

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 1921.

UNADULTERATED IMPERTINENCE

Any business institution, whether Public Utility or otherwise, that submits to big stick domination on the part of its employees, is headed direct to failure. Any employee or group of employees who display an inclination to point pistol at the management of the concern from which they derive a living, are, despite all extenuating circumstances, undesirable characters in any community, and are in no sense deserving of the sympathy or support of that community.

Yesterday in City Hall representatives of the Power Company employees presented what was little less than a demand that the City of St. John take steps to secure a plebiscite on the operation of the one-man cars here. Possibly nothing to equal the impudence of this demand has ever come before any Council. The proposition on the face of it is not merely absurd, but indicates a feeling on the part of some of the men, an attitude of employees toward their employer, which will beyond question deprive those employees of that measure of popular sympathy which they may have previously enjoyed. And despite the alleged prevailing antipathy to certain methods employed in former years by the management of the Power Company, that corporation will be accorded almost unanimous support in the face of the threats which have been made against it.

Some time ago when the question of one man cars was a live issue, representatives of the Union who appeared at City Hall, declared their willingness to operate cars of the Birney type, but absolutely refused to have anything to do with what one of their leaders was pleased to describe as a "damned camouflagé." Today, these same representatives announce their refusal to touch even the Birney car, and have the unadulterated impudence to ask the City of St. John to take a plebiscite on the question whether these cars shall or shall not be introduced here. If this were a matter of public moment, if one out of a hundred of our people cared a "contingent" whether the cars are brought in or not, if there were any real reasons why this community should be put to inconvenience and expense to gratify either the pique or the dangerous teachings of a group of agitators, then we might listen. But this is a matter with which St. John at the moment has nothing to do. And our Council, as well as the members of the Provincial Government who have apparently side-stepped the issue, will be well advised to leave the thing severely alone. Let the company and its employees settle the question among themselves, keeping a watchful eye on those who intimate that trouble may result. The temper of this country today is not encouraging to hold-up methods on the part of either labor or capital.

THE RAILWAYS

When Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor announced, as he did a few days ago at a meeting of the McGill University Commercial Society, that the cause of our railway troubles, is due to political influence having imposed upon the country a superfluity of railways, he merely stated a fact of which pretty nearly everybody has been well aware for a good many years. No greater piece of folly was ever perpetrated than the building of the National Transcontinental and the G. T. P. There are in this province alone 230 miles of splendidly built railway, which for years and years yet to come will never furnish traffic enough to pay the cost of operation. It cost, taking one mile with another upwards of \$66,000 a mile, or over \$15,000,000 altogether. For little over half this amount the road could have been built from Edmundston direct to the sea at St. John, via the St. John Valley, where there is already a considerable amount of traffic, which is daily increasing in volume. Instead the road runs for nearly the whole of its way to Edmundston through a country which will not be settled or produce any traffic for another fifty years at least, if then. Conditions are very much the same all the way from Edmundston to Prince Rupert, the road runs through a country which will produce no traffic of any amount for many years.

The strongest private-owned railway system in America could not carry the burden weight of the great unproductive units of the Canadian National Railways. Why then should public ownership be expected to carry them and make them pay?

Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor suggests as the only remedy the building up of the country through increased immigration. Even so, and granting that this remedy is the only feasible one, it is going to take many years before these National Railways can be put on a self-sustaining basis. What is to be done in the meanwhile? Mr. A. B. Mosher says there will be no betterment until the employees of the road are given a voice in the management. They had better take the road over altogether and see if they can make any better success of them than under the present system.

MAKE IT A SOURCE OF REVENUE

In making the following suggestion we do not wish to be misunderstood, in regard to our motives, or to be advocating the return of any sort of system which will allow liquor to be freely procurable; but what we would suggest is the consideration of the question whether or not in view of the financial condition of the Province and the great difficulty that the Government is experiencing in obtaining revenue enough to meet all obligatory expenditures, some form of Government control of the sale of liquor which would bring additional revenue would not be advisable. We notice that the revenue which British Columbia expects to derive from this source for the current fiscal year is \$4,253,000, about 25 per cent. of its total revenue. If instead of prohibiting the importation of liquor for personal use, as the Legislature is to be asked to take the preliminary steps to doing, some such system as is in force in British Columbia could be established, a very considerable addition to the Provincial revenue might be made. The item of interest alone in this Province will soon be \$1,000,000 a year, and the Government does not know where to turn to meet it.

There is another feature, too, which it is as well not to overlook. The manufacture of home-made beverages is increasing at an alarming extent as the Prohibition Inspectors all admit, and it may be taken for granted that for every instance that is brought to light, probably half a dozen are not. If the importation of liquor for personal use is prohibited, this practice of manufacturing home-made stuff will very materially increase. We have very fortunately got rid of the famous extract abomination, because legitimate liquor can be procured by those who desire it. Rather than risk any return to the extract regime, would it

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Shamming Dead.

The Germans are trying all their old tricks. The strategem of "shamming dead" is being practised on a gigantic scale to hoodwink the Allies. British letter-bombs are being stuffed with untruthful pamphlets and whispering appeals. The German Government is now not merely denying the Paris decisions of the Allies; it is also trying to repudiate the whole reparations section of the Peace Treaty. But the Allies have no intention of being fooled or cheated. The Germans must pay for ravaging France and destroying her mines and factories. They must pay, too, for sinking 7,733,000 tons of British shipping in their brutal U-boat campaign.—London Adly Mail.

Compensations.

The first great universal order was: war; but the assurance of peace cannot come so long as Germany fails to accept her defeat in an understanding, not to say submissive spirit. The failure of the London Conference to bring Germany to a settlement was a calamity. But is not so great a calamity as a breach between the Allies would have been.—Edinburgh Scotsman.

"Let There Be Light."

The first great universal order was: "Let there be light." Advocating day-light saving is a fine way of showing appreciation of a goodly gift.—London Free Press.

THE LAUGH LINE

The Slogan For Today.

Humanity, will be happier when it changes some of its old slogans for new ones. For instance: "How much can I soak them for?" should give place to "What service can I render?"—Chicago News.

Enough Said.

"Did you ever have the telephone bell ring when you were in the bathtub and there was nobody else home?" "Oh, yes," replied the family man. "What did you do?" "Well, I play a little golf and I have also addressed a few remarks to a punctured tire, so draw your conclusions."

Had To Give Up.

Idealist (with newspaper)—Just think of it! A couple got married a few days ago after a courtship which lasted fifty years.

Cynic—I suppose the poor old man was too feeble to hold out any longer.

She Should Worry.

The mistress, not wishing to offend her maid, who had been with her for a week, said: "Ellen, I am sorry to tell you, but the master found fault with your hair."

"Honey, mum, I don't take no notice of him; it's just his nature to find fault. Ain't he always findin' fault with you?"

Big Bargain.

Mrs. Jones—Charlie, dear, I made a good bargain today.

Mr. Jones—Indeed?

Mrs. Jones—Yes. You told me that blue polka-dot dress was worth a dollar a piece and I bought a whole lot of them for seventy-five cents as a sale.

Then It Began.

Private Squib—What's bitin' you, anyway?

Private Squab—Nothin's bitin' me.

Private Squib—Well, you gave me a nasty look.

Private Squab—I never give it to you; you were horn with it.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL.

THE GAME LAW.

Editor St. John Standard,

St. John, N. B.

Dear Sir,—I note your editorials on the lack of information as to bills coming before the House because they are not sent to the press, to thereby reach the public, and I entirely agree with you on that stand.

I also note your views of the Guides of N. B., and that, if shortening the open season is of benefit to the Province, then these Guides should be ignored. Well, I cannot disagree with you on that point either, because that would be putting the interests of a class against the whole.

But are not these guides born and bred citizens of N. B. and a part of it, and do they not derive their means of livelihood from the game of N. B. and would not anything that injured or depleted this game effect their livelihood?

What is it not reasonable to think that these Guides have the interest of the game of N. B. more to heart than any other class?

Then why should we guides, who have thousands of dollars invested in this business and most of whom have made a life work of it, want to oppose anything that would help to preserve the means of their livelihood?

Also, who should know more about the game of this province, its condition, numbers, etc., than these guides; also, what is going on, and what is best for it?

Personally I don't think shortening the season will help any, the remedy does not lie there.

What is depleting the game of this province is the law that allows the sale of game, and all the abuses that follow in its train, and they are many, very many.

The experience of every state and province from the Rio Grande to Hudson's Bay, proves this to the hilt, and Mr. Editor, tell me where today you can find any laws allowing the sale of game outside of N. B.

Ask any editor of any sportsman's magazine, or anybody or club of sportsmen from the Rio Grande to Hudson's Bay about it, and if any tell you that the sale of game does not rapidly deplete it, wherever that law is in effect, then I will admit my mistake.

The United States has not yet, nor ever will recover from the deadly blight of the market hunter, and if this law continues in force in N. B. then all the laws, short seasons, etc., passed from now to doomsday will not save the game of N. B., and I predict that if the sale of game is not stopped at once, then in a very, very few

Benny's Note Book

BY BENNY PAPE

After supper I was out playing with the fellows and I saw pop come out on the front steps and I started to play harder than ever on account of how did I know whether he wanted me or not, and Shiny Martin said, Hey Benny, your father's calling you.

"What? How the heck do you know? I said. And I looked down and pop was waving his arm at me to come down, which I started to do, thinking, I bet he wants me to go a errand, aw G, I don't feel like going any errand.

And I started to walk slower, thinking, Holy smoke, I wonder if he found those 3 cigars I broke while I was playing chair store with his box of cigars, heck I bet he did, gosh, I hope he didn't.

And I started to walk even slower, thinking, G I'd rather go a errand than get the dooze about the 3 cigars.

And I started to walk the slowest yet, pop calling, Wat the mischief ails you, have you lost the use of your limbs?

Which I started to walk a little quicker but not much, and when I got to our house pop said, How old are you?

"Sir? I said.

O, I thart you were 90 by the way you were wawking, sed pop. Me thinking, I bet its those 3 cigars.

Your mother wants to know if you want to help her make candy for the church fair? sed pop.

G, sure, gosh, holy smoke, I sed. And I quick ran back in the kitchen feeling grate.

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