

**PRINCE EDWARD TODAY!**

**COLLEEN MOORE** USUAL PRICES

**Her Wild Oat**

A rapturous, rollicking romance of a lunch-wagon lassie who wound up in the social register. It's spiced with adventure—flavored with romance and served piping hot with film-drama's queen of comedy-drama.



ORCHESTRA NEWS AND SPORT REEL

**CAPITOL TODAY**

War Daze and Paris Nights in a Barrage of Fun

**'The Gay Retreat'**

With TED McNAMARA And SAMMY COHEN Also IMPERIAL COMEDY

**CAPITOL NEW SHOW TOMORROW**

OUR GANG COMEDY



**Hoot GIBSON**

IN **A TRICK of HEARTS**

Thrills and hard riding—laughter and hilarious comedy—love and a tear. Hoot Gibson in "A Trick of Hearts."

Also "Masked Menace" Thrill Serial

**The Public Forum**

(Continued from page 4)

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**

Sir.—The question is being asked and discussed by the electors of the Province as to which party is responsible for the deficit shown in the Provincial Auditors report for 1927. To answer it correctly reference must be made to the Provincial Auditors report. Pool and Scarth's External Audit report for 1927, also Hyndman and Shannon's report to 31st of July, 1927. I find by those reports that Hyndman and Shannon show a surplus of \$70,697.18 left by the Stewart Government, while Peole and Scarth's makes it \$48,759.77; and Premier Saunders in his speech on the Budget says it is \$18,910.81. Now, if you take up the Provincial Auditor's report, and turn to page 6 you will find that the total receipts for the year amounted to \$913,397.27, and of this amount according to Peole and Scarth's report, on page 10, the Stewart Government received \$643,287.07 up to the 12th August. Deduct this from the total amount of \$913,397.27, and it leaves \$269,510.20, as the portion received by the Saunders Government. Let us now take the expenditure and the total amount given on page 7 of the Provincial Auditor's report for 1927, is \$1,040,648.18; and according to Peole and Scarth's report on page 11 the Stewart Government expended \$995,127.39 of the above total, up to the 12th August, 1927, leaving \$445,521.88, as the portion expended by the Saunders Government in four months and thirteen days. Deduct the amount received by the Saunders Government, \$269,510.20, from the amount expended by it \$445,521.88 and you get a deficit of \$176,011.68 according to the Provincial Auditor and Peole and Scarth's report. Add to this the amount of the surplus up to the 12th August, given on page 10 and 11 of Peole and Scarth's report, \$48,759.77 and you will get \$224,771.45, and if you will add to this the excess of surplus given in the Hyndman and Shannon report over that given by Peole and Scarth already referred to being, \$21,937.41, you will have \$246,708.86, as the amount the Saunders Government has gone behind up to 31st December, 1927.

I am, Sir, etc.,

**ELECTOR**

**PROHIBITION AMENDMENTS**

Sir.—Yesterday, I called attention to some of the fearful and wonderful legislation which bears the imprimatur of the new Premier. I referred then to the section only, the first of the twenty-five sections of the Premier's Prohibition Amendments.

Much might have been added in reference to that Section. For example: Under Section 51 of the present Act, any one who buys liquor from a bootlegger is liable on a first offence, to a minimum fine of \$200 or a maximum fine of \$500.

If after having purchased the liquor unlawfully, the purchaser is found with the liquor in his pocket, he is liable, under Section 52 of the present Act, to a fine of from \$200 to \$500 because he unlawfully has the liquor in his possession; and he is liable even though he consumed none of the liquor.

Under the Premier's proposed Act, the purchaser, if he should drink the liquor and get drunk, is to be liable to a minimum fine of \$50 or a maximum fine of \$100.

What effect will this new section 53A have upon the penalty under Section 52? Will it be affected?

Section 25 of the new Act declares that all sections of the present law which are inconsistent with the Premier's Act are repealed. Will Section 52 be repealed? If not, this result will follow: An offender gets a bottle of liquor unlawfully, and keeps it in his inside pocket. For this he is liable under the present law to a fine of \$200 to \$500.

But if instead of keeping the liquor in his pocket, where it can do no harm, he puts the liquor inside him-

**The Public Forum**

self, and in consequence gets drunk, then under the Premier's law he is liable to a fine of only \$50 to \$100. Thus, by the Premier's logic, it is four or five times as great an offence to have a bottle of liquor unlawfully in one's pocket as it is to have the liquor unlawfully in one's stomach, even though the effect of the latter be to make one drunk! Possession externally is the great offence in the eyes of the Premier. Possession internally, and consequent drunkenness being the minor offence.

But examine the Premier's ratiocinative process more closely and we find another interesting result. Under the new Section 53A it is only when the unlawful possessor of liquor drinks the liquor and gets drunk that he becomes guilty of an offence.

So we have it again that though liquor unlawfully obtained and in one's possession in a bottle renders the possessor liable to a fine of \$200 to \$500, yet if the possessor can't drink the liquor without getting drunk he absolves, or may we say, purges himself of his offence entirely, and cannot be fined for any offence, since in the Premier's view he would not then have the liquor in possession.

Surely this is to torture the laws so that they torture men! If the law is supposed to mean this, then we would want to say, with Mr. Bumble, "the law's an ass,—and I got it."

But let us examine some other items in the Premier's rare and wonderful collection.

The second contribution which this Government of all the talents makes towards the gaiety of nations, in fact, the piece de resistance of the whole Act, is the proposed addition to Section 54. This present section reads as follows:

"54. No person shall let or knowingly suffer any other person to use any premises which he owns or controls for the illegal storing, sale, keeping for sale or other unlawful disposition of liquor."

An offence against this Section renders the offender liable, for a first offence to a fine of \$200 to \$500 for a second or subsequent offence, to imprisonment from six to twelve months.

The Premier proposes that after a conviction against the landlord, tenant or occupant of such premises, the owner is to be liable for any subsequent penalty that may be recovered against the tenant, and to have the owner's property made liable for the penalty imposed for the offence committed by the tenant.

Here are the words of the proposed new section:

"54A. Any person who lets or knowingly suffers any person who has been convicted for an offence under this Act and amendments hereto, to remain in possession of such premises as tenant or otherwise and falls to forthwith eject said tenant or person, shall be liable for such fine or penalty as may be imposed subsequently against said tenant or person. The fine imposed for such subsequent offence shall be and the same is hereby declared to be a lien on the said land and may be recovered from the owner thereof."

The penalty for which the owner is liable is thus seen to be the second or subsequent offence of the tenant.

But we have seen that the penalty for such second or subsequent offence is a term of imprisonment from six to twelve months. The owner who fails to eject the tenant is declared by the Section to be liable "for such fine or penalty as may be imposed subsequently against said tenant." The owner is thus to be subjected to the imprisonment imposed against the tenant. Is the owner to go to jail in place of the tenant? The imprisonment imposed upon the tenant must ordinarily be served by the offender himself. Can this be served vicariously by the owner, or are both to go to jail? Although the term "fine" is used, indicating a money payment, no fine can be imposed in respect of a second or subsequent offence. To make sense, the word "fine" would have to be construed as meaning "penalty."

The climax of the Section appears in its last clause which declares that "his fine or penalty shall be and he same is hereby declared to be a lien on the said land and may be recovered from the owner thereof."

That is to say, the tenant's six to twelve months' term of imprisonment is to be a "lien on the land!" And so that it may not be altogether

**THE RETORT COURTEOUS.**

Sir.—Premier Saunders in his Budget speech, as reported in this Patriot of April 23rd inst., declares that I have said that I am returning to my friends the Conservative party. Let I might be accused of misquoting the Premier, let me give his exact words as reported. They are as follows:

"Now they say (meaning Mr. W. E. Bentley and myself), that as a result of the change of heart of the Conservative party they are now going back to join the ranks of their friends the Conservatives. Well, all I can say is that they are welcome to them."

The above reference to me is absolutely untrue. I have not at any time or in any place made any such statement either orally or in writing. In short, the reference to me is a deliberate falsehood. For Mr. Saunders' benefit I may repeat what I have already stated in my report to the Alliance:

"The former Secretary of the Temperance Alliance still preserves his freedom, and declines to be regarded as an adjunct of any political party."

If the statement that I was going back to join my friends the Conservatives had not been made by a man in the position of Attorney General and Premier of the Province, and an expectant Judge of the Supreme Court, I would pass the matter unnoticed. I may add, however, that if a disregard for accuracy of statement should be a qualification for the coveted position, Mr. Saunders should not be troubled with rivals.

I am, Sir, etc.,

**A. A. MacLEOD**

**PASTOR AND PEOPLE Decorate Church**

LONDON, April 23.—A remark of an Edinburgh woman visiting St. James' Church of Scotland at George Green, East Dulwich, two years ago led the minister, Rev. Percival Mackenzie, to face the task of redecorating the interior of the church. Having obtained a portable scaffolding and the aid of a few willing workmen, he began by cleaning the walls. Then with a cycle pump he started spraying the walls. This was slow and disheartening, but when things seemed most hopeless he received an offer of a spraying machine, complete with engine! The knack of the spray play on the walls and ceilings and not on the workers was soon mastered, and the church has now become a place of beauty.

Much of the work was done between seven p. m. and midnight, and the helpers came straight from their employment in town. While they worked they were supplied with

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I am, Sir, etc.,

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**AMERICAN LOCOMOTIVES ARE BEING USED ON THE MADAGASCAR GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.**

More than \$60,000,000 worth of fresh fruits were shipped from America to other countries last year.

The Soviet Government is encouraging the manufacture of tractors in Russia.

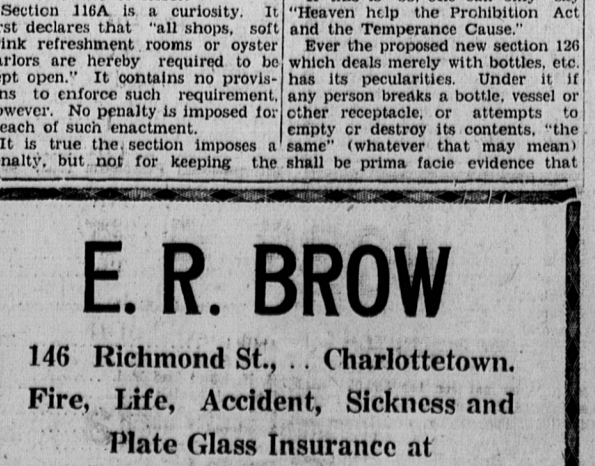
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**PHILATHEAS wish to express their thanks and appreciation to R. T. Holman, Ltd., for the furniture supplied for "Rebecca's Triumph" in Hearts Memorial Hall Monday 4024**

The proposed new section 126A will declare that a convicted offender's place of residence shall be considered a place "wherein refreshments or liquors are sold or kept for sale within the meaning of section 126." The new Section 126 contains no reference whatever to such "place." The old Section does, but that is being repealed. Section 126A is thus meaningless.

Section 131 (2), as proposed, declares that if a search is made and no liquor is found, the officers may search again repeatedly for a period of three months. It also states that if the officers search any place and find liquor, "no further search shall be made."

That is to say, if an innocent person is suspected and searched, the officers are to keep after him for three months. If a guilty person's premises should be searched and liquor be found, the officers must not search again under that warrant.

Could more glaring injustice be proposed?

In fact, almost every section of the proposed legislation could be examined and absurdities revealed.

It certainly looks as if the sponsors of this bungling legislation are enemies of the Prohibition Act and that their real object is to destroy respect for the Act. The form of these amendments and the secrecy attending their preparation can lead to no other conclusion than that the people are faced with a deliberate and calculated attempt to have the Act subjected to scorn and ridicule and thus to pave the way for its defeat at the coming plebiscite and for the bringing in of the sale of liquor for beverage purposes by the Saunders Government.

I am, Sir, etc.,

**W. E. BENTLEY**

**CENTRAL PARISH** (Church of Scotland)—Mr. H. B. Lindsay will preach at Lot 48 on Sunday, April 29th, at 2.30 p. m., and in the Peoples Church, Charlottetown at 7 p. m.

**POLICE COURT**—A light dock at the Police Court yesterday morning; one infraction of the Motor Vehicle Act being awarded \$10.00 and costs or thirty days. The fine was paid.

**YOUNG BANKER DIES.**—The death occurred recently at his home in Westville, N. S., of Claude A. McInnis, aged 19 years. He had been in ill health for about one year. Deceased was on the staff of the Royal Bank of Canada, at Eldon, P. E. I., when he took ill.

**PURCHASES PROPERTY.**—The Provincial Government has purchased the McInnis property, Kent Street, in this city. It is intended to convert the buildings into a garage for the purpose of assembling and storing tractors and power machines and repairing such machines.

**BELLE RIVER.**—It is pleasing to see the young men returning from the U. S. A., and that before they get too old. Two young men of this place returned home after spending four years in the Pacific Oregon and Idaho lumber woods, and purchased two excellent farms at Wood Island West, with fine buildings thereon, as maybe found readily in most localities on this Island. These men, Messrs. Frank and Robert Cook, yet in prime of health, and not much over thirty, are the kind of people wanted to man, our too numerous abandoned farms. These men had Surveyor McDonald, Hermanville, delimiting their boundaries last week. The general cry here is for the widening of the gauge, and improved transportation. Until this is done, not much progress can be made in the Seed Potato Industry which has accomplished such wonders in other localities on the Island. In fact, farmers hesitate to plant many potatoes, or any seed potatoes at all, in this section, unless assured, now very soon, that the money for widening the gauge, and consequent new rolling stock and direct connection with Borden, is forthcoming in this present session.

**PERSONALS**

Mr. M. E. MacLeod, Uigg, Mr. was in the city yesterday, attending the funeral of the late Honourable D. A. MacKinnon.

Mr. J. A. Barrie, Field Scout Commissioner for Canada, who has been on the Island for some weeks leaves this morning for Moncton.

Mr. and Mrs. Ross MacEwen and Master Johnnie MacEwen returned Monday night from Montreal where Johnnie has been in the Victoria General Hospital for the past five weeks. He is much improved in health.

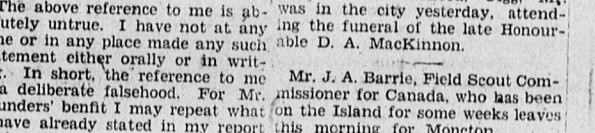
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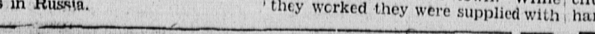
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Sizes 36 to 40 only. Empire Shopping Week . . . . . \$25.00  
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**THE HOME OF BORSALINO HATS \$7.50**



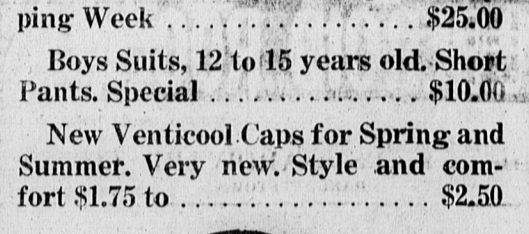
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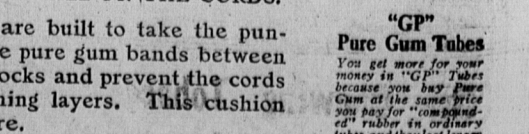
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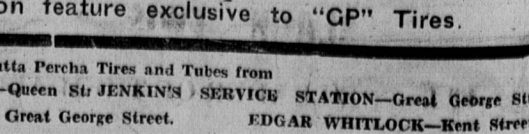
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