

## THE WEEKLY ONTARIO.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 1916.

## TEMPERANCE HYPOCRITES

Temperance people, and particularly temperance Liberals, are being subjected to some very harsh criticism just now and are accused of being the authors of all the calamities that have lately befallen the provincial Conservative party in Ontario.

One particularly irate Conservative, after the bye-election in S. W. Toronto, expressed himself to The Ontario in words like these,—

"You can't depend on these Grit temperance hypocrites. They're a lot of half-baked shams."

"What have they been doing now?" we mildly inquired.

"Why, just as soon as they got a government that was fool enough to give them what they had all along pretended to be wanting they immediately turned around and did all they could to defeat that government instead of helping it along. You needn't tell me! They're nothing but a lot of shams," he repeated with emphasis.

"But," we asked, "what has Rowell done that Liberal temperance voters should turn their backs on his leadership? Has he shifted or wobbled on the prohibition issue? Has he placed his 'ear to the ground' in order that he might hear some happy excuse for chucking or chopping the temperance program?"

Our friend apparently had not thought of it in just that light. At least he failed to find an answer to our inquiries and the subject was changed.

And there is the gist of the whole situation. Had Rowell been guilty of treachery in any respect to his avowed temperance principles, had he wavered at the testing time from the straightforward course, there would be some reason for the rubbish that our friend was talking.

That same kind of rubbish has been very generally served up these past few days in the Conservative newspapers and by the Conservative ward politicians.

They would do far better service to their party if they made a little use of their brains and tried to ascertain what was really the cause of their humiliating reverses.

Some of the liquor-men have told them that they (the liquor element) were the guys who used the kibosh to unjoint the smooth-working Tory machine. Without question and without reserve these assertions by the trade are accepted as one hundred per cent. true by the machine gang, and by the generality of the G. O. P.

Here are some facts that cannot be disputed and that go to prove that the loss of whiskey support did not have ALL to do in the production of the pitiable disasters within the Ontario Conservative party the past two years,—

When a successor was to be selected to replace Sir John Hendrie in West Hamilton, a Conservative majority of 1411 at the general election of June 1914 was reduced to a majority of only 36 at the bye-election.

When a successor was to be elected to Sir James Whitney in the county of Dundas a general-election majority of 673 was reduced to 62.

When a successor was to be elected to J. R. Fallis who resigned from the constituency of Peel because of too intimate an acquaintance with the horse business a majority of 627 in 1914 was converted into a Liberal majority of more than 300.

All these slumps and reverses, be it understood, occurred BEFORE the Hearst government made any announcement of its policy in regard to prohibition, and while it was still supposed to be true to its policy of "Polish the Bar."

The bye-election in North Perth and S. W. Toronto have both taken place since the passage of the Prohibition Bill. If we examine the vote in both these constituencies we will ascertain that the elections were decided by the Conservative vote that stayed at home rather than because of any considerable change of allegiance from the Conservative to the Liberal side. In S. W. Toronto the Conservative total vote dropped from 6127 in 1914 to 2085 on Monday last. At the same time the Liberal vote increased only by 271. If the Conservative Jeremiahs will study out the reason why two thousand Conservatives stayed at home and sulked in North Perth and more than 4000 Conservatives stayed at home and sulked in South-west Toronto they will ascertain the true cause

of the successive disasters.

Commenting upon the figures in S. W. Toronto, the Conservative Telegram has this to say,

These figures show beyond peradventure that no Jewish vote, or liquor vote, or Catholic vote, or any other particular vote, was responsible for Mr. Dewar's election. The same lethargy that was epidemic in Conservative circles in North Perth affected the Conservatives of Southwest Toronto. It was even more virile in the city, because the Conservatives were more closely in touch with each other. Mr. Dewar carried every ward, and the great majority of the polling divisions, not because there has been any great influx of Liberals, nor because of any large number of conversions to the Liberal faith. It proved beyond a doubt that the predictions of the insurgent Conservatives were correct and lent color to a large suspicion that the leaders of the old party are out of touch with the rank and file. The Conservatives themselves, inside and outside the machine, do not hesitate to openly declare that change will have to be made if the country is going to be delivered from the Philistines—said Philistines being locally known as the Grits.

As The Telegram surmises, the causes of the Conservative losses are various and cannot all be attributed to any particular vote or section of the community.

The nickel question no doubt had much influence. Hydro-Electric loomed large. Other factors in the slump were the divided leadership, Ferguson's Billingsgate, Lucas' virtual promise to modify and make ineffective the Prohibition law, the alienation of temperance voters by the Norris wine-and-beer license idea, Camp Borden, Colonel Allison, Sam Hughes, the loss of their great leader, Whitney, and the inevitable breaking up of the party—these were all potent influences that have been working, some of them for a long time to produce disintegration of the once powerful Conservative party in Ontario.

The liquor-men, shrewd campaigners that they are, take to themselves the whole credit for this tremendous reversal of popular judgment. And to date the aforesaid liquor-men have reason to be well satisfied with results. They have caused the great Conservative party to believe they (the liquor-men) are the real power that sets up and beats down governments. They induced a prohibitionist Conservative candidate in S. W. Toronto to come out and say he favored wine and beer licenses. They compelled Premier Hearst to endorse that candidate as acceptable to himself. They forced Hon. I. B. Lucas to put his "ear to the ground" to see if he could discover any decent method of destroying the Prohibition law he had helped to create.

Positive accomplishments like these on the part of the license-holders and their sympathizers are likely to cause a revision of the judgment that King Whiskey has been killed in the Province of Ontario. Whiskey still has a few good kicks left. Don't forget that.

The proper course for Liberals at the present time is clear. There can be no turning back from the policy to which the party became committed in 1912. To prove false to the ideals then set up would be to blast all possible chances of success at the polls for a generation to come.

Their gifted and unwavering leader has not played fast and loose for one moment. There has been no shilly-shallying with prohibition or any other issue. Liberal voters should not prove false to their leader until he has proved false to the trust they have in him reposed. Rowell was responsible for the policy of prohibition that has now found a place on our statute books. He it was that forced the hand of a government elected to retain the bar. The liquor element does not love Rowell, but possibly it hates Hearst a little more as being the immediate instrument of its discomfiture.

While there is no occasion whatever for Liberals who hold prohibitionist views to change their party allegiance at the present time, they should not seek to add to the embarrassment of the government which is in obvious difficulties. As citizens and as temperance men they should in every possible manner help the government past the hard places and stand resolutely behind their officials in the enforcement of the law about to come into effect.

And at the same time the government will be well advised if it stiffens up its back and again manifests some of the strength it displayed under the leadership of Sir James Whitney.

Wobblers and trimmers are universally despised.

## A HISTORY OF THE WAR.

Preparations have been made and work has begun in Great Britain upon an "Interim history of the war." It is well that this should be done. The final history of the war cannot, of course, be written until the historian has had access to the enemy's side of the case. But the present is the time to collect the material, particularly the large mass of pamphlets, chance publications, trench newspapers, cartoons, and the like which cast a lurid searchlight on the history of our own times. The naval history has been entrusted by Mr. Asquith to Mr. Julian Stafford

Corbett, F.S.A., a barrister, novelist, and well known lecturer in naval history to the Naval War College. Mr. Corbett acted as war correspondent during the Dongola expedition (1896). He has published nine works on naval matters. The military part of Britain in this war has been placed in the hands of Hon. John William Fortescue. He has published four works on military affairs, including a history of the British army from 1899 to 1909. The Garton Foundation—which concerns itself with economics—will have charge of the trade side of the war. It is to be hoped that Mr. Asquith will yet add other sections—politics, press and publicity, the conduct of the civilian and such like facts of history in war time. A technical navy, a technical army, a technical trade story alone will be a very poor "history" of the war.

## FATTENING ON WAR.

The announcement that another British loan of \$250,000,000, has been effected in the United States, calls attention anew to the immense sums of money which our neighbors to the south have advanced to the warring nations of Europe. The Anglo-French loan of \$500,000,000 floated in the United States a year ago rested wholly on the joint credit of the two Governments. And it is said that the proceeds were divided equally between them. The present British loan of \$250,000,000 like the recent additional French loan of \$100,000,000 is further protected by collateral securities of American and Canadian stocks and bonds of a number of neutral Governments of a market value, 20 per cent. in excess of loan.

This brings the total British war borrowings in the American market up to \$550,000,000. Canada's borrowings in the United States since the war began total \$120,000,000. Some \$430,000,000 has been loaned to France, \$260,000,000 to Russia, \$25,000,000 to Italy, \$10,000,000 to Germany, and \$27,000,000 to neutral European countries. The grand total of European war loans in the American market to date is \$1,422,000,000.

Since January 1, 1915, says the New York World, "we have sold abroad \$2,972,000,000 more of merchandise than we bought abroad. We have so far received in payment for this amazing trade balance foreign evidences of debt to the amount of \$1,422,000,000. We have received in gold a net sum of over \$600,000,000. There accordingly remains to July 1 last an unsettled balance of \$950,000,000, which probably in most part represents the amount of foreign-held American securities sold here in the open market during that time, additional to the very large amounts sold before the war broke out."

The net foreign debt of the United States two and a half years ago was around \$5,000,000,000. It cannot be half that figure today, and the balance is melting away rapidly under the continuing vast excess of exports. So swift a rise of a nation from a debtor to a creditor position would be beyond all belief were not the facts so clearly beyond all dispute.

## POLITICS AND POLITICIANS.

Politicians as a class, are credited with keeping their "ears pretty close to the ground." In times past, the politician who deemed himself successful was the one who first heard the rumblings of discord among the people and modelled his attitude on public questions in such manner as he judged would profit him most in votes on election day. He trimmed his sails to take advantage of the winds of passion and prejudice and cared little what course he steered so long as he reached the coveted place of a seat on the Government benches. Of course, there were notable exceptions to the prevailing rule. There have been, and there are, politicians in Canada, whose views and actions on public questions were, and are, dictated by what they consider to be in the best interests of the people. To them, we owe what advancement we have made and civilization is the better for their example and their work.

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It would be unfair to place all the blame on the shoulders of the politician for this undesirable state of affairs. It would be unfair also to suppose that this undesirable state of affairs was peculiar to Canada. In all times, and in all countries, similar conditions have prevailed. In world politics, Germany's attitude during the past forty years most nearly approximates that of the so-called practical politician to whom we have referred. As to the practical politician no pledge is too solemn to be broken, provided the increment in votes promises to be advantageous, so to Germany, a treaty is a mere "scrap of paper," to be torn up when it is no longer convenient to observe its conditions.

The people must share the blame equally with the politician. It is the people who have heretofore made conduct such as we have described profitable. Party allegiance has stifled protest from the few who discerned the right, but suffered the wrong. The people have allow-

ed prejudice to dim their vision and passion to pervert their reason. They have responded to the arts of the politicians when he played upon their prejudices and passions as the strings of a piano respond discordantly to the musician who violates the principles of the divine art of producing harmony.

But the old order of things is passing. The times have changed and the politician must change with them. The world is afflicted with the great scourge of war. Germany, the master politician, is an outcast among the nations of the earth. For an idea, for a principle, for justice, for honesty and for decency, countless thousands have spilled their heart's blood. It is a time of sacrifice for the ideals we cherish. Not for nothing has all this blood been spilled. Not for nothing have the tears of our women been shed. The great body of the people cannot remain unmoved with the knowledge that thousands of our best lives have been sacrificed in order that we may live. The people are not unmoved. They are more discerning today than yesterday. They place a higher value upon property and honor than ever before. The arts and the wiles of the politician of yesterday will not serve the politician of today. If he would succeed, he must conform to the altered circumstances.

The politician "with his ear to the ground" should be the first to recognize this change in public opinion. The politician today who would be honest should "trust the people" more than ever before. He should trust them to discern the sham and the hollowness of political chicanery. He should dare to do the right as it is given him to see it, and refrain from doing what he knows to be wrong, because in other days it promised something of political advantage. It is not only good morality, but good business which dictates this as the proper course to pursue. The politician who first recognizes this change in public opinion will profit when election day comes. Let him keep his "ear to the ground."

## THE REAL CULPRIT.

The American press seems, to put it mildly, to take with a grain of salt the Kaiser's recent statement that he is not "the man who has the responsibility for the war upon his conscience." The World, New York, thinks that the Kaiser's statement is literally correct because there is no one "man" upon whom the whole responsibility can be imposed. Perhaps so, but is there any other single individual who must shoulder as much of the responsibility? We think not.

The World then proceeds to place the responsibility and says:

"The German Emperor has the fairness to add that history will not 'hold him faultless.' It cannot do so. His constant arrogant talk, the mailed fist and the divine right of Kings to offer up their people's blood and tears as a sacrifice to dynastic aims, his frequent rattling of the sabre to extort concessions from a reluctant but over-awed Europe, his insistence upon war preparations, helped to foster the jealousies of other nations with their just fears and bind about their necks the burden of militarism."

Germany could have prevented the war. The Imperial Government did not because it had for years planned war to the last detail and looked for profit from it. Within Germany the people, themselves deprived of effective political power, must yet apportion the blame for all the sorrows they suffer and the calamities they have still to face.

In that perilous hour of reckoning they may hold it peculiarly true of their oligarchic Fatherland that, as the Emperor says, "the higher (a man's) position the larger his responsibilities" for the disaster to civilization which it should have been the first task of statesmanship to avert.

Seven more Belgians have been executed by direction of the same court martial which condemned Captain Charles Fryatt. When the war ends the members of that body should be given a taste of their own medicine.

The Russian official statement says that the Russian armies on the Eastern front have captured 358,602 prisoners during the period from June 4th to August 12th. If our Russian Allies keep up the good work it will not be long before there are no Austrian soldiers left to defend Vienna.

The British and French persist in disregarding the official bulletins issued from Berlin. A few days ago Berlin told us that the Allied offensive had been stopped. Still the Allies keep hammering away, gaining a trench here and capturing some prisoners there, all the while making progress, while the Germans are merely "rearranging their lines," according to Berlin.

"Thus far and no further," said Canute, but still the tide flowed on. So it is with the Kaiser in his attempt to halt the steady progress of the forces of civilization. The advance continues, the tide is steadily rising, and it has not reached its flood even yet. When it does, goodbye to the precious House of Hohenzollern. And a good riddance too.

## Other Editors' Opinions

## BILLY SUNDAY'S MONEY.

"Pitiless publicity" has not failed to reach the "business methods" of Billy Sunday, the evangelist. The famous soul-saver has never felt that he is responsible for explanation to anyone as to the disposition of the tens of thousands of dollars he receives at each gathering, and as a consequence many cynical journalists have been wont to refer to his "saving souls at \$2 per" and similar comments suggesting that the public should regard his great revivals as so many theatrical appearances with "fat" box office receipts, and Sunday has gathered hundreds of thousands of dollars in his quest for sin is undoubted. That he has kept to himself the whereabouts of his wealth is also true. But this much may be said that the money was given freely, without compulsion, without questions asked; it has been a free-will offering to Sunday, not to the Lord. His extensive movement costs something, and usually the society under whose auspices he appears gets a considerable share of the receipts.

But skepticism persists in the minds of many. What sort of evangelist is he who becomes rich as Dives, while he professes to serve only one Master? It is refreshing to those who believe Sunday is a man inspired, to read the following from the Philadelphia North American:

"A letter reached Billy from a young woman in a little town near Camden. She wrote how she and her mother, a helpless invalid, delighted in reading about the wonderful meetings and what sorrow it was to them they could not hope to be present, even once. Would he not write to them?"

The next morning he slipped away from his house in Spring Garden St. and went over to New Jersey and found the poor little home. For an hour he talked with the mother and daughter, prayed with them and read the Bible to the sufferer and left them radiant with happiness. That night the sick woman begged her daughter to read again the chapters Mr. Sunday had read. When the book was opened there lay between the leaves a check for \$100.

"The Pittsburgh" he secretly paid a \$1,000 mortgage on the house of a faithful assistant in the revival. In Ohio a woman sent him a check for \$50. One of the committee, knowing her circumstances, told the evangelist it was more than she could afford, and was rather hurt when the sum was not returned. But a week after the party had left the town there came through the committee's bank a check payable to the woman for \$850—the amount of the mortgage on her home—and it was signed "W. A. Sunday."

"In Scranton he persuaded an employer to take back a defaulting book-keeper—and then, having inculcated the lessons of repentance and forgiveness, made good the \$700 defaultation."

This sort of "leakages" puts the evangelist in a better light. They are the sort of benefactions a good man does not care to talk about, and it is a pity that the silence he maintains invites the cynics to pillory him. At any rate, he seems to have the confidence of the American people, and Canada has quite frequently sought to have him conduct his "clean up" campaigns.

The writer was in Pennsylvania mining town shortly after a visit from Sunday. Every saloon had been forced to go out of business; every home seemed prosperous; the miners swore by him, and any man who said he did not accomplish great good was stung with his praise indeed.—London Advertiser.

## AN OVERWORKED ARGUMENT.

In regard to the liquor question the argument for freedom has been overworked. The liberty, at best, is of no great value. It is not to be compared with liberty of thought, liberty of discussion, liberty of development of human faculties. At its best it relates to an amusement. At its worst it relates to a means of injuring the human race, retarding its growth, and destroying and impairing its real freedom. It can hardly be ranked among those liberties which Milton defended, and for which men ought to be willing to lay down their lives.—Toronto Daily Star.

## A COMPLIMENT TO CANADA.

In Canada they manage the strike business far more intelligently than we do. Boards of conciliation and investigation are provided for by law, and to order a strike or lockout before such a board has had an opportunity to look into the matter is punishable by heavy penalties. So long as compulsory arbitration seems to be out of the question, this Canadian method of settling labor disputes serves a very useful purpose.—Washington Herald.

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