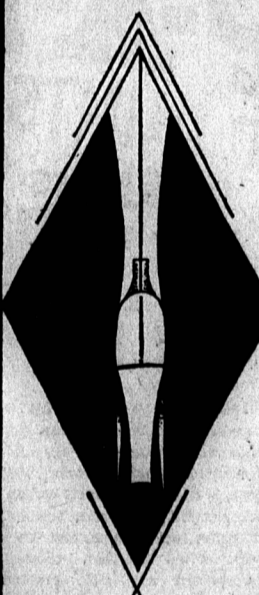


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# KAYSER

## Scathing Criticism

(Continued from page 6)

that they neglected the poor, defenseless, delinquent children, that they did nothing at all for them! They should have said that this Government, in its charity, in its big-heartedness, in its wonderful solicitude for the children of the Province, saw fit to notify the City Clerk of the city of Charlottetown that in future this city and Summerside would have to look after their own delinquents, and that when these children were sentenced by the Judge of the Juvenile Court to detention in any Reformatory in the Maritime Provinces, then Charlottetown and Summerside would have to pay for it. What do the followers of this Government think of that? Do you think that is in the interests of humanity and social reform? Do you think that is a measure that will be conducive to the welfare of the Province? Do you think it is a creditable act on the part of any Government? This Government, Mr. Speaker, is the first that ever refused to perform its duty in this respect.

### Criminal Negligence

When the Government first notified the City Clerk of its attitude in this matter, a delegation of Charlottetown citizens waited upon the Premier and held a big stick over his head. They compelled him, for a time, to retract, and the Government continued paying for the upkeep of those children. Later, however, there was another and final refusal, and that is the situation at the present time. Talk about doing something for the cattle at Falconwood Farm! Here is the record of the Government so far as criminal and delinquent children are concerned; and I ask you, Mr. Speaker, isn't it a shameful one?

While I am at this point I will draw the attention of the House to a matter which I presume it is the duty of the Premier and Attorney General remedy. We have no Adoption Act in this Province. It was news to me to learn of this fact; I do not know whether it is news to the Pre-

### GLEANINGS FROM AUBURN

Messrs. E. Roache, J. Garland, J. Simpson and W. McEntee, are contemplating on a heavy crop of grain this year as they are having a car of lime coming to Pisiquid.

Mr. Francis Kelly is busily engaged getting out lumber for a new fox ranch.

Mr. Terrence Boyland spent the week end in Lake Verde, the guest of Mr. Harry Kelly.

Mr. James McKenna is looking forward to a good crop of strawberries this summer, as he is paying particular attention to them.

Mr. Joshua Gallant has just finished his spring threshing. He has had a bouncing crop of grain last year.

Miss Nellie Kelly, Fort Augustus, spent the week end in Auburn.

The farmers of this vicinity are busily engaged in sowing their seed.

Mr. Joseph Morgan paid a short visit to Scotchfort.

Mr. Freddie Kelly, Clarktown, recently visited friends in Auburn.

Mr. Joseph Boylan, Dromore, spent Sunday in Auburn, the guest of Mr. John Simpson.

Mr. Edward Shea paid a flying visit to Fort Augustus.

A particular Scot stepped into a telegraph office and picked up one of the blanks. He looked at the clerk behind the counter. "How much," he asked, "is a telegram to Chicago?" "A wire to Chicago," responded the clerk promptly, "will cost you five cents a word for ten words. There will be no charges for the signature." The Scot looked musingly at the clerk. "There will be no charge for the signature?" he repeated after a pause. "That's right," said the clerk. The Scot rubbed his forehead with the pencil. "Well," he finally stated, "suppose you just send my signature." The clerk grinned. "All right," he cried, "I'll do that for you. What's your name?" Another pause on the part of the Scot. "Well," he finally murmured, "I may not look it, but I'm an Indian. And my name is T-Won't-Be-Home-Till-Friday!"

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mier or not. But when the Bell Government passed the Taxation Act in 1920, they repealed the Adoption Act by mistake. I will ask my hon. friend to look that up. If that is so, it should be remedied. As a representative of the Children's Aid Society of Charlottetown I am drawing this matter to his attention, and I sincerely hope he will see that a change is made.

I want to refer for a moment again to the Government's statement that it is not going to be responsible for the delinquent children of Charlottetown and Summerside. I want to know why? The Premier is surely not so inconsistent as to try to make a municipality system for Charlottetown and Summerside on this point, because he simply cannot do it. I do not think the right-thinking people of this Province—as my hon. friend from Rustico would say—will allow him to do it. It is not fair that he should try to saddle upon Charlottetown and Summerside the responsibility of looking after their delinquents. It is not justice; it is not humanity. He cannot do it, and he should never have attempted to do it. The cost of sending a delinquent child to a Reformatory, where there is a chance of saving him and making a useful citizen of him, is two or three hundred dollars a year. And for the purpose of saving this amount the Government is going to neglect its duty, and eventually that child will land in one of our jails, or in the penitentiary. That is what will happen, as those who are familiar with this work know from experience.

### Shameful Situation

There is another point in this connection, Mr. Speaker. In the administration of the Prohibition Act, which is wonderfully "enforced" in this Province, what do you think happens? Very often, when the father is sent to jail to serve a sentence for bootlegging, the mother continues selling liquor in the house. The prohibition officers come along, take the mother also out to jail, and leave children from babyhood up to five and seven years of age in that house alone. What do you think of that, Mr. Premier? Can you see any humanity in an Act that allows officers of the law to do that? These unfortunate, helpless, children are left to themselves, unless some kind-hearted neighbor sees what is going on and notifies the Children's Aid Society or some other humane organization, and they are taken care of. Isn't it a wonderful Act that culminates in conditions such as this, that results in the neglect and punishment of innocent children? It is certainly no fault of theirs that they are in such a home. They were not to blame that their parents were selling home-brew or rum, and were caught in the act of breaking the law. It is a most cruel, a most inhumane course of procedure.

The Children's Aid Society has endeavored to cope with this situation; but we can do very little. We have not got the funds. The Government does not give us any funds to look after these children. They are not orphans; we cannot send them to the orphanages. Who is going to pay for them? We have gone to the secretary of the Prohibition Commission and in some cases the Commission has had to provide bread and butter and milk for some of those children. This is one part of the administration of the Prohibition Act that is no credit to this Government or any other Government in existence; because it involves, as I said before, the suffering, the hardship and neglect of innocent children.

This condition has been going on for the last two or three years, and it is getting worse all the time. The same story repeats itself over and over again, of homes where the father and mother are in jail for violation of the Prohibition law, and the children are left like a litter of little pigs, or something of that sort, without any provision for their care and comfort. I tell you, Mr. Speaker, it is a most pitiable, a most intolerable situation; and it is one that should not be permitted to exist in any civilized community. (Applause from Conservatives; silence from Liberal benches).

### The Premier's "Confession."

I do not know whether it is necessary for me to say anything about the enforcement of the Prohibition Act. Probably the hon. members on the other side of the House would be very well satisfied if I just sat down and held my tongue about it. And after all, the Premier himself said enough yesterday. I think that any one with any common sense, after listening to the Premier of this Province make the statements he made regarding conditions as they now exist in the town of Summerside and in the jails of this Province under his wonderful administration of the Prohibition Act, would be fully convinced that it would be a good thing for this Province if it had never seen Prohibition. But the people

of the Province have voted for it. They endorsed it in 1927 and they voted for it again in 1929, although the Temperance Alliance deplored the fact that the majority on the latter occasion was disappointing small, and that there is not the weight of public opinion behind the Act that there should be to give it proper enforcement. Be that as it may, the Premier admitted yesterday that there are great difficulties in the way. He complains that the men engaged in the liquor business are so wise and so unscrupulous that they adopt unheard-of means to outwit the law officers. It was like playing a game of checkers. The bootleggers make one move, and the Government or the prosecutors make another. The trouble is, that the prosecutors and the Government are just one move behind; very often, as in the case of the Summerside jail, they are two moves behind. And if any of you know anything about playing checkers you will agree with me that the fellow who is always a move or two behind is never going to win many games. It is the bootleggers' game, Mr. Premier, isn't it? (Laughter.) The bootleggers win the games, and the people of this Province pay the bills. That is all we are getting out of Prohibition. You are not enforcing the Act; you only think you are. You are checking up on the small fellows now and again, while the big fellows are never touched. Isn't that so? The merchant prices, the sources of supply, are left intact. The fellow who bootlegs a bottle of rum, who has a little in his kitchen or goes out around the street or is caught at the Station with a bottle, is the victim. You captured 275 of them last year. Do you think that has any effect on liquor traffic? Magistrate Tweedy is doing a great work, you say; he is as good as three Magistrates, according to the Temperance Alliance.

### VOICE FROM SUMMERSIDE

But what does the Rev. Mr. Hardwick, of Summerside, say? I suppose you know the gentleman I refer to. He is a very ardent, a very sincere, prohibitionist. Here is what he quoted, quite recently, from a Summerside newspaper:

"It is noted by many that there has been a sudden cessation of activities in the way of searches and prosecutions in Prince County during the past month or so."

What has happened? Has Magistrate Tweedy been called off? Ah, Mr. Speaker, when you get into this administration of the Prohibition Act it brings you back to that Sunday evening in the town of Summerside where the whole scheme was conceived in iniquity and hypocrisy; where the Premier was waiting to adopt in his election platform Prohibition, or Government Control, or the sale of light wines and beer, or anything that would be "in the best interests of the Liberal party."

(Applause.) You can go right back to the "birth" of this Government's prohibition policy, as my hon. friend from Rustico would say; and now you can judge of the issue. Is it the hand of Fate; is it the hand of Providence; or is it just a coincidence that right in the Town of Summerside, where this scheme was launched, there is today such a rotten mess; right in the Premier's home town, represented, not only by one Liberal member but by two, that the conditions are so disgraceful? You need not talk about The Guardian trying to bring these things into the open. You have the admission and confession of the Premier himself, and I say that it is a confession of incompetence and maladministration of the Act, a pitiable confession of negligence and helplessness on the part of those officials who are in charge of the administration of justice. (Applause).

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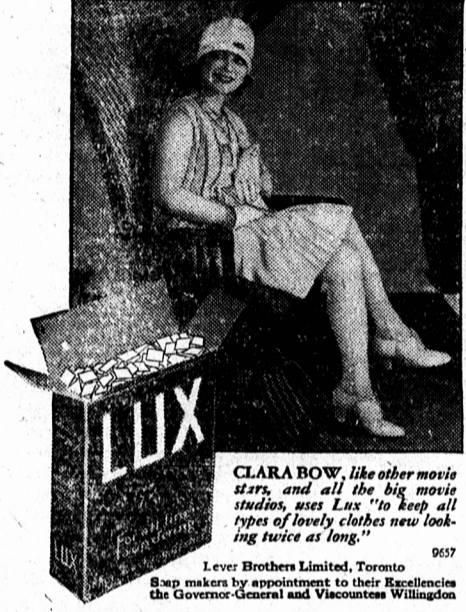
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