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O.T.A. Can Stand On Its Merits

Ontario has before it the questions on which it will be asked to vote on October 23. There are only two:

"Are you in favor of the continuance of the Ontario Temperance Act?"

"Are you in favor of the sale as a beverage of beer and spirituous liquor in sealed packages, under government control?"

The action of the government in placing these two questions before the people has the advantage of having simplified the issue. It really amounts to the one question: "Do you prefer the O. T. A. to government control?" The two questions must be considered together. There are no other options, no proposed amendments to the existing act—just a plain issue, O. T. A. vs. government control.

There are some very consistent advocates of temperance legislation who favor changes in the Ontario Temperance Act. They fail to see where the system of prescriptions as issued by doctors is a correct method of distribution, and they would have preferred an opportunity to give expression to these views on the ballot paper. They are not in favor of the O. T. A. because they do not consider it is strict enough, but if they express their dissatisfaction in the way of declaring that they are not in favor of the O. T. A. they find themselves voting exactly the same as the most confirmed wet.

To this class of voter the questions must come as one: "Do you prefer government control to the O. T. A.?" That is the issue they must face, and the answer will be that they prefer the O. T. A., even with its defects, which can be remedied, to any system of sale under government control. They do not want control—they desire prohibition.

When facing a situation such as we have in these two questions it is desirable that those favoring temperance legislation from any viewpoint should pool their strength. There will be those who view it as a moral question, on the same grounds as when it first became a public issue; there will be those to whom the moral side of the case is not uppermost. They treat it as an economic issue, as something having to do with the welfare of all the people in Ontario, with the increased efficiency it gives to our industrial life. They will remember that we first adopted the fundamental principles of the O. T. A. because it was deemed necessary to the bringing to bear of the full strength of our nation on the stern business of war. These people are inclined to agree with such men as Henry Ford, who holds that liquor had to go when the motor car came in great numbers, because people cannot have both with safety. It is with them a straight business proposition that whiskey and gasoline cannot be mixed with safety.

There are businessmen and manufacturers who know from experience that the measure of prohibition as we have it in Ontario has been and is a good thing for them. They can see it in their ledgers and in the increasing ease with which work is now carried on in their establishments. They are inclined to view the vote on October 23 not as a moral issue, but in the light of business experience under conditions before and since the coming of the O. T. A.

Thus from various angles there will be the common appeal to defend the fundamental principles of sound temperance legislation that are unquestionably embodied in the O. T. A. Those who hold that there are defects in it that should be remedied will be numbered with those who will vote for the present legislation, because they do not see in government control the restrictive qualities they desire to support. They find themselves faced with the one question: "Do you prefer the O. T. A. to government control?"

There is time for the question to be thoroughly and frankly considered. The temperance issue has reached a stage in Ontario where its supporters can bring to its espousal plenty of facts drawn from the records for sobriety and improvement it has accomplished in this province. The case can stand on its own merits, and on that ground alone the O. T. A. should receive a favorable verdict on October 23.

Is Unemployment a Crime?

Saskatoon has a bright idea for dealing with unemployment during the coming winter. The city council there has gone on record as being in favor of deporting jobless men who have lived there for less than five years.

Deportation is employed in getting rid of undesirable citizens. When the law finds a person whose conduct is so undesirable as to make that individual a menace to the community deportation is resorted to.

To talk of deporting the unemployed is a wrong idea (1) because it classifies as an undesirable the man who cannot secure work, and (2) it in no way helps to deal effectively with the situation.

A man who wants to work, yet can find no work, is not an object of contempt—he is the very opposite. His condition should call forth sincere and frank efforts from the rest of the citizens to see that he does find work. If our citizenship will not assume that attitude then it does not amount to much, and there is something radically wrong with it.

Granted that Saskatoon has the right to deport men who cannot secure employment, where does it propose to send them, and what are they going to do when they reach the

destination Saskatoon has in view? That city must have some place in view or it could not talk of deportation. It would simply be evading responsibility and creating a more acute situation for some other place.

We would be pleased to think that there had been an error made some place in connection with this despatch from Saskatoon. As it stands it is not big enough or wholesome enough to represent the attitude of any Canadian center. The failure of a man to find employment has certainly not reached the stage where we will deliberately write it down in the category of crime.

Starting Anew in Canada.

A photograph of a wedding party published in a Toronto paper contains the picture of a baroness and a prince of Russian nobility. The prince acted as best man at the happy event where a friend of his, a lieutenant in the Imperial Russian cavalry, was married to an Edinburgh girl whom he met during the operations of the British mission for relief work in Poland. These people, driven from Russia, find in the more democratic atmosphere of Canada a security that was not theirs in Russia. There can be no doubt as to the bona fides of their titles. Prince Nakashidze, the groomsmen, spent some time in London earlier in the year. If there were any doubt in his case it could be readily removed by the production of papers from the former Russian embassy in London. When he came to this city there was only one thing he desired—an opportunity to work. He was equipped as a linguist or as a chemist, but in the absence of an opening in these lines he worked on the Canadian National Railways as a trucker. He was not at all anxious to speak of his former position, or to bemoan the turn in national affairs that has made such a right-about-face in his social and financial position. "I want a chance to work and forget it," was his only comment on the past.

A former lieutenant in the Russian cavalry, or a prince of the same country who wants nothing better than a chance to work—Canada has room and welcome for them. A touch of romance that makes a bonny daughter of Scotland the bride of the lieutenant is the forerunner of a happier existence in this land where freedom and opportunity, unknown in Russia, are the common property of all.

The Council Is Powerful.

Councils deal with queer matters. In Glendale, Cal., a resolution has been passed by the fathers of the community asking a contractor to remove a camp of mules from a fairly stylish section of the community.

Those protesting claimed they would rather have a jazz band in the cellar than the mules in the nearby camp. At three in the morning, when many of the folks would be getting home, a dozen or so jacks and jennies would start to sing or cough, or whatever it is that mules do with their vocal organs.

Of all that appeared before the council of Glendale there was not one who had a good word to say for the mule as a vocalist—not one who repeated the words of that old song, "Sweetly sings the donkey when he wants his hay."

So the mountain canaries had to move on, every last one of them. The council said so. Great is the power of the municipal council.

Note and Comment.

The honeymoon is over when husband uses a wire nail for a suspender button.

Gas is two cents cheaper in London, so it will cost a shade less to run into a lamp-post.

The presence of those bathing girl pictures pasted on cars may lead some of the drivers into the danger of taking a plunge.

Cables carry a story that Frances Alda, famous soprano, had beat up her maid on an ocean boat. Another tragedy of the high C's.

When Mr. Meighen is going over his list of political supporters, he now writes the word "detour" over the name of the Montreal Gazette.

The Hamilton Herald wonders if there is anything significant in the fact that October is the one month in the year that rhymes with sober.

Drillers working in Bruce peninsula have decided there is no oil in that spot. Many a man who has bought oil stock has made a similar discovery.

Montreal alderman charges that police there get incomes from the protection of vice. Montreal has always been spoken of as the home of protection.

A printer's error in using a "b" for a "j" made an exchange say: "Never budge a girl's complexion in the evening." And yet it is a fact that it can be done.

Prince of Wales went to the 57th story of the Woolworth building to see New York. It's much easier than standing on the ground and looking up. He has great regard for the back of his neck.

London citizens who paid income tax on the basis of \$300 exemption are now receiving a rebate, the exemption having been raised to \$500. The father with three children gets \$24 back, with five \$40. It is a clear case of decreased taxation, and gives a concrete example of what the King government meant when it said it would take less money from the people.

Government control in Manitoba has found it necessary to tighten up again, this time prohibiting the sale of beer by the keg. This is the third change since the adoption of government control. (1) Increasing penalties, (2) abolishing sale of the glass, (3) doing away with sale by kegs. Ontario has a better plan, and is not inclined to experiment with the Manitoba system.

Rarebits By Rex

TO THE COW.

"I think that I will never see
A poem lovely as a tree."
—Joyce Kilmer.

I think I'll never see, somehow,
A creature lovely as a cow;
The radio, the planes that fly,
The stars that twinkle in the sky,
Are marvelous, and yet I call
The cow more perfect than them all.

She lives among her bovine ilk
That we may feed ourselves on milk,
She dies a martyr crowned with grief
That we may have our meal of beef.
She is destined (Please note this, please)
To be a plate of cottage cheese.

She gives her skin to make us shoes,
And yet never suffers from the blues,
In spite of all her grief and pain,
I never heard a cow complain,
And that is why I love, somehow,
To take my hat off to the cow.

"Happy girls get married often than solemn ones,"
—Haystack Ellis. Which indicates that a miss is as good as her smile.

A returned European tourist gave it as his opinion that Paris is conspicuous for its absinth.

A local citizen claims he got a letter from a black hand. Apparently his suspicions were aroused when he observed smudges on it.

A PROPER PUNISHMENT.

"Deliberate murder" was the crime
The jury called a girl called Flime
(I call her Flime to make the rhyme)
Hast wantonly committed.

The evidence implied that she
Had done a fiendish thing, and we,
Her next-door neighbors, did agree
She could not be acquitted.

My testimony showed the jade
Planned massacres had made,
For each selection that she played
Was nothing less than murder.
They hanged the lady by the ear,
A punishment some thought severe,
But those who thought that way, I fear,
Could never once have heard her.

The fact that Jack Dempsey became engaged as soon as he had his nose remodeled shows that some girls believe that nose makes the man.

Assaulted by batteries of cameramen, invaded by armies of debutantes, attacked by mercenary reporters and shot at by amateur photographers, the Prince of Wales will return to England thinking that a visit to America is very similar to what Sherman said was.

"The prince is becoming Americanized,"
—New York Sun. This probably means that he has learned to say, "Kill the umpire!"

Denmark's murders average only three a year. It must be awful for a country to be so uncivilized.

Late Saturday Night

Jim Perkins and his wife they went to do their shopping late at night, not when the sun on Saturday was shinin' out in all its might, and when they could by broad day-light inspect the things they wished to buy, instead they waited till the sun had sunk and faded in the sky.

And by the time they came upon the corner-store of old Joe Dell, the neighbors from ten blocks around had pawed the things he had to sell.

They'd grabbed the peaches that were ripe, they'd carted off the apples too, long hours before they'd took away his cabbage when the stock was new.

So when Jim Perkins and his wife they sauntered in the shop a spell they found the leavin's of the day upon the shelves of old Joe Dell.

Jim Perkins' wife she looked around, she saw tomatoes small and green, the kind what's left for boys to pelt upon the night of Halloween. Cucumbers there was none at all, bananas were a stricken crew, the shoppers who trooped in before had shot the stock clean through and through.

So Perkins he looked 'round a bit and looks old Joe square in the eye, remarkin' he don't see no stuff what's fit at all for them to buy.

But old Joe Dell he didn't go and fly off in a rage at all, he knowed he'd cleaned his stock that day, he had the bills stacked high and tall. He says to Jim: "How come it now you and your missus come in here when hours ago the shopping folks has swept the decks off clean and clear?"

I open this here store at eight, 'tis then I leave my sleepin' hole and stock in squash and pumpkins here two husky men can scarcely roll. They are a goodly thing to see, and folks they gather here two deep while you are lingerin' in your hut or snorin' out your hours in sleep."

So Joe he tells the Perkins folks their way is crude and none too deft, for comin' in at ten at night they've got to take what others left.

It's just a way some folks has got, the habit's old and poor and stale, this shopping' on the last lone hour and layin' out your healthy kale, and gettin' just the things what's left when clerks is weary in the head, and wishin' folks would keep away and let them park inside their bed.

Jim Perkins he was keen enough to see as how old Joe was right, and what a chump he surely was to do his shopping' late at night. So now Jim's wife she bustles out and shops amidst the mornin' dew, and feeds Jim on big squash and beets just like a wise spouse ought to do—ARK.

Don't Be a Bass

(Hardware and Metal.)

A naturalist once divided an aquarium with a clear glass partition. He put a lusty bass in one section and minnows in the other. The bass struck every time a minnow approached the partition.

After three days of fruitless lunging, which netted him only bruises, he ceased his efforts and subsisted on the food that was dropped.

Then the naturalist removed the glass partition. The minnows swam all around the bass, but he would not strike at a single one. He had been thoroughly sold on the idea that business was bad.

There's a real moral here and we need it—take another shot at the glass partition—maybe it isn't there any more.

Dr. Frank Crane

THE AEROPLANE

Recently, fifteen motor gliders started from the Buc Aerodrome in France on a 1,156-mile flight across the country. The object of the flight was to evolve the cheapest form of motor glider with the lowest gasoline consumption. The competitors were not allowed to replace the engines or wings, but were allowed to effect all necessary repairs.

A glider meet was also held at Thoen on Aug. 15 and lasted for fifteen days.

Compare this with the assembly of the grand fleet of Great Britain recently at Portsmouth, where 194 warships passed before the King in review, representing thirty thousand officers and men assembled. Here were any number of men and any amount of property whose business was merely to be on parade. They serve no useful end and were entirely reserved for destructive purposes. The aeroplane, on the contrary, may be used in peace as it is in war, but it may be a machine easily converted to warlike purposes.

Sooner or later the nations of the world are going to realize that prosperity in time of peace is the best preparation for war and that the best means for war, and the most economic, consist in peaceful instrumentalities that can speedily be converted to warlike use.

At any rate, it seems that every indication is that the next war will be fought in the air, and will no longer depend upon ships. It seems as though the aeroplane were making the battleship a back number, just as the battleship has replaced the battleship of old.

By the way, the Royal Aero Club of Great Britain recently gave the Britannia Trophy to Mr. A. J. Cobham for the most meritorious performance in the air during 1923. That performance consisted in a 12,000-mile flight in a De Havilland plane, fitted with a 240 h.p. Siddeley Puma engine. The total flying time was 128 hours.

With the establishment of a transcontinental mail route from New York to San Francisco, it looks as though it would not be long before crossing the Atlantic by air would be an established business.

All this has its bearing upon war. And it is a question whether the national defense can better be served by keeping up the old-fashioned army and navy or by directing attention to the air.

There is no one who does not want to see his country properly defended. It is only a matter of vision and judgment.

To the Editor

IN CHILDREN'S INTERESTS

School Districts Should Have Some Consideration for Children Crossing Dangerous Places.

Editor of The Advertiser:

Sir,—There has been another accident caused by crossing a street. That is, to my mind, the chief reason why some of the children recently turned from Lord Roberts school should be allowed to go there.

This has special reference to the crossing of Richmond street at Central avenue, where the street is double the width, and traffic comes from six directions at once. It is a dangerous crossing even for an adult, and far worse for a child.

Perhaps it is time that the districts were rearranged, giving special consideration to dangers incurred on the way to school. But in any case it seems to me that the board ought to give special consideration to the crossing of Richmond street at Central avenue, where the street is double the width, and traffic comes from six directions at once. It is a dangerous crossing even for an adult, and far worse for a child.

I hope it will not be necessary to emphasize the danger by another accident.

dent. A little child had her thigh broken the other day at that crossing, and is now in the hospital. I commend this matter to the serious consideration of the members of the school board and the citizens in general. A PARENT.

OUR FRIENDS.

There never has been a time in life
We needed not a friend;
Nor will this need from us depart
Till life itself shall end.
We need a friend to cheer, or check,
Our feet from day to day.
When in the path of right we lag,
Or verge on error's way.

We need a friend—a priceless friend—
When joys upon us smile;
In sorrow's night we need a friend
Our anguish to beguile.
Not all who friendship have professed
In test will prove they're true.
Yet, there has never been day nor date
When not a friend we knew.

Our friends we're ever glad to meet;
We're sorry e'er to part.
For stronger grow the ties which bind
When heart communes with heart.
Those tender bands which twine our lives,
No giant's strength can break;
Nor aught on earth can tempt a friend.

A loved one to forsake.

'Mongst those who're noble, or reverse
In stations low or high.
No man e'er liveth to himself,
Nor to himself can die.
When in life's fadefull web we weave
Our noblest deeds, we blend
The silk, the silver, and the gold
We owe to some dear friend.

—MACK

London, Sept. 12, 1924.

SAFETY FIRST.

Their boat was drifting idly, the sun shone above, and the sea was serene, while she was sitting snugly. Then he proposed.
From the opposite end of the craft she gazed at him calmly. Then she said:

"As a matter of common sense, realizing that we are in this boat on water more than 50 feet deep, and that if you were going to act as you would be capsize, I will decline your proposal at this moment—but, George, row as fast as you can to the shore and ask me again."

That girl will make a good wife.

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From a sketch made at the Oshawa Plants by Vernon Howe Bailey

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