

THE WEEKLY ONTARIO.

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THURSDAY, JULY 11, 1918.

DOES NOT APPLY HERE.

That was a strange and ignorant blunder perpetrated by The Toronto Globe the other day when it expressed the opinion that Mr. E. Guss Porter, M.P., had been shorn of his power and no longer had authority to make appointments to the staff of the Trent Valley canal and other public services in this favored constituency of West Hastings.

The Globe in its ill-informed haste assumed that West Hastings came under the provisions of the new Civil Service Act passed on the 17th day of May, last.

West Hastings emphatically does not. Mr. Porter was not present in the House when the act was passed, therefore how could the government expect him to be bound by a lot of utopian rubbish that he probably never heard of, much less agreed to.

It was all right for Sir Robert Borden to pledge himself and the Union party prior to the election that patronage would be abolished, and that all appointments to the governmental services would be made upon the "sole standard of merit." Those are Sir Robert's exact words. Grit or Tory was to have nothing to do with it. Neither was the sitting member's "recommendation" to be considered any more than was the fact that the humble seeker for office had voted right or made himself otherwise useful at election time. All this is very fine but it does not apply in West Hastings.

Sir Robert's pledges were embodied in the order-in-council of February 13th and then made the law of Canada in May, 1918. An expensive Civil Service Commission was organized and a chairman appointed at a salary of \$6,000 per annum.

The commission has jurisdiction everywhere else in Canada except in West Hastings. Here it is necessary for the canawli candidates to approach the sitting member. If they pass a satisfactory examination Ottawa is notified of the appointments and afterwards tends to such little details as the payment of salaries. Otherwise Ottawa must keep off West Hastings grass. On the whole it is a good arrangement and helps to keep tone and uniformity in the service. Besides, it is but another instance of that sturdy independence of which we, the descendants of U. E. Loyalists, have ever been foremost exemplars. As far as West Hastings is concerned we won't stand for no butting in.

The only apparent exception was in the case of Charles Harman. Harman performs the onerous duties of axeman on the canawli. We don't know what an axeman's duties are, but presume they may be something in the nature of cutting cordwood to fire the fleet of steamers en route and thus conserve coal. The work of axeman being less strenuous than that of chairman of the Civil Service Commission is paid for at the rate of \$2.35 a day.

Harman always voted "right," until the time of the election last December. He then did a foolish thing. Being a member of the Frankford band he had the temerity to accompany that organization and play at several public meetings in the interests of the candidature of Mr. R. J. Graham. Remonstrance did no good. Harman, being an Englishman, grew more stubborn all the time and finally ended up by declaring that he would go where he liked and vote the way he wanted to. On December 17th Harman carried into execution his mad threat, it is said, and voted in favor of the independent Conservative candidate, Mr. Graham. That was the last straw. Vengeance was swift. Less than a week later, Harman received the following terrifying letter,—

Belleville, Ont., 22nd Dec. 1917.
Chas. Harman, Esq.,
Frankford, Ont.

Dear Sir,—

Notwithstanding I had you appointed to your present position upon the recommendation of your friends at Frankford, I am now informed by them that you have entirely forfeited their confidence and right to maintain

the position which you now hold. You will therefore let ME have your resignation at once, otherwise I shall have to take it up with the Department and have you dismissed. If I do not hear from you within the next week I shall take it up with the Department.

Yours truly,

E. Guss Porter.

At last reports Harman was still cutting cordwood for the greedy boilers of the canal steamship fleet and pulling down his \$2.35 a day. Why he should thus be allowed to go on and interfere with the homogeneity of the scene is a mystery to us. We do not know. We cannot tell. The power to appoint should also carry with it the power to dismiss. Retribution may be only deferred, but six months is a long time.

Will the member for West Hastings now demonstrate to The Globe the emptiness of its dream by forthwith dismissing Harman from his job. Will he furnish The Globe with ocular evidence that he is still wrapped in the plenitude of his pristine power by carrying into effect his solemn warning of December 22nd?

PROSTITUTING THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

The amazing story told to the Medical Council of Ontario by Dr. King of the wholesale issuance of "prescriptions" for liquor by a large number of physicians of Toronto is a tale of sordid disgrace and the prostitution of what the public has looked upon as a cultured, honorable and distinguished profession. The fact that over 9000 "prescriptions," many of them for considerable amounts of liquor, have been ordered by the mandate of the medical doctors of Toronto, since the first of April, shows to what limit the abuse has extended.

The Medical Council has itself shown a strange misconception of its duty to the public by refusing to deal with some of the flagrant offenders at once and in the most drastic manner. To postpone action for a year is about equivalent to telling these charlatans to go ahead, the coast is clear.

We do not accept the pronouncement of Dr. Arthur Jukes Johnson that at this trafficking and bootlegging, under the aegis of a highly protected and exclusive profession, is none of the public's business. It is very much the public's business. If the Medical Council will see to it that those unworthy members, who have dishonored and disgraced their profession, are given speedy and adequate punishment all well and good. But to side-step the issue by referring it to a committee that will not report for a whole year, is far less than the public has the right to expect.

Those men in Toronto and Hamilton who have flouted the war-time legislation of Canada and who have outraged the decencies of medical ethics by writing out whiskey orders to all and sundry who paid their miserable fee, without semblance of an examination, should forthwith be expelled from the profession and their license to practice in Ontario permanently cancelled. Three or four lessons of that kind would show that the Medical Council was determined to keep a clean house and would have a powerful deterrent effect upon other would-be blind-piggers who are privileged to write M.D. after their names. After such flagrant violations of the law and mercenary contempt for professional ethics as have just been exposed, the public will demand something more than reference to a committee and a few mild words of brotherly reproof.

As a class, the medical profession of Ontario stands deservedly high in popular regard. Its members are almost invariably men who bring credit to their chosen calling and honor to the community they serve. They would scorn to stoop to the disreputable or the unprofessional. Many who have spent the best years of their lives and a large amount of money to acquire their diploma never obtain a practice that gives them a reasonable competency for old age. If they do receive a large patronage the work is of so exhaustive a nature as to sap the vitality of the strongest. The sacrifice is out of proportion to the rewards that are received. The individual practitioners have not always been successful but they have almost invariably been clean and true and honorable.

All the more reason, therefore, that adequate punishment should be meted out to the few who use the profession as a cloak for their misdeeds.

It is a source of local pride and gratification to know that the physicians of Belleville have individually and collectively lived up to the highest ideals of their profession. The orgy of whiskey dispensing by means of the doctors of Toronto and Hamilton could not be duplicated here. It is equally gratifying to know that all our druggists are quite as zealous of their good name. The thirsty ones who desire relief can find no accommodation at any Belleville drug store.

Some of the most eminent physicians on earth never prescribe liquor in any form for their patients. The best scientific authorities

declare its use in illness always brings about detrimental conditions. A belief in its panacea potency characterises the old and unskilled. Modern medicine chooses and adopts a better way.

Liquor, under any circumstances, is a matter of doubtful expediency. In the cases considered at Toronto there was not the slightest attempt to justify its use.

THE FARM LABOR QUESTION

Farmers are being requested to prepare statements showing what help is needed in each locality, so that arrangements may be made with city employers to release the numbers needed at specified times.

This gathering of information from the agricultural districts appears to be a necessary measure and the knowledge gained may turn out to be rather astounding. According to Peter McArthur, writer and farmer, there is doubt as to whether work will be found in the harvest fields for many volunteers. He says that the farmers of Ontario, as a rule, look harvesting into consideration when sowing their crops and only sowed as much as they were sure of being able to harvest. They made no calculation on extra help for the season, and only farms where a son or other help has been taken away unexpectedly will there be room for volunteers.

The same writer points out that this voluntary help could be used advantageously in the fall in preparing for next year's crops and that their assistance would mean much greater acreage turned to the production of foodstuffs. If Mr. McArthur's views are well founded, this aspect ought to be considered and perhaps men could be found who can plow and prepare the land and who would be willing to help in the autumn. The sooner it is known how many men are wanted for the harvest, the less inconvenience and loss will be suffered by city employers.

SINN FEINERS GIVE PROOF.

Sinn Feiners are going to do what the British Government failed to do—satisfy everyone that the arrest of those accused of conspiring with the enemy was justified and in the best interests of the empire. In spite of all statements to this effect by Government representatives, there were some persons in England as well as in Ireland who demanded proof of the offenses charged and were inclined, lacking this proof, to look with suspicion on the Government's action.

The seizure of 40,000 rounds of ammunition in Dublin, which is described as an incident in an attempt to smuggle arms and ammunition into Ireland on a large scale, will convince any skeptic who is open to reason that there was need for determined action by the authorities in Ireland, especially when seizures of smaller quantities were made in other parts of Erin and the consignee is known as the brother of one of the arrested and interned Sinn Feiners.

It may be maintained by bigots that even these discoveries of Sinn Fein activities do not prove conspiracy with Germany. There is little possibility of this cargo of war material having left an English or Scottish port, and there is every probability that it came from German agents in some other country.

That part, however, is not important. Any plot which has as its object an armed attack on British authority in Ireland is pro-German and calculated to hinder the Allies' prosecution of the war against the Teutons. Every Sinn Feiner, however ignorant, realizes that the killing or wounding of one British soldier or working civilian is giving direct aid to the enemy and if he countenances such an act he is a pro-German and conspiring with Germany.

It is to be hoped that the senders of the munitions as well as the receiver and distributors will be taken and put where they can do no further harm, for with some of these ring-leaders out of the way the Sinn Fein movement may fall to the ground and sanity return to the more light-headed portion of the Irish.

DRIVEN BY DESPERATION.

Amazement has been expressed that the German leaders should show such utter disregard for the lives of their men as they do by throwing them against the Allied defence positions in wave after wave; even greater wonder has been caused by the apparent readiness of the German troops to fight under such conditions. Perhaps there is an explanation, which has a strong and direct bearing on the length of time the war will last.

Although there are not available exact figures of the food rations allowed Germans, it is known that they are exceedingly small, and of the poorest quality. Austria's weekly ration

NEW USE FOR AEROPLANES

Senator Thompson, Democrat, of Kansas, announces that he will purchase the first political campaign aeroplane in history and will test the air route to the United States Senate via the Kansas cyclone, air cur-

is known and may be taken as indication of Germany's. It is: Twenty-two ounces of bread, one pound of potatoes (of which half are not edible), one ounce of black bran mash, one ounce of another mill product, one ounce and a half of fat, six ounces and a half of sugar, one egg, seven ounces of meat (often unobtainable), a little jam and coffee substitutes; altogether about 55 ounces. To this is added what grain, vegetables the people may be able to get, milk and fruits, a total of, perhaps, 70 ounces, or 10 ounces a day.

With such conditions existing among the masses of the people and equivalent scarcity of food for the armies, it readily is understood that the soldiers and leaders are in a state of desperation. The only way they can force any relief is by driving through the Allies and capturing stores and lands where food is to be found. They are faced with the alternative of attack or death by starvation, and of the two there can be but one choice. Hindenburg and Ludendorff dare not delay longer than is absolutely necessary in their attempted advance, for they know what is in the mind of the hungry nation, and a retreat would be almost certain to spell revolt.

If Austria's plight is anything approaching as desperate as is believed she must either gain victory and food within a month or throw up her hands. Her collapse would leave Germany stranded.

Now, if never before, the Teutons are fighting for life. They are driven on relentlessly, not by courage, not by ambition, not by patriotism, but by fear of starvation. They are in the position of a man, who cannot swim, fleeing from a blazing house on the brink of deep water. He will plunge into the depths without hesitation on the chance of escaping the death which pursues him. If massed attacks are the only way the Teutons can see of escape, this way will be tried without protest.

PITY THESE CHILDREN.

Every Sunday certain houses in Vienna are visited by a little boy and a little girl who knock timidly at the door and ask in weak, tired voices: "Please give us one small piece of bread." They will refuse money if it is offered, but beg for what they consider their lawful right. Other children visit other houses; all are pale and thin as shadows and have the same request to make.

The heart which does not have some pity to spare for these, the children of our enemies, is adamant indeed. Pity them by all means, shed tears over their terrible plight if nature so decrees; such pity will do no harm to the Allied cause and will benefit those who feel for the unfortunate.

For these, as for the children of France, of Belgium, of Serbia, the Allies are fighting. How can their misery be ended most quickly without death providing the way? We cannot aid them directly with food and clothing, even if the laws permitted, for to do so would be to ease the burden of our grown-up foes and lengthen the war; it would mean more of such boys and girls in the months to come. There are two ways of hastening the end of starvation for them: One is German victory, and the other Allied victory. The former spells equal suffering or worse for countless babies in France, in Italy; yes, in Britain, and perhaps Canada. The latter means relief for all. The Teutons would not try to help the little ones of a defeated nation, but would rather stand by and enjoy their sufferings; the Allies could not bear to see the young of their beaten foes hungry for one moment longer than is unavoidable.

The Allies are fighting the cause of these children of Austria and of Germany. The way to show pity and sympathy for these shadowy waifs is to do everything possible to back up the men who are fighting their battle and to prevent the war lasting one day longer than necessity compels.

The war will not really end until it ends fight.

"Do not waste yourself, nor allow others to waste." This is a good motto at any time, but especially at present when we should conserve time, money and food.

Although the next Presidential election in the United States will not take place until November, 1920, already the field is being canvassed for possible candidates. President Wilson may have a re-nomination, and probably re-election, if he wishes it, despite the unwritten law against third-term candidates. And should he step out, his son-in-law, W. G. McAdoo, is a strong probability. For the Republican nomination the names chiefly mentioned are those of Theodore Roosevelt, Governor Whitman of New York and Senator Johnson of California.

drive it, and it is my purpose to fly from town to town in Kansas during my campaign for re-election. Of course, I know my opponents will say that my campaign is up in the air, but I propose to show I can make a safe landing."—Washington News Item.

"VICTORY BREAD"

Once more attention is riveted on the food situation by the new order of the Food Board in regard to the use of wheat flour and substitutes for it. There is no doubt that people generally drop into a habit of carelessness or apathy towards the tremendous war problems that beset us, unless they are constantly reminded of them. It has been dimmed into us that whether we have war or whether we have peace, famine looms ahead for the whole world. We in this favored land are apt to regard this as an exaggeration, and we are less careful about the amount and the kind of food we conserve than we ought to be.

The new order is for the purpose of conserving the small stocks of wheat in existence, and as it emphasizes this, the newspapers carry a government advertisement, calling on the farmers to save all their fall wheat for seed, and to notify the Government of any they can spare beyond what they will use themselves. Nobody but a traitor to the Allied cause will use white bread now if he can possibly avoid it. No white bread will be available from the bakers after July 15, when every loaf they sell must have a label with the name and address of the baker and "Victory Bread" on it, the bread being composed of the prescribed proportions of other grains than wheat.

The substitutes for wheat are given as pure and wholesome corn, oats, barley, rye, rice, buckwheat, tapioca or potato flour, bran, shorts, oatmeal, rolled oats, cornmeal, corn starch, hominy, corn grits, rye meal, rice, tapioca or any mixture of same, and potatoes. There is a good deal of variety here for the skilful cook, but the average householder is not too well inclined to embark on experiments or vary from the accustomed routine. The change must be made, however, and to stimulate observance of this necessary regulation which requires people east of Port Arthur to purchase substitutes for wheat in the proportion of not less than one pound of substitute to two pounds of wheat or standard flour, a fine of from \$100 to \$1,000 will be imposed, or imprisonment up to three months, or both penalties.

Dealers must provide the necessary commodities for purchasers, and there should be no difficulty in getting supplies when the order is understood. There is a difficulty, however, to which Dr. Hastings has already called attention. The price of wheat and flour has been fixed, but the substitutes are liable by law to prohibitive rates, like everything else which the food authorities have controlled unless some action is taken. It does not tend to decrease the use of wheat flour for example, to find that potato flour is four times as expensive. The food authorities should remember that these substitutes for wheat are less valuable as food, and should be no more costly as merchandise. They recognize the lesser food value in the food regulation which provides that four pounds of potatoes will be considered equivalent to one pound of other substitutes. It ought to be understood that exceedingly palatable and very wholesome bread can be made from these substitutes when properly combined, and an effort should be made by all concerned to observe this effective war measure as loyally as any other regulation imposed by war conditions. So shall we eat the bread of victory.—Toronto World.

RELIEF FOR PHYSICIANS

That the Ontario Temperance Act had worked for the general good is freely admitted. And yet it works a certain hardship on an already over-worked class of the community.

The ranks of the medical profession are already depleted by the demands of the war. The physicians must work day and night in order that the health of the community may be maintained.

To this has been added the responsibility of relieving the thirst of the nation. When a doctor has been out all night attending to the sick and yet is called upon to write three or more prescriptions for the thirsty on the following morning it must be admitted that he is an undue sufferer from the hardships brought on by the war.

Add to this the terrible responsibility that rests on a man who can distribute ten gallons of liquor without having to account for it, and you will readily agree that an amendment to the Ontario Temperance Act should provide for the relief of over-burdened physicians.—Toronto Telegram.

Wood For Barrie

Barrie, July 4.—The town council has signed a contract for the cutting of 2,000 cords of hardwood in Algonquin Park. It will be sold to citizens at \$10.50 a cord, delivered from the car. The wood is to be cut and piled by August 30th.

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