

## The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1921.

## THE IRISH QUESTION.

The present determination of Ulster seems to be not to become a part of the Irish Free State, although in some quarters it is felt that the complete acceptance by Mr. Bonar Law of the terms of the agreement should go a long way toward dissuading Ulster's opposition to that document. Mr. Law said in his speech on Friday that the Government holds out to northern Ireland, as an alternative to accepting the agreement which applies to the south, the very terms which he would have recommended to Parliament on his own responsibility.

A problem that is interesting to speculators is as to how many years will elapse before Ulster will want to join the rest of the country, and how soon economic forces will compel her to adopt this course. Ireland is an economic unit; and after passion, pride and prejudice have worn away their edges during a decade or more of quiet trading and peaceful intercourse, union with the rest of Ireland will have a more stirring aspect.

With Mr. Law joining Lord Birkenhead and many other solid Unionists in the ranks behind the agreement, Lord Carson finds himself more and more lonely in his position. That Lord Carson, who was the leader of the opposition in the Irish days, should have come to Asquith's liberal view of the Irish situation must be very discouraging to Lord Carson.

Although he has not come to see the light, or even to appreciate that the Government has not coerced Ulster, Lord Carson is helping the treaty along after a fashion. His bitterness against the agreement is likely to convince southern Ireland that it is getting something even better than first expected.

Meanwhile, Ireland, the coming Free State, must take no false step. A tremendous crisis faces the country in the decision about to be made. The split in the Irish Free State will be a referendum in which the Irish electorate will vote directly on the acceptance of the treaty. Unanimity is not to be expected in the country any more than in the Irish Parliament; a strong minority standing out for full independence is already in sight. The republican propaganda has been too zealously pushed the past five years to permit the ideal of absolute independence to fade away overnight.

Present indications that a majority favor the Free State are reassuring and gratifying. All reasonable Irishmen must see that with meagre military forces, the extremists could not hope to succeed. Britain has reached farthest north in her concessions. Besides, the Naval Armament Limitation Treaty being negotiated at Washington must positively destroy the last hope of Irish irreconcilables that the United States could somehow go to the help of an insurgent Ireland.

## TWO SIDES TO THIS.

While the reduction in naval armaments will no doubt be an excellent thing from some points of view, the fact remains that it will strike a very heavy blow at the ship building and allied industries in Great Britain. Unemployment, had enough as conditions are, will be increased to a alarming extent, not only in the shipyards, but in all other industries the output of which is used in naval construction. The result is likely to be that instead of paying money out of one pocket, taxpayers must only pay it out of the other. Money that has been paid in taxes to keep up the Navy, will now have to be provided for local relief work unless, of course, the money that would otherwise have been spent in warship building is devoted to other public works. With a reduced number of warships will naturally come a large reduction in the personnel of the naval establishment, and the number of boys and young men who will be taken into the Navy in future will therefore be greatly reduced, thus throwing them into other lines of industry which are already badly overcrowded. Reduced armaments may be a menace, but it is not difficult to see that the consequences of applying a remedy may be even worse than the disease. Keeping up Britain's large fleet has been a costly job no doubt, but it has created employment for scores of thousands of men and their families for whom sustenance has still to be found. It may yet turn out that keeping up a big navy is not such a bad investment after all.

A good friend avails those who brought British pounds a year ago and sold them. Those who invested in German marks have losses to wait.

## WHAT OTHERS SAY

Protestant Irish Leaders.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

A fact which has often been commented upon is that most of the leaders of the Irish cause in the past have been Protestants. The national hero of Ireland is not Daniel O'Connell, the Catholic, but Robert Emmett, the Protestant. He was the leader of the rising in 1802, as Lord Edward Fitzgerald, another Protestant, had been a leader in the rebellion of 1798. Both ended disastrously. Fitzgerald was shot while resisting arrest, and Emmett was executed. With his last words he directed that no splash should mark his tombstone until Ireland should be free; but nobody knows where was buried, this being a secret which the British refused to disclose. Theobald Wolfe Tone another beloved Irish hero, was a Protestant. So were Henry Grattan, Thomas Davis, Isaac Butt, Smith O'Brien and Charles Stewart Parnell. So, also, by the way, is Captain Robert Barton, one of the Sinn Féin plenipotentiaries, who signed the agreement with the British Government.

Illustrative.  
(Hamilton Herald.)

It is natural that professional Irish patriots in the States should view with alarm the prospect of a continued Ireland. That would mean that their occupation would soon be gone. It would mean the waning of their political influence and the drying up of a rich source of revenue. One can almost feel sorry for them, the more so because of their hopeless blundering. Could there have been a more serious blunder than the one made by the national convention of the Friends of Irish Freedom yesterday when it coupled with its condemnation of the Irish peace settlement its denunciation of the four-power treaty for maintaining peace in the Pacific as "a betrayal of American principle?"

Fiddling With a Country Affair.  
(Toronto Telegram.)

Exultation over the complete defeat of the Meighen Government is possible in Ontario only among blind partisans who take joy in any victory no matter how dear the cost. The price which Canada has paid for last Tuesday's voting is the surrender of Anglo-Saxon pre-eminence in the councils of the world. The Meighen Government in Ontario threw its vote into the collection-box of sectionalism; but it was before the French-Canadian vote in the east and the foreign vote in the west that the Conservative party, with the Union Jack at the masthead, went down to honorable defeat.

Ontario was split over the question whether it was a privilege of a penance to face the terrible expense of a war fought on Canada's behalf and on behalf of the British Empire. Even a Ministry consisting of Sir Lomer Gouin and Hon. W. G. Mitchell would hardly be palatable to them. Mr. Drury and Mr. Crerar did not make their group. It made them. But the lure of the King's bait must be tempting them strongly.

## SAFETY FIRST.

The advice given by the New Brunswick Board of Underwriters with regard to keeping Christmas trees free from lighted candles, and all inflammable substances, may be prompted to some extent from motives of self-interest, but the advice is nevertheless sound and timely. Fires occur often enough as it is, and from causes in many cases quite involuntary without deliberately creating a set of conditions which are likely to be disastrous in case of accident. A heavy increase in the number of fires which have taken place in Canada, many of them of a mysterious origin, is one of the adverse developments of the past year.

It has usually been the rule when a fire took place, unless there were very obvious reasons for suspecting that the fire was of incendiary origin, for insurance to be paid without question. Whether the claims made were being a little "too thick" however, or whether it is merely for information sake, the fact remains that in future every fire, no matter how trifling its character, will be made the subject of strict investigation. If the knowledge that should a fire occur, the Board of Fire Underwriters will want to know the reason why, should result in greater care and caution being exercised in regard to dealing with substances of an inflammable nature, it will be an excellent thing for the community.

## FIELDING AND QUEBEC.

The Toronto Telegram says that the Hon. W. S. Fielding's years did not prevent him from being freely used in the recent campaign to reassure business interests that under the Liberal regime the tariff was safe. With the exception of his mental lapse over the Reciprocity issue, Hon. W. S. Fielding displayed sound judgement in making very slight alterations in the tariff as he took it over from his Conservative predecessors.

Now the election is won the slogan, "Small Fielding start another with good times?" can safely be put into cold storage.

It will be noted Hon. W. S. Fielding now occupies a much less prominent place in King Cabinet gossip. The major force back of the Liberal triumph was Quebec's passion for "revenge." The vindication of that passion might not be complete were Fielding to resume his old place as Finance Minister.

"Shortly before an election" said a man yesterday "as I was going into Sir Wilfrid Laurier's office, I met Lord Atholstan (then Hugh Graham) coming out. I said to Sir Wilfrid: 'How much is it going to cost you this time?' Sir Wilfrid replied with a smile: 'I don't know—yet.' " Nuff said. —Ottawa Journal.

## Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

## HILLS AND MOUNTAINS.

A hill is a small also hump of ground. Which you could see it further if it was higher. But if a mountain anywhere in the neighborhood. You'll know it without stopping to inquire.

A hill can get lower and lower. And yet remain one still. But beware if it once gets high enough it's a mountain instead of a hill.

For won a creek gets big its a river. And a big squirt of water makes a fountain. So likewise a hill that's a mile in height immediately turns into a mountain.

A volcano is a mountain. Squinting assorted lava and fire. Which the foolish climb up and peek into. But the sensible stay away and admire.

If we didn't have hills and mountains. This world would be all flat. But we have, so the result is. Nobody thinks of that.

## THE LAUGH LINE.

Wanted Demonstration.  
Bobby—Are you the trained nurse mamma said was coming?  
The Nurse—Yes, dear, I'm the trained nurse.  
Bobby—Let's see some of your tricks.

At Headquarters.  
Edith—I think Jack is simply wonderful.  
Edith—Yes, the trouble is he thinks so, too.

Americanized.  
"He hit me on the kook, yer Honor."  
"Your head, you mean?"  
"Yes, yer Honor."  
"Why don't you speak the English language?"  
"I do, yer Honor. I was never out of the country in my life."

The Young Genius.  
Mother—"Willie, how is it that no matter how quiet and peaceful things are, as soon as you appear on the scene trouble begins?"  
Willie—"I guess it's just a gift, mother."

Disappointment on the Links.  
It was quite unnecessary to ask a certain golfer what sort of round he had played, for as he approached the clubhouse after leaving the 18th, several idle caddies made a rush for him, saying:  
"You're a club, sir?"  
"No," he replied, with tremendous venom. "Let the d—d things rust!"

Her Choice.  
"And when we are married, every morning I'll bring the toilet."  
"You mean well but I don't expect all that. Don't bring a gown to the breakfast table—that is all I ask."

Kindred Spirits  
When you see two fellows nodding wisely at each other and then looking pityingly on the rest of the crowd, you can guess that they've just read Thomas Edison's statement that only two men in a hundred are intelligent.

A Prohibition Rub-Down.  
Patient Parent—Well, child, what on earth's the matter now?  
Young Hopeful (who has been beating with his bigger brother)—Willie dropped the towel in the water and he dried me wetter than I was before.

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Expected Next Year  
Halifax, N. S., Dec. 15—Confident that there will be a great improvement in shipping business next year and optimistic regarding the effect upon Canadian industry, Robert W. Reford, president of the Robert Reford Company, Limited, arrived here on Saturday to meet his son and family who were passengers on the Cunard ship Scythia. Mr. Reford said that normal conditions had practically returned to Montreal during the past shipping season, the grain exports having established a new record.

"We will have a great service up the St. Lawrence next season," said Mr. Reford, speaking of the resumption of the Cunard service to Montreal.

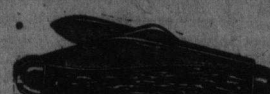
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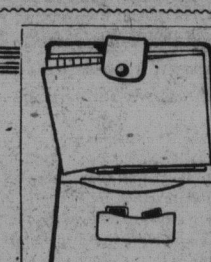
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## GIFTS THAT LAST

Grandma is  
Still a Girl

Time has silvered her hair. Perhaps it has somewhat slowed her brisk step, too. But she loves jewels and pretty things as much as she did when grandfather brought her the quaint locket she treasures so tenderly. So don't think of something "useful" for Grandma this Christmas. Useful gifts are sensible, of course, but she would enjoy possessing something she would not buy for herself.

These are the gifts that will delight her eye:—Dainty pins of diamonds or pearls. A ring in one of the new styles. A dainty bracelet watch. A string of pearl beads.

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PROHIBITION VINDICATED  
OF ITS SOCIAL

Relation of Prohibition to  
of Personal Conduct  
London.

London, Dec. 17.—The greatest social experiment in the history of the world was the description of the liquor trade in the United States given by Sir A. Pearce Gould when presiding at a lecture by Sir Arthur Newsholme, who explained that his subject, announced as "Social International Aspects of Alcoholism," really was American prohibition, and its relation to the problem of public control of personal conduct.

By describing the history of the stage which led to the passing of the Eighteenth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, and giving details of its operation in various stages, the lecturer showed that total prohibition was the culmination of efforts extending over nearly a century. The history of Great Britain showed that it was common ground that the sale of alcoholic drinks requires to be made the subject of restrictive measures. In the United States there had been waves of abstinence and restraint in the local enforcement of prohibition, the area under prohibition increasing as time went on. Advance in prohibition had been retarded earlier by repeated legal decisions, to the effect that brewing and distilling properties and saloons were subject to the police powers of the state and that prohibition was not confiscation, but only deprivation of privilege.

## Factors Leading to Prohibition.

Among the motives and factors leading to American national prohibition were the active propaganda of the Anti-Saloon League, the respect for alcohol in elementary schools, the desire for "clean" politics and the desire to make state and township prohibition successful. The results of the first year of national prohibition were admittedly only partial—partly because of the wide Canadian and Mexican borders over which the liquor traffic was carried, and partly because of the domestic manufacture of alcoholic drinks. But this was a small offset to the general result. For the vast majority of the population concerned in enforcing prohibition, alcoholic drinks had become untolerable, or too expensive to be tolerated in freedom.

The lecturer stated that many Americans had told him that although they had voted against prohibition they would not vote to have it removed. The United States showed an overwhelming evidence of increased prosperity under prohibition and the diversion of large sums of money to the purchase of better clothing, food, and so forth, and a raising of the standard of life generally. Rescue work in large cities had been largely replaced by preventive work. Drunkenness and addiction to narcotics showed a remarkable decline. The "short cut" toward removal of the liquor traffic which prohibition provided proved to be successful in diminishing poverty and crime.

Discussing the question whether prohibition was likely to exercise sinister influence on the moral life of the people, encouraged by the "prohibition cranks" to enter the field, the lecturer said he regarded such fears as fantastic, governments, majorities forming an adequate protection. The notion that prohibition was the cause of lawbreaking and perjury had no better foundation than the idea of smuggling. Incidentally, it was mentioned that in the United States foreigners were the chief lawbreakers.

## Why Prohibition is Justified.

While pedantic consistency could not be expected in regulations affecting personal conduct, in a democratically governed country the sale of an article for consumption would probably never be prohibited unless its consumption could be shown to the satisfaction of a large majority of the people to produce mischief on a scale justifying the limitation of its use. Admittedly moral suasion and individual initiative were healthier and more valuable motives to secure temperance than prohibition, but prohibition may be justified if the evil of intemperance is great, and if the success of these moral motives can only be secured after many years. The case in favor of enforcement of prohibition was rendered stronger when a large majority of the people persistently demanded it, and when it became clear that prohibition could be enforced.

Dealing with the fundamental question, raised by prohibition, as to how to reconcile liberty and authority, the lecturer in a historical review traced the evolution of the present ideal which is rather one of liberation of large groups of the community from oppression—parental, social, industrial, or political—than of personal liberty, which might easily become license. The extent to which communal life had necessitated police restrictions, poor-law obligations, interference in industrial relations, and the parental control of children, and had produced severe differential taxation was shown, and the ways in which coercion had led to extended liberty were illustrated.

## Compulsion Necessary.

The lecturer, in conclusion, pointed out that compulsion is a necessary element in government, that success in government can only be permanent with the consent of the governed, and that democratic government is government by large majorities. Majorities, however, are not permanent, and government was practicable and beneficial to society only when the welfare of the majority was given priority over personal liberty. It failed if a large minority demanded the privilege of disobeying laws which ran counter to their own appetites or opinions. In civilized countries there are many examples of encroachments involving diminished freedom of action for the majority.