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DO NOT FAVOR ABOLITION OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Joint Committee Decries Legislative Council Shall Remain.

Premier Armstrong brought down a report from the Committees of both Houses of the Legislature in connection with the proposed abolition of the Legislative Council.

The Council's report says that while convinced that abolition, particularly under existing conditions in Nova Scotia, would not be in the public interest, believe that the Council would be willing to consider any feasible suggestion having for its object the still further increasing the efficiency and usefulness of the Council.

The House of Assembly Committee's report is that they are of the opinion that in view of the declaration contained in the above statement and of the individual declarations made by members of the Committee on the Legislative Council, that there is no present possibility of the Legislative Council assenting to legislation for abolition if introduced into and passed by the House of Assembly, or that the Legislative Council itself will initiate such legislation for adoption by the House of Assembly. The committee from the Legislative Council further urge upon the Joint Committee that in their judgment public opinion in this Province was in favor of the retention of that branch of the Legislature.

The committee further report that both these suggested steps were submitted to the members of the joint committee as the most practical and the most simple way of giving effect to the resolution adopted by this House.

CLEMENTSVALE

Mr. Albert Wandbold and Mr. Roy Trimmer have gone to Boston for the Summer.

Miss Vivian Pyne, of Market Corner, spent Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. Pyne.

Mrs. Albert Wandbold and two children spent Sunday in Virginia East, the guest of her sister, Mrs. John Riley.

Quite a number of this place are on the sick list at time of writing. We wish them a speedy recovery.

Mr. Marvin Wright has returned to his home after being engaged in the woods at Westfild with Mr. O. H. Ford.

Mr. Arthur Pukey, of Victory, was a Sunday guest of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Cress.

CHILDREN OF UNMARRIED PARENTS

(Dr. J. G. Shearer.)

Some 5,000 innocent children are born out of marriage each year in Canada. There are therefore 25,000 such little ones under five years of age and, allowing for those who die at twice the rate for other children, 99,000 under sixteen at any one time in the Dominion.

This host of children has heretofore been treated socially with shameful injustice and cruelty, even where they get affectionate mothering which was not universal they have been branded on the official registers as "illegitimate" a term that may well be applied to their parents but surely not to the innocent children.

Some three years ago the Social Service Council undertook a study of their case and of the laws in Canadian Provinces, and in other countries dealing with this problem. Norway was found to have the best law in the world at that time.

The Norwegian law was materially improved upon and a model law for the care of children born out of wedlock drafted. This was submitted to the Attorney General of Ontario, put into legal form, introduced in the Legislature of that Province and enacted with few changes. A year later it was in substance adopted by the Legislature of Manitoba. Within the last few months it has been adopted also by British Columbia and Alberta.

As these four Provinces contain five-ninths of the population of Canada, a similar proportion of the children concerned are thus protected and cared for. And there is every reason to expect that before many years pass this beneficent measure will be the law throughout Canada.

It aims to serve three ends. First to ensure to these children economic support, a public school education and as nearly as possible a fair chance in life—as fair a chance as they would have had if born of the same parents in wedlock. Second to secure justice to the mothers. They are not entitled to more than justice, but they are entitled to justice. Heretofore they have borne singly all the shame and all the burden resulting from the fault of both the fathers and themselves. Third, to see that the fathers get justice also. Being unprincipled usually in degree at least, they have generally proven themselves cowards or cads and gone scot free because of the serious imperfections of previously existing laws regarding illegitimacy. Justice to the fathers entails responsibility at least for the full financial support of their children, and the payment of the maternity expenses of the mothers or other costs necessarily resulting from their misconduct. Paternity of course must be given where not admitted to the satisfaction of a judge in Chambers. Needless publicity is avoided. The mother's evidence must be corroborated in some respect. The Judge with all the facts and evidence before him decides the question of paternity. That being settled he determines also what the father must pay. When this is fixed he must pay this sum weekly or monthly until his child becomes sixteen years of age and thus ceases to be a child. No paltry \$100.00 or so will set him permanently free from the consequences of his conduct. Five dollars per week means \$2,900.00 in fifteen years.

This feature of the law which has been in force in Norway for about eight years has resulted in a steady decline in the number of births out of marriage in that country. There is every reason to believe that when this new measure becomes generally known and understood and after a few years operation under wise administration there will be similar decrease in the number of cases of illegitimate parentage in Canada.

PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION MAY BE HELD THIS AUTUMN

The Legislature has passed an estimate (\$200,000) for the erection of buildings for exhibition purposes on the site of the Old Exhibition grounds.

If the Grand Stand and Arena could be built, this Summer it is within the range of possibility that a fair could be held in Halifax this Autumn. It is now required that the city of Halifax raise \$200,000.

GIANT McASKILL'S SHOE

Ex-Chief of Police Joseph Francis, on his return from a recent trip to Cape Breton, brought back an interesting souvenir. It is a shoe once worn by the famous Cape Breton giant, Angus McAskill. There is no mistake or fake about it, for no other man could ever possibly have worn it. It is a huge shoe, made on the old fashioned hogan style, with leather laces. Its length is 18 1/2 inches and the shoe gives evidence of being worn. All who have seen it declare it to be the largest thing in the shape of a shoe they ever saw, and can't conceive of the size of the giant who wore it. J. W. McDougall, the West Side shoe man, was completely knocked out by the size and as he turned the shoe over he pronounced the longer he looked at it the larger it seemed to be. John Preston, the hiro engineer, offered the suggestion that a sheet of McAskill's size with some Sheet Harbor kilowatts behind it, could kick over the world. It is really worth seeing to gather some idea of the size of the ill-famous Cape Breton giant.

FOREST PROTECTION

Canadian forests will this year be visited by a large number of delegates from all parts of the British Empire, embracing in their number well-known timber men of knowledge and experience who have been associated with the administration and management of the forests of the various parts of the Mother Country and the Dominions. Mr. Frank J. D. Barnjum, the Maritime Provinces lumber man and forestry conservation philanthropist, who has for many years conducted vigorous patriotic campaigns in the interests of the preservation of Canadian forests and who has spent time and money liberally in pursuit of his schemes, is again to the fore in a project to stir up action in parliament, feeling, as he himself puts it, that forestry conservation "is one of the most vital problems facing this country today."

Mr. Barnjum has offered thousands of dollars—not once, but several times—in prizes for suggestions as to how best to conserve the forests; preserve the trees from the ravages of the bark worm and other harmful insects; and also prohibit the export of unmanufactured wood. Mr. Barnjum has recently addressed a personal letter to the Federal and Provincial members of parliament, emphasizing the obvious necessity for immediate action, more particularly in the latter aspect of the problem.

Sir Lomer Gouin imposed salutary restrictions in the Province of Quebec covering practically 85% of the timber lands of the Province which constitute the foundation of our pulp and paper industry, although there is no valid reason why the remaining 15% should not be equally well protected. Every new paper machine installed in Canada and every new issue of pulp and paper securities brought out and sold to the people of the Dominion are added arguments, it is urged, for prohibiting the export of raw wood. Close observers of the Canadian forestry protection problem are agreed that not only have we not a sufficient supply of wood for the mills at present operating, but we are also suffering positive and serious ills because we have already denuded our forest areas to too great an extent. Emergency measures, to be followed by reduction of the "cut" on all lands, both public and private, are forcibly stressed—to the amount of the annual growth. China, at one time rich in wooded lands, was overtaken by disaster through what is precisely occurring in this country today, and unless strong measures are taken—and that speedily—to conserve the timber crops of this Dominion, Canada will find herself similarly placed. In her forests Canada has a tremendous natural asset and one which, in spite of all the depredations of past years can, by taking proper steps, be yet saved. God alone can make a tree. The virgin forests of the United States once covered well towards a billion acres—822,000,000 acres—over a million square miles, a tract, if all the trees were put together, 500 miles by 2,000 miles. There remain 127,000,000 acres, just one-sixth of the original acreage. Towns and farms have filled nearly half of the cleared spaces—359,000,000 acres—and second growth, much of it of an inferior quality, covers nearly a third—245,000,000 acres. The rest—\$1,000,000 acres—is idle land, devastated and growing nothing worth while.

The Supreme Maker of trees can do something, but He needs man's assistance. He can give the increase provided Pauls plant and Apollones water and entomologists protect against pests, and fire wardens protect against fire, with the plant pathologists, and soil physicists. There must be systematic planting of trees, the great advantage of which was fully demonstrated in Scotland during the late war, when thousands of acres of magnificent Scots' pines were available for the construction of railways and other necessary work

(Continued on Page Three)

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