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NOTE ON PARK MORALS

PERMISSION GIVEN TO SELL SUNDAY REFRESHMENTS

Causes a Commotion Among the Committee and Mr. A. H. Hanington Objects—Mr. Torrey Sells Just the Same—Some Facts of the Case.

The Sabbath desecration question is revived in a small way, and this time it is in connection with the park.

Canadian cities are noted from their Sunday piety and St. John is quite as marked in its observance of the fourth commandment as the others. The extent of its Sunday desecration is Sunday street cars, Sunday cigar stores, Sunday sodas at the drug stores, which are according to law, and Sunday drinks which are an infringement of the law.

An attempt was made to prohibit the harmless Sunday sodas at the drug stores, but it failed.

Now the question of Sunday refreshments at the Park and Sunday boating on the Lake is likely to be an issue. It is rather too late in the season for it to attract much attention at present but next spring it will have to be fought out and settled pro or con.

Mr. Joseph Allison to whom more than anyone else the city is indebted for the park, had a very pretty tea house erected there this summer. It was to have been completed early in August but it was not finished until the first of September. Mr. A. H. Hanington is chairman of the Park Attractions' Committee and in his absence from the city on a jaunt to the Pacific coast Mr. G. S. Fisher was appointed to act in his place. Mr. Torrey was given by the latter the privilege of occupying the tea house and selling refreshments there. For the last three Sundays he has been doing a thriving trade in temperance drinks, fruit, confectionery, peanuts and other refreshments. He obtained a lease of the tea house for this year with the option of next year, and one provision of the lease was that he could sell refreshments all day Sunday. This lease was signed by Mr. J. D. Hixson, president of the Horticultural Association.

The tea house has been a bustling place on Sundays and many of the thousands who have gone out to the park, particularly the children, have sampled his stock of good things. In the eyes of the enthusiast on Sabbath observance perhaps the buying and selling detract from the appearance of sanctity which in their opinion should on Sunday pervade the Park, and lower the dignity of the Park to directorate of a God-fearing city like St. John.

Anyhow, that was the way Mr. A. H. Hanington looked upon it. When he returned from the west a week or two ago and heard about it he was very wrath and considered that such an important step should not have been taken in his absence. He saw Mr. Torrey on Saturday a fortnight ago and ordered him not to sell on the morrow, threatening to prosecute if he did so. But Mr. Torrey sold on the morrow and he was not prosecuted last week, so he also sold on Sunday last.

The members of the Park attractions committee of the Park Directorate are Mr. A. H. Hanington, chairman, J. M. Taylor, Joseph Allison, James Manchester, W. L. Hamm, H. W. deForest and G. S. Fisher. This is a very good committee but Mr. Fisher it appears, thought he was good enough to settle this important question without any assistance. It appears to have been a rather irregular proceeding. There appears to have been no meeting of the committee either before or since the entering into the contract with Mr. Torrey. It is hardly worth while to have a committee if the chairman is to settle such important matters off-hand.

Mr. Joseph Allison was also speeding across the continent while Mr. Fisher was determining the moral status of the Horticultural Association. Mr. Torrey states that Mr. Allison is in favor of Sunday selling. Progress however knows that Mr. Hanington has some backing on the committee in his contention for Sunday closing and it appears that there is a division in the committee.

As there are so few Sundays left when it will be pleasant to go to the Park it is hardly likely that the question will become one of serious moment.

It seems to Progress that it does not show disrespect to the Sabbath nor will it promote rowdiness at the Park to sell temperance drinks and refreshments there. It enhances the attractions of the Park and

increases the quiet wholesome enjoyment there, and what is the Sabbath for but quiet wholesome enjoyment.

Moreover, if there are to be refreshments at the Park at all they will have to be sold on Sunday for their would not be sufficient week day business to induce any one to take it. It will prove a boon to week day picnics and Sunday visitors and why oppose the Sunday selling?

Whether Mr. Hanington intends to test the question legally is yet to be learned. There is the other question of Sunday boating out there. Before the Park Association took charge boats were hired on Sunday and sometimes there was rowdiness there. But there need be no fear of that if boats should again be hired on Sunday for under the changed conditions rowdiness could be easily prevented. It is the purpose of the directors to build a handsome boat house something like the tea house next spring and to have a good fit-out of gondolas. It would be no great fracture of the moral law of children and young men were allowed to enjoy a Sunday ride as were not Puritans and the Puritanic idea of the Sabbath is exploded. Let the working people have healthy enjoyment on the only day they have for enjoyment. There will be no lowering of the moral status of the city.

HOW HALIFAX DOES IT.
The Attorney-General Has an Appointee who Makes a Good Thing.
HALIFAX, Sept. 30.—In what manner the province of New Brunswick manages its criminal prosecutions is not known to your correspondent at Halifax, but he has a pretty fair inkling of the way they are carried on in Nova Scotia. For the credit of the sister province he hopes the system is not the same. If the system is identical he hopes, for the same reason, that it is worked in a manner more consonant with justice and morality.

The way we work it out is this: The Queen is the fountain of justice and the Attorney General is her crown officer. The commission of a crime is an outrage for which the attorney general is bound to prosecute. Now the attorney general has other duties which prevent his personal attendance to such matters and he is thus forced to appoint deputies. The custom has been established of parceling out this duty in turn for three months periods, to all young lawyers who happen to be in the political favor of the government.

Occasionally squabbles occur of a more or less serious nature, as to the order of procedure in which this form favor is out, and the job is well worth fighting for. There is a twenty dollar bill involved in every case. In a city the size of Halifax these trials usually are worth from \$40 to \$80 per week to the attorney general's fortunate appointee. Even members of parliament or their professional partners have been known to be favored in this manner. Last years report of expenditure of government finances charges one city firm with upwards of \$1000 largely made up in this way.

The fees are only supposed to be paid when the accused happens to be "sent up for trial." The prisoner is first arraigned in the police court for preliminary examination. If the magistrate considers there is a case to be tried, the prisoner may elect to be tried by the court judge or by a jury. In either case there is twenty dollars in it for the barrister.

The attorney general's representative is not supposed to appear in the police court at all. If he does appear and the accused is discharged he gets his fee. But he frequently does appear. If the case is a flagrant one, for which the accused is morally certain to be sent up for trial, you will seldom see the crown representative. But if otherwise—if there is a doubt of the prisoner's guilt, the lawyer will appear and bend all his energies to have the case referred to the court above.

Now this works out exactly as things should not be. If the accused, as is generally the case, happens to be friendless and poor, he has no counsel, and it is comparatively easy to make out a case for the court above. If he is an experienced hand and has "been there before," with the assistance of counsel he is very often discharged in the lower court.

The system entails another evil. Suppose three men are implicated in a theft or an assault, the ingenious prosecutor makes three separate and distinct charges against them and collects three separate and distinct twenty dollar bills therefore.

Taken on a whole, the criminal prosecutions of this province are a tremendous force. Once the case has been "sent up" the \$20 has been secured—no more, no less—and it is due whether the prisoner is proven guilty or innocent. One can well imagine the result. The prosecutions are conducted in a very loose and disorderly manner. He is a conscientious lawyer indeed, who bothers himself to obtain a conviction, and as that style of a lawyer is reputed to be a rava avis, again we say it—you can imagine the result.

A PUGILISTIC WARRIOR.
He Sometimes Makes Races Lively For all Concerned.

The Upper Canadian crack riders would up their lower province tour with a grand calamity. They struck many rainstorms and cold waves on the way which did not tend to put them in good spirits and the only time they found it at all warm was at Moncton last Monday when big Angus McLeod dispersed a gentle glow of warmth about, emanating from the heat of his wrath.

It was at the conclusion of one of the races wherein Harley Davidson had crawled in beside the big fellow on the home-stretch and passed him winning the race, McLeod's cholera arose; why, is not definitely known, though here are cynics who say that it was because it was programmed that Angus was to win that race. Whether the racing squad were engaged in the pleasant little pastime of dividing the events beforehand, and gulling the public, as some allege, opinions probably differ and no knowing, Progress will be silent on the subject.

But anyhow McLeod was fighting mad. He went up to Harley, the giant in build though not in height, and let him have his right straight from the shoulder. He landed upon Davidson's chin and inflicted quite a gash, it being necessary to put in three stitches. The latter did not return the compliment and a scene was prevented.

What made the affair worse was the fact that the Governor General and Lady Aberdeen were present. It, however, occurred so quickly that very little excitement resulted.

On Tuesday the racing men came down here, but McLeod did not appear at the races on the B. and A. grounds on Wednesday night, and the rooters were deprived of the pleasure of seeing him go up against the old-time Canadian champion. He had been suspended by C. W. A. Consul Barnes pending an investigation and that afternoon has taken the train for Montreal. Mr. McLeod has more than once distinguished himself by a pugilistic exhibition on the track. At London and Petrolia, Ontario, he furnished more than was provided for on the programme by showing combative tendencies.

Martin has no Secrets.

Martin Butler, editor of Butler's Journal, Fredericton, is enjoying his annual holiday and this time is honoring Montreal with his presence. It is said that there is nothing new under the sun, but the man who said it hadn't read Martin's paper. It is more objection than even Marie Bashkirtseff's Journal, and in it Martin tells the world of his own individual thoughts and feelings. In his plain and simple English he tells of himself, his rambles about the country with the Democrat, his feelings as husband and father, his religious and political aspirations. It contains the life month by month of a man as he is. He hides nothing, neither his pecuniary troubles, his likes nor dislikes, and so his writings appeal to the inner self of the reader.

A Question for Some House Owners.

A question arose in one of the law offices in this city a few days ago which concerns a good many owners of houses in the lower section of the city which it appears, are occupied for immoral purposes. One of the tenants of these was in arrears of rent to the extent of some hundred or more dollars. The landlord put constables in possession. The tenants lawyers looked up the law and forbade the landlord making any seizure or permitting the constables to remain as the house was closed for immoral purposes and the contract between landlords and tenant was illegal. The criminal law as amended by Sir John Thompson is very severe in a case of this kind and landlord or agents are not apt to escape scot free if known to rent property for purposes other than moral.

NEW YEAR'S SERVICES

THE HEBREW FESTIVITIES THAT WERE HELD THIS WEEK

And How They Were Conducted—What the Rabbi and Others who Take Part in the Services Wore—A Gold Medal Presentation to one of the Members.

Over the street door leading to Segee's Hall on Mill Street painted on the glass in black are several curious looking multi-angular characters. They are Hebrew letters and form the words Ahabath Achim, which being interpreted means Brotherly Love. That is the name of the Hebrew Society which meets there. There is an increasing number of the descendants of Abraham in the city and they have become strong enough to have two church societies though they have not as yet risen to the dignity of a synagogue. The other society is under the patriarchal care of Rabbi Topkin while Rabbi Gorowitz presides over the spiritual destinies of the society of Brotherly Love. They were a united body but a split occurred in Rabbi Topkin's family and six months ago the seceders brought Rabbi Gorowitz here to minister to them. The latter has a congregation of about a hundred, the other has 150 hearers.

This week they have been having their New Year's festivities and as Jewish forms of worship are a novelty in our midst a description of them would no doubt prove of interest. At sunset on Sunday last the year 5658 of the Jewish era which dates from the creation, was ushered in. Then commences the festival of Yom Hazikkron or the Day of Memorial lasting through Monday and Tuesday until sunset of that day. The Jews of the city all closed their places of business and devoted themselves to attending the services and to feasting and entertaining visitors. They are not economical of time at their services. They had a service Sunday evening last for an hour and a half and on Monday and Tuesday the worshippers were gathered from 7 a. m. to 1 p. m. and from 4 p. m. to sunset.

The writer had a peep into the service on Tuesday morning. The dark hued Hebrews were gathered there, the men on one side of the little hall and the women on the other. It is strictly au fait for the men to wear their hats during the service; in fact it is compulsory. The Rabbi was standing in front of the altar called the Shilken with his back to his congregation chanting in a high shrill key the Rabbinical prayers while his hearers joined in the responses in the same piercing tone. He was attired in a white robe while over his shoulders was draped the Taales a rectangular piece of silk bearing on the four corners an embroidery which is pronounced something like Tschittobes. Our language is however unequal to the task of reproducing the word and it would require a reinforcement of consonants from several other languages to do justice to it. The service consists of readings, responses and prayers from the scriptures and the prayer book. It is an interesting fact that the Bible is in the centuries old scroll form. The prayer books are all printed in Hebrew and not only the elders but even the children read them in that language. Rabbi Gorowitz has a school for the young Hebrews of about 30 pupils. The married men of the congregation all wear the Taales of white silk or cotton with light blue facings. The Rabbi preached a sermon both mornings, Monday morning in English and Tuesday morning in German. On his right hand was the president Mr. d'Boyaner and on his left the vice-president Mr. I. Komienski. This society was organized seven years ago. The secretary is Mr. E. Stone, the treasurer Mr. Chas. Brager and the trustees Messrs A. Poyas, Louis Green and L. Komienski. The Jewish Sabbath begins at sunset on Friday and services are held at that time and from 8.30 to 11 Saturday morning.

A pleasing feature Monday evening was the presentation of a handsome gold medal by the Rabbi in behalf of the Hebrew Emigration Society to Mr. A. Poyas for his services in looking after the Jews who come here in winter by the trans-Atlantic steamers on their way west. Mr. Poyas boards every steamer coming in and sees if there are any Jews on board who need looking after. If there are any without money the society provides for them until they can be sent on their way. The society has 21 members and Mr. B. Myers is president and Mr. E. Stone secretary.

They are doing a good work as Samaritans and last winter they kept a family of eight for four weeks.

On Wednesday the 10th day of the year there will be another festival, that of the Atonement, or Yom Kiper. On the Monday following there will be the first day of the Tabernacle. The New Year's festivities have brought into town quite a number of visiting Hebrews.

A QUESTION AT ISSUE.

Between the Street Car Company and the City Council.

Just now two or three interesting questions are up between the street railway company and the city council. The latter seem desirous of slowing their standing by calling a halt in the matter of candy dispensing.

The Street railway company were taxed \$9,780. They appealed against the valuation of \$670,000 and the matter was referred to arbitration.

Then according to their charts they were required to keep in order streets 60 feet in width where they have double tracks. Prince William street is such a street and they have failed to keep it in repair. It needs repairing and they appear to want to save expense by macadamizing it. The city council at their last meeting instructed the recorder to institute proceedings against the company.

The third point of difference is in reference to extending the railway line at Indiantown around Court's block in order to avoid the danger of cars leaving the track on Indiantown hill in winter. The streets that they wish to go through are narrow and traffic there would be impeded. There is considerable feeling over the matter and there is a strong opposition to the company, mainly on the ground that the railway has been getting too much taffy and it is time to draw in. The railway company are the virtual owners of the streets and everything else has to make way for them while their privileges cost them little or nothing. Their stock has risen from about 70 to 140 in a few months. In other places street railways pay a bonus or percentage of receipts to the city and in other ways have to shell out for their taffy.

The company have been very lucky in the past and next Thursday will probably tell whether they have sufficient influence to carry the day on the Court block matter. There will likely be a very close vote on the issue. The alderman have been canvassed on the subject, and which ever party wins will probably have a narrow majority of votes.

The City Directors From the C. P. R.

The great Canadian capitalist, Sir William Van Horne, was here the other day and he delivered a message to the city. He said that it was satisfied with as little taffy as any country village that he knew of. In that respect, he might have added, the city differed very materially from his own C. P. R. company, and his own St. John Street Railway company. In the person of these monopolies a large quantity of taffy has not satisfied him. The city presented him with harbor facilities at Sand Point and Street railway franchise and privileges worth hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Not for Speculators

The recent issue of Jubilee stamps and the fact that a new issue of the ordinary Canadian stamps will soon be out has been an incentive to stamp collecting and has made quite a number of new converts in this city. Stamp collecting has risen through the steps of fad and recreation to the status of a well defined business. There was a great rush for the jubilee stamps and as the new stamps will be issued about the close of the year there will be quite a demand for the old ones. Even now the post office authorities sell some denominations only on an assurance that they will not get into the hands of speculators.

In the Matrimonial Class

"Jack" Fraser of the Victoria hotel has grown restive under the ban of single blessedness and again sought the ranks of the benedictines. The ceremony was performed in the Cathedral Tuesday morning when Miss Mary Kennedy united her present and future happiness with that of Mr. Fraser. Those who have seen the bride say that the groom is lucky but those who know the groom have little doubt as to Mrs. Fraser's future happiness.

Umbrella Made, Re-covered, Repaired, Cleaned, 17 Waterloo.