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Manager and Editor

OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 1909.

The Winnipeg Free Press of Saturday makes mentions of the serious illness of Mrs. DuVal—stating, in fact, that her case was considered quite critical. Keen sympathy will be felt for Dr. DuVal, the retiring moderator, who was to have presided and preached at the opening of the General Assembly at Hamilton Wednesday evening.

The License Commissioners of the Temiskaming District have acted wisely in refusing to renew four of the licenses which had been in force in the district. It seems that the reason for this action is that some of these hotels have been really owned by persons living in Toronto and elsewhere, and that the hotel was simply run by a manager. Any line of action that tends to limit the places of temptation in the new north country must be productive of good.

The English language is gradually asserting itself as the medium of commerce, not only between nations but also among the people of the same nation. The United States Vice consul at Chefoo reports that the Chinese there are showing unusual zeal in acquiring a knowledge of English. In the Imperial College, where French and Japanese have held the first place, they are being relegated to a position below that of English. This must help the missionaries in their work.

One of the saddest cases which has come before the criminal court for some time is that of Hon. P. H. Roy, who has just been sentenced at Montreal to five years in the penitentiary, for making false returns to the Government of the bank of St. John's. Mr. Roy is an ex-Speaker of the Legislative Council of Quebec, president of the bank, president of the Eastern Valley Railway, and was candidate for the mayoralty of Montreal at last election. The judge who sentenced him was an old friend. Mr. Roy made an unsuccessful attempt to shoot himself while the trial was going on. This is a parallel case to that of McGill, of the Ontario Bank. The way of the transgressor is hard.

## ECONOMY WANTED.

In view of the large sums of money voted at the last session of Parliament, notwithstanding a falling revenue, it may well be asked whether we in Canada are not fast drifting into a dangerous laxity of expenditure. The country has been so prosperous and there has been so much money coming in, that we as a body corporate have acquired habits of spending without realizing that there is a limit beyond which prudence would not have us go. Dazzled by the success of the Canadian Pacific railway, we undertook the building of the Grand Trunk Pacific, without stopping to consider that the conditions are somewhat different, and now we discover that it is going to cost a great deal more than was at first estimated. We have to become bankers for the company, and, first borrowing, have to lend them \$10,000,000, which, if left to themselves they would have had difficulty in obtaining. And this is probably only the first of a number of such transactions before the railway is completed. We have great faith in the future of the West, and feel confident there will be traffic for several transcontinental railways; but it is a serious matter if the providing of avenues of traffic is going to involve us in debt to such an extent that it will be a burden. Then there are other public enterprises demanding attention, such as the Georgian Bay Canal, the Hudson Bay Railway, and the new Welland Canal. Though these enterprises are held in obedience in the meantime they will force themselves forward and require attention before long.

The Mother Country, too, is spending money at a rapid rate. The Chancellor of the Exchequer finds it necessary to provide for an increase in the revenue equal in amount to the whole expenditure of Canada, and though England is wealthy, there is an outcry over the increased taxation necessary to raise this amount—required for the building of more Dreadnoughts and to pay old age pensions, neither of which are investments which will bring any return. There are those who foresee an end of free trade principles in Great Britain, and the imposition of a tariff for revenue. Such a step would cause a great outcry and probably prove disastrous to any government constrained to resort to it. Debt is a bad thing, and though nations may contract it to develop their resources and to provide transportation means for defence, etc., they should not leave too large an amount as a burden for posterity.

A news dealer in Chesley ordered 38 extra papers daily while the Kinrade case was going on, and sold them all. He ordered an equal number containing a report of the Laymen's Missionary Convention in Toronto, and did not sell one. Chesley is no worse than other places. So long as this state of things lasts it is useless finding fault with the newspapers for devoting so much attention to reports of crimes and sensations, for publishers, who have to make their living by what they print, are likely to supply the market with what it demands. If the people desire newspapers free from objectionable sensationalism, let them refuse to buy "yellow" journals, and a change for the better will quickly follow. This remark will also apply to Sunday newspapers.

## THE GAMBLING EVIL.

With the arrival of race week in Toronto the attendant evil of betting is brought prominently before the people of that city, and the newspapers and pulpit have a good deal to say about it. The present law is an anomaly. It draws very fine distinctions. For instance, it permits betting during the progress of a race meeting on a race course provided the bookmakers keep moving while accepting bets. At the same time, at another place in the same city another bookmaker may be prosecuted for taking bets on the same horses. This introduces a distinction without a difference. It would puzzle a very wise head to define the difference of moral culpability in the two cases, but when the bill respecting such offences was passing through parliament the influence of jockey clubs and other racing organizations was powerful enough to have a clause introduced allowing that on their property, which was declared wrong so soon as the boundary line was crossed. If people want to bet they will do so, and it seems as if it is inseparable from horse racing and other sport. Even ladies of good position indulge in it. But if other vices to which people are prone can be suppressed, why not this? It is not at all creditable to us as a nation that such a vice should be permissible in one place and not in another. The law should treat all alike. The police do what they can, but they are badly handicapped. To be effective, those who bet should be liable to punishment as well as the bookmakers. And it should be just as illegal to make a bet on a race course as in the back room of a cigar shop.

## NOT A FINALITY.

The one thing made clear beyond all possible doubt by the present Local Option agitation is that public opinion has undergone an entire revolution on the temperance question within the past two years, we might almost say months. Whatever may be said about the merits or demerits of the Act it is now abundantly evident that the people want prohibition, or at all events want the liquor traffic kept thoroughly under by the strong arm of the law. We have no idea that the great body of the people are wedded to any particular law or any particular method of working. They support Local Option because, all things considered, it is the best thing they at present have. No sensible temperance man looks upon it as a finality. The great thing in the present crisis is the undeniable fact that the people of this country want to get rid of whiskey. They may so desire from a great variety of motives, they may prefer many different methods of bringing about the desired result, but the man who does not see plainly that the great majority of Canadians desire to rid their country of the liquor traffic is blind as a bat. There may be a slight reaction, there may be more than one reaction, there may be changes in the methods of working, but the will of the people must rule in the end and the traffic must go. And this movement against the traffic is not confined to Ontario or Canada, but extends all over the North American continent and even to European countries.