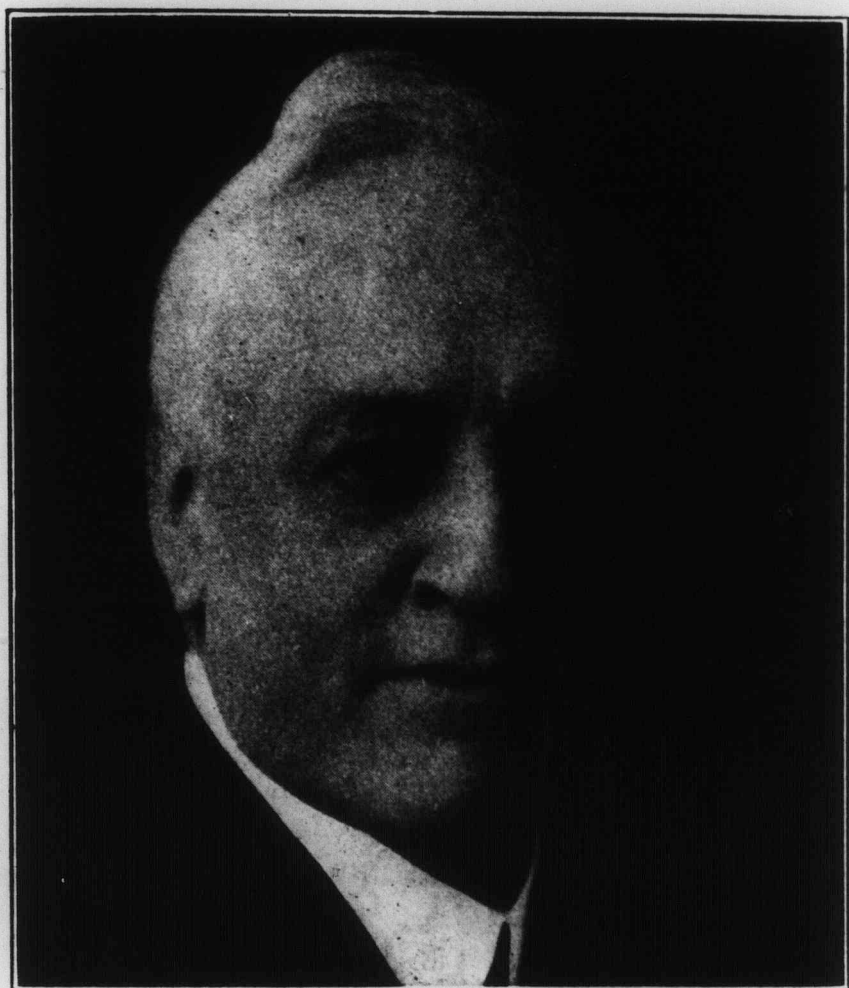


Thus he has gone! A great career, capped by an act of pre-eminent patriotism to his Party and his Province, is ended. Great in his political life, still greater in his political death, he stands in the vanguard of our real statesmen, past and present. May he find his virtues better appreciated now by all, and learn that beneath the prejudices and passions of political life there exists a real admiration for those who have real greatness of soul, and that, as such, he is known and esteemed by all, irrespective of party affiliation.



HON. W. J. BOWSER

THE ONTARIO CONTEST

Yielding to the seductive allurements of the term "Government Control," seeking better conditions by invoking its undefined and indefinable powers, Ontario has endorsed Ferguson and his scheme of Government Control.

According to Ferguson, the curse of the Ontario situation was "bootlegging." His remedy was Government Control. British Columbians will chuckle at the thought of such a remedy.

It would, perhaps, be unfair to question Ferguson's sincerity in advancing his particular remedy. One wonders greatly at how he hoped by his particular plan to cure what, he seemed to accept as a fact, was not cured, or even bettered, by any other form of Government Control in force in Canada or elsewhere. The fundamental evil of the Liquor Traffic—the profit in its existence and continuance—he has in no wise attempted to touch. "You have failed, I shall succeed" is his message to all other forms of Government Control operating in Canada.

But, "How will you succeed?" is our natural query. Ferguson will find and Ontario will find as B. C. has found, that Government Control as a temperance measure is a profound failure. Bought by the immediate application, in reduction of their taxes, of Liquor profits, blinded to the evils of Government Control by self-interest, unable to organize against it by reason of political conditions, people accept what they cannot approve and the slow, but increasingly faster, decay in law enforcement, public morale, and public ideals goes on largely unchecked.

Could the Ontario people have known clearly for themselves what Government Control means today in British Columbia, they would have shunned it. As it is, they have loaded upon themselves an "Old Man of the Sea" who, indifferent to Liberalism, Liberal-Conservatism or Progressivism, will vitiate all party and public life unless expelled therefrom.

An older and more settled Province, and, therefore, with a necessarily deeper life, Ontario may prove strong enough to test Government Control without becoming its yoked bondsman. There need, however, be careful diligence on behalf of those who can place Country before Party, and right-living before easy circumstances, to whom a human soul has real value, and a bribe of decreased taxation will not be a blind to any dangerous tendencies in the system producing the so-called tax-reducing profit.

If any form of Government Control could be effective as a temperance Measure, it would be one that would sell liquor, guaranteed pure and of first quality, at its cost price (or purchase price) paying the costs of handling and delivering out of General Revenue. "Bootlegging" could not face this test and no Government would advertise its goods to increase sales which could only be carried on at a loss in themselves. The strongest opponents of such a scheme would be the Liquor interests supporting our present system of Government control. Is such a fact not significant? Does it indicate that Government Control is an honest attempt at temperance?

THE CUSTOMS INQUIRY

The Customs Commission has arrived in British Columbia and is inquiring somewhat into the Liquor and Narcotic situations. So far it seems to have been what one would expect of a Commission of Judges—alive to its duty. If it receives the co-operation it deserves from our Provincial authorities, it should be the means of ending the disgraceful use of B. C. as an aid to violation of the Volstead Act.

That it will receive such co-operation is open to grave doubt. There will be a certain co-ordination to show that co-operation exists. That it will be real, genuine, whole-hearted, will not be so readily granted.

In so far as it will be possible to get help in certain phases all that can be done will be done. When it comes to laying bare matters that will reflect on the integrity of Liquor administration within B. C. the acid test will come and we doubt the genuineness of the response.

Whatever the official attitude may be, let us hope that every decent citizen will do his or her utmost to aid the Commission in uncovering all the facts of our position. We may not be proud of the result, but we will have to recognize the facts.

Meanwhile, whatever the result, success to the Commission in its inquiry. Let us know the truth, whatever it be, and whoever suffers in the telling. If we misjudge, we will be glad to know it and to acknowledge the error. Whether this or that one is wrong in opinion, is of little or no consequence. The facts are all-important.

"HAPPY THOUGHT!"

"Why should I not let"—(that relative or friend)—"have a monthly reminder of British Columbia and the Canadian West? IT CAN BE DONE by entering their names on the B. C. M. subscription list at \$1 per name."

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