

The Maritime Broadcaster

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SAINT JOHN, N. B., FEBRUARY 21, 1936

GOOD GOVERNMENT

GOVERNMENTS are not all-powerful and they cannot be expected to make individuals charitable, friendly, honest or successful. Of course Governments can provide punishment for dishonesty and they can give an individual a certain amount of protection while he develops into what he chooses to be or do. Should his choice be to interfere with the rights of others to be and do what they choose, the Government can and should interfere because individualism has been violated.

Any system of Government which can be produced, whether it be civic, provincial, or federal, must be administered by individuals. The only difference is the method by which the individuals administering the Government is selected. What those individuals are counts far more than the system under which they function. When these individuals are chosen by the people the results attained will be dependent upon the individuals who choose them. The character of any community government is simply the character of the individuals who choose that government. Good people ultimately have good government no matter what the system may be.

THE GAMBLING SPIRIT

SOMETHING for nothing is what many people are seeking in these times. Some are willing to risk a half-dollar or so with the hope of getting a much larger sum. They will take chances and feel that they are justified. But after all they are really gambling and that is taking chances which seldom bring adequate returns.

When people risk a nickel in a slot machine or spend a quarter on a lottery ticket, they feel it is only a small amount and they may get something of value in return. But they are giving something away which should have been used for some necessity either for themselves or for members of their family. Then if they are lucky and "make a killing" what they get usually does them more harm than good.

After all the real way to acquire the needs of this life is by work and usually hard work. But no matter what work one takes up he always finds that somebody else has what he considers an easier job. So few become satisfied with acquiring their share of this world's goods by the sweat of their brow or the use of their brains. Many do not want to work. They seek some way of getting something for nothing from the other fellow and so there is always discontent and trouble and disappointments, which could be avoided if all would try to live normally and not indulge their gambling spirit too far.

TOO MUCH SWEARING

TOO MANY affidavits breed perjury. This was the opinion expressed by Rev. L. J. Keats, P.P., when addressing members of the Holy Name Society at St. Peter's, N. S., recently. Father Keats was making particular reference to relief documents, but he also said there were too many oaths required in these days and eventually a disregard for a solemn oath would be set up.

The remarks of Father Keats will find much support in many quarters. In these modern times people are required to swear on the most trivial occasion and no doubt just as good results would be obtained without the oath.

In Saint John it is found that the oath is being administered too frequently. Citizens are required to make sworn statements as to their incomes and taxable properties, when a statement would be just as good, providing there were penalties for wrong information. The Dominion income tax department does not require an oath in its returns but checks are made to keep the record straight and it is said that in many cases the returns made to the Dominion are more accurate than those made to the city.

According to British ideals a person is innocent until proven guilty and a person's word should be taken generally so long as he has not been found to be giving wrong information. There is a certain amount of honor among human beings and the governments, whether they be civic, provincial or Dominion, should foster that honor as much as possible.

FACING THE FACTS

WHILE the citizens of Saint John attempt to solve the problems of the city by proposals to change the form of government, it should always be borne in mind that there must be industries in operation and more people in gainful employment. It may be that another form of government is all that is required to bring back prosperity, but so far it has not been shown just how any new form will bring about the desired ends.

POEMS THAT LIVE

AS SWEETS REMAIN

Because this bottle held perfume
 It still has summer's sweetness,
 With hints of honey bees and bloom
 And August fields' completeness.

Though now no amber drop remains
 Of all its former treasure,
 The fragrances of flowery lanes
 Lend yet their poignant pleasure.

My arms are empty now; but still
 The memory of you lingers,
 As sweets remain when perfumes spill
 Across too-hasty fingers.

Haytassel Says . . .



"Neou I see by the papers thet we aint to rub the cat's bac no more becaws we air libbe to set fire to gasolene fumes end set off a exploshun end sum one will git hurt. Warnins air goin out awl over the country about this gasolene danger end I jist thot I better menshun it to yew so ez yew cud tell the peepul about it." Thus did Mr. Josh Haytassel of the Washademoak, speak when he visited the office of "The Maritime Broadcaster" this week. But that did not finish Mr. Haytassel as you will find if you read further.

"I aint hed mutch use fer cats but we hev hed a few out to the farm end sum uv them hev bin gud end others aint bin so mutch. Uv corse enny uv them air gud enuff wen they is dry to pick up end rub their backs in the dark to see the sparks fly. But I gess I kant do thet enny more, becaws it is dangrous end we kant aford to hev enny fires these tymes.

"I see thet up to Hamilton, Ont., a cat saved its own life wen a spark frum its fur exploded the gas in a deth cell, hurt the feller thet wuz lukin after it end pussy escaped. In Montreal another cat rubbed its fur on the side uv a gas cell end blowed the thing to peaces, hirt the owner end a police sargent thet wuz thair wuz

B. WISE says:



MR. B. WISE

So often we hear fathers say: "I do not want my son to go without the things I wanted and had to work so hard for when I was a boy." Maybe it was wanting and working that made them successful, and their success is responsible for the failure of their sons.

burned so thet he hed to be taken to hospittle.

"So yew better not take the cat out in the ottymobile er let it around wear they is any gas fumes. It is likely to blow yew awl to pieces end so fur ez I kin larn the cat is never hurt. It jist escapes end thet is thet. Jist to think, if sum nite yew cum home frum a car ride end happen to hev sum gas on yewr pant legs end the cat rubs agin yew, thy is jist goin to be a puff end a flame end wear air yew? I dont no wear awl this is goin to lead to but maybe sum peepul will giv up thair pet cats. I do not expect enny uv them will giv up thair cars but it wud be a gud thing if they wud. Neu I got to be on my way. I hope to be seen yew agin sute. S'long."

CLIPPINGS

SAFER FOR THE YOUTH

(Wolfville Acadian)

Slot machines and other gambling devices of questionable character and various designs have been the object of civic attention in different parts of the Province of late. The attorney-general who has zealously set himself to the rooting out of this nefarious plan for procuring easy money is to be congratulated on the success of his endeavor. In a number of towns no legal action has been found necessary, the operators voluntarily removing the machines when they found their presence no longer desirable to the better thinking citizens. This is the sensible route by which to arrive at the desired end. Where moral suasion is adequate it is much better not to be compelled to invoke the strong arm of the law.

The habits formed by young folk in their attempted efforts to

beat the machine are very far from beneficial to community welfare, and the towns thus cleaned up will be safer and healthier for the youth of the land. There are numerous other ordinances that town authorities could well enforce with beneficial results, and now perhaps that the attorney-general has set so good an example they may be encouraged to a greater activity.

DISAPPOINTING SOVIET TRADE

(Philadelphia Evening Bulletin)

Soviet imports last year were \$210,000,000, or just about a fifth of the billion which Maxim Litvinoff, speaking at the World Economic Conference, said his country was ready to spend in the world market. When, later in the same year, this country recognized the Soviet, some credulous Americans looked for the United States to get a good slice of that sum. As all well-informed economists knew at the time, there was a catch in the Litvinoff promise, which speedily developed when Moscow, as a condition of extensive purchases in this country, demanded that Washington should finance its own export trade by long-term loans. The United States had enough of that method of stimulating commerce in the pre-depression era. The huge Litvinoff bubble was much deflated last year. Soviet purchases from this country hardly reaching the \$30,000,000 figure agreed on in the special trade pact which the Soviet has little chance to get from any country. Moscow is likely to continue its policy of restricting foreign purchases.

DEFENDING CANADA

(Calgary Albertan)

A high school pupil came home one day quoting one of her teachers as authority for the belief that if a Canadian ship were attacked (and presumably all Canada if need be), it would be defended by the United States. It is strange how many of us are under that impression. We use it as an argument for not incurring the expense of protecting ourselves. But could we count on such protection? Is it becoming to a virile young nation, even if we could?

BRITISH RECOVERY

(London Daily Express)

In Britain trade is good, and getting better. There is no mistaking the immense new boom. Exports are £30,000,000 up on the year's business, imports £25,000,000 up, re-exports £4,000,000 up. The total figures of each branch of the nation's trade are the highest since 1931. Not even "sanctions" against Italy, which mean stopping trade with Italy, have been able to wreck Recovery. Labor critics of the Government no longer deny the improvement. That "collapse of capitalism" so confidently foretold by Sir Stafford Cripps has been most unaccountably postponed again. Labor's future tactics will be to demand a better share in the benefits of capitalist recovery. Those will be wise tactics.

LIGGEST DOOR IN ENGLAND

What is probably the biggest door in England was recently opened at Heston Airport. It is 200 feet wide and 30 feet high and can be opened and shut by hand or electricity. It is on a new aeroplane hangar which has a floor space of nearly three-quarters of an acre and is surrounded by workshops and offices.



THE CONSTANT DROPPING DRIVES HIM CRAZY

—Sweigert in the San Francisco Chronicle.