

Scathing Criticism On Prohibition Enforcement

The Premier's Amazing "Confession" Analyzed By Dr. W. J. P. McMillan And The Whole Prohibition Situation Reviewed In Eloquent And Convincing Speech.

Provincial Legislature, March 14. Debate on Draft Address, Dr. W. J. P. McMillan. (Continued from yesterday's Guardian):

Strange—If True

Isn't it strange, Mr. Speaker, that the prohibition inspectors knew nothing of any "still" being on the premises in Mr. Steele's time? The story does not ring true; and I think, for all practical purposes, we can regard it as one of those rumors that sometimes originate without any foundation. I hope that when the junior member for Summerside has an opportunity he will correct that impression which he gave at the Temperance Alliance meeting, with respect to the conditions in the jail when this Government assumed office.

Here is another remarkable thing, taken out of the Daily Patriot:

"The annual Meeting of the Temperance Alliance will be held in the Y.M.C.A. Building, Charlottetown, on Wednesday, March 12th at 11 a. m.

"All friends of Temperance are requested to attend, as steps must be taken for the better enforcement of the Prohibition Law.

This announcement is signed: Thos. Moyses, president; J. M. McLeod, secretary, and it is dated March 6, 1930. There we have the object of the meeting; to take steps for the better enforcement of the Prohibition Act." So it was evidently thought that there was something necessary, that the Prohibition Law was not doing quite as well as my hon. friend the Premier would lead us to suppose. Now, I am going to read out of the Patriot, and I want first to call your attention to the fact that in its report of that meeting of the Temperance Alliance the Patriot did not say anything about Mr. Allen's statement regarding alleged "stills" in the Summerside jail in Mr. Steele's time. The Patriot did not say that, because the editor of the Patriot is too cute; he will never allow anything to go into the Patriot that will rebound against any Liberal speaker, especially when he knows it is wrong.

Plebiscite "Disappointing"

Dr. McMillan then read the report of the president of the Temperance Alliance, emphasizing the following passage:

"The result of the Plebiscite taken last summer was indeed gratifying, but the majority for prohibition was not sufficiently large to make us feel very safe; in fact it was disappointingly small. The vote as a whole was small, showing a lack of interest on the part of many people."

The president goes on to say that he is "filled with a great fear as we see our beloved Temperance law hanging as by a thread." It is a wonder (continued Dr. McMillan) that he didn't say "our beloved and departed" law; for that is about the situation today. Apparently the Temperance Alliance is not satisfied, notwithstanding the assurances of the Premier and the hon. members and supporters of his Government who attended that meeting in large numbers.

I notice, in the report of the Alliance meeting, that there was a communication from the ladies of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. They suggested that all prohibition offenders appear before Magistrate Tweedy. Of course, that may not have been very wise; it meant throwing some obliquity on the other Judges. But this Government has done that before. They reflected on the other Judges when they appointed a special Magistrate, one whom they could depend upon to "put it over," evidently. So the suggestion of the W.C.T.U. was quite in order, although it did not carry.

The Rev. Mr. Harding has also been enquiring about Magistrate Tweedy and his prohibition mill. What has happened? he asks. Why hasn't the "mill" been operating in Summerside lately? Why doesn't Magistrate Tweedy go to Summerside now and turn out seven or eight convictions through the "mill" every week? The reverend gentleman asks the question; but he has not got any answer. Perhaps some of my hon. friends on the Government side of the House will be able to answer it.

A Misnomer

There is another thing I notice in regard to this meeting of the so-called Temperance Alliance. I use that expression, Mr. Speaker, because they have no right to the name they bear. They are not a Temperance Alliance. They are not even a Prohibition Alliance. They are a Liberal-Prohibition Alliance, and they should call their organization by its proper name. (Applause). The executive elected at that meeting is given as follows: George Harbour, L. P. Tanton, Rev. H. D. Raymond, Dr. A. C. Vincent, Lucas R. Allen, etc. etc. At the same time, we had a letter in the press, signed "L. P. Tanton" in which objection is taken to several statements purporting to have been made by Mr. Brown chairman of the Prohibition Commission, the third objection being:

"That my correspondence, or some of it, was 'rather acrimonious.' I may have failed, but nevertheless I made it my study to avoid acrimony as far as such was possible, but in describing the deplorable conditions of law enforcement I may have so appeared to Mr. Brown, for I have a penchant for calling a spade, and could not easily relate revolting facts without the blow being felt."

I would suggest that Mr. Brown publish my letter to him of January 26th, in full. From this the public may judge as to whether it was unduly 'acrimonious' or inconsistent with what I state above. What do you think of that, coming from one of the duly elected members of the Alliance, who evidently had written to the chairman of the Prohibition Commission about the "deplorable condition" of law enforcement? It proves at any rate, Mr. Speaker, that that meeting was not as "harmonious" as we have been led to believe, even though they ended in passing a resolution commending this Government for the manner in which they are administering the Prohibition Act. I do not think the Alliance should have done that, even if they were a Liberal-Prohibition Alliance; because it does not speak very highly for their intelligence. (Applause).

Politics vs. Temperance

Any organization that can commend the enforcement of the Prohibition Act as we have it at present must either be very ignorant of the facts, or they must be better Liberals than Temperance people. Unfortunately, they are people of that kind; and so long as the Prohibition Act will help to serve them politically, well and good; they will continue to shout for Prohibition and they will continue to whitewash the Liberal Government's administration of the Act. But it does not really mean anything, and it does not help the

Premier, as leader of the Government and Attorney General of the Province, in the slightest degree. If he is not able to enforce the law, if his jailers are not able to keep their prisoners from getting drunk even in the jails, he need not come here and argue that the people are perfectly satisfied because the Alliance passed a resolution commending him.

The Premier explained that he went out to the jails several times, and endeavored to find out what the actual conditions were. He was going to have this wonderful detective sent out to Queens County Jail in some pretext in order that he might ascertain the conditions. No need to have done that, Mr. Premier! You could have asked any of the neighbors in the vicinity of that jail. They would have told you that you will soon have to put a sign or label on the institution, because you would never think it was a jail. You might think it was a broadcasting station or a theatre, or a house of amusement. If you pass there in the evening you will hear every kind of musical instrument; you will hear singing and "close harmony" of all kind. Of course, I will admit that we have not progressed to that degree of efficiency in bootlegging skill, in artificial manoeuvring and evasion of the law, that the methods "are beyond the comprehension of man." We haven't reached that stage of efficiency in the Charlottetown Jail that they have reached in Summerside; and we are quite willing to allow you the palm in that respect.

Charlottetown Jail

We know, however, that conditions in the Charlottetown Jail are bad enough. All you have to do, to verify this fact, is ask your own jail physician. He will tell you whether the conditions are satisfactory or not. Look up the last report of the Grand Jury, and see what they say about the conditions. Go and stand on the corner opposite the Jail some evening, and get someone to tell you whether it is a Jail or not. (Laughter). I know a stranger would be mistaken. He would think it was dance-hall, or something of that sort. Why, the jails are a standing disgrace at the present time under this Government. It is the most lax administration that was ever known in the history of the Province. Of course, as I said, down here in Charlottetown we are a little more civilized; we haven't reached that degree of perfection in the bootlegging scale that you have reached in Summerside, because we haven't got your special advantages. We haven't been able to get a "still" in this Jail yet. (Laughter). Just as soon as we are able to get a "still" in the Charlottetown Jail, we will be on an equality with Prince County, and our jail inmates will be able to get drunk often. I don't know whether they get as much molasses in the Charlottetown jail as your fellows get, or whether they can get any "canned heat," but they will probably get along some way. (Laughter).

But isn't it a ridiculous thing when you think of it, Mr. Speaker. This Government, elected for the specific purpose of enforcing the Prohibition law, can't keep its prisoners from getting drunk in the jails! Isn't that the most laughable farce you ever heard of! They are sent to Jail for getting drunk, or for selling liquor to make other people drunk; and they go into the Jail-to get drunk! And that is Prohibition, according to the confession of the Premier of this Province on the floor of this Legislature! (Applause).

(To Be Continued)

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Happenings of the Week

(Continued from page 8)

Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Phillips have returned home after spending two months in Florida. They were accompanied by their daughter, Miss Anne.

Princess lines are shown in practically all kinds of lingerie. Crepe de chine is the outstanding fabric and pink is the most noteworthy color. White is mentioned as being exceptionally good and an even greater summer demand is anticipated. Alençon-type laces are shown chiefly and it is interesting to note the abundance of lighter laces are shown chiefly in all garments. These laces are in beige, light-rose beige, and pale-caster tints with considerable cream tones utilized, with white crepe de chine, and achieve a pleasant decorative effect. It is predicted here that lighter laces will continue to rise in favor.

H. R. H. Prince Henry was thirty years old on Monday last.

Mrs. J. J. Larabee, Eldon, is the welcome guest of Mr. and Mrs. John Wilson, Prince Street, and is steadily gaining renewed health after her recent serious illness.

Mrs. B. Conrad's many friends will be glad to know that she is convalescing nicely after her operation for appendicitis in the P. E. I. Hospital.

Mr. S. L. Squire, chairman of the Executive of the Canadian Good Roads Association was among the visitors welcomed here this week.

Arrangements for an active season of the Amherst Golf Club will be undertaken by Mr. Ronald M. Ross.

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club captain and chairman of the games and handicap committee who has a wide circle of friends in this city. Several out of town games will be sought at the opening of the season, while additional competitions will be added to the club program. Amherst and Charlottetown clubs had several enjoyable social gatherings last season which are pleasantly remembered and will no doubt be repeated this year.

Everybody was delighted with "Whoo!" the clever musical revue presented by the Musical Orpheus Eight under the auspices of the Rotarians on Monday and Tuesday evenings.

Some new chiffon hosiery comes in a lusterless finish, designed to give the illusion of no stockings at all. With skirts longer, shoes come into prominence and legs fade out.

Necklaces of astounding large beads are best now. But the beads are not heavy ones. Delicate forms, lightweight materials and soft colors are used.

Navy blue calfskin purses, with panels of baby sharkskin in matching tone, are very new and very neat. One has a loop on the front for decoration but no handle.

Princess slips are quite the accepted ones for wear under spring frocks. Some of them have wrap around skirt portions.

The spring skyline on rainy days will be streaked, but not necessarily with rain. The newest umbrellas are striped in two or three colors.

There must be thousands of new blouses on the market. Most of them have ties, jabots, ruffles or collars. The neckline is elaborated on all.

If you have any old heirloom bracelets dig them out. Wear them on your left arm just above the elbow, with puff sleeves or no sleeves at all above them.

A luscious pink satin blouse of creamy soft pink tone, has its V neck, its bowknot front decoration

and bowknot cuffs piped in palekerchief, are the newest sport handkerchiefs. They should match one's suit or crepe or flannel suit.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bearlato of Toronto are expected in the city tonight to visit Mr. McCready who yesterday celebrated his 92nd birthday. Large brims but they are delightfully irregular. One cuts its brim to Big squares of fine pastel colored point in front, with a grosgrain bow linen, quite the size of a man's hand—at the part.

ICE CREAM SEASON

Is open now—most any day. In fact Ice Cream season is all the year, but in the spring time one looks for a little different something on the dinner table—and many pleasing dishes may be made with Ice Cream; a little portion of your favorite preserve make a delightful dessert. We have opened a branch in Summerside, the Perfection Dairy, for the convenience of our western patrons. Now is the time to commence using Perfection Ice Cream.

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