

The St. John Standard.

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ST. JOHN, N. B. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1920.

PROVINCIAL POLITICS.

The Legislative Assembly has been dissolved, and the writs for a general election have been issued, polling in which will take place on the ninth of October. The rumors that have been current during the past few days have thus proven to be correct. It is a kind of hurried call, but it is not the first time that a general election has been sprung upon the province as the earliest possible notice. When the last House was dissolved in 1917, the then government adopted the same kind of tactics, and other governments before had done the same thing. The practice is not without some advantages, a short, sharp campaign is, after all, to be preferred to a long drawn out affair, in which everyone gets weary before half the work is done. All there is to be said on either side can be said quite well in three weeks, and the majority of people will be glad to get it over and done with.

As will be seen by the advertisement in another column, a general Convention of the Opposition party is called for the 23rd inst., at which many matters of the utmost importance to the party will have to be discussed and decided upon. And it may be that some very material matters affecting the immediate future of the party activities may have to be taken into consideration also. The general arrangements for the management and conduct of the campaign must be settled, and it is desirable that the attendance of supporters of the party, from every part of the province, should be as large as possible.

In the meanwhile, as we pointed out yesterday, steps should be taken to get the party organization into working order. The campaign is not unlikely to be carried on in somewhat different lines than has previously been the case. In many counties the United Farmers are showing unexpected signs of activity, and if they decide to take a hand in affairs, it will put quite a new complexion on them. The United Farmers are very firm in their determination not to act in conjunction with either of the other parties, so that, unless some other arrangements are come to, there may be three-cornered fights in several constituencies. Under any circumstances there will be plenty of excitement during the next three weeks.

DR. EMERY'S APPEAL.

In his election address, Dr. Emery declares that, in so far as the interests of St. John, he is concerned, they have gained nothing from Hon. Rupert Wilmers' presence in Parliament, that he has never been able to get anything done for the city and port, and that he never will be able to get anything; while, on the other hand, millions have been spent in the development of Halifax. The reason for this is plain as a pikestaff. Halifax was represented in the Government by the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Borden, who naturally saw to it that the interests of the city should be looked after. Now that Mr. Wilmers is a member of the Government also, he will be in a position to see that St. John's interests are looked after just as were those of Halifax.

As a private member, of course, Mr. Wilmers did not have the weight that a member of the Government has, and while he has been fully conscious of the pressing needs of the port of St. John, and has been instrumental in getting several things done to improve conditions here, he has not been able for many reasons to get anything like as much as he wished. But his opportunity has now arrived, and it may be accepted as a fact that he will make every use of it.

Dr. Emery further says: "I am of opinion that a government which found millions for the development of Halifax, should have found an equal apportionment for St. John." But there was nobody from St. John in the Government to ask for it, or it would probably have been forthcoming as readily as the money was for Halifax. If Dr. Emery should by any freak of fortune find himself sitting in Parliament as member from St. John, how would he propose to go to work to get the appropriation that he says St. John should have? He asks the electors to send him to Ottawa to oppose, to the utmost of his ability, the Government now in power, and does he suppose that a government that he was trying to thwart would listen to any recommendations he might make?

Dr. Emery could do nothing for the port of St. John, if he was sent to Ottawa, and the people know it, and he knows it himself, too, no one better. St. John wants a real live man to look after its interests, one with some influence in the councils of the nation. Mr. Wilmers is just the kind of man needed, and the electors have

every intention of seeing to it that he goes there to look after their end of affairs.

GOVERNOR COX'S VIEWS ON IRELAND.

One of the things better left unsaid, in the judgment of the New York Times, one of the most influential of the American newspapers supporting Governor Cox, was his statement in Butte, Montana, on the Irish question. He is quoted as follows:

"The peace of the world will be promoted more by harmonious feeling between the English-speaking nations of the world than by anything else. Therefore, anything that disturbs it is subversive of the course of peace. I have always insisted, and do yet, that under existing conditions the aims and aspirations of Ireland cannot be presented to the bar of public opinion. Under the League of Nations they can be. Article XI of the League provides: 'It is also declared to be the friendly right of each member of the League to bring to the attention of the assembly or of the council any circumstances whatsoever affecting international relations which threaten to disturb either the peace or the good understanding between nations, upon which peace depends.'"

"We have four times as many people of Gaelic blood in the United States as there are in Erin, and the natural feelings not only figure in our domestic relations, but also stand like granite between the stretching bands of England and America. So long, therefore, as the Irish question remains unsettled, there will be some conflict in America with the idea of world-wide co-operation between the English-speaking nations."

"It would be my duty, and very quickly availed of, as a friend of peace, asserting the friendly right of any member of the League, to present the Irish cause to the attention of the League under the authority given in Article XI and give to Ireland, or to any other aggrieved people, the opportunity to plead their cause before the bar of civilized opinion. It must not be forgotten that when we took up arms the thing that gave us unity and great enthusiasm was our declaration that we fought to end the rule of might; that we were champions of the rights of small people; that we stood for the reign of law based upon the consent of the governed. As I have said before, the League contemplates enduring peace."

With the opinion that the peace of the world will depend chiefly upon the friendship and co-operation of the English-speaking nations, nobody will quarrel, but it is very doubtful if the officious meddling of an American president in a British domestic problem would contribute greatly to that harmony. Nor do we think that American public sentiment would warm to Great Britain if a British politician were, in the friendliest fashion, to call the attention of the League of Nations to the aspirations of the Filipinos for self-government, or to the lynching of negroes in the United States on the ground that this practice makes the task of Britain more difficult in governing her vast colored populations. Governor Cox will find few to agree with him that under existing conditions the aims and aspirations of Ireland cannot be presented at the bar of public opinion. The whole world knows what Ireland wants, or rather what the great majority of Irishmen, both in Ireland and elsewhere, want. They want independence. That the British people will not grant, no matter what public opinion in the United States demands, and no matter what the League of Nations might advise. We agree that the cause of the loyalists in the North of Ireland has been very imperfectly presented; so much so, indeed, that one would infer from Governor Cox's speech that he had never heard of it. But the Governor does know, as does every intelligent American, that any solution of the Irish problem, short of independence, that is satisfactory to the Irish people, will be accepted by the British Government, and there never was a time in the last twenty years when it would not have been accepted. But it is not the business of a presidential candidate to say anything that might cost him votes, no matter how right it may be to say it.

Discussing the local by-election, the Ottawa Journal says: "One wonders what is in the mind of the poor St. John candidate as, being led lonely and like a sheep to the slaughter, he contemplates his leader in dress suit and patent slippers leaving with the rickety-checked maidens of British Columbia, three thousand miles from the fray!"

WHAT OTHERS SAY

A Newspaper Offense.
(Edmonton Journal.)

One of the greatest offenses a newspaper can commit is to color its news according to its opinions. To do so is a breach of faith with its readers, who are entitled to know the facts, regardless of the conclusions which they arrive at with regard to these. The better a newspaper is the more strongly, as a rule, it expresses its own views, but it keeps these for its editorial page.

A Tasting Time.
(Toronto Globe.)

A writer of civil war, with its accompaniments of slaying, burning and terrorization, will bring the Irish people to a realization of the truth that peace cannot be secured by following the extremists of either side, but rather through the ending of lawlessness by all parties and a sincere acceptance of the measure of self-government that is regarded as sufficient to enable the people of Canada and Australia and the other Overseas Dominions, to live happily and prosperously within the Empire.

Progressive Quebec.
(Montreal Herald.)

In the meantime we would invite everyone to read the tribute paid to the province by Hon. Mr. Tolmie, the Federal Minister of Agriculture, in a visit he made the other day to the Three Rivers Exhibition. He said he had been simply astonished by the development of agriculture in the Province of Quebec. He added that with such an administration as we had farmers had certainly no reason to form a separate party. Let our friends follow Mr. Tolmie's example and come to Quebec to learn how we do it. It will do them much more good than making pie speeches round a hotel table.

Case of Emotional Insanity.
(Toronto Telegram.)

It is announced that Lord Mayor McSwiney of Cork, who declines to eat in Brixton prison, has only a few days to live. This is kinder than was accorded Inspector Swaney of Belfast, who was shot while coming out of church. McSwiney's fanatical hunger strike has been widely advertised and he is hailed as a martyr. Any condemned murderer who was given the same publicity McSwiney has received would have thousands of hysterical followers clamoring for his release. It is much the same kind of emotional insanity that runs riot over the sad fate of the prisoner and completely obscures the view of the prisoner's victims.

A BIT OF VERSE

A PICNIC TO CHATSWORTH.

The Spat of the Duke of Devonshire in Derbyshire.

Gloriously the sun was shining, merrily the wild birds sang. Every heart was turned to gladness, every voice with laughter rang; Through the meadows first we wandered, reveling in sunlight fair, Bearing each a willing burden for the lunch upon the hillside steep. Then we rambled thro' the woodland as it reared the noontide hour, Nature looking at her fairest, fresh from early morning shower. Ferns were spreading all around us, wild flowers trimmed the rural way. And we heard the merrily laughter of the waterfalls at play. Mighty trees above us waving—beeches and the forest king—Holding out their giant branches for the songbird's weary wing. White flowered elms and lofty chestnuts, thick-coated fir-trees, one by one. Here and there a stately cedar breathing sweet of Lebanon. Wide before the ducal mansion stretched the park with herds of deer. Where the merry rabbits sporting haunt the bracken void of fear. White-plummed swans are proudly sailing on the pond that fronts the door.

Where the careless fountain tosses feathery spray wreaths, evermore. Up we climbed with mirthful panting to the tower above the steep. Overlooking knolls and valleys which beneath in verdure sleep. Hills in shades of many colors rose beside some deep ravine. Dyed in hues of darker foliage, while the sunlight danced between. Noble Chatsworth! I speak the praises of the God who made you fair. Wake to song, O vale and mountain! Breathe His glory, gentle air! Thanks to him, the kindly owner, who has willed that all may come To enjoy the most beauty of his fair ancestral home.—E. S. Godfrey, Ottawa.

THE LAUGH LINE

Supplying a Want.
"What is that crate of stuff you are getting in?"
"Just a shipment of ouija boards," replied the hotel manager.
"Great Jigger! What's the idea?"
"We believe in giving service here. Every now and then a guest calls for an ouija board. Hereafter when we get a request like that our clerks will answer: 'Coming up, madam, at once.'"
—Birmingham Age-Herald.

A New Method.

(Exchange.)
It was baking day and mother was very busy with other duties also. "May," she cried, "see if the cake is done. Put a knife in it and if it comes out clean you'll know that it is finished."
"Yes," added father, "and if it comes out clean stick the others in too."

Back Talk.

The professor was dressing the other evening for the opera, when his wife stalked into his dressing room.
"Here you are," she hissed, "a war profiteer giving 200 per cent. dividends, and I've got only one decent dress."
He turned and looked her up and down, then he said:
"Well, I wish to goodness you'd wear it!"

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

My cousin Artie came around after supper yesterday and we were playing loto on the sitting room floor and pop was smoking and thinking, and me and Artie got tired of playing and pretended to get in an argument just for fun and started to see which one could say the most insulting thing about the other ones intelligently, me saying, Gosh, G. you're so dum if you was any dummer you wouldn't believe it yourself.
Well, boy, you're so dum if anybody shook you by the feet, your brains wouldn't even rattle, sed Artie.
O to that so, well if you had twice as much sense as wat you got you'd evn have half as much as you need, I sed.
Hay, hay, this is getting a bit thick, sed pop. Meaning the insults was getting too personal, and I sed, Thats all rite, pop, we're only insulting each other in fun, aint we, Artie?
Sure, thats all, its too bad you havant got a penny shell instead of a bed, because then there wouldn't be quite so much empty space inside, sed Artie.
O you dont say so, well the only reason you don't look as dum as you are is because you're so much dummer than you look, I sed.
Help, stop, cease firing, sed pop.
Wats the matter, pop, we're only in fun, aint we, Artie, doughnut? I sed.
Sure, you dum circle without any rim, sed Artie, and pop sed, Did you hear my order to suspend hostilities, leave my site, leave the room, leave the house.
Wich we did.

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