

The Weekly Ontario

Morton & Herity, Publishers

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 1916.

THREATENED MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE

We have been informed that there is a movement on foot to have certain men put out of their positions and certain firms in the city put out of business because of their activity in the recent Local Option contest. In the list of unfortunates who have been selected to meet the dire vengeance of the offended majesty of whiskeydom we hear that The Ontario is included.

We have not a word to say in defence of any of the others. It is probable that they richly deserve their fate. But honestly, we do not see why The Ontario should be placed in the cell among the condemned or offered up as a sacrifice.

Wherein has The Ontario offended? What have we done that we should so soon have our earthly career ended and our name selected for enrollment among the martyrs? Surely we are too young, too beautiful, and innocent to be sent to so horrible a doom.

What have we done? Echo answers, "What?" Did we abuse anybody? Did we bear false witness? Did we rob any good citizen of his good name? Did we help revise the voters' list or draw voters on election day? Did we do any canvassing in Bleecker or Foster wards? Did we pass around suds, tea or ginger ale? Did we hire any workmen to stay off the job, just for that day? Did we give away any red-backed or green-backed promissory notes?

We deny positively and categorically having perpetrated any of these cowardly crimes. We hold ourselves distinctly above that sort of thing. Gentlemen, we have looked into this thing from every angle. We have considered it from every viewpoint and we can reach only one conclusion, and that conclusion is that **WE ARE INNOCENT**. If we are punished it will be a gross miscarriage of justice, a travesty upon modern civilization.

But there is this so-called Civic Welfare League—they did revise the voters' list. They did draw voters to the polls. They did display anywhere and everywhere a malicious activity. We know it and can prove it.

Go to them. Go after them. They are old offenders. Consign them to that place that Pastor Russell says does not exist, and let them have a front seat by the big grate with no zinc water to modify the temperature.

But spare The Ontario. In the words of a former mayor of Belleville who had come to the close of his term, we can affirm,—"We hadn't done a thing."

LET EVERYBODY SELL IT.

Editor Livingston is now about the only man of any speaking ability in Ontario who will sell his services and get up in public to plead in behalf of the liquor traffic. He came to Belleville ostensibly to present an argument in favor of the license system and took over an hour to tell the audience nothing except that local option was not being effectively enforced. His only plea for license was a thorough condemnation of that system, and was in fact a strong claim for wide-open sale.

The editor drew an idealistic picture of conditions in Buffalo where 1410 saloons are running night and day and Sundays as well as contrasted with Toronto where only 150 licensed hotels had to do all the catering to the thirsty ones. His statement was that drunkenness was more rife in Toronto than in Buffalo, that the Buffalonians drank only lager beer and apparently very little of that, while the men of Hogtown took theirs containing 40 to 60 per cent. of alcohol and were swilling it down by the tank-load.

As far as we could judge, Mr. Livingston meant to convey the impression that Toronto had made a big mistake in reducing the number of its licenses, and that the more you try to restrict and curtail the business the greater the consumption becomes.

If 1410 saloons in Buffalo promote sobriety, and lessen consumption of liquor why not increase the number to about 5,000, say, and thus wipe out drinking and drunkenness altogether? Does Mr. Livingston know of a well authenticated instance where a brewer or a distiller took off his coat and worked in favor of license reduction? Representations will shortly be made to the Provincial License Commission favoring license reduction in Belleville. Will the brew-

ers and distillers back up the Civic Welfare League in the presentation of their claim? By all the rules of the game they should do so because it means to them more business and a bigger gate, according to Mr. Livingston's very plausible theory.

We, too, spent several days in Buffalo last fall, and although we were not there for the purpose of instituting comparisons in regard to boozology between that center of sobriety and Hogtown, the hilarious, we did not come away with any too favorable impressions of the temperance work being done by the Bison City's fourteen hundred and ten saloons. Our brother pen-pusher would have been more convincing to some of us if he had gone a little farther below the surface and given us some police court statistics, certified statements of comparative total sales, reports from the large employers of labor, social workers and people who know the situation in the homes of the people. A few little details of that nature would have been more satisfying.

Two or three years ago we returned to Belleville on a Saturday afternoon after having spent nearly two weeks in New York. On that Saturday afternoon and evening we saw more drunken men monopolizing the sidewalks of Belleville than we had seen during the entire period of our visit to the metropolis with its five millions of people of all classes and nationalities. We do not from that fact, however, draw the inference that there is neither drinking nor drunkenness in Gotham. Statistics tell us that the per capita consumption there is very much higher than it is in Canada, but the man who has tarried too long with the tanglefoot does not parade Manhattan's streets very far until he is hailed by one of the vigilants in blue.

We confess there is some logic, however, in the plea for wide-open sale. If fourteen retail licenses are good for Belleville, why are not twenty-eight better? And, if twenty-eight are better than fourteen why not make it unanimous, and secure the best conditions by increasing the number to 280 or thereabouts, allowing whosoever will to take part in the work of philanthropy? That in brief was the Grimsey editor's argument, and surely he was an honorable and a logical man.

But, after all, this talk about the beauties of moderation and the promotion of sobriety and temperance by the use of beer and the lighter alcoholic stimulants is the most insidiously false and the most dangerous kind of reasoning.

Place a piece of meat before two hungry animals, the one being a tiger and the other a lamb and request both to be moderate in its use. Yet those two animals are not more different in their passions and appetites than are the appetites aroused in two different individuals by the use of alcoholic stimulants. The one man may go through life taking his daily glass or two of lager or ale or beer while the other starts with lager but soon craves something with more power to satisfy. The transition to whiskey is deceptively easy and soon by periodic or constant indulgence in the most powerful of liquors he finds the only relief for the tiger passion he has aroused.

Whiskey is the most cunning and ingenious liar in the world.

Should we extend the domain and opportunity of this most cruel and dangerous of deceivers as Editor Livingston was paid to tell us to do?

Or shall we label it properly, "Poison" and classify it with opium, morphine, and cocaine and leave it to the physicians to prescribe?

Even as a drug should it not be surrounded by the most stringent of precautions? Dr. Osler and others of the world's greatest doctors say that the action of violent stimulants is always harmful.

Be that as it may, the man on whom whiskey has its grip is more to be pitied than the drug victim. For whiskey works slowly and painfully, and tortures its victims for years. It is the least merciful of the deadly drugs.

WHAT THE BALLOT MEANS.

From day to day reports of very grave irregularities are leaking out in connection with the late local option contest. If only a fraction of these reports were true there would be ample grounds for voiding the election and the placing of certain electors in an extremely serious position in the eyes of the law.

The sudden shifting of a considerable number of voters from one side to the other within the last few days of the campaign, without any apparent outside cause, gives to the reports a strong flavor of probability.

Some of the men who have thus suddenly and mysteriously changed sides seem to regard their own conduct in the light of a joke. But, aside altogether from any illegal aspect of the case, what is there of the humorous about treachery? To work loyally with a certain group or organization up to a given point, and then, just when the test comes, to turn traitor and go over to the opposite camp, does not seem to us to be anything whatever of a comical performance. Such a mockery of manhood would appear to be more an occasion for hanging the head in shame than for brazenly lifting it up as if something clever had been accomplished.

One of the greatest needs in Ontario today

is Civic Conscience. When a man peddles around whiskey on or before election day, when he hires men to vote in a way opposite to their opinions or inclinations, how do the most of us regard his performance? Is it not generally looked upon with good natured tolerance, especially if he is shifty or expert enough to avoid the meshes of a badly enforced law? And the man who sells his vote, or rather himself, for a bottle of whiskey, or a monetary consideration of one or two or five or ten dollars, what of him? Do we not regard it as a very minor misdemeanor, something the same as when a party of boys loots a patch of watermelons?

But what have these two men done? If a burglar entered your house and carried away with him all your earthly possessions he would not steal from you anything half as valuable as that right that has been given you to go into a little curtained apartment on election day and put a cross opposite the names of the men or the measures that you favor. And you, who sell your vote for a dollar flask of whiskey, or a dollar bill, have sold your principles, have trafficked your own character away, have sold a privilege that men are today sacrificing their lives for by the tens of thousands in Europe—the privilege to be free.

To get the right to make that cross on a piece of paper has been the result of thousands of years of effort on the part of the human race, and many bloody wars in the annals of the British nation, and you, in your stupid, treasonable greed, barter it away for a few ounces of cheap whiskey. Can you think of anything that is meaner or more contemptible or more deserving of public reprobation? And yet, some of you who have done this very thing, hold up your heads with shallow pride in the idea that you have "put something over" or done something smart.

Suppose we extend this process of buying and selling a little farther. If it is a joke for the voter to sell the sacred trust that is reposed in him in the matter of the ballot, why should not a man serving on a jury make a little easy money in the same way? Why should not a magistrate or a judge on the bench perpetrate a few jokes along the same line? Morally the same principle would hold.

And furthermore, the right to have trial by jury, the right of every British subject to demand a fair trial by his peers, is guaranteed only as long as men have the right to mark a ballot.

There has been too much easy toleration in the past for the men who have corrupted or who have been corrupted at election time. Their moral deformity should be unsparingly held up to public censure and contempt.

If sufficient reliable evidence can be gathered in regard to the crookedness that is alleged to have prevailed in the late Local Option contest, a great public service would be rendered by letting the corruptionists know and feel the full extent of the law.

GOOD WORK AND SUCCESS.

The Belleville Poultry Show must now take its rank among the conspicuous successes that have been conceived and fostered in this district. After only four years, to reach third place in the province, is an accomplishment of which any such organization might well be proud. The success that has been attained has not been achieved by accident. Belleville Poultry fair has associated with it a group of officers and supporters who are willing to work. And they have worked not because there is salary or graft in the game for there has been neither. They work because they are enthusiastic, because they believe in what they are doing and that in this way they will give a great impetus to the poultry-raising industry in Belleville district by the introduction of more stock and better stock and therefore more money for the pockets of the people. This is part of the "Patriotism and Production" campaign just the same as the growth of more wheat. The society is working along good lines and right lines and should meet with the cordial support of the public in every way. If only the same swing of success could be imparted to Belleville fair—but that is another matter.

CEASE TRIFLING.

If Canada is to enlist and equip expeditiously half a million men for overseas service, and thus properly realize the aspirations of her people, radical changes must at once be made in our method of recruiting. The Militia Department must profit by the experience of its sixteen months' more or less desultory effort in this direction and see to it that the mistakes of the past are not repeated.

We have had occasion many times to point out that the first requisite for a successful recruiting campaign is to provide competent leadership for prospective Battalions. Political pull, in the past, has been ranked too high as a qualification, and experience and efficiency too low. Our suggestion, previously made, is that a number of junior officers, Majors and Captains be brought back from the front to lead new regiments. We are assured by competent military authority that this suggestion is a wise one, and presents no difficulties to carry out in practice. We again press the Militia Department to give its favorable consideration to this suggestion.

We feel sure that its adoption would give a very general stimulus to recruiting.

In considering the question of recruiting we have to deal with facts, while apparently the Militia Department has thought it was dealing with a theory. Canadians enlist to go overseas to fight the enemies of the Empire. They do not enlist to be billeted all winter in a city or country town. The sooner the Militia Department recognizes this fact the better for the country. The system of billeting is absolutely at defiance with the most elementary principles of military training and is in addition a useless waste of public money.

There can be no excuse after seventeen months of war for the lack of speedy provision of a soldier's equipment. It is the duty of the government to be prepared to fully equip a recruit as soon as he enlists. The Department having this matter in charge must "speed up" if Canada is to make a showing which is at all creditable.

Now is the time the opportunity for patriotic men, irrespective of party to quit themselves like men and demand that an end be put to further trifling with Canada's great and sacred duty to the Empire in this crisis.

MACHINE GUN GOSPEL.

"It is the gospel of the machine gun," said Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., of German policy, in Majesty's Theatre in London. "The fundamental mistake which Germany has made is that man has only a body which can be mutilated and destroyed; she forgets that man has a soul, which cannot be destroyed."

Germany stood out as the apostle of Christianity to Islamism, but he implored the Moslems to remain in the comparatively merciful religion of the Prophet rather than take up this blood-stained gospel of Germany, which caricatured Christianity in taking its name. Within a short time of the horrible Armenian massacres of Abdul Hamid's reign the Kaiser had gone to Constantinople and shaken the hand, dripping with blood, of one of the greatest monsters that had disgraced the pages of history. And straightway he had taken himself in shining white uniform to Jerusalem, the birthplace of Christianity, and posed as its chief champion, a piece of brazen effrontery and hypocrisy that ought never to be forgiven.

Laying all jokes aside, the best way to end this war quickly would be for General Saml to create two million more honorary colonels.

The political crisis over the Compulsory Service Bill in the Old Country is practically over. The action of John Redmond, the Irish Nationalist leader, in withdrawing opposition to the Bill has been the first step towards narrowing the breach in the House of Commons. This will greatly strengthen the hands of Mr. Asquith and may have far-reaching influence in allaying the opposition of the Laborites to the measure.

William Waldorf Astor gave up his citizenship in the United States in 1899 because the city of New York would not reduce his assessment of \$2,000,000. It is now estimated that it cost him \$5,000,000 to secure an English peerage. He will take the title of Baron Haver from his castle in Kent, formerly the home of Anne Boléyn, the mother of Queen Elizabeth.

George Lockhart Rives of New York, without any effort on his part, finds himself an English peer by the grace of King George, who discovered that he was the legitimate heir to the dormant barony of Wharton through direct descent from King James the first, of Scotland, through Princess Jean, the deaf and dumb daughter of that monarch.

OUT OF THE SILENCE.

And what can you say when the day is done
And you've gone to your bed of rest?
When the shadows come and the light has gone
O'er the rim of the golden west,
And a silvery beam of the moon creeps in
As if in an aimless quest?—
What do you say

When a kindly voice that you seem to know,
Out of the shadows speaks soft and low,
"Well, what did you do today?"

O, what can you say when you're all alone
With the Master of all the tasks?
How much of a sin do you have to own
When the voice of the Master asks?

How many things that you left undone
Your studied answer makes?
What do you say

When out of the shades of the silent night
The Master speaks with the Master's right:
"Well, what did you do today?"

Thrice blest is he of the humble way
Who sinks to his bed of rest—
The rest he earned with a toiling day
With love of his labor blest—

Who hears the voice of his Master ask
And can truthfully say "My best!"
The man who can say

"I've trod the way of my best intend,
I've helped a friend and I've made a friend"
To "What did you do today?"
—John D. Wells, in Buffalo Evening News.

Other Editors' Opinions

THE K. OF C. OATH.

The Orange Sentinel, discussing the recent vindication of the Knights of Columbus at Renfrew in the matter of the bogus oath, says:

"The Sentinel has never published the alleged Knights of Columbus oath. When it first made its appearance it was carefully studied by our staff. The conclusion arrived at, was that the document was probably a bogus production. On the face of it there are evidences that it is not genuine."

However, a painstaking enquiry was begun to ascertain whether it was an authentic copy of the oath said to be taken by the Knights of the fourth degree. Our investigations extended to Chicago, New York, Pittsburgh, and San Francisco, in all of which cities the Knights of Columbus are said to be strong in numbers. The net result of our efforts was complete failure to have it substantiated. Since then several law suits have been instituted against those who have published the alleged oath. These have served still further to discredit the claim that it is a part of the Knights of Columbus ritual.

"During the period covered since its first appearance until the present, the Sentinel has received a large number of letters from correspondents with regard to it. Some have sought information. Others have complained of our lack of courage in refusing to give it a place in our columns. From the first, however, the Sentinel has maintained the position that it would be unfair and unjust to the Knights of Columbus to give wide publicity to a document of such a treacherous character unless we could prove it to be subscribed to by members of that order."

"The cause neither of Protestantism nor the Orange Association can make progress by misrepresentation of opponents."

HORSE FLESH AS FOOD.

The New York Board of Health has added horse flesh to the city's food list. The Board, it may be truthfully said, is one of the most up-to-date in the world, and it would be an excellent thing for the citizens of Canada if their Boards of Health introduced many of its regulations.

This addition to the food list was not made without due consideration. Fear of the rapid rise in the cost of living, owing to the war had something to do with it. The great probability is however that the Board has legalized a growing custom for there would appear to be little doubt that horse flesh, disguised of course in various forms, has already formed an article of food in some places in the States. So far as our information goes there does not appear to be any reason why it should not, provided that proper restriction are made as to its sale.

It is rather curious that the subject should crop up during the war, as horse flesh received a great impetus as a food owing to the siege of Paris in the 1870 war. In Paris since then the annual number of horses killed for food has been about 35,000; we have not noticed any evil effects reported, and most of us who have been in Paris acquired a high regard for the French cuisine and we probably ate horse.—Kingston Standard.

THE CONDUCTORS.

The Canadian Pacific Railway company has been busy of late rounding up a number of conductors, accused of appropriating fares. In consequence over a dozen have either been fined heavily, with the option of jail, or had their cases remanded. Absolutely no sympathy is owing a dishonest conductor. His work, while responsible, is comparatively light and pleasant, and his wages of such proportions as many clever clerks sigh for in vain. A man should be able to remain honest under the pay of a C. P. R. conductor.—Port Arthur News.

AN IMPERIAL POOR MAN.

We read that King George has appointed the Emperor Nicholas a field marshal in the British army. Which reminds us of a little story. "Donald," said an officer of the Scots Greys, some years ago, "have you heard that the Czar of Russia has been appointed colonel of our regiment?"

"Indeed, sir, is that so?" said Donald. "It's a verra gran thing for him." Then he paused and scratched his head, while a puzzled expression came over his face. "Beg pardon, sir," he added, "but will he be able to keep baith jobs?"—Boston Transcript.

Poultry Show Ends.

(From Friday's Daily)
Belleville Poultry show concluded last night at ten o'clock. It has been the most successful exhibition ever held. The receipts at the door surpassed those of last year by about \$20.00.

ORGANIZED Committee Plans

(From P)

One of the largest meetings ever held in the City of Belleville, Ontario, was held at the Y.M.C.A. Thursday afternoon. The object of the meeting was to organize a committee to oppose the proposed liquor traffic in the City of Belleville.

The committee was organized by the Y.M.C.A. and the object of the meeting was to organize a committee to oppose the proposed liquor traffic in the City of Belleville.

The means will be employed to include the circulation of the Government.

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