

# Blessing of Free Wheat Likely to be Short Lived

United States Government May Place a Duty of Ten Per Cent On Wheat and Flour---Borden Government Delayed Action Too Long---The Davidson Commission Cost the Country a Goodly Sum---Sir George Foster Comes to the aid of Distillers.

(By H. F. Gadsby.)

Ottawa, May 23. — Nemesis is on the track of the Borden Government. It postponed the blessing of free wheat until a general election was in sight and now it looks as if the blessing had taken its flight. It seems that a time comes when the sinner cannot return, when the light which has held out to burn for six years fails for lack of oil and is extinguished.

To desert metaphor, the action of the United States Government in placing a minimum tariff of ten per cent. on all articles now on the free list leaves free wheat, to say the least of it, in a very precarious condition. Do we take ten cents a bushel off American wheat in order to have Uncle Sam put thirty cents a bushel on Canadian wheat? That is the question. If such is the case, then Fate has got good and even with an equivocating administration.

Had a Hard Time.

Free wheat has been having a hard time of it ever since it bloomed timidly a month ago. To begin with it was one of those war babies which the government was half ashamed to father without explaining to the millers that it was only temporarily adopted. It was not of the regular tariff family. For the benefit of the Opposition the Northwest farmer and the public at large, Sir Thomas White and Mr. Arthur Meighen argued that an order-in-council was as good a guarantee for permanency as a clause in the Tariff Act, at the same time winking the other eye to the milling interests, who were told that it was an emergency measure.

The Hair Splitting.

Mr. Meighen, whose knife-edge intellect is particularly keen at splitting hairs, made a speech in which he proved that he loved free wheat and that then again he loved it not. In short he stood between love and duty—and the duty, though unpleasant, carried the day. The duty, of course, was to take off the duty which was done accordingly. Being the neatest little prover and special pleader in Parliament, Mr. Meighen proved that free wheat was a good thing and then he turned round and proved that it was no good at all. In fact he proved so much that he proved nothing and, in that delightful state of dubiety, he left the question.

Until further information is available on the subject it looks as if free wheat was like the famous Finnegan, whose unhappy condition was to be off-again-on-again-gone-again-Finnegan to the end of the chapter. Free wheat is said to come under a special schedule which is not included in the United States free list, but there is enough uncertainty about its place in Uncle Sam's new war scheme of things to warrant considerable anxiety as to its ultimate treatment. Meanwhile it has no particular friends in the Government, most of whom had openly expressed a wish that the Republicans would get in and remove the free wheat temptation from the Canadian farmer. Even if free wheat sticks its benefits will be perceptibly diminished by the fifteen per cent. increase in freight rates which the railways are asking.

Expensive Commission.

Another matter for comment is the expense bill of the Davidson Commission, which is duly set out in the Auditor General's report. It was indeed a Royal Commission. Everybody trav-

elled and spent royally. Even the messengers fared sumptuously every day, riding in parlor cars and eating three dollar dinners with that freedom of mind which arises from the reflection that the people of Canada pay for it all. The tips alone amounted to \$170. The commission cost \$16,000 for one year and is jogging along yet. Captain Thompson, who patriotically gave his services free as an investigator, travelled for nothing and got a living allowance of ten dollars a ray so that his patriotism would not get hurt too much. Mr. O'Connor, K. C., who was hired to do some real work for the commission, was paid five dollars a day, which goes to show that the patriotism of a Conservative ex-premier's son is twice as valuable as the hard work of an ordinary lawyer who has no special political pull.

Sir George's Defense.

Another little straw which gives an insight into the Government's professed anxiety to ease the food problem was the defeat of Mr. Emmanuel Devlin's motion to divert the grains now consumed in the manufacture of whiskey and beer to the food needs of the people. In reply to this Sir G. E. Foster, that distinguished temperance advocate, made one of his most beautiful speeches to the effect that so long as the war lasted the distilleries would have to remain open to make alcohol dilectious to the Hun in the shape of picric acid, or something like that, which enters into the manufacture of shells. When Sir George had finished his defence of alcohol as something to shoot at the Germans there was not a "dry" eye in the House.

Another outstanding incident was the frost Mr. Crothers got from his colleague on the subject of technical education. Although this is an increasingly important matter and very complete and expensive reports have been filed on the subject, Mr. Crothers did not take it seriously enough to put more than \$1,000 in his estimate for this purpose. Mr. Lemieux pressed the matter with his usual insistency, with the result that several members of the Conservative party had a sudden change of heart. One after the other they got up and, figuratively speaking, put the boots to Mr. Crothers' constitutional indifference to the demands of labor. Sir George Foster, whose role now is that of altruist, promised that the matter would be attended to. From this it appears that some day—not just now—after the election, perhaps—the Government may do something for technical education.

A Lost Ice Breaker.

The Public Accounts Committee has had an interesting time tracing the present whereabouts of an icebreaker which the Canadian Vickers were building for the Canadian Government. The Canadian Vickers were allowed to sell it to the Russian Government instead, thus clearing a net profit of \$500,000. Thus Canada does her bit not only for herself and the Empire, but for the Russians, too. Needless to say, the extra profit accrued to the Canadian Vickers, not to the Canadian people.

Talking of ships recalls the fact that for the last couple of weeks Ottawa was thronged with Canadian contractors who were anxious to put up forfeits and go into shipbuilding for the Government, on the Pacific coast. This new industry comes under the jurisdiction of the Munitions Board,

which has handed the contract over to the Foundation Company of New York.

An item in the public accounts which is arousing some comment is \$4,000 for printing a Round Table pamphlet which has been circulated as gospel to the faithful. The Round Table is a group of English Imperialists who aim to bind the Empire together by asking Canada to pay fifty millions a year to England as her part of the imperial burden. Lionel Courtice is its prophet. What a Round Table pamphlet has to do with our politics is hard to tell. At all events \$4.00 is a stiff price to pay for one little pamphlet.

## POTATOES SHOW 25 P. C. INCREASE

Washington, D. C., May 23. — A 25 per cent. increase in this year's yield of early potatoes was forecasted today by the agriculture department. On the basis of present crop conditions the department estimates the crop at 33,516,000 bushels, against 26,481,700 last year.

Reports to the department show the early acreage this year will approach 282,000, an increase of 39,000 over last year. The yield per acre is put at 119 bushels, against 109 last year.

LOWER PRINCE WILLIAM.

Lower Prince William, May 25th.—Coun. R. H. Graham is in Montreal attending the Win the War conference.

The Red Cross society met yesterday afternoon with Mrs. Luke Kelly of Burden.

Miss Ruby Jordan of Queensbury, is spending a few days with her aunt, Mrs. Albert Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. David Embleton of Sheridan, Me., are visiting friends here.

A goodly number attended service at the Lower Prince William church last Tuesday evening. Rev. Mr. Warren and Dr. Kierstead of Fredericton, were the speakers on the Five Years Programme, and their addresses were

much appreciated. Special music was furnished by the choir and a collection taken at the close for missionary purposes.

Empire Day was observed in our school and a well prepared programme consisting of readings, recitations and singing was nicely carried out by the pupils. Several visitors were present, who all expressed themselves as being well satisfied with the progress of the school under the management of our popular teacher, Miss Dorothy M. Wilson.

Mrs. W. A. McKenzie and Mrs. A. A. Rutledge went to the Barnoy last week as our delegates to the Sunday school convention.

Miss Edna Miller and Miss Dorothy Wilson attended the Presbyterian choir practice at T. L. Fraser's last Thursday evening.

We are sorry to learn that Blake, the six year old son of Mr. Ernest Hoyt, is still seriously ill and not much hope is held for his recovery.

Mr. Frank Saunders will finish rafting next week.

W. W. Boddy has returned home from Millinocket, much improved in health.

Mrs. John Conser visited her daughter, Mrs. Cahill Haugh of the Barony, last week.

Miss Hazel Dunphy of Kingsclear was calling on friends here this afternoon.

## A CANADIAN UNITY LEAGUE

Montreal, May 26.—The Win-the-War convention decided today at its final session to make the organization permanent, the new name to be "The Win-the-War and Canadian Unity League." The chief objects of the league are:

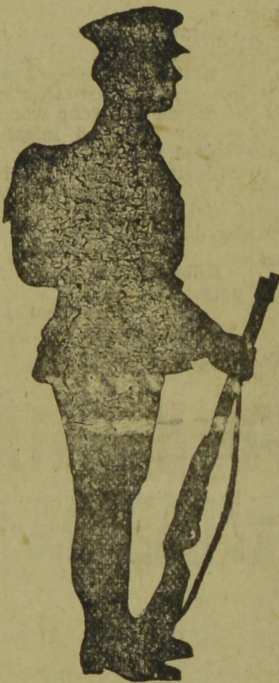
First, the successful prosecution of the war; and second, the promotion of Canadian unity. Mr. Horace Gagne, Montreal, is president; Mr. Frank Wise, Toronto, is secretary.

One vice-president from each province is to be appointed, to be chosen by provincial organizations yet to be formed. Resolutions passed by the convention are to be presented to Sir Robert Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

"The trouble with my boy Josh is that he's always ahead of the times," remarked Farmer Cornstossel. "What has he done?" "Went to town to see about a position. eh found a strike in progress and joined the strike before he got the job."

"What's this in the mail?" "A tragedy of mine." "Have you really written a tragedy, old chap?" "Looks like it. I've paid return postage on it now fourteen times."

# The Victory Won—our task but well begun!



"Alcohol is more destructive than war, pestilence and famine."

—William Stuart Gladstone

## THE CANADA TEMPERANCE ACT

The policy of the Dominion Alliance is to encourage the repeal of the Canada Temperance Act (Scott Act) in counties in which it has been operating. Where this is done the new Provincial Prohibitory Law would then become effective. It is always easier to enforce one uniform law. The New Brunswick Government cannot put its new law in effect in Scott Act counties, as the latter is Dominion legislation, which has precedence over provincial legislation. Friends of temperance who live in Scott Act counties are, however, asked to co-operate in the more thorough enforcement of that Act so long as it continues in operation.

The summit of the hill at last has been won after countless futile charges. Shouts of jubilation proclaim victory. The last German has fled. Flushed with success, the soldiers' caps are flung high in the air, but the old veteran captain shouts, "Off with your tunics, boys, and dig in for your lives! The victory is yet not ours—this summit must be **held!**"

For half a century the people of New Brunswick have fought the Demon Rum for possession of the province. The summit of the last commanding position is won. The Prohibition Law in New Brunswick was finally consummated when it went into effect May 1st, 1917. Let us not shout "Victory" too fervently. We have won only the **means** to a final Victory—the power to **enforce** province-wide freedom from the Traffic. The real fight is yet to come.

Are we going to leave to a few zealous and sincere officials the whole brunt of the fight? Or, shall we let them know that they have behind them, in their duty of enforcing the New Prohibition Act, a whole province full of reserve power and vigilant enthusiasm that will help and encourage them to consolidate this glorious heritage of Prohibition for ever!

## Help to Enforce Prohibition

Licensing of the liquor traffic has had a fair trial for many years. Within a comparatively brief period New Brunswick must vote again and decide for or against a permanent Prohibitory law. In the meantime, the Prohibition law must demonstrate its worth beyond doubt. Brief though the testing time may be, we believe the people will, by their hearty and sincere co-operation, make the result **decisive**. Never again in New Brunswick shall the enemy gain a foothold!

Every man and woman in this province shares the responsibility for the proper enforcement of Prohibition—not the officers of the law alone. **Your** duty is clear.

No matter where you live, whether the Canada Temperance Act or the new Prohibitory Law operates in your district, you are urged to use every legitimate means within your power to heartily support and aid the officers in their sworn duty of enforcing the law.

## Dominion Temperance Alliance

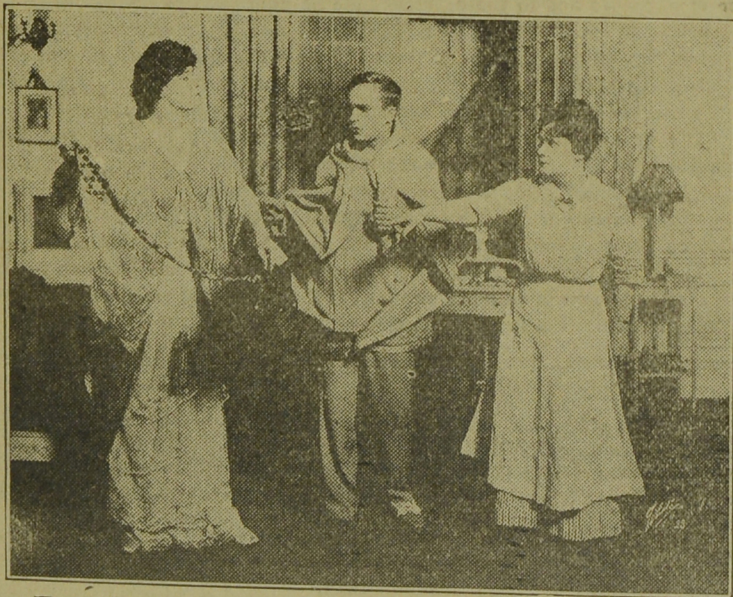
NEW BRUNSWICK BRANCH

DONALD FRASER, President  
Plaster Rock, N.B.

REV. THOS. MARSHALL, Vice-President  
Fredericton, N.B.

W. G. CLARK, Treasurer  
Fredericton, N.B.

REV. H. C. ARCHER, Executive Secretary  
Fredericton, N.B.



A ludicrous situation in "Twin Beds," the famous London and New York success, which comes to the Opera House on Friday and Saturday, June 1 and 2, direct from His Majesty's Theatre, Montreal, and the Academy of Music, Halifax.