

The Wayside Philosopher

ABRACADABRA.

All legal responsibility assumed by author.

INAPT SAYINGS.

At the Hon. Mackenzie King's Vancouver meeting our Attorney General was peculiarly unfortunate in his language, or else his expectations are not particularly happy.

From one statement we can infer that he expects to wander in the political wilderness under King's leadership for many weary years.

From a second we can infer that in the forthcoming Federal election, be it when it may, the Liberal party are going down to defeat. As long as defeat is the fate the Liberals meet not even the most ungenerous opponent will begrudge their going down "with colours flying" because "nailed to the mast."

Be more cheerful in your outlook, Mr. Attorney General, or Mr. King will seek comfort in other quarters.

But the Attorney General is not alone in his inaptitude or his pessimism. What of the Moderationist advocate who advises us that he is discharging "my Parthian Shaft." Prohibitionists, at least, will rejoice in the fact that this man is admittedly running away.

VANCOUVER'S MILK SUPPLY.

One of the most unfortunate matters in local experience is the change in the Vancouver milk situation by which the milk is graded and four presumed grades of milk are placed on the market at varying prices.

That any grading of milk on the scale or plan arranged for by the Dairies and notified to the Public is dishonest, goes without saying.

In the production of milk there could be no such range of difference between the milk of the poorest dairy's cow as a farmer could afford to keep and the best.

The grading then, is not a natural one, but is artificial. In order to carry out such a classification, there can only be an abstraction of food value by the dairies in the lower grades of milk offered. No dairyman or farmer can increase, the food value of a cow's milk. What experience teaches to be the fact is that the two lower grades of milk are denuded of a great deal of food value by some process of which the dairymen, no doubt, are fully advised.

The serious feature of the situation is that many of our children depend for their nourishment on dairy milk. At the present time their parents must pay 14 or 16 cents per quart for milk which is lacking in nourishment and which, except for the small quantity at the top of the bottle, means a weakening of the vital force of any child partaking of it. Such a situation should call for immediate and drastic action by the properly constituted authorities.

It might be difficult to suggest, offhand, a remedy that could not be evaded by some method of trickery, but if the dairymen were compelled to sell as their lowest standard and at the lowest price now fixed in their scale, a milk which should equal in food value the milk of the average Holstein cow, (itself not the most valuable food producer) there would be some guarantee that our children would get proper nourishment from any milk purchased under this regulation.

One has only to contrast the milk offered for sale by any of the Vancouver Dairymen at 14 or 16 cents per quart with the milk of an average cow to see how greatly the people are being robbed under the present conditions.

We interest ourselves greatly (and rightly) in the health of our children. Will our interest carry us sufficiently far to meet the present intolerable state of affairs.

THE PROHIBITION REFERENDUM.

Before this reaches print the referendum on Prohibition and Government Control will have been held. From the writer's standpoint it is to be hoped that the Prohibition Act will have been sustained. Whether it is or not some interesting features of the campaign are worth noting.

First, in the referendum issue we have to observe a concrete legislative Act placed in opposition to a theory. True the Moderationists suggested a partial method affecting only the party administering the traffic if Prohibition were defeated. The Premier of British Columbia refuses to accept their suggestion but confines himself to saying that the government and it alone will dictate the provisions of the Government Control Act if it should be necessary. It will be interesting to note how many intelligent electors in British Columbia are willing to go blindfold into the unknown.

Second, we had, particularly on the Moderationist side, a number of speakers whose only experience with Prohibition was in British Columbia mostly under war time conditions. What Messrs. Ian McKenzie, J. H. Senkler, B. G. Walker, H. McVety, Mrs. Crossfield and practically every other Moderationist speaker knew from personal experience of the workings of the Prohibition Act is a decidedly interesting question. "Nothing" is the best answer. On the other hand Rev. J. Richmond Craig and one or two other Prohibition speakers were equally devoid of experience in actual conditions in Prohibition territory other than B. C. conditions.

Third, we had the resultant confusion of the issues. We had the "Bone Dry" issue thrust into the fight and the Prohibition Act treated not as a preventive of liquor selling and drunkenness, but as a step to a "bone dry" referendum or legislation. Against that we had the "personal liberty" issue of the Moderationists. We had other equally farcical cries from the same source.

Fourthly, we had the amusing repetition of attempted defences of alcohol and the use of liquor as a beverage which have done duty in so many anti-Prohibition campaigns during the last 35 years; questions raised that were definitely settled by authentic and official medical and scientific investigation and determination in some cases at least 15 years ago.

It was somewhat hard to believe that men like Capt. Reid, Rev. Messrs. Hooper, Perrin and others, would be uninformed on the question they sought to discuss. In the past ignorance like theirs has caused the public to deny the cause for which they fought. (May British Columbia electors have been equally sensible.)

Lastly, we have had the Bible involved on behalf of Moderation and we have had the Marriage Feast at Cana of Galilee, Paul's "little wine for the stomach's sake," etc., brought in to prove that Prohibition was worse than Government Control. Apart from the evident fact that the parties quoting had never seriously studied their quotations the absurdity of their relating their quotations to such an issue is to apparent to merit discussion.

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