

## Magistrate Hastings on The Paterson Report

(Dunnville Gazette.)

No one who was present during the investigation at Cayuga, and noted the attitude of Commissioner Paterson in the inquiry he was supposed to conduct impartially, expected a report differing in any essential particular from that which he has made. Neither was it anticipated that the finding would be presented to the Legislature in time to permit of its consideration and discussion before prorogation. Notwithstanding that the inquiry was closed on March 16th and that the Commissioner's mind was so obviously made up then that he could have dictated his report to his stenographer within twenty-four hours after his return to Toronto, the document was not made public for more than six weeks. Clearly this unnecessary and uncalled-for delay had no other motive than that the Attorney General might be spared if possible the further humiliation which attaches to him every time his conduct in connection with this affair is made the subject of debate. No doubt if he persists in clinging to the office in the conduct of which he has done so much to bring discredit upon the Drury government, he hopes that before next session interest in the affair will have fallen off to such an extent as to consign it to comparative oblivion. Possibly that hope may be well grounded, but of this he can rest assured: During the interim he will be given more than one opportunity to regret his illegal and unwarranted action.

Throughout the entire incident the Attorney-General has made a pitiful spectacle of himself. After preparing and handing to the press a long list of malicious and unfounded charges against Magistrate Hastings and the most upright and respected citizens of Dunnville, he dropped some of the most serious of them without even an explanation or apology, and referred the others, not to a county court judge, as he should have done, but to a personal friend and political ally of his own choosing, thereby raiding the Provincial treasury to the extent of hundreds of dollars that should have been saved. The exact cost to the province of this course will be disclosed in due time, but what is a couple of thousand dollars between friends? And, besides, the province is rich, and the borrowing is still good. But a county judge would have conducted the inquiry with fairness, and a proper regard for the ordinary rules of evidence, and that never would have suited Mr. Raney.

Then Mr. Raney, who is careless of his promises when it suits his purpose, broke the pledge he had given to hold the inquiry in Dunnville, and, in conjunction with his commissioner, decided that it should be held in Cayuga. This caused much annoyance, inconvenience and expense to everyone concerned, which would have been avoided by the exercise of ordinary courtesy and common sense, not to mention the breaking by the attorney-general of his pledged word. Of the manner in which the inquiry was conducted it is unnecessary to say much. From the outset the entire energies of the commissioner, the crown counsel and his assistant—the callow and unscrupulous young lawyer who registered here under an assumed name for fear he might be murdered and thrown into the canal—were bent to the task of saving Mr. Raney from the consequences of his ill-advised action. How completely he failed he is due to discover later, but that is another story. In their efforts they had the active support of Freeman Green, Jr., Rev. Thomas Green, Night Watchman Pullen and Provincial Officer Sylvester, aided and abetted by other more reputable citizens, whose misguided zeal for what they call temper, or whose devotion to the supposed interest of a political party, led them to assist in the dispicable effort to make it appear that the suspended magistrate was an associate and protector of bootleggers and law-breakers, and that in this acting he was under the control and domination of a "whiskey and political ring" which never had any existence outside of the perverted imagination of the trouble maker who, more than any other single individual except Mr. Raney, is responsible for the opprobrium attempted to be heaped on Dunnville and its most respected residents.

And what was the outcome of it all? The worst the Commissioner could say of Magistrate Hastings was that in some cases he had shown a "too excessive leniency." That is a matter of opinion, and, moreover, it is an opinion in which not one competent judge out of a hundred, conversant with the facts, will be found to share. It contrasts with the fact that the only decision of the Magistrate against which an appeal was taken was reversed because of undue severity. The most contemptible feature of the report is the attempt of the Commissioner, similar to that made by Mr. Raney in the Legislature, to leave the impression that the decrease in the quantity of liquor imported into Dunnville was due to the suspension of the magistrate. Both these eminent members of the profession of which they are distinctly not ornaments know that such decrease as occurred dated from a time many weeks before the suspension took place; that it was due in some

measure to the fact that those who were procuring liquor legally and with no intent of breaking the law already had their supplies in, but in a still larger measure to the other fact that the Attorney-General, by stationing two provincial officers here, and giving the aid of a more or less competent local spotter, had taken those steps to bring about the enforcement of the law of which the Magistrate himself had advised him there was need. Possibly an illuminating comment on the insinuation they tried to convey might be supplied by the figures showing the importations for April.

## Must Do Their Duty

Municipalities which in the past have been compelled to take care of aged men and women whose children were well able to pay for their maintenance will hail with pleasure the passing of a bill in the Ontario Legislature to provide that children in comfortable circumstances shall be liable for the maintenance of indigent parents.

Under the bill children will be made liable up to \$20 per week for the maintenance of their parents, whether or not the parents are being cared for in a charitable institution. Magistrates will be empowered to take into consideration all the circumstances, such as the character of the parents and the financial position of the offspring. Children of dissolute parents who have not provided for their children when young are not likely to be called on by legal process to shoulder the burden of their parents' support.

As Major Tolmie observed, it is regrettable that any parliament should find occasion for enacting a measure of that nature. But experience teaches that many persons who received loving care in their tender years fail to make such provision for the comfort of their parents in their old age as is within their power. They should be compelled to do their duty, and all the more shame to them that compulsion is necessary.—Guelph Herald.

## Regulating Marriages

The Provincials Secretary's Bill to amend the Marriage Act goes a good deal further than was intimated when the bill was first introduced in the House. It empowers the government to define "the terms and conditions upon which marriage licenses will be issued. Under the old Act an applicant for a license was required to state where the marriage was to be solemnized; if there was any previous marriage or previous relationship in that way; the ages of the contracting parties and if consent had been given to marriage by persons under age. Under the new measure it is provided that applicants for licenses shall be required to give "such information as shall be prescribed by the Lieut.-Governor in Council"—in other words by the government. The bill further gives to the government power to "make regulations detaining the terms and conditions upon which marriage licenses shall be issued."

Under this sweeping authority the government of the day would have authority to make the whole Godfrey Bill, providing for medical examination, etc., a part of the regulations under which licenses may be issued. The bill fixes the fee for a license at \$5, of which \$4 is to go to the Provincial Treasurer. The other dollar goes to the issuer or deputy issuer of marriage licenses with the provision that a municipal council may commute the fees paid to the clerk, who is to be the official issuer of licenses, at a fixed sum. If the clerk and the council cannot agree on the amount of the commutation, that is to be fixed by the County Judge, but in no case to exceed \$2000 a year.

## Fix Up The Lawn

Nearly everyone admires a beautiful lawn, and it is surprising how easily and at a comparatively small expense an old, worn, patchy lawn can be revived and refreshed if at this season it receives a one-inch top dressing of coarse, fresh stable fertilizer. The top dressing should be allowed to remain on the lawn for a week or so, then be raked over with a coarse-tooth wooden rake and the rakings be carted off or mulched among the shrubs. The lawn should then receive a coating of finely pulverized air or water-slaked lime, at the rate of five pounds to each 100 square feet. Four days after the lime has been spread, the lawn should be thoroughly raked with a sharp, fine-tooth steel rake. The soil is then in fine condition for a liberal sowing of a good mixture of lawn grass seed, which should be followed by a thorough rolling. If this plan is faithfully carried out, a beautiful lawn is sure to result some time in May.

—Charles G. French, Landscape Gardener, in Utica Press.

Miss Foster, of Cayuga, recently had her arm broken in two places by falling downstairs, and is in Hamilton undergoing treatment.

## MELON AND CUCUMBER

These Require a Warm Soil at Planting Time.

Different Types of Melons Require Different Handling—How to Grow Cucumbers and Squash—Raising Rhubarb.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

Melons are in the class of vegetables which require a warm temperature for their growth. The length of time that they require to mature any quantity of fruit is longer than our period of freedom from frost. For this reason we generally start the seed in a hotbed and give it at least one transplanting before setting in the field. There are two methods of growing melons: one which is used with the small or Rocky Ford type of melons, the other for the large Montreal. The young plants are started the same way in either case.

The seed should be started about the 1st-15th of May in small pots filled within ¼ of an inch of the top with loose mellow loam; place the seed on this and cover with ¼ of an inch of sand. Keep them at a temperature of 75 deg. with sufficient water. When they have outgrown this small pot they should be transplanted to 5-inch pots. We grow two plants of Rocky Ford melons in a pot, but only one of the Montreal type.

For the small melons we generally plant them in hills four feet apart. We dig out a hole at each place, fill it nearly to the top with fresh horse manure prepared as if for a hotbed, then cover with six inches of soil. In this soil we set the young plants when danger of frost is over. If we wish them a little earlier, we may cover them with a small cold frame about 30 inches square. After three or four melons have set it is well to nip off the ends of the growing shoots. This forces all of the food into the fruit, and makes them grow more rapidly. The melons should be placed on a board or berry box to keep them off the earth, and turned frequently to make them ripen more evenly.

The seed of the Montreal melons is started between the first and middle of April and the plants are shifted to larger pots as the require. About the middle of May we dig out a furrow where the row is to be, about 18 inches wide and 18 inches deep, the length of the patch. This we fill nearly to the top with manure, prepared as it would be for a hot-bed, cover with six inches of soil and cover over with frames and sash. The plants are set in these about every two feet in the row. These frames are kept over them until all danger of frost is past. Each day, if the weather is fit, they must be carefully aired. After a time the glass is left off entirely during the day, but held close at hand to be replaced if needed. The plants must be kept carefully watered, as this is very necessary to produce strong growth. Melons and cucumbers should not be grown close together.

Cucumbers are generally planted in hills three feet apart. Some of the soil is dug out, the hole filled with well rotted manure, three or four inches of soil are placed over the manure and the seed planted on the south side. The seed may be planted in many sections by May 25th, as danger of freezing will be in past. 8-10 seeds in a hill and thin the plants down to three after danger from cucumber beetle is over. We may start some seed in pots as we did our melons, and transplant them into the field after danger of frost is past. If we care to spend the time we may trim the plants as is done in the greenhouse. This is very simple, once it is understood. The cucumber has its male and female parts in separate blossoms, the male flowers being borne much more freely. Female flowers are generally borne in the leaf joints near the end of the main stem or in the first leaf joint of the side shoots. The leaf joints nearest them bear clusters of male flower. If we nip off the end of the shoot just past these male flowers, at the leaf joints new side shoot will appear bearing cucumbers. Continuous trimming, if carefully done, will produce many more cucumbers and less vine.

Squash seed is planted in the same way as cucumber. We must, however, give more space between hills on account of their stronger growth. Six feet will be sufficient. We seldom trim squash. But if we wish larger specimens it is well to stop all growth after a few squash have set.

## Raising Rhubarb.

The easiest way to start a rhubarb bed is to buy roots, and if they are too large, to split in sections with a spade, being sure that each section has a bud in it. These are then planted three feet apart in the row with the bud just below the surface of the ground. The ground should be in good condition before planting. This is best done in the spring. If the plant grows well this first summer, we may make a few small pullings the second season, but not before. The third season you can pull as often as required as long as you do not completely strip the plant. The plants should be well manured each fall with well-rotted manure, and in the spring this is worked into the soil. If the roots, after a few years, begin to throw up many seed stalks, they should be lifted, split in sections and replanted.

You can brag about your garden all winter if you have your canned evidence on the dinner table. Really there is nothing to canning fruit and vegetables except care, cleanliness, fresh products, and heat.

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