

The Weekly Ontario

Morton & Herity, Publishers

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 1916.

"A GRIT DODGE."

We wish to compliment and congratulate the honest Conservative voters of Belleville upon the loyal manner in which they stood by their temperance principles in the recent local option contest in the face of one of the most insidious and at the same time one of the boldest campaigns of misrepresentation that has ever been carried on.

The anti-local optionists dared not come out openly in their advertising and anonymous paid communications and state that Local Option was purely a Liberal measure, hatched by a wily Grit government and now brought forward by scheming Grit politicians to entrap innocent Conservatives. They did not dare to do this because the memory of facts pointing in an opposite direction was too recent and the statement too ridiculous for consumption except by the uninformed or the imbecile.

But veiled hints and suggestions were thrown out after the manner of men who are afraid to fight openly or debate a question honestly.

"These faddists have one great ambition," ran one of the advertisements, "and that is to discredit the Conservative government. They tried reciprocity with the United States, then Rowell's 'Banish the Bar,' and now it is Local Option. Anything for party capital. Will the voters of Belleville stand for it?"

But the paid canvassers for license, braver than the paid publicity expert, went about proclaiming everywhere, "Local Option is a Grit dodge."

We believe the cry did fall upon a certain number of willing ears, particularly the ignorant and among those who can see nothing in the heavens above or the earth beneath except party.

Is local option a Grit dodge? Let us see. It is true that the original Local Option amendment to the License Act was passed by a Liberal administration, but we never heard that any one asserted at the time that Local Option was passed with a view to gather party capital. It is also true that the government of Sir James Whitney added many useful amendments to the Local Option law, thereby making it more workable and effective.

And not only that, but many times on the floor of the house, in speeches about the country and before temperance deputations, Sir James Whitney declared that to leave the people to decide for themselves in each municipality by local option was the true Conservative method of bringing about prohibition. In that way prohibition went into effect only where public sentiment was favorable and was not forced upon unwilling communities as is the case with general prohibition. Upon the occasion of his last public address at the famous Massey Hall meeting on the evening of June 23, 1914, Sir James devoted a large part of his speech to explaining how he had made his favorite measure of local option a useful remedy for the curtailment of the evils of the liquor traffic. In summing up he said "We will never make a party cry of it because we know the gigantic evils which result from the drink traffic and the drink habit. The result is that instead of 2800 liquor licenses when we took office we now have only 1600."

Sir James Whitney, however, in his early days was a liberal and perhaps some of the Grit heresy stuck to him all the way through. If that be true the same cannot be said of some of the local advocates of local option in that same campaign of June 1914. Permit us to furnish a few apt quotations from speeches and editorials used during that stirring period in our history. A multitude of others can be brought forward if necessary, but we merely select these at random from reports published in the Daily Intelligencer as indicative of the trend of public sentiment.

The first Grit we find testifying in favor of local option is Mr. J. W. Johnson, M.P.P. When speaking at Roslin at the Conservative Convention on June 8, Mr. Johnson is reported to have used these words,—

"Neither Liberal promises nor plebiscites ever resulted in action. Contrast this with

the action of the Whitney government, through whose policy of local option 347 municipalities are now dry."

The next Grit we note declaiming about the beauties of local option is that old Liberal war-horse, Mr. E. Guss Porter M.P. In his speech in behalf of the candidature of Mr. Harry Dempsey at Massasauga school house, June 20, he is reported as saying,—

"When the Whitney government assumed office there were but few places in the rural districts that were dry, while under the Conservative regime the dry (real dry now) districts had increased many times, until the map was almost white."

Then we have that redoubtable and aggressive Grit, Mr. W. C. Mikel, K.C., who in his speech on nomination day June 22 at Roslin described the "Whitney plan" in glowing periods as follows,—

"The Whitney plan is the most effective and the most practical and is the plan that will appeal to the common sense of the people of the province."

On the same day at Belleville one of the most illustrious Grits of the Bay of Quinte district, Hon. Senator Corby, after rebuking with characteristic vigor those who were bringing forward this heretical "Abolish the Bar" policy to replace the beneficent local option measure eulogised the Whitney administration in these words,—

"We are here to fight for Sir James Whitney who is doing all he can for the temperance people. This is a fight against a true temperance government."

Then on June 27 in the last issue prior to voting the learned editor of the local Grit sheet, Sir Mackenzie Bowell's paper, inquires with scornful emphasis,—

"Would not local option be better than abolition of the bar at one stroke? Local option when passed would be surer of local support and sympathy sufficient to enforce it easily and well."

Local option "a Grit dodge"? Well, rawther.

FRIENDLY RIVALRY.

If Sir Robert Borden did not lead public opinion in respect to his New Year's announcement that the Canadian Overseas forces would ultimately be increased from 250,000 to 500,000 men, he has, at least, the assurance contained in numerous telegrams that he voiced what the Canadian people have long been thinking.

With 500,000 men under arms Canada will take her place after Great Britain in the percentage of her population who have joined the colors. That is, of course, comparing what Great Britain has already done with what Canada proposes to do.

In France over 11 per cent. of the population is now under arms. In Great Britain approximately 8 per cent. of the population have joined the colors. If Canada enlists 500,000 men she will have seven per cent. of her population in training and take the lead over all the Overseas Dominions. Canada has up to the present moment enlisted less than 200,000 men, made up approximately as follows (excluding casualties):

Troops for C. E. F. Overseas	114,249
Troops for C. E. F. still in Canada	61,105

Total for overseas	175,354
Permanent force in Canada	2,462
Militia employed as guards	11,874

Total troops authorized for overseas . . . 500,000

Australia has enlisted the following:
Troops now overseas . . . 118,990
Overseas troops still in Australia . . . 55,361

174,351

So far Australia with a smaller population, has practically done as well as Canada. In addition she has undertaken to increase her overseas force to 250,000 and send forward drafts of reinforcements of 9,500 men per month.

Australia has set us a stiff pace to follow and if we are not to surrender our pride of first place to her we shall have to speed up our recruiting to a very considerable extent.

ATTACKING EGYPT.

From time to time rumors, no doubt set afloat by German sources, are heard that the Huns plan an attack on Egypt. There is, of course, nothing to prevent the Kaiser's strategists planning such an attack, but it is quite a different thing for them to consummate their plans. Suppose, for sake of argument, that General Von Mackensen, with an army of half a million men, were safely at Constantinople, the Huns are still roughly sixteen hundred miles from their objective, the Suez Canal and their troubles have only commenced.

Once across the Bosphorus, the German army would have to be transported about 550 miles in a southeasterly direction over a single-track railway to Bosantl. From here, troops, horses and supplies have to be unloaded and sent by road to Tarsus, a distance of roughly sixty miles. Tarsus is within range of bombardment

from the Gulf of Alexandretta. From here almost due east to Osmanie, a railroad about forty miles in length is available. Then to the road again for nearly a hundred miles until Radjo is reached. From Radjo, via Aleppo to Ryak, a distance of about two hundred miles, a railway runs, and at Ryak another transfer must be made to a narrow gauge railroad which runs about fifty miles to Damascus. Here Von Mackensen will have to change cars again and entrain for Maan, about 300 miles due south. Between Maan and the Suez Canal, due west, about three hundred miles of waterless desert intervenes.

At each of the points, named, terminal facilities must be improvised so that the troops, horses and supplies may be transhipped from railroad to road and back from road to railroad. During the journey, every pound of material must be transhipped six times, and each of these transshipment points is within striking distance of the Mediterranean, from which aeroplane raids may easily be carried on. An Associated Press correspondent figures that the journey from Constantinople to Maan would take twelve days.

Moreover, the expedition is open to a flank attack from an Allied force, based on Beirut, from which a railroad runs to Ryak less than thirty miles away. Also from Meztil, the Allies might quite easily launch an attack on Tarsus with a railway to aid in their movements.

In the face of these difficulties the German threat of an attack on Egypt can only be regarded as a bluff. They may be able to dispatch a small force of Turks against Suez, but sea power is a first essential in any operations in that theatre, any adventure of that sort, even if the desert were passed, is doomed to failure. Britain is well prepared for any move that the enemy may make in the direction of Suez.

TELL THE TALE.

That the financial world is evidently of opinion that the Teutonic Empires are approaching economic exhaustion is indicated by the continued fall in the exchanges on their capitals and the bargain counter prices to which their bonds have been reduced. Thus the New York Herald points out that checks for reichsmarks payable at sight in Berlin were quoted in New York at the end of September around eighty-four cents for four marks, the mint parity of that sum being 95.2 cents of American money. At the close of last week the rate had declined under seventy-six cents.

The Imperial German five per cents, which in September were offered in New York by Messrs. Zimmerman and Forshay at \$210 for a bond of 1,000 marks, have been successively reduced until now they are advertised in the Herald by the same banking firm offering them at \$193, exclusive of next April's coupon. As the parity of 1,000 marks is \$238, the depreciation in the bonds is enormous.

Austrian currency and credit as measured in the rates of exchange and the reduction in her third war loan five and one-half per cents have undergone even greater deterioration. Sight bills, payable in crowns—nominal parity 2.03 cents—are offered in New York at 12.95, a discount of more than thirty per cent. The exchanges and depreciated Teutonic Government securities tell the tale.

The conviction is growing everywhere that the war will be decided in France or on the Eastern front. All other adventures are side issues.

Mr. Bonar Law very truly in a recent address that "all the heroism which has been shown, and the blood that has been sacrificed will have been in vain unless we get the result that never again for generations to come will it be within the power of any man or any group of men to turn the world into the charnel house it has become."

During Lord Derby's recruiting campaign over 2,500,000 men, not counting those rejected for physical reasons, volunteered for service. These wonderful figures ought to convince both the Allies and the enemy, as Mr. Asquith says, that the people of the British Isles have their hearts in the war.

The best feature of the Compulsion Bill, in Great Britain, is expressed in the hope of Mr. Asquith that the rally to the colors of the class of men to whom it applies will be such as to render it a dead letter. If the British people believe that it is necessary, and Mr. Asquith and Lord Kitchener say that it is, there probably will be no need of compulsion to maintain the strength of the army necessary to victory.

Lord Derby, whose recent campaign for recruits is believed to have been a complete success, is "not the least pessimistic about the future." Victory, he prophesies, will come sooner than many expect, and Sir John French adds his "firmest conviction" that the glorious end-

ing is "not far distant." This is cheering.

A correspondent of the Associated Press at Constantinople says that the Germans do not regard the Suez Canal as any real obstacle to their plans for the invasion of Egypt. Since their success in crossing the Danube, he says boastfully, nothing in the form of a river or water-stretch gives them any concern. The Winnipeg Free Press, however, draws the attention of the enthusiastic correspondent to the fact that though the Ypres Canal is nothing but a ditch, the Germans have not been able to get across it, though they have been at the job fifteen months and have lost at least a quarter of a million men in their various attempts.

The martyrdom of Edith Cavell has been one of the strongest aids to recruiting all over the Allied world. Everywhere men have responded to the challenge. Thus a South African paper reports:

"The cold-blooded murder of Miss Cavell by the Germans in Belgium has been responsible for at least one useful recruit to the British army from Kimberley. Mr. Willie Braine, one of the best athletes in Griguland West, who served throughout the German Southwest Africa campaign, on reading of the unspeakable crime of which Miss Cavell was the heroic victim packed up and hurried off to catch the Saxon homeward bound. In the words of one who knew him, 'Nothing could hold him.'"

IF IT WASN'T FOR A WOMAN.

If it wasn't for a woman,
Where would you have been today?
For her sunshine and her singing
When the shadows were so gray?
For her trust and for her patience
When temptation dragged you down?
If it wasn't for a woman
Would men ever wear a crown?

If it wasn't for a woman,
With her sweetness and her grace—
With the laughter in her spirit
And the sunshine on her face—
Would we ever make much progress,
Would we ever go ahead
Up the summits we are climbing,
On the pathways we must tread?

If it wasn't for a woman,
How would you have got along
When confronted with the evil,
With the tempting and the wrong?
If it wasn't for a woman,
To stand by you and to bring
All your strength and resolution
How would you have fought the thing?

If it wasn't for a woman,
For her faith and for her love;
For her courage in our conflicts,
For her trust in things above;
If it wasn't for a woman,
Oh what lives we'd sometimes lead
Who go dashing on to ruin
At such heiter-skeiter speed!

—The Benstown Bard.

THE DAY OF ROMANCE.

Oh, many there be, who came with me
On a venture far from home,
We crossed the sea in merry glee,
Glad of the chance to roam.

We thought of war as it was of yore,
Of charges and red high lights,
Of the battle's roar, with the flag before,
And the chance of a thousand fights.

We knew we came, in our country's name,
To fight for our country's cause,
In a glorious game to win our fame
And our homeland's wild applause.

But now, alas, it comes to pass,
We fight not with ringing steel,
And the colors bright fade out of sight
In the mud of the battle field.

In helmets for gas, with their isinglass,
We parade at the dawn of day,
With a curse of hate for our respirator
We march to the field of fray.

We fight like the mole, in the gloom and cold,
Our battles are underground,
Romance's day has passed away
With the cheery bugle's sound.

Farewell Romance, with the shining lance,
The flag and the pennant flying,
When a day of life in the glorious strife,
Repaid the trouble of dying.

But we should not worry, nor seek to hurry
To join these warriors bold,
In a hundred years they'll repeat with tears,
That we were the heroes of old.

OLIVER E. BAILLIE.

Other Editors' Opinions

THE MIDWAY—CLEANED UP OR CLEANED OUT.

Many of our smaller fall fairs have closed their gates to the side show and the fairs, we hope, forever, and judging from the class of "fun, sport and amusement" furnished by the "Midway" on the grounds of our larger exhibitions it too could and should go never to return. Some Toronto papers, commenting on this year's great Canadian National, classed the Midway as the poorest feature of the entire exhibition and no sane person could do otherwise. The Midway at others of our large shows is just as disappointing, just as low-grade, just as degrading. When side shows must be closed upon the grounds and are allowed to open out again later with a censored and revised show, and when nearly all the shows are built up on much the same principles or contain freaks of the human race which should be in hospitals rather than displayed before thousands of exhibition goers, it is time for a general clean up. There is nothing educative, edifying or interesting in any of it. We are told that a "Midway must be a Midway." If it must always be a Midway such as fair-goers of the last decade are familiar with, then let us have no Midway. It is the young people who patronize the side shows in largest numbers and what do they get for their money?—nothing or worse than nothing, for many of the shows really do harm. The fakir with his rings to throw over worthless knives, the hoopla sharper, the man with the spoils to cover the little brass discs—these should go out with the rest of the gang and stay out. Surely, there are a few amusements which should stay—the roller coaster, chute the chutes, merry-go-round, royal gorge and such real amusements which have no fake connected with them and which are open to the public and the people see what they are to get for their money and are not disappointed. More such might be added, but the tented Midway of bad dancers, disgusting freaks and fakirs of all kinds is no drawing card for any show. Find a man or woman, if you can, who goes to a big fair to see the Midway and nothing else, or with whom the Midway is the main attraction which induces either to attend and what have you? We doubt whether one could be found and if so have our own opinions of such people. The Midway is a revenue getter. True, some real, live educative feature in its place would be a better puller for the show. One man at Toronto emphatically stated that a really good place to eat would bring more people and more money to the big fair than any Midway could do. Who would trade a show such as is put on in front of the grand stand at big fairs for all the Midways ever seen in Canada? When the fair-goer has seen one Midway he has seen them all. They do not even include a good clown any more, and all the side shows controlled by one man or company as they are tends to lower the production year after year, consequently these shows leave a dirty, dark-brown taste in the mouth of the person who bites. If a Midway cannot be built up with clean, wholesome fun, clever acrobatic feats of educative features as a basis then it has no place on our exhibition grounds. So far it has been of the class that should be barred by all shows. It should be cleaned up or cleaned out, preferably the latter.—Farmer's Advocate.

Personal Mention.

Col. W. N. Ponton, K.C., is recovering from an attack of pneumonia.

Mr. E. B. Frederick, West Bridge St., is recovering nicely from his recent attack of pneumonia.

Sergeant-Major Charles W. Thompson, 33rd Battery returned to Kingston after three weeks leave to recuperate from the effects of an operation.

A ladies' gold brooch with the initials M.K.E. has been found on the street.

Mr. Ernie Brown, Avondale, has been indisposed for several days.

Mr. E. B. Frederick, West Bridge St., is recovering nicely from a recent severe attack of pneumonia.

Lt-Col. J. R. Orr, of Edmonton, Alberta, was recently married to Miss Rose Dale, formerly of Thorold, Ont. The marriage took place at the home of her brother, in Chicago.

Mrs. Sarah Anderson left today for Boston, Mass., where she will reside in future. She has been in this city for several months assisting in caring for her father, the late Rev. John Ferguson, during his last illness.

FARME

Charles W. at Noon

(COURT'S)

Charles Well farmer of Thur a few miles from stant death at cutter he was wife was struck passenger train Cannifton Road was hurled to and was picked dition. She has the head. At fir to be the more she was taken discovered that dangerous as the Just how serious is cannot be det.

At two-thirty Wellman was hospital staff v getting her war

Mr. and Mrs down town th usual business Geo. I. Thomas home, for Mr. years past been farm in Thurlio Apparently see the train a

MILITA

The 155th re recruits from Fiction. The str

The countr Col. Adams's a he could use fe agents if he he recruiting cent stance is doing

Lt-Col. Paine gone to Deser

Major McCull in the city tod

Madoc Patrio tributed \$25 to entertainment club rooms for

Captain Wate 80th has gone command

Thirty-two r this week.

Lieut. Stares band is out of

Private Gay, charged from

An entertain given by the League of Tor the Griffin Th Sunday afterno at 8.30. Permis from Hon. Tho motion pictur meetings. The tra will be pr aid of the 80th taken up for re

Lt. Trousdale returned to Be

paces.

Photograp

(From S

At the Belle evening Prof. A University de lecture on "Photography in fore the memb nadian Club. T open one and there been su Prof. Clarke's ed with natur and was inter Mrs. J. W. Jo club, occupied happy remarks Clarke.

The lecturer with definition get something just, but is a light rays sorbed by the end of the eye upon the color namely the a