

Does Prohibition Prohibit?

According to certain police reports prohibition in Canada is not serving the purpose expected of it by its advocates. Decrease in crime was one of the good things assured, especially certain phases of crime that are commonly supposed to be the direct consequences of drink—drunkenness and immorality. While drunkenness, as the term was understood in pre-prohibition days, has decreased a new form of drunkenness, more virulent and more dangerous, is fast taking its place. We refer to the results of drinking the decoctions sold as spiritous liquors in “blind pigs” and by “bootleggers,” two drinks of which will knock a man out. This liquor has the same debasing effect on the mentality of the victim as cocaine, opium and other kinds of dope. As a matter of fact it is dope of the worst kind, and it makes the step to immorality a very short one. True friends of temperance cannot help but feel alarmed at the increase in this class of mental deterioration and crime which is so insidious

in its working as to be difficult of detection until the victim is ready for the lunatic asylum or jail. If police statistics are correct, and there is no reason to doubt them, prohibition, so far as preventing certain crimes in Canada has been a failure. We wonder if certain of the prohibitionists do not sometimes get drunk with their own impetuosity and while in that state get carried away from the realms of common-sense and good judgment. The average citizen is a temperate man who is desirous of providing for and protecting those dependent upon him, consequently he will resent any propaganda that adds to the dangers of the streets and increases the cost of protection. And crime is on the increase in many urban centres that are “dry” in spite of the extra precautions of our usually efficient police forces. This means larger police forces and increased taxation. We believe in temperance —
In all things.

Mr. J. N. Bayne

The large host of friends, including municipal men in every part of Canada, will join with us in congratulating Mr. J. N. Bayne, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs for Saskatchewan, on his preferment to one of the commissionships of the Local Government Board of that Province. We also congratulate the Saskatchewan Government on its wisdom in making the appointment. It is now ten years since Mr. Bayne took over the administration of what was then a new department and he has been more than successful in his task. From the first he made the office a personal one—it was his hobby as well as occupation. Always a student of municipal affairs and essentially an idealist, Mr. Bayne set for his department a high standard which in the course of his ten years administration it not only reached, but in the reaching thereof those who came in contact with the Chief were impressed by his sense of duty and affected by his enthusiasm. He had vista and understanding.

Under Mr. Bayne's guidance every foot of the Province, which has an area of 250,650 square miles, has been divided into seven cities, seventy-five towns, three hundred and thirteen villages, and three hundred rural municipalities, made up of nine townships each. Surely a record for one man, but as though this was not enough, he travelled thousands of miles to study at first hand the latest development in civic affairs in other parts of Canada and in the United States, so that municipal Saskatchewan may be up-to-date.

As Commissioner of the Saskatchewan Local Government Board Mr. Bayne will still be associated with the municipal life of the Province, and we trust with the municipal life of the Dominion. The successor of Mr. Bayne is Mr. J. J. Smith, who previous to his appointment as Wild Lands Tax Commissioner, had been Mr. Bayne's Deputy. We wish Mr. Smith all success.

Ontario Hydro-Electric

We congratulate Sir Adam Beck in the success of his campaign to bring under his scheme of public ownership the City of Hamilton whose citizens recently voted in favor of the Hydro-Radial By-law. This last success practically brings the whole of municipal Ontario under the influence of the Hydro-electric commission thus strengthening the largest public owned public utility in the world, indeed the largest public utility, whether publicly or privately owned. What is more under the able direction of Sir Adam Beck, this huge public trust has been from the first a financial success, not only to the Province but to each one of the municipalities that have adopted the scheme. Of course, the Ontario Hydro-electric has had, and has, its critics and in particular has much criticism been hurled at the head of the Chairman, but Sir Adam is made of

stern stuff that knows not defeat. Time and time again has this doughty champion of public ownership carried the war into the camps of his detractors with success.

One result worth noting of Sir Adam Beck's constant advocacy of his scheme is the real interest now being taken in general municipal affairs by the citizens of Ontario. Hydro-electric development as expounded by Sir Adam appealed to the imagination of the people. It was municipal, consequently the people took up municipal affairs more seriously—with good results. What a fine thing it would be for municipal Canada if there were eight more Sir Adam Beck's—one for each of the other provinces. There would certainly be some hot times, but the citizens would benefit.