campaign was opened were specially favorable. Every public man in the kingdom was preaching the need of greater efficiency in order to enable Britain to hold a commanding position in the business and industrial world; the Americans started their crusade at the psychological moment. Many newspapers began to canvass the results of government restrictions of the liquor traffic during the war. They did not need the overwhelming testimony of statistics to make them conclude that the restrictions had been exceedingly beneficial, and to argue that the national interest demanded that there must not be a return to the old conditions. Some papers have gone farther and advocated a policy of progressive restrictions, pointing out that the argument from efficiency has multiplied its force, now that the United States and the Overseas Dominions have gone dry.

The clock has struck the hour that calls the steel workers of the United States to lay down their tools as an act of protest against the policy of the steel manufacturers, that denies them the principle of collective bargaining through their own chosen representatives, and the system practiced by the international unions that are working co-ordinately under the protection and guidance of the American Federation of Labor.

Many long years have the steel workers of the United States suffered and endured from an industrial policy that denies them any voice in determining what the conditions of their lives shall be, especially that part of it which vitally affects every other part of their existence, their jobs.

Their labor has been kept on a lower basis than the inanimate material that the workers shape into useful articles. The manufacturer in buying raw material has to go into the market and pay the price called for. The steel workers are not thus favored in the determination of their wages, hours of toil and working conditions. They have had to work under the absolute "take what is offered, and if you don't like it you can quit" policy.

The steel manufacturers say to their employees for the retention of such a policy of management, yes, we are organized, we have put our business in the hands of our competent managerial representatives. We do this because we pay and because we have the power to do so, but you workers must not organize, must not put your industrial affairs in the hands of trade union representatives, because it interferes with our pecuniary interests and our blood and iron policy of hiring whom we please and absolutely dictating what wages shall be paid, hours worked and conditions of employment imposed.

The steel workers' object in entering the present struggle is to have the steel manufacturers released from such an arbitrary and unbearable system of managing their employees, who are feeling the degradation of it more every day. They see workmen in other industries receiving the recognition afforded them through their respective trade unions and by the presentation of reasonable deductions and facts are continually raising the standards of living and gaining the respect of all classes of society. They have come to the point when they feel that they must have the same recognition and place among their fellow workmen and fellow townsmen.

They are tired of being treated as slaves or worse, as dumb driven animals. They long for the time when they will be treated as Americans and not subjected to (bulls) having by company policemen (bulls) having every word they utter and everywhere they go reported to the company's information department. They have entered this struggle to win self respect, industrially, and they will measure up to the necessity of the hour to attain it.—The Amalgamated Journal.

As a result of the embargo hides dropped 10 cents per pound. But we are told the prices of shoes cannot be affected until the retailer lays in a stock made from the lower priced hides. When hides advanced there was no noticeable delay in putting up the price of shoes.

OTHER EDITORS' OPINIONS

THE REFERENDUM BALLOT

The ballot is fearfully and wonderfully made, and has most wise key conceptions outlashed for insiduousness. No explanation has yet been given which clears the air. The temperance people say vote "no" to everything, which means leave the O.T.A. just as it is. The anti's say vote "yes" to every question, which means that you vote for the return of the bar (vide Sir Wm. Hearst), whiskey and all just as it was; for the sale of light beer only; for Government control; for the sale of light beer over the bar in standard hotels. Just how any man can have all these wishes granted is a mystery. If the express purpose was to confuse the electorate, it could not have been done better.

But the electors must take the ballot as it is. The R. and T. believes that the safe thing to do is to mark "NO" to every question. Why? Mightily few would tolerate the old open bar, and Sir Wm. Hearst says if question one has a majority of ballots marked "yes", that will be the case. Let the question be settled emphatically that Ontario will never again tolerate the open bar. What about the other questions? If it were not for the fact that ignoring them would spoil the ballot, the R. and T. would say ignore them, for they only confuse the issue. But as they must be answered, put "no" opposite each one. True, there are several objections to the Act that might well be remedied, and for this the Legislature will have to take the responsibility, and be answerable to the people for the conduct. It is true that many private homes were well stocked when the Act was passed.

On the other hand, the saloon has been put out of business, and right in Brockville there are families who now are happy, well dressed, well fed and comfortable, of which this could not truly be said before the O.T.A. was passed. Every employer will admit that the efficiency of the employees has been materially increased since the bars have been closed. Let us make sure that no loophole is left for the sale of the discredited bar, and make the ballot air tight.—Brockville Reorder and Times.

THE CORE OF IT

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Mountain

Would lessen 420 tons of ore in Lake

The nearest to a "mountain" Morgan, in Au mining to-day 30 years. The been \$35,000, "mountain of an average, half gold to the ton. This has led seriously. "What mountain of pu For ages men writers have "mountains of would happen still a question as a quartz nug yellow stuff.

INTEREST

That it would the gold standing, and yet so in substance we found readily place in coined per. Concerns question, mining most interesting say, who are fan ing, and more bonanzas of the strain our imag of an ore body or big enough to momentary stand pector firing his and stimulated a cup of coffee mu of a golden mound pure gold that ra if it would nev and then hear d discoveries, like in June, 1910, a responsible scrib eam" has exha he usually ends "mountain of go

GOLD IN

When the stralian diggings 1852, the ignor heard that gold and not knowi eral, supposed it, hence expecte clouds let for a hole is let for a air tight.—Brockville Reorder and Times.

And why not? simpton from may snob (and a fervid scribbler paper, but it is even that perip know as the man give adequate r probability of suc ery.

GREAT MASS

For instance, a mass of native of. Of course, it was for region. It was Minnesota (not M the Ontario dig depth there was di copper 46 feet lon thickness of 8 & mean width was 12 the mean thickne total weight actual 420 tons.

No such masses of course, have et Yet gold in great won in brief perio or beds yielded \$8 alone, and the Victoria gave \$63 in the Klondyke a miner cleaned up hours and took ou claim about 80 by

LARGEST

Much of this go pellets and nodu largest nugget ever up near Durab, in 1869, and weigh Another weighing including some of nearly \$42,000. The ore nearly as big, g from mines, such get above described from a "quarry" gold. The nearest as yet imaginari pe be Mount Morgan, Australia, a hill ab the crest of which containing several of ton.

This has been e cessful benches, so mated to the "quar tioned by certain workmen are now f of the hill. However ed a quantity of go gen Mt. Morgan, Sinc ory of mining. Sinc 1886, according to available, this ore ed in excess of 2,6 gold worth \$73,000 600 tons of copper, owning the mine more than \$37,500.

MELVIL

"Nature, with sh painting a glowing October days. The woodland reveal a in the various tin and the red, the brown, the pink an all gleaming in the the soft October st wild flowers, too, i days, staunch. Th which gleam and where the Autumn drab and brown.