

# THE ACADIAN

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## Editorial

Our pulpits are our work clothes. Each of us live  
some kind of a sermon every day.

### A LESSON FROM FLORIDA

A citizen of Wolfville who spent the past winter in Florida, and who kept his eyes open to conditions there that might be worth imitating in the home town, was impressed by the almost complete absence of lawlessness in the tourist resorts of that state. Others with whom THE ACADIAN has conferred corroborate the statement that vandalism and disorder are practically unknown and that public and private property is allowed to remain undisturbed. Settees and other conveniences on public squares are never interfered with and the visitor as well as the resident is not disturbed by evidences of rowdiness and disorder. Pedestrians on the streets either by night or day are neither impeded in their progress or annoyed by offensive remarks.

Here is a lesson which our town authorities should take to heart and put into immediate practice. Wolfville is probably no different from other towns in Nova Scotia but here we are unwillingly obliged to confess the existence of a very different condition of affairs for which there is absolutely no need. The town spends annually a very large amount to teach the young people of the community, among other things, a correct appreciation of their duty to society, and we have on our statute books ample laws which if enforced should be productive of results. A little more courage in the administration of our laws and a firmer disapproval on the part of the public towards these offenders might lead to a very beneficial change. As a residential and tourist town and an educational centre Wolfville is naturally expected to gravitate considerably above the average in these matters. From an economic standpoint, if from no other, it will pay the people of Wolfville to manifest a greater interest in good order and decorum than has been apparent during recent years.

### DR. BORDEN IGNORED

A notable event in the recent commencement exercises of Dalhousie University was the conferring of the degree of Doctor of Laws upon an honored Kings county man, Dr. B. C. Borden, who recently retired from the presidency of Mt. Allison. Dalhousie has been traditionally conservative, if not sparing, in its bestowal of honorary degrees in recognition of public or educational distinction. Because of such fact the conferring of this honoris causa degree upon Dr. Borden cannot but be regarded with significance. The honor is a fitting recognition and will be so regarded.

Dr. Borden has given half a century of his life to educational work. During thirty-eight years he has been associated with Mt. Allison University and for twelve years filled the position of president. As teacher, minister, professor and finally as president, he proved himself to be a competent instructor, an accomplished scholar and an enlightened leader. He has retired after a life-time of very active and useful service and enjoys the respect and admiration of his fellow countrymen. It is fitting that Dalhousie should have shown its appreciation of his life-work in a common enterprise by conferring upon him its highest mark of honor. The citizens of Dr. Borden's native county are gratified and will join THE ACADIAN in congratulations.

### BAND CONCERTS

If Wolfville is to enjoy the advantage of such a series of open-air band concerts as was had last summer it is full time that some action on the part of citizens was taken. There is no question as to the benefit accruing to the town through such an institution and naturally those who reap the most profit should bear the lion share of the expense. Of course the Council should render some financial assistance to such an undertaking but as the membership of the band is composed to quite an extent of those interested in the business life of the community the work will be expected to be largely of a voluntary nature.

Anything that will tend to make the town more attractive deserves the encouragement of citizens and well rendered band-programs should certainly be a powerful factor towards that end. We would suggest a meeting of our business men for a consideration of the proposal and a conference with the band to ascertain if satisfactory arrangements can be made. THE ACADIAN will gladly do all in its power to assist in the good work which, we believe, if properly set in motion would receive the hearty support of citizens generally.

### SPEED LAWS

Because there appears no sign-board proclaiming the pace at which motor-vehicles are permitted to proceed upon our streets the remark is often made by strangers that Wolfville has no speed-limit. If a further confirmation were necessary the rate at which cars travel either by night or day might easily lead to the same conclusion. THE ACADIAN has before referred to this condition, and at the risk of being deemed tiresome, and with the hope that by means of a "line upon line" the attention of the authorities may be arrested and the public awakened to the need for action, again occupies its space with the presentation of what we cannot but regard as a timely topic.

No one can view with other than a feeling of alarm the practice of automobile speeding which is becoming all too common and which if not restrained is bound ultimately to result in disaster. We cannot but feel that a better enforcement of the laws governing this traffic, the conditions of which are certainly not unreasonable, is necessary in the interest of public safety and thus justifiable.

### TEMPERANCE LAWS

A Comparison Which Furnishes  
Food For Reflection For Honest  
Nova Scotians

The claim is sometimes made by politicians that Nova Scotia occupies a creditable position in the manner in which it stands on the temperance question. That such is not the case, and that as a people we have no cause for self congratulation in this regard those who have looked into the facts are well convinced. The following letter which

appeared in the last issue of the Yarmouth Light from the pen of Rev. J. H. Robbins, of Concord, N. H., a former Yarmouth man, presents evidence that should be most convincing that we have yet far to go before any such boast as has been made can be justified: Editor Yarmouth Light:

I observe in "The Light" of May 1st a paragraph to the effect that Nova Scotia had received for revenue from liquor profits \$421,879, and that New Brunswick had received even more, while Prince Edward Island had a treasury deficit of \$184,000, which is charged

up to the lack of sufficient liquor sales.

This is food for serious thought to the patriotic, law-abiding, moral tax payers: \$421,879 coming into the Provincial Treasury sounds pretty good to the average tax payer. I urge the tax payers and citizens generally to ask seriously where this revenue comes from into the Provincial Treasury; that is, who pays it. Was it a contribution from someone of wealth, which was in no way a burden to any class of citizens?

If I understand the system of your Nova Scotia prohibition law, there is a provision for the sale of liquor for medicinal purposes through a Provincial Vendor Commission, and local vendors or local druggists. This may also include alcohol for manufacturing purposes; I am not sure about that. I am considering only that part of the revenue which came from the sale to consumers, nominally for medicinal purposes.

The druggist who sells to the consumer must make his small profit in business. The Provincial Vendor Commission, I understand, are salaried men with office and administration expenses, which must come out of the profits before there is any provincial revenue.

My question is, who pays these profits, salaries, expenses, and revenue? If it is all used for legitimate, necessary medicinal purposes, the patients who need these remedies have to pay this revenue for the relief of the regular tax payers, and an enormous percentage to cover this cost of collecting that revenue, in salaries and expenses.

Are the patriotic taxpayers of Nova Scotia satisfied to impose such a burdensome tax on that class of persons who are in need of medicine, taxing the sick to relieve the well-to-do from ordinary taxes?

Or, I think I hear some well-to-do taxpayer say, with a twinkle in his eye, "Oh, that liquor on physicians' prescriptions is not all sold by druggists and local vendors to relieve the sick." Very well. Let us accept the insinuation that much of it, possibly the major part of it, if you choose, is purchased through fraud for beverage use to satisfy an alcoholic appetite.

Then we have the proposition that the abnormal, morally delinquent victims of a depraved appetite, many of them taking the few dollars needed by their families, are paying a large part of the \$421,879 into the Provincial Treasury, to the relief of the patriotic well-to-do taxpayers in the payment of their regular ordinary taxes.

Again I ask, are the patriotic, law-abiding, moral citizens of Nova Scotia satisfied to have this class of moral and economic delinquents pay their taxes, and the immense cost of collecting that revenue in the item of Vendor Commission's salaries and expenses and druggists' profits?

Of course the moral, patriotic, law-abiding, upright business men are none of these criminal evaders of the law of their beloved province, in bribery, or fraudulent doctors' prescriptions, or a sham sickness, by direct or indirect invasion to get beverage booze for themselves. Only the low, criminally inclined, morally irresponsible will trample on a law, sacrificing patriotism and decency, to gratify a depraved, abnormal, alcoholic appetite.

I do not believe the law-abiding, patriotic citizens of Nova Scotia are at all proud of the relief of their taxes to the extent of a dollar a head on the population of the province in this \$421,879 of revenue paid by either the few who really need medicine, or the moral derelicts who criminally buy booze. Mr. Editor, I wish to invite the attention of your readers to the methods

of dealing with medicinal liquor and industrial alcohol in the State of New Hampshire.

In the adoption of a prohibitory law in 1918, the State Government determined to abandon the policy of revenue from alcoholic liquor. The law provided two State agents for administration, one a Commissioner of Law Enforcement. The State Legislature appropriates from the State Treasury the total amount needed to pay the salary of the Commissioner and his deputies, with their expenses and the office expenses of administration.

Prosecutions are made by the Commissioner and his deputies in the name of the county or municipality, and the fines and costs imposed by the courts, and collected, go into the general treasury of the county or municipality, and all the incidental costs of prosecution are paid under the head of "general court expenses". No special "revenue" account appears as profits from the rum business or the prosecutions of violators of the prohibition law. There are absolutely no financial returns to the State Treasury, and the state pays, as a part of the state expenses, out of the general treasury the entire cost of this state prohibition law enforcement commission.

The other state provision for administration is a State Liquor Purchasing Agent, appointed by the Governor. His salary and all expenses of administration are also paid directly from the state treasury, on appropriations made for the purpose by the State Legislature. Liquor for medicinal use, on physicians' prescriptions, are sold by druggists, but the druggist, before he can thus fill a physician's prescription, must have a legal permit from the government of the municipality, and also another permit from the Federal Government. He must buy all liquor direct from the State Liquor Purchasing Agent.

All wine for sacramental purposes, and alcohol for manufacturing purposes, must be purchased from this State Agent, and the payments made to the State Agent. The State Agent makes the purchase from the manufacturer, or wholesale dealer, and the liquor or alcohol is shipped direct to the customer. No liquor can be transported or delivered into, or within the State without the label permit of this State Agent attached to every package. This business is all done by the State without any cost to the customers, who receive the goods direct at actual cost, and guarantees as to quality.

I am interested in this revenue in Nova Scotia, under a Provincial Prohibition Law, as compared with the revenue in New Hampshire, under a license saloon system.

New Hampshire has a population of

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443,000 not differing largely from Nova Scotia. We had a local option, high license saloon system from 1903 to 1918, just 15 years. The total income to the State from license fees and forfeited bonds, amounted to a yearly average of \$312,908.19. Out of this total income \$20,000 a year went to pay the salaries of the excise commission of three very high grade reliable men, their deputies or inspectors, and all expenses, leaving \$292,908.19 revenue to be divided to the counties and municipalities having the saloons; not a dollar to the State. Under this license saloon system the income from the system paid the cost of administration, as stated above.

It is to me a mystery of administration how Nova Scotia can collect a provincial revenue of \$429,879, in addition to the expense of administration for the sale of liquor for medicinal use, under a Provincial Prohibition Law, against \$292,908.19 in New Hampshire, under an open saloon system for general sale of liquor for beverage purposes, plus a necessary system of sales for medicinal use in the no-license towns. I was not aware that New Hampshire has such

an enormous advantage over Nova Scotia as a health resort.

## Question ??

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