

THE WEEKLY ONTARIO.

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THURSDAY, JULY 19, 1917.

HOTELS AND "TEMPERANCE" DRINKS.

The Ontario has been greatly surprised to learn of the sweeping nature of the "monopoly" that the promoters of the bylaw proposed, at Monday night's council meeting, to grant to our standard hotels. If this bylaw, as it stood, had been passed, it would be illegal for ice-cream parlors, confectionary stores or any other places of business in the city to sell soda-water, ginger ale or even lemonade or buttermilk, and the standard hotels would have the exclusive right to deal in these drinks. Surely any such proposal comes very near to the height of absurdity.

A glance at the following clause will show how unlimited in its nature was the restriction that those backing the bylaw had planned.

"The Municipal Council of the Corporation of the City of Belleville enacts as follows: That the keepers of Standard Hotels shall have the exclusive right of re-selling in the municipality of the City of Belleville any and all other temperance beverages, manufactured from ingredients other than malt, but no such products or beverages shall contain more than two and one-half per cent. of proof spirits."

Several of our merchants have spent many hundreds of dollars in fitting up attractive soda-water fountains. Surely there can be no reasonable argument in favor of depriving them of a privilege that has been enjoyed without limitation from time immemorial.

Had the framers of the bylaw restricted their efforts to confining to Standard Hotels the sale of malted liquors and those with an alcoholic content their case would have been much stronger. In fact we would heartily favor such a proposal.

We realize there is much force in Ald. Platt's contention that this would be "class legislation." There is no getting away from the fact that class privilege is involved in any attempt to pass monopolistic laws, and all special privileges granted in this way tend to produce special evils.

But, on the other hand, we consider that there is a good case to be made out in favor of withdrawing from general sale the so-called "temperance" drinks that have a malt base or that contain proof spirits.

The effect of these liquors upon the drinker is, as yet, imperfectly understood. It is already known that they cause occasional drunkenness and create an appetite for themselves. This is especially true of immature boys. There will, we believe, be provincial legislation placing an age-limit for the buyers of liquors of this class. That they should at present be exposed for general and unrestricted sale to all and sundry and by all and sundry, we think is unwise.

Aside from this, our Standard Hotels are perhaps deserving of some special consideration. Good hotels mean much to a city. The fine hostelry maintained by Mr. Jenkins is undoubtedly one of the best advertising features that is possessed by this city. It is in the public interest that good, clean, attractive hotels be maintained.

Hotels do much for the public besides providing travellers with meals and sleeping accommodation. They are general meeting-places for business and social appointments and for other purposes. They furnish public lavatories, rest-rooms and other services that afford a basis for a limited amount of special public recognition. As long as those services are freely placed at the disposal of the public, and not restricted to "guests only," the public very properly might do something in return.

The way of the hotel-men, since September 16, last, has not been smooth. Few of them have been making money. A large number have lost heavily and been compelled to close down. It is all very well to say this is due to lack of business efficiency but we cannot get away from the fact that other complications, aside from prohibition, have combined to make their position one of extraordinary difficulty. The removal of the large returns from the barroom has not been the only source of trouble. The prices of food and of house-furnishings, as well as wages, have risen to an unprecedented height. The hotelkeeper on the other hand is the victim of fixed values,

That is to say he cannot change the prices of meals and of rooms to correspond with the fluctuations in the prices of commodities. He therefore suffers and often loses.

In view of these facts and considerations, we can see a reasonable justification for the modest special privilege of the exclusive right of retailing malted and alcoholic temperance beverages. But to extend this monopoly to "all other temperance beverages" is a proposal so ridiculous that the wonder is that it could have been seriously entertained by five out of six of the members present at Monday night's council meeting.

THE WHEAT CYCLE OF THE WORLD.

We hear a good deal about the wheat crop of the Canadian and American West, but few of us realize that wheat is being garnered every month in the year, in the course of an impressive sweep of days and parallels of latitude. In an interesting article on this subject in the Chicago Herald, it is pointed out that the annual cycle begins in January with the wheat harvest in Argentina, New Zealand, Chile and Australia. In February and March come the wheat harvest of Upper Egypt and India, and in April those of Lower Egypt, Syria, Cyprus, Persia, Asia Minor, Mexico and Cuba. Not only Texas, but Algeria, Central Asia, China, Japan and Morocco harvest their wheat in May. In June Turkey, Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Southern France as well as the south central tier of States in America advertise for harvest hands.

In July States in the latitude of Nebraska, and also Rumania, Bulgaria, Austria, Hungary, Southern Russia, Germany, Switzerland and Southern England are busy with their harvest. August is perhaps the most important month of all to the grain, for it is then that Western Canada, Northern Minnesota, the Dakotas and Montana, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Poland and Central Russia gather the king of crops. In September and October are the harvests of Scotland, Sweden, Norway and Northern Russia. November is the harvest month of Peru and South Africa. Burmah and New South Wales harvest in December.

A study of this wheat calendar emphasizes the importance of transportation. The crops of the whole world never have failed yet in any one year, and they possibly never will fail. But they do fail in localities and even in entire countries. Formerly this meant local famines, but now famine can only come as a result of lack of transportation. That is the kind of famine Germany is hoping to create now by the destruction of the means of transportation. If it is true that the German crops are this year being destroyed by an unprecedented drought, and if it should also happen that Germany destroys such a large proportion of the world's tonnage that it becomes physically impossible to meet the world's needs, then a famine in Germany may result in appalling consequences to Germany. Peace then would bring but little relief, for the vessels would not exist to meet the German needs.

PLACING THE BLAME

Every now and then some discussion springs up as to whether the German people as a whole should be held accountable for bringing on the war and conducting it in the Hun manner, or whether only the militarist clique, headed by the kaiser and his son, ought to be blamed. In this connection, interest attaches to the speech of Wolfgang Heine, member of the Reichstag, delivered before a Social-Democratic meeting in Berlin recently. After declaring that Wilhelmstrasse was afraid to offer peace terms consistent with the nation's desire, because of some newspaper opposition and the Prussian tradition which gives vastly more importance to the words of generals than to those of other people, Heine says:

"But since the belligerent Governments are now so involved in the cul-de-sac that it is unlikely that they will come together to talk peace, it only remains for the people themselves to raise their voices for peace and to take in hand the task of removing the influence of those people whose mischievous activity is largely blamable for the war; whose avowed policy of domination is wrongly regarded abroad as the aim of the German people, and to whom must be ascribed the fact that Germany is hated by the entire world."

This is placing the blame with a vengeance, and facing the fact that Germany is universally hated, a truth that is not generally admitted by the Teutons. Heine's is, perhaps, a voice crying in the wilderness, but sooner or later it will make its impression on the nation. More and more the people are becoming receptive to such thoughts as Heine is flinging broadcast, and are asking why they should continue the unequal struggle, into which they have been treacherously led. They are beginning to take the statements of military au-

thorities with the proverbial grain of salt.

When the German nation does realize how vilely it has behaved, what will be the result? On the answer to this question largely depends the accountability. If the people turn on their militarist leaders and remove them, sue for such peace as the Allies will grant, and admit their culpability, they may be forgiven. If they insist on continuing along present lines they must accept equal responsibility with the kaiser, crown prince, von Tirpitz and Hindenburg.

IMPORTS DECREASING.

The value of imports into Canada is increasing steadily, in spite of the war, the total for the eleven months ending with February of this year being \$742,995,017, an increase of \$292,246,261, or 66.7 per cent. over that of the corresponding period ending February, 1916. It is also true that the value of exports is increasing, the total for the eleven months ending February of this year being \$1,052,686,059, or an increase over 1916 of \$362,966,167, or 52.6 per cent, but this latter fact is largely accounted for by the huge quantities of munitions being shipped to Europe.

Statistics for the last year indicate that money is very scarce in the Dominion, and that economy has not taken a very serious hold on the people, as luxuries are being brought in more plentifully than ever. A few figures will suffice to illustrate this: In the year 1915, \$1,774,237 worth of automobiles were imported, while in 1917 the value rose to \$6,201,641; feathers, etc., for decoration of hats rose from \$245,430 in 1916 to \$438,010; toys and dolls, although the German trade was shut off, and Canada was supposed to be supplying herself rose from \$599,865 to \$872,406; jewelry, too, jumped from \$604,154, to \$871,511. It might also be noted that Canadians paid for imported boots and shoes \$92,434 in 1916, and \$163,323 in the last year.

Two notable exceptions there are from this list of increases. Ales, beers, etc., dropped from \$676,415 in 1915 to \$133,394 in 1917, and spirits and wines from \$3,535,074 to \$3,511,599. Buying of war bonds, subscribing to patriotic causes and paying increased prices do not seem, as yet, to have strained the national purse very seriously. It is impossible to calculate accurately how much money has been foolishly squandered on imported luxuries, but it is certain that if it had all been saved Canada would now be wealthier by a great many millions.

THE WAR AND INDIA

There can be little doubt that great developments are brewing in the life of India as a consequence of the war. As the women of Great Britain have won the suffrage in recognition of their patriotic efforts, so Hindus expect that the signal loyalty of India, its cheerful sacrifices in men and money, will be rewarded by some great political boon after the war.

Whereas formerly an argument against Indian self-government was that the people had not the political intelligence to look after themselves, the very fact that the masses of the country have shown the good sense to realize the advantages of British rule, to spurn the intrigues of German agents, to understand the peril to their liberties in the oriental designs of Germany or in a possible Teutonic victory, and to make supreme sacrifices in support of British democracy, goes to prove that a people so sound and sensible must be entrusted with a considerable share in the shaping of their political courses. Hindus are as opposed as we are, or more so, to militarism. Some people in Canada are less alive to the German peril than are millions of Hindus. One Indian writer has published a book, in which he finds the root cause of the war in a mad perversion by the Huns of Darwin's principle of "the survival of the fittest," in the Hun conception of man as a material mechanism or animal—a pretty shrewd analysis of the matter.

As for the other argument against the enfranchisement of India, that it would thanklessly fall off from British connection and become more a foe than a friend, again the loyal comradeship of the Indian troops with our own is proof of India's heart of gold. We must trust them now. They are our brothers-in-arms and in democratic aspiration. The exquisite Indian poetess, Sarojini Naidu, has written a poem in which India, the speaker, concludes as follows, addressing the Occident: "When the terror and tumult of hate shall cease,

And life be refashioned on anvils of peace,
 And your love shall offer memorial thanks
 To the comrades who fought in your dauntless ranks,
 And you honor the deeds of the deathless ones,
 Remember the blood of my martyred sons!"
 Not only the men of India are giving their blood for the Empire, but the women are as

busy as elsewhere in their gentle tasks of knitting and sewing and nursing for their heroes.

Already much progress has been made towards the political emancipation of the Indian peoples. Gradually more influence has been accorded to their representatives in the management of affairs, both in the general administration and in local government. Some of the ruling princes have in their own dominions granted representative self-government, and every year constitutional government extends. One of the maharajahs speaking recently in England urged that there should soon be established at least some kind of regular imperial conference on Anglo-Indian concerns, in which British and Hindu representatives may co-operate. It has been announced that a British parliamentary commission may shortly be sent to India to look into questions of reform and progress.

Many will be anxious as to the effect of the war upon Christian missions in India. It seems that for one thing the people are more interested to buy and read books and papers on the war than the literature of Christian religion. Some think the war the sign of Christianity's collapse, and propose the Indian ideals of meekness, altruism and cosmopolitan humanitarianism in its place. Yet information spreads and the opinion gains ground that Germany is really a nationalist, materialistic, pagan power attacking the culture of Christianity, its anti-militarism, protection of the weak, and world-wide humanity. Among the keen-witted people of India the Christian religion will suffer no more injury from the war than among ourselves. Rather, as with us, it will appear more clearly what Christianity truly is.

That report of a submarine off the Atlantic coast in Virginia is likely to be a fish story.

It is to be hoped that Russia will be favored with warm weather for the "naked parade" near Odessa.

Better get into training by sampling coarser breadstuffs. White bread is soon going to be a luxury in Canada.

It will require more than official despatches to the Spanish ambassador in Washington to persuade the world that the situation in Spain is normal.

The premier of New South Wales must have been nearer the front than some who have visited France, otherwise he would not have been bruised by a German shell.

Writing of his experiences in Germany, one man says: The law allows you to buy all the fish you want. The only real trouble about it is that there is none to be bought.

It is not strange that the military expert of the Frankfurter Zeitung should have concluded that the German submarine campaign cannot force a decision; the remarkable thing is that the censor permitted the publication of that opinion.

REAL COOKING

My maw she cooked no table dotes or ally carts or such,
 And when it come to throwin' style, she wasn't very nuch.
 There wasn't no French names hooked onto vittles she would cook,
 She got 'em from experience, not from a furrin book.
 She didn't have no casseroles, like they have now in grills,
 No caviar, no curried things, no mutton chops in frills,
 Or other high-toned rig-ma-jigs—just some vittles, that was all,
 But she could cook the biscuits that, by jing, would never fall.

Her pie crust, gosh, 'twould simply melt right in a feller's mouth,
 Her johnnycake seemed like it came right from the sunny south;
 Her crullers made a feller sit right up and call for more,
 Her bread was one thing upon which she set a lot of store.

No, friends, she wasn't very long on what they now call style,
 But she could surely cook the stuff that made a feller smile.
 There wasn't no dyspepsy 'round our place, or gouty feet,
 For she cooked up the kind of food that's really meant to eat.

CAMPBELLFORD

Embury—Died in Campbellford on Tuesday, July 10th, Theodore Embury, aged 56 years.
 Pte. Chas. Nicholle, who was badly wounded last June, arrived home on Saturday of last week. He lost an eye and also suffers from an injured ankle. Pte. Nicholle enlisted in Peterboro in April, 1915, with the 39th Battalion, and has been in a hospital in England since receiving his wounds last summer. Campbellford is proud to welcome home Pte. Nicholle, who has so nobly "done his bit."

Mrs. C. Nancarrow left last week for Montreal where she will meet her son, Lieut. Frank Nancarrow, who has arrived in Canada. Lieut. Nancarrow's many friends will be pleased to see him safely home again and all will hope that he may speedily recover from his injuries.

A quiet wedding took place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Tucker on Wednesday, July 11th, when their daughter, Elizabeth C., was united in marriage to Mr. Ernest E. Cochran, son of Mr. and Mrs. P. Cochran of town, the Rev. C. F. McIntosh officiating. The bride was attended by her sister, Miss Eva, and Mr. Lee Wilkinson, cousin of the groom, acted as best man.

The newly married couple left shortly after the ceremony for an extended motor trip.

On Friday evening fire was discovered in the Trent Valley woolen mill, but the automatic sprinklers had it well under control when the brigade arrived.

Mr. Harry Smith, who has been attending the University of Michigan for the last two years, has been successful in taking his Pharmacy degree with honors.—News.

WELLINGTON

Miss R. Pettigill is doing nicely after her operation.

Mrs. Wilson is the guest of her aunt, Mrs. F. A. Burlingham.

Mrs. Beaton and children, of Markham, are visiting at Mr. W. W. Wilder's.

Miss O. T. Shourds, B.A., is at Toronto.

Miss Luella Broad, B.A., is at Toronto taking an art course.

Mrs. A. M. Osborne was at Trenton on Friday, the guest of Mrs. and Miss Chadd.

Our school principal is at Toronto University.

Rev. Frank and Mrs. Cornell, of Indiana, are visiting at Mr. S. Harnes.

Mrs. Albert Potter, of Toronto, is a visitor in town.

Miss Terrill is the guest of Miss Mona Clinton.

Mr. Joseph Brown, of Niagara Falls, N.Y., spent over Sunday with friends here.

Social and Personal

Miss Josephine Brenton of North Hatfield is on a two month's visit to her mother, Mrs. F. Brenton, 10 Ave. St.

Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Boardman motored from Brockville to Belleville and thence to Frankford yesterday to attend the Orange celebration.

Mrs. Harry H. Ponton and little daughter of Cobourg are staying at Colonel Ponton's, here. Lieut. Ponton is with the Heavy Artillery in France.

Mrs. Harry Sharpe and little son George of Superior, Wis., are on an extended visit to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Taylor of Shannonville and to Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Sharpe, 16 Charlotte St., City.

Miss Carmel Hopkins, Tweed, and Miss Loretta Kelly, Enterprise, have entered the Hotel Dieu, Kingston, and have donned the habit of the Religious Hospitaliers of that institution.

Miss Marvin of the Medical Faculty, Toronto University, has accepted a position as house doctor in the Hamilton Hospital for the summer. Miss Marvin is the daughter of Rev. Dr. Martin of Bayvid. We wish her every success.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. H. McArthur and family returned yesterday from a motor trip to Montreal, going by way of the St. Lawrence and returning by way of New York state. They enjoyed their trip very much.

WILL RETURN HOME.—A boy accused of stealing a bicycle, was this morning after about two weeks in custody on remand, allowed to go as he promised to return to his home.

—Detroit Journal.