

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, JULY 10, 1913.

THE CITY'S TRAFFIC BY-LAWS.

Half a dozen prominent citizens were before the police court yesterday morning on the charge of violating the so-called street traffic by-laws. They were fined ten dollars each, the fines being allowed to stand. All the offenders were men who would not naturally be expected to be law-breakers, and there appears to be no doubt that they all had satisfactory explanations to offer, but not one of them was given an opportunity to make any defence. It would seem that there are in the city only three or four places at which violations of the traffic by-laws are liable to occur, these being in the districts where the traffic is somewhat congested. It would also appear that at all these places policemen are stationed whose duty it is to see that the laws are not violated. It is not the duty of a policeman to see a by-law violated and afterwards to report the offenders. If these traffic laws are to be observed, it becomes the duty of the officers on duty at the congested points to see that they are not broken by preventing violations. If teamsters, motorists or others are seen attempting to violate the by-laws, it is the duty of the officers to draw their attention to this fact. If the violations are persisted in, the offenders could be arrested on the spot. This is the plan followed in other cities.

Owing to the condition of many of the streets over which heavy hauling is done, it is frequently found that teamsters select the easiest portions of such streets when hauling heavy loads. They are, of course, in the wrong, but there is some excuse in these cases. It is not wise to be too harsh in the enforcement of existing regulations until such time as the streets are put in proper condition for the traffic they are expected to carry. This line of conduct on the part of teamsters naturally involves all the traffic, as drivers of other vehicles are forced from their proper location or turn out by choice in order not to interfere with the teams hauling heavy loads.

In any event the plan of taking a number of prominent citizens from their business to the police court in order to go through the formality of imposing a meaningless fine is ridiculous. The desired result can be attained as quickly, and more satisfactorily by intelligent action on the part of the police, whose duty it is to see that the regulations are observed.

AN ADVOCATE OF COBDENIISM.

The views of an organization such as the Cobden Club, which supports so-called "Free Trade" in the Mother Country, are in keeping with those of the Telegraph which has frequently expressed its dislike for Imperial Preference, a policy which has been endorsed by all the Dominions. A "small book" issued by this club "reviewing the principal political events in Great Britain during the year 1912" is commended editorially by the Telegraph as showing the progress of the United Kingdom under "Free Trade." After reviewing the natural increase in the exports and imports in the last decade, but no criterion of the benefits of Free Trade, the Telegraph, following the lead of the Cobden Club, proceeds to point out that "in the meantime, the Unionist party has either dropped most of the proposals which Mr. Chamberlain deemed essential, or is at sixes and sevens with respect to adopting them." A long list of "Unionist arguments" during the last ten years, prepared by Sir John Simon, is presented which professes to show that the Unionists take up "one position today and abandon it tomorrow."

For obvious reasons the Telegraph, which supports the Cobdenite doctrine, makes no reference to the fact that the party which advocates Tariff Reform and Imperial Preference is today united upon this policy, which will be the issue in the next general election in the Old Country. Mr. Bonar Law's statements at Edinburgh, which definitely outlined the Unionists' position on this question, are worth quoting. He said:

"Our policy not only in regard to Imperial Preference but the whole question of Tariff Reform is perfectly definite. If we are returned to power we intend to do three things. We shall impose a moderate tariff on foreign manufactured goods. We shall give to the Dominions of the Crown in our markets a preference, and the largest preference which is possible without the imposition of new duties upon food."

"We shall, therefore, establish the principle of Preference, but we shall not be satisfied with that. We shall try to do what Mr. Borden in a great speech in the Parliament at Ottawa said ought to be done. We shall try to establish co-operation throughout the Empire in trade as well as in defence. We shall put ourselves in communication with the Dominions; we shall work out with them the best scheme for securing that

object, and when it is worked out we shall present it to our countrymen and try to get their assent to carrying it through."

The foregoing statement by Mr. Bonar Law is the accepted policy of the Unionist party. Discussing the situation from the Cobden Club's point of view, the Telegraph remarks that "the experience of the last ten years under free trade has caused the protectionist campaign in Great Britain to lose force year by year. So far as the fiscal issue is concerned, the Asquith government has a stronger hold upon the country today than it ever had."

What are the facts? Since the General Election in 1910 the Unionists have made at least ten gains in by-elections. Where by-elections have been held and the seats have not been won the majorities of the Free Trade candidates have been reduced. Tariff Reform and Imperial Preference were prominent in the issues on which these elections were fought. The Telegraph's statement that on the fiscal issue the "Free Trade" government has "a stronger hold upon the country than it ever had" is clearly a fallacy when these returns are considered. The verdict in such constituencies as Altrincham, Newmarket, Bow and Bromley, Midlothian, North West Manchester, South Manchester, North Ayrshire, South Somerset and Oldham, many of the large centers of trade, in convincing evidence that the advantages of Tariff Reform and Imperial Preference are making a strong and effective appeal to the people in the Old Country.

As an example of the activities of the Cobden Club a recent petition to the Asquith Government is worth noting. The members, who are Free Traders to the backbone, were much perturbed because the Government had not put an excise duty upon sugar produced in England from English-grown beet. They addressed a memorial to the Government in which they expressed the opinion that the continuous exemption of home-grown sugar "constitutes a breach of the principles of 'Free Trade'—which it does—and they earnestly appeal to the Government to remove the exemption."

It is one of the guiding principles of Cobdenism that no advantage must be given to the British producers over a foreign producer in the British market. Now it is obvious that in the interest of the British consumer—that is of the whole country—the beet sugar industry in England should be encouraged. It is now generally recognized that most of the counties could produce crops of sugar beet of high quality. Large quantities of sugar have been produced from home-grown beet in the East Coast Counties and have been sold readily throughout the Old Country. There is today a "food tax" of 1s. 10d. per cwt. on all sugar imported and the Cobden Club in its adhesion to an obsolete policy demanded that an excise duty should be placed on British-grown sugar which would mean that this article of universal consumption should be further taxed. Fortunately for the British consumer Mr. Lloyd-George, doubtless realising that a further tax on sugar would be extremely unpopular, repudiated this demand of the Cobden Club. He stated in the House of Commons recently that he did not intend to put an excise duty on home-grown beet sugar.

The result of recent by-elections indicated that the obsolete doctrine of Cobdenism are no longer receiving much support from the British people. It is to be assumed that the Telegraph regards Tariff Reform—a policy of moderate protection—and Imperial Preference as heresies strongly to be condemned. It will get no sympathy for its support of Cobdenism in Canada which continues to prosper under the National Policy. All the Overseas Dominions are agreed as to the advantages of Imperial Preference and by the trend of events in the Mother Country it is evident that a policy of co-operation in trade throughout the Empire will be possible at no distant date.

A Vindication.

(Montreal Gazette.)
The charge is made in Manitoba that Mr. Arthur Meighen, the new solicitor-general, devised the "rag" which shut up the Liberals in the House of Commons and permitted Parliament to finish its work. At the moment the promise is that the voters of Portage la Prairie to whom Mr. Meighen is appealing for endorsement after accepting office, will by their ballots say the rag was a good one. They must, like the rest of Canadians, have been tired at the time of the obstruction Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his associates thought was political tactics.

Possibilities of Hudson Bay.

(London Free Press.)
The Canadian West should be deeply interested in the fishing possibilities of Hudson Bay and James Bay. A supply of this class of food no closer at hand to the Middle West, with good railway communication, means much to a country that has to bring in from other provinces so large a portion of its provisions.

DIARY OF EVENTS

HISTORIC DAYS IN CANADA.

THE CONQUEST OF CANADA.

Pitt's magnificent plan for the American campaign of 1759, the principal feature of which was the conquest of all Canada, began to take the form of action on July 10th of that year. On that date Niagara was invested by General Prideaux, who was killed a few days later by the bursting of a mortar. Sir William Johnson succeeded to the command, and before the close of the month completely routed the French relief force of General D'Aubry, whereupon Niagara capitulated. In the meantime the able but dilatory Amherst, commander-in-chief of the American forces, was marching on Ticonderoga, from which the French defenders fled at his approach.

On the evening of the 10th of July found Wolfe engaged in the occupation of the east bank of the Montmorency. On the previous day he had ordered the passage of the American troops to the river, and while this was in progress he moved 3000 men of Murray's and Townshend's brigades across the channel. Under the fire of the guns of several batteries the troops, led by Wolfe, made a safe crossing and effected a landing early on the morning of the 10th. As a result of this movement, Wolfe's right and Montcalm's left faced each other within a few minutes, but a great gulf and the swift torrent of the Montmorency yawned between them.

It was Wolfe's intention to force the passage of the Montmorency, but the French were so strongly posted that such action was deferred. The English batteries on Point Lévy were completed on the 10th, and the French, under cover of darkness, sought to capture the batteries, but were repulsed. The two parties of French opened fire on each other, and fled leaving seventy dead and wounded on the field.

FIRST THINGS

DISCOVERY OF GLYCERINE.

The first announcement of his discovery of glycerine was made by Karl Wilhelm Scheele, a Swedish chemist, 137 years ago today. The inventor described the substance as "the sweet principle of fats," and named it celcius. Later investigations by Chevreul, Berthelot, and many other chemists, resulted in the perfecting of the glycerine, which is now so largely used in manufactures, medicine and the arts.

THE HUMAN PROCESSION

THE AUTHOR OF "MR. DOOLEY."

Chicago's "Dooley Day" today, this being the forty-sixth anniversary of the birth of the well-known humorist, Finley Peter Dunne, the club's membership is confined to those who knew Dunne before he became famous, and who predicted that he would make a name for himself. The roll of prophets includes everybody who knew the creator of "Mr. Dooley" when he was a reporter and editor on the Chicago Tribune, the New York Herald, and the New York Times. Mr. Dunne was born in Chicago, July 10, 1867, and began his newspaper career at eight years of age. His first day's associates, including even the notoriously grouchy city editors, began saying to each other, "Such a universal approbation was a terrible handicap, but Mr. Dunne was out in spite of it, and now all the world celebrates his birthday and says, in unison, 'I told you so.'"

THE PASSING DAY

SIR ARTHUR HELPS.

Although the "beautiful quiet English of Sir Arthur Helps," to which Ruskin admitted his obligation in the formation of his literary style, is not widely read by the present generation, there is still many people who find pleasure and inspiration in the works of the philosopher-moralist. A revival of interest in Sir Arthur may be expected as a result of the celebration in England today of the centenary of his birth.

Arthur Helps was born in Surrey, July 10, 1813, and was educated at Eton and Oxford. For many years he served as private secretary to Mr. Spring Rice, afterward Baron Montagu, and Lord Morpeth, afterward Earl of Carlisle, and as clerk of the privy council. During this period he cultivated literature with varying success. Before essaying the role of dramatist, he published "Essays Written in the Interval of Business," and "Claims of Labor, an Essay on the Duties of the Employer to the Employed." These works continued to interest, but more because of their literary style than for any originality of thought.

Slavery was a subject that profoundly interested Helps, and one of the best essays in "Friends in Council" is devoted to it. This was later elaborated into a work in two volumes entitled "The Conquerors of the New World and their Bondsman." Subsequent researches into American history and literature, and his relation to the history of slavery and the Government of the United States, were embodied in four volumes, embodying many Spanish manuscripts, remains an authority on the subject of New World slavery. Many other books, dealing with social, sanitary and political reform, and marked by a pungent, terse and moral fervor, issued from the pen of Helps. He was the editor of Queen Victoria's selections from her diary, published in 1888 under the title of "Leaves from a Journal of Our Life in the Highlands."

OPHELIA'S SLATE



IN LIGHTER VEIN

A True Prophet.

A minister in a small country village, who was noted for his absent-mindedness, was once observed to stop suddenly in the middle of his sermon and heard to mutter:

"I knew she would—I knew she would!"

After the service was over someone asked him the reason.

"Dear me," said he, "did I tell you how, from the pulpit I can just see old Mrs. Rogers' garden, and this morning she was out pulling up a cabbage, and I thought to myself, 'Now, if that cabbage comes up suddenly she'll go over,' and just then it came up and over she went."

The Joke on Him.

"You can't joke with a woman," I remarked to my wife last night that I wished someone would invent look-less women."

"Well, what happened?"

"She said my remark reminded her that there were a couple of gowls in her closet, and now I'm in for a thundering big dressmaker's bill."

On The Face Of It.

The information editor received this letter from a fresh youth:

"Kindly tell me why a girl always closes her eyes when a fellow kisses her."

The editor replied:

"If you will send us your photograph we may be able to tell you the reason."

Her Idea Of It.

"Is it true that both your husband and the man who lives next door to you have failed in business?"

"Yes, but Ned's failure isn't nearly so bad as Mr. Naylor's. He failed for forty cents on the dollar, while my husband failed for only ten cents on the dollar."

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Visitor—So I see. They are all so like her in the face.

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