

# The Wayside Philosopher

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## ON CLOSING PUBLIC MEETINGS.

Until the last few years public meetings in Canada were closed by the singing of the National Anthem. Today in Vancouver some replace the National Anthem with "The Maple Leaf Forever" (usually unknown to most of the audience); some with "O' Canada!" In the cases where the latter practice obtains two versions are used; the Native Sons of Canada and organizations dominated by it use one version; the Canadian Club and various Fraternal organizations another version. Such a hotch-potch as results from these varying usages is not effective in doing much, save to show the futility of the supposed improvement. Why not use our common sense, abandon this malpractice and close all our meetings with the National Anthem opening them, if any organization so chooses, with whatever particular song that body may desire.

## DESERVED HONOURS.

We recently noted with pleasure, the conferring of Honours for Good Citizenship on Major C. C. Owen and Mr. Geo. R. Gordon. It would be a fine thing for Canada if all bestowed Honours were as well merited as is the case with these recipients of public acknowledgment of their civic virtues.

## THE NEW PROHIBITION CAMPAIGN.

We welcome renewed activity on the part of the Prohibition forces. We were afraid that, in the anxiety to give the Liquor forces no cause to complain, Prohibitionists were captiously opposing Government Control of Liquor, (if such it may be called), the Prohibition Party would reach such a state of lassitude as would prevent their recrudescence as an effective political factor.

No one can complain that Liquor Control, so called, has not had a fair chance of proving its value. No one can, successfully, assert that it has been other than a rank failure. No one can "point with pride" to its enforcement, except the bootlegger who has amassed a considerable "bank-roll" at the expense of the health, moral and physical, of the public.

No sane, self-respecting citizen wishes a further continuance of present conditions. About the only thing that we, as a public, can truly say of the enforcement of our Liquor Laws is "that we have done the things we should not have done and left undone the things we should have done."

It is no secret that Bootlegging, which Liquor Control was to have abolished, has spread until it is everywhere in Vancouver. Not long ago a Bootlegger, in conversation with us, averred that he would, on payment of the price of a case of Whiskey, agree to procure a case on any Street, near the spot where our conversation occurred, and deliver it to us at any place outside of a church or the police station.

It is no longer a question as to whether, or not, Prohibition can be strictly enforced. It is now a question of whether Bone-Dry Prohibition, enforced as well as may be, is not better than Government Control of Liquor, equally unenforceable as proved by its entire history in British Columbia. To this there can be only one straight answer from any one not wrapped up in the interests of the Liquor Manufacturer and Vendor. This would be that no evils resulting from the unenforcement of Bone-Dry Prohibition could at all equal, in undesirability, conditions resulting from the unenforcement of Government Control of the sale of Liquor.

While this is true, Prohibitionists must not rely on the strength of their case argumentatively. It is in the personal and selfish interests of the Liquor Interests to provide for the sale of Beer and Liquor. They will be obliged to provide funds for the safeguarding of their chances to sell. They must be prepared to pay dearly as they know that morally they are badly in the wrong. There are hundreds of men who can be influenced by money or by appeals made possible by the use of money. To oppose these appeals there is only one safe way for the Prohibitionists. They must be prepared to provide a substantial fund for campaign purposes. They must enroll every possible worker for every available hour. They must unsparingly expose, and aid in the prosecution of, the graft, lawbreaking and other evils of Government Control. Above all they must forget all party affiliations and know no other politics except Prohibition, both within and without their ordinary political associations, until the battle is won and we have a Liquor Policy we need not be ashamed of, backed by an honest attempt at its enforcement. We have been without the latter so long that all classes would, perhaps, welcome that change.

## THE PRESENT ELECTION.

Once AGAIN we are face to face with a Dominion Election Campaign. It is not our purpose to deal with its causes or issues. We are not, at the moment, concerned in the question of which side will, or should, win. To our way of thinking there is a more important aspect to be considered. The real question for Canadians today is, in our opinion, whether or not we are going to return a Government, of whatever stripe politically, that will be in real control of the nation's business?

We have had a condition of affairs at Ottawa for some time which was the unfortunate breeder of "Politics" in the worst acceptation of that term. National needs and issues were subordinated by all parties to political exigencies. Strategies to keep or gain control replaced old-time discussions on issues and principles. The session lately closed will, in the main, be the record session for waste of time and money running legislative machinery to little or no profit.

There will, no doubt, be issues raised on both sides of the contest (for the crumbling of the Progressive party leaves it except perhaps for Alberta and Saskatchewan a two-party contest) which will have their appeal to large numbers of the Canadian electors. Let these not be ignored, but let them be settled by the electorate as related to the outstanding need for a real Government, with real ability to pass its measures. Then, whether the result be satisfactory or disappointing to our political hopes, we will be assured that the election has not been held in vain. The experiences of the last few months have not been inspiring.

## "THE KING CAN DO NO WRONG."

Under this caption Mr. J. W. DeB. Farris published an article in the Daily Press. We feel that there was, perhaps, an unintentional mixture in the articles and the author's thought of "Ministry" or "Cabinet" and "Council." We cannot accept either the arguments or the conclusions it contained. We mention it, however, not for that reason. We wish to rather express our appreciation of the spirit in which the article was written. We believe that Mr. Farris was prompted to write the article with the view of diverting the fight of any relationship to the Governor-General as such. For this we thank him.