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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 1922

MR. ROBINSON'S FUTILE EXCUSE.

The Hon. Clifford W. Robinson is an able man in many respects, a fairly astute politician, and an entertaining speaker, but when he tries to draw a herring across the trail as he did yesterday afternoon in his efforts to defend the Government's course, he is simply wasting his time. Mr. Foster tried the same trick the other night at Glen Falls, but it would not work. Members of the Government have quite a job on their hands when they undertake to defend the extravagance and reckless expenditure of the past year or or two, but to offer the excuse that the cost of fighting forest fires had been very heavy, as Mr. Robinson did, and that additional grants had been made to education as Mr Foster did, won't help them at all. Apart from the fact that these two items in themselves are not very large no man or woman in the Province is going to utter one word of complaint against either of them. Forest fires have got to be fought at any cost, as a matter of simple economy; and all reasonable expenditures on education will be heartily approved. So that when members of the Government pick on these two items as the most suitable upon which to base their excuses for over-expenditure they are beating the wind. The people cannot be deluded in this way.

To judge from his language, Mr. Robinson would seem to think that if New Brunswick had come out with anything but a deficit last year, she would have been guilty of a great crime. Other Provinces had gone behind and New Brunswick would have been in poor company had she not done the same. This is of course one way to look at the matter, but it is not the way that most people will look at it. As well might you tell a man that he is in poor company if he isn't a bootlegger. Mr. Robinson regards the deficit of $250,000 as rather small. We wonder if he would say so if he were on the other side of the floor. The Hazen Government in 1908 had a surplus of $40,000, yet Mr. Robinson in his Budget Speech in 1909 declared that "the Government had violated every pledge of retrenchment and reform they had made to win the election, and they would have to answer to the people." If he used that kind of language to a Government that showed a surplus of $40,000, what might his language be expected to be to a Government that showed a deficit of $250,000—and that for the fourth year in succession?

That Mr. Robinson is somewhat of a humorist still was evident when he declared that "Hon. Members must sit up and take notice and be prepared to practice economy." Hon. Members do not have any say in the expenditure; if they did, perhaps they would not face the situation they now do. The parties to practice economy are the Members of the Government, and Mr. Robinson would do well to press his views on his colleagues, particularly the Minister of Public Works, the greatest spendthrift of them all.

FAIR PLAY.

The time has come in this city for someone to speak out in the interest of fair play to those who are dealing with the power situation. Fair play for the shareholder who has invested his money legally and legitimately in this city, fair play for persons who have been called in for an impartial report on the situation, fair play for civic officials who have spent months of time in endeavoring to find a solution of the problem and finally fair play for the citizens who are now prepared to give of their time for a further investigation of the matter.

No one engaged on this problem who has taken a side opposite to that made popular by a certain section of the press, has escaped the mud-slinging when their report was made, and every impartial report has been exactly opposite to the so-called "popular" viewpoint. Special reports frankly prepared with a view of making out a case for the attackers, have been praised as masterly efforts and the authors as heroes, although in at least one case the author was thoroughly discredited when put on oath and questioned. When men of the character and standing of R. A. Ross, are accused of being influenced, when papers openly preach confiscation of property, when British fair play is openly thrown to the winds in discussing any situation it is time the better class citizens of St. John took a hand in the matter. This power problem cannot be settled by men who approach it in a prejudiced frame of mind, or by newspaper writers acting under instructions to attack certain interests which the newspaper owner for reasons of his own may desire to injure or destroy. There is too much at stake for the city to have the city led into venturesome and costly situations in order to try out the theories of one group, or satisfy the private revenge of another. We have reached a crisis where the sober, sane-thinking citizen who pays the taxes must in his own interest insist that the question be settled, and settled by business methods, not by band-waggon tactics, on a theatrical stage with a populace waiting to turn thumbs up or thumbs down.

Instead of getting cheaper power St. John may get dearer power if a policy of competition resulting in dividing up the existing power load is adhered to. The history of private in competition with municipal operation has not shown that the latter absorbs the former, but on the contrary that the former holds more than its fair share of the business and in the end both lose money. Duplicate pole lines, duplicate power plants, and competition tending to destroy private capital, and impose a heavy burden on the tax-payer, is not in the interest of St. John, as all the impartial information so far received tends to show.

THE REAL MENACE TO IRELAND.

When the leading organ of the Irish Nationalist party, The Freeman's Journal, deliberately declares that De Valera is responsible for most of the recent trouble in Ireland, it is time to take notice. De Valera is not an Irishman, he is not actuated by the patriotic sentiments that stir up the Irish people, he is not working for Irish interests. He is an agitator pure and simple, actuated wholly by selfish motives which have only his own aggrandizement in view; he wishes to become a dictator, and like all men of that class, from the dawn of history downwards, is utterly reckless as to the methods to be adopted to attain his end. Nothing but an independent republic, with himself at the head, will content him, and to attain this, he is quite prepared to see the country plunged into civil war, when the horrors of the French Revolution would be duplicated. Men have been shot time and time again, for causes which were mere trifles when compared with the conduct he is guilty of, and yet he is allowed to go about without let or hindrance, preaching his seditious and revolutionary doctrines. There will be no peace in Ireland until De Valera is silenced some way or other.

ONE YEAR OF HARDING.

Last Saturday concluded the first year of the Republican administration under the leadership of President Harding. The occasion has been seized upon by several American newspapers to give resumes of the events of the year, which make interesting reading. We gather from a perusal of one of these that the claim which has been made that the year has been one of more notable achievements than any other in the history of that country in time of peace, is warranted by the facts. All has not been done that it was hoped to do, or, it may be that should have been done; but the record of the Congress and the Executive is one which as a whole the nation may view with pride and satisfaction.

The President promised economy and that promise has been fulfilled. Only the most reckless partisan, says the review, bent rather on obtaining political advantage than in determining the truth, would think of claiming otherwise.

The instrument that has made economy possible beyond all others, save only the conscientious determination of legislators and executives that such a policy should prevail, is declared to have been the budget law that was early adopted by the Congress—the need of which had been long recognized. A Republican Congress and President have given it to the country.

"Included in other beneficial legislation that has been enacted have been the Emergency Tariff Act for the protection of farm products; revision of tax laws, which has eliminated the most obnoxious and most hurtful taxes; a law restricting immigration; various laws for the promotion of agriculture and the protection of those engaged in it; the Allied Debt Refunding Bill, which was a necessary precedent to the financial rehabilitation of the world; an Anti-Beer Bill to cover a lack in the original Volstead law. The acts named are among the more important which the Congress has passed, but there have been many others, all making for progress and the return to normal conditions, which the President had promised to do all in his power to promote.

"The most drastic act of the Harding administration was the summoning of a conference of the nations to take measures for the limitations of armament and for the recognition of would peace. This conference marked an epoch in the history of mankind. What was accomplished there was the first concrete act looking to the banishment of war that has been performed since the nomadic shepherds of the neolithic ages fought one another for the possession of land whereon their flocks might graze.

"If the Harding administration had accomplished nothing else, the achievements of the Arms Conference would have made its place in history secure and entitled it to the gratitude of the present generation and all those succeeding."

The Hon. Mr. Robinson spoke in somewhat optimistic terms regarding the Musquash hydro works, but we notice he quite forgot to make any reference to the number of times the dam on the West branch of that river had been washed away. Some information as to this would be interesting; also as to whether the Government paid for the repairs, or whether the contractor had been compelled to make good the consequences of his defective work.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Live Lion and a Stuffed One.

Mail and Empire.

While ex-Premier Meighen was delivering an address at the banquet given in his honor by the Liberal-Conservative Women of Toronto a few days ago, Premier King was discoursing at a banquet to Hon. Ernest Lapointe in Quebec City. Mr. Meighen mentioned to his audience that it would be interesting to see what the Liberals will do, now that they are in office. Of what they will do Mr. King gave not the slightest inkling to the banqueters who listened to his long address. In The Globe's report we are told that "the Prime Minister in a carefully considered speech committed his Administration to no definite line of action as regards particular problems."

For his emptiness in this respect he pleaded that Parliament is the place to make known the Government's policy and that his administration has not been long enough in office to become familiar with the important matters requiring attention. When will this man ever have the courage to be frank with the people, and either admit that he is but a sounding brass or that his policies are indefensible on the public platform? The impression made by his speech is that he felt cowed in the presence of a Quebec audience. Neither the Quebec people nor anybody else could gather from what he said the slightest idea of what his Government means to do in regard to the questions of urgent public importance. That he knows himself is extremely doubtful. Sir Lomer Gouin, Mr. Lemieux and other French-Canadian colleagues in his Cabinet seem to keep the secret still securely locked in their breasts. That he does not dare to call his soul his own in that Province is further indicated by his plaintive denial that he entertained any idea of forming a coalition. He explained that his dickering with Mr. Crerar was not the same thing as negotiating for a coalition with another political party. It is really pathetic to see what pains he takes to assure the Quebec people of his docility. He tried to hook up with Mr. Crerar in a Cabinet in which the latter and four other Progressives should sit. That was disallowed, and ever since the Quebec governors have kept a sharp eye upon him. From the winning way of speaking he suddenly turned to the spunky manner and declared that the Government must refuse to be stampeded or precipitated into any course of which there has not been opportunity for mature consideration. That would make his French-Canadian strategists laugh.

Mr. King is in a fair way of getting himself remembered as the leader who crawls under the barn. In the general election campaign which ended so luckily for him he shirked the issue and concealed his colors. The platform framed by his party in the convention that chose him as leader ceased to be mentioned in his public addresses. He stood for no specific policy before the election, and even now he will not tell a Quebec audience what is to be his Government's course on any question. It is clear that he still hopes for rescue from his Quebec bosses by the Progressive party. Rumors are afloat to the effect that Mr. Fielding intends to approach Washington for the negotiation of another reciprocity agreement. That would strengthen Mr. King with the Progressives, who are already pledged to support the Government as long as it adheres to Progressives policies. The French-Canadian members have no use for reciprocity with the United States, but these politicians may be cynical enough to countenance a vain effort on Mr. Fielding's part to obtain it. They have not the smallest fear that it will be granted and we do not imagine that Mr. Fielding himself expects anything to come of overtures on his part to obtain it. In 1191 the Western farmers of the United States strongly opposed the Taft-Fielding pact, and rejoiced when the Canadians rejected it. The American farmers are now more than ever intent on excluding Canadian farm products from their market. It was upon dictation that the Emergency tax which almost prohibits the entrance of Canadian farm products, were enacted. We suspect that Mr. Fielding is planning to humbug the United Farmers and that Quebec will look on with its tongue in its cheek. In 1911 reciprocity was prevented by the Canadian people. Almost certainly it will, if sought, be prevented by the American people before the country in the election contest. "Tonight," he said, "I have no new principles to offer. Those that were good enough in the days of Opposition before 1911, those that were good enough during the ten years of power—they are my principles today, just as they are yours." Mr. Meighen has always been the fearless exponent and upholder of policies for the upbuilding of his country and for the welfare of its people. He never skulked to cover when principles were to be fought for. On the other hand, Mr. King, who campaigned against conscription, would not take a stand for his party's policy on the public platform. And, apparently, he is as much afraid to identify himself with any principles today as he was in the election campaign.

THE LAUGH LINE

Bon Voyage.

Passenger (from car window)—Hey, you darn fool, here goes the train and you haven't put my baggage aboard.

Porter — You're the darn fool; you're on the wrong train.—Le Rire, Paris.

Euphonious Name For It.

"The Smiths have just bought a lot of period furniture."

"Really?"

"Yes. It is being paid for on the instalment plan."—Judge.

Speaking of Frames.

The artist—Much depends upon a good setting!

The disappointed lover—Yes, many a girl's beauty is spoiled by an ugly frame of mind!—Wayside Tales.

Music In Court.

District Attorney—And what was the chief cause of the downfall of the Scratchmore Phonograph Company?

Mr. Scratchmore—We shall let our records speak for themselves.—Wayside Tales.

Man—A small particle of intelligence entirely surrounded by habits.

"Some of the fish caught last summer are now six feet long," muses the gazetteer in the St. Joseph Gazette.

Most of the time-killing is done by seconds. First class men don't loaf.

Forbidden Fruit.

A sailor had just shown a lady over the ship. In thanking him she said: "I am sorry to see by the rules that tips are forbidden on your ship."

"Lor' bless you, ma'am," replied the bluejacket, "so were apples in the Garden of Eden."

But Not For Her.

"Honey," said the negro suitor, "When we git's married you ain't gwine to give up dat good job you has?"

"But ain't we gwine to have no honeymoon an' take a trip on de train somewheres?"

"One of us might go, honey.. Dey ain't a thing holdin' me, but yours got 'sponsibilities."

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

We was eating brekfist this morning and all of a suddin pop looked at the china closit saying. By the way, wen are we going to get rid of that old relic of Noah's Ark? As a china closit thats wat I call a peece of junk.

Willyum, how can you tawk in sutch a heartless way about your own ferniture? sed ma, and pop sed, It wouldent be mine if I could find somebody low enuff to accept it as a gift. Its an eye sore and I never come into the dining room without being insulted by it in my own house, he sed. And as soon as he went down to the office ma started to look all over the house for yestiddays paper, saying, I know I saw an add about an auction sale of household ferniture, I think Ill go rite down there and see if I can pick up a china closit and serprize your father.

Wich she did, and this afternoon a waggin came up with a big china closit about twice as big as ours and a big man helped each other to carry it in our dining room and then they helped each other carry the old china closit up to the store room, the little man helping the big one more than the big man helped the little one, and tonite at suppir me and ma and my sister Gladdis all waited for pop to say something about the new china closit on account of it being so big it made the dining room look like somebody eltses dining room, ony pop jest kepp on eating with an ixpression as if he dident notice enything. Wich he dident, and after a wile ma sed, For goodniss sakes, Willyum, for goodniss sakes.

Wat, wy, wat? sed pop, and ma sed, If a brick wall fell in on you would you notice it? and pop sed, Well if it fell in suddinly enuff I gess I wouldent, but wy, wat, wy?

Look erround you, for goodniss sakes, sed ma. Wich pop started to do, looking everywhere even on the ceeling without noticing enything, ma saying, Well I never herd of sutch a thing, are you sure you dont see relics of Noah's ark floating erround the room, for goodniss sakes?

Do you think Ive got the blind staggers, wat the dooce, sed pop, and ma sed, I refuse to eat another bite or morsale in this room, of all the unappreseiative men, I declare the more trubble I take for you the more you ack like a ded wooden indian. And she got up to go out and pop sed, Hay, wait, wat did I do to you? Wich jest then he saw me pointing to the new china closit and he quick sed, O herray, grate, wonderfill, herray. And ma sat down agen and pop kepp on tawking all the rest of suppir about how grate the new china closit was as if he thawt ma mite get up agen and wawk out if he stopped.

Wich she mite of.

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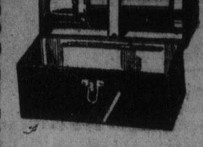
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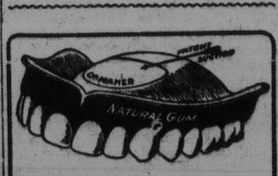
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Chief of Police Annual Report

Decline in Arrests for Drunkenness — 1,023 Persons Taken Into Custody for Various Offences.

The annual report of John Smith, Chief of Police, was submitted to the common council yesterday by Commissioner Thornton.

The strength of the force on December 31, 1921, was:—One chief, one inspector, one sergeant-detective, two detectives seven sergeants, one court orderly, one doorman six traffic policemen, one mounted policeman, thirty-four constables two ambulance drivers, two patrol drivers and one police matron, making a total of sixty.

During the year one patrolman resigned, one died, two were suspended and six were appointed. The one death in the department was Police Constable John T. Merrick, who died on January 2, 1921, after a faithful service of thirty years.

The total arrests for drunkenness for 1921 were 591. The total arrests for drunkenness in 1920 were 958, showing a decrease for 1921 of 362.

During the year there were 465 doors of shops and warehouses found open by the police and the owners notified.

Police ambulance calls for the year were 1,094, and police patrol calls 935.

Of the 1,023 persons arrested during the year, 591 were for drunkenness, sixty-nine for assault, fifty-nine for breaking and entering, 131 for theft, forty-six for wandering about and not giving a satisfactory account of themselves, twenty-four for trespassing, twenty-one for having liquor in their possession, seventeen for lying and lurking, sixteen for creating a disturbance, fifteen as vagrants, twelve for abusive language, and twelve stowaways. Three were arrested on murder charges, five for highway robbery, five for having opium in their possession, three for doing grevious bodily harm, four for escaping from the Boys' Industrial Home, and two for other escapes, one for attempted suicide, and one for striking a person with a stone and killing him. There was only one arrest on a charge of ringing a false alarm.

Six hundred and sixty-nine persons were summoned to court on various infractions of by-laws. Of this number, 541 were on charges of breaking motor vehicle laws, provincial and civic, and 1,139 for owning unlicensed dogs.

Monthly Arrest Record

January	95
February	93
March	121
April	124
May	69
June	81
July	59
August	81
September	73
October	69
November	77
December	92

During the year 573 persons were sheltered as protectionists.

Street lights reported out total 12,043 hours.

Dog summonses issued total 157.

Of those arrested 687 were natives

Halifax Explosion Wrecked Her Nerves
The reader will, no doubt, remember when a few years ago there was a collision in the Halifax, N. S., Harbor and one of the munition ships was blown up, causing great loss of life and laying a large portion of the city in ruins, and causing a great deal of suffering and distress among the inhabitants.
Mrs. Winfield Dill, now of Windor, N. S., was living in Halifax at that time and went through this trying experience and the shock wrecked her nerves. She writes as follows:—"I was living in Halifax at the time of the explosion, and it wrecked my nerves so that I could not do my housework. I would take such nervous spells I would be under the doctor's care.
I saw Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills advertised, so I took two boxes, and they helped me so much I took six more, and now I am completely relieved. I can recommend them to anyone suffering from heart and nerve trouble."
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