

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1919.

BRITISH BY-ELECTIONS.

The recent by-elections in England would indicate that while the tide is set flowing so strongly against the Coalition Government it is by no means checked. There has not been any surprise for those who were trying to discover the trend of political opinion. Mr. Harnsworth's election there was regarded as certain, and his majority is not as large as was expected. He began his campaign as sort of independent candidate, posing as an anti-waste candidate, but will probably prove a fairly steady supporter of the Government.

The return of the Labor candidate in Chester-le-Street by a majority of 12,000 is certainly a heavy blow at the Government's policy on the mining question. The Labor man ran as a protagonist of nationalization of the mines. The Government evidently made a strong fight against him, and Liberal papers reported that the miners in the constituency were showing no enthusiasm for Mr. Smith's programme. The Labor success was evidently a surprise.

The contest in Croxden was a straight fight between a Unionist and an Independent Liberal, and the election of the Unionist was only what was generally expected.

Lady Astor's election in Plymouth retains that seat for the Government. Her candidature attracted a great deal of interest, and her large majority was probably a surprise, as many thought a woman had no chance in a constituency such as Plymouth. The victory of Lady Astor gave her candidature a certain piquancy, but it cannot be said to have had much political significance. She hardly contributed to political enlightenment, or made out a case for the general entry of women into political life. Her stipend was no doubt amusing, but it was hardly in keeping with a serious political contest at a critical juncture in the national recovery from the shock of war.

The defeat of the Liberal candidate in Croxden, combined with the fact that the Labor candidate in Plymouth polled more than twice as many votes as the Liberal candidate, does not offer much encouragement to the Liberals.

DEPENDENCE ON U. S.

The failure of the Washington Government to bring about an agreement between the coal operators and the miners, and the possibility of a general tie-up of the American mines, may create serious problems for some parts of Canada, and suggests a lack of national foresight in allowing Ontario, the most populous part of Canada, to remain almost wholly dependent on American coal. In this connection there is a very interesting article in the Journal of Commerce, prepared by F. W. Gray, editor of the Canadian Mining Journal, by way of answer to questions propounded by Sir George Foster, Minister of Trade and Commerce. Mr. Gray notes that there has been a pronounced decrease in the production of coal in Nova Scotia during the war, while at the same time there was a big increase in the imports of coal from the United States. He argues that transportation conditions prohibit the marketing of Nova Scotia coal at points west of Brockville. But he adds:

"Nevertheless, from the strictly national point of view, dependence on another nation for an indispensable raw material spells subservience, unless the dependent nation is prepared to face the consequences of a stoppage of the importation of this raw material."

"The dependence of Central Canada on United States coal is cogent reason for the development of the coal mines of Nova Scotia to a point where should for any reason the coal supply of central Canada be imperilled, the mines of our eastern most province could fill the breach."

"So far as the coal trade of Nova Scotia is concerned, therefore, the interests of Canada and the Empire would seem to be best served by the maintenance of existing protective duties to ensure the Montreal and St. Lawrence markets to Nova Scotia coal, and the greater development of home manufacturing industries in Nova Scotia itself, particularly in the coal districts. It can hardly be said with truth that the manufacture of iron and steel and some by-products of this industry, exhausts the whole of the manufacturing possibilities of the coal-fields of Nova Scotia."

Mr. Gray argues that Canada should lose no time developing its water power resources and providing for the generation of electric power by steam plants at the mouth of coal pits. The latter policy has been tried with much success in Germany and to a lesser extent in Britain. Using gas engines and gas producers, and generating electricity at high voltages, very large districts can be supplied with power at low cost. Interior and slack coal can be used, and the supply of electric

power can be made merely incidental to the recovery of by-products. Electric power can be transmitted from pit mouth plants for hundreds of miles at prices greatly below any now quoted in Canada.

Another point made by Mr. Gray is that coke made from bituminous coal could be advantageously substituted for American anthracite.

FALKENHAYN'S MEMOIRS

Falkenhayn has published an account of the war from his point of view, and it would appear from his memoirs that it was not only among Allied generals that there were divergences of view. Falkenhayn, the failure of which resulted in his retirement, was a partisan of the view that a decision would only be won on the Western front. "No decision in the East," he writes, "even though it were as thorough as was possible to imagine, could spare us from fighting to a conclusion in the West."

In regard to Verdun, Falkenhayn explains his reason for the attack from a memorandum he wrote at the close of 1915 as a report to the Kaiser. France, he thought, had been weakened almost to the limit of endurance, both in a military and economic sense. She had lost heavily in the Champagne offensive and her main coal fields were in possession of the enemy. Falkenhayn from the first reckoned that Britain was Germany's most dangerous, because most implacable, opponent. Even if the British army in France was driven into the sea, he writes, "England may be trusted not to give up even then." He, therefore, but does not appear to have built any extravagant hopes on it.

While in control, Falkenhayn declined to give Hindenburg and Ludendorff the forces they wanted for projected campaigns in the East. Attacks on Russia, he argued, would lead nowhere, while internal troubles could be trusted to make that country give up in a relatively short time. So he was for a great offensive in the West. "If," he writes to the Kaiser, "France is beaten England's best sword will be knocked out of her hand. So he launched his great attack against Verdun, arguing that the French would be obliged to throw in every man to save that position and remarking expectantly that if they did so France would be bled to death. But Falkenhayn failed to figure what the cost of the attack would be to Germany; apparently during the battle he came to the conclusion that the Germans only two had casualties for every five suffered by the French. He appears to have mistaken the appearance of many French divisions one after another as evidence of the bleeding process whereas the French had more reserves than he thought and were able to relieve their divisions before they were exhausted.

Falkenhayn has no word of appreciation to say of the manner in which the French met his greatest effort but he admits the British offensive on the Somme put a stop to the Verdun operations because of the tension of the whole situation and especially the necessity to husband material and ammunition.

AMBITIOUS HALIFAX.

Nova Scotia is becoming an ambitious province. It proposes to be more than the jumping off point of Canada; it intends to become a focal centre for world affairs. At Halifax next week a Provincial conference will be held in connection with the general programme of reconstruction in the piping times of peace. Questions which it is proposed to discuss, and act on, if considered practical, are: Organization of an Old Home Summer Week; Organization of a World's Fair; Practicability of a World's Industrial Congress as a means of advertising the resources of Nova Scotia; Transportation facilities of Nova Scotia; Improvement of highways; Development of water powers. Possibly Halifax wants the world to come and see its new ocean terminals, though at present a part of them is separated from civilization by a wilderness of sand. Its ambitious programme should at any rate be a source of inspiration to the rival city of St. John, for if Halifax can put on a World's Fair this city ought to be able to induce the League of Nations to come here.

Pussyfoot Johnson is apparently making a hit in England. After mobbing him the students dined him and apparently tried to wine him. The truth appears to be that Pussyfoot is very much of what the English call a sport—and that was not the popular conception of him before the students gave him the advertising for which he has magnanimously thanked them. Pussyfoot is no tenderfoot. It is said he gained his sobriquet from the tipsy confidence with which he dismissed a

saloon keeper in the Wild West who threatened to shoot him.

The Canadian Labor Press of Ottawa does not think there is much possibility of a permanent alliance between labor and the farmers in politics. It asks: "Can there be any assurance of industrial prosperity under the tariff policy of the Grain Growers, which is directly opposed to the international movement towards protection?" It condemns a correspondent signing himself "Grain Grower," who wrote to the Montreal Star stating that he bought implements in the United States in order that the duty might go into the Treasury and to punish the Grain Growers for maintaining a tariff. "Are the workers," asks the Labor Press, "to be punished through their wages by Western farmers who would deny business to Eastern factories, reduce output, create unemployment, and produce a period of industrial uncertainty which would inevitably be felt in many trades?"

According to the president of the National Association of Manufacturers in the United States strikes have cost that country \$10,000,000 per day during the past eight months.

WHAT THEY SAY

Own Them Now.
 (Waterbury Times.)
 The employees of some of the New York hotels threaten to take over the establishments. Most guests thought the help owned them under the present system.

Conservative.
 (Montgomery Advertiser.)
 France is not ready for the dictatorship of the proletariat, nor anything that resembles it. France is thinking in terms of conservatism these days.

Go Half Way.
 (Des Moines Capital.)
 The people of Iowa want to pay what is right for coal and they want the operators and miners to put all their cards on the table so that the public may understand the issue.

Successful Little Nation.
 (St. Louis Globe-Democrat.)
 A delegation of thirty-two Swiss business men are visiting the prominent cities of the U. S. to study business conditions and to prepare an official report on the subject. The Swiss visitors see more business unrest in this country than in their own, and are not likely to report favorably on the strike and the strikers themselves. That much of the unrest in the United States is unreasoning is clear. The industries of Switzerland are not affected in this way. Though the Swiss speak several languages they are a unit in nationality. In this respect they are teachers, not learners.

A BIT OF VERSE

INLAND.
 People that build their houses inland,
 People that buy a plot of ground
 Shaped like a house and build a house
 there,
 Far from the seaboard, far from the
 sound.

Of water sucking the hollow ledges,
 Tons of water striking the shore,
 What do they long for, as I long for
 One salt smell of the sea once more!

People the waves have not awakened,
 Spawning the boats at the harbor's
 head,
 What do they long for, as I long for
 Starting up in my inland bed.

Beating the narrow walls and finding
 Neither a window nor a door,
 Screaming to God for death by drown-
 ing!

One salt taste of the sea once
 more?
 —Edna St. Vincent Millay, in *Ainslee's*.

A BIT OF FUN

Overheard.
 "Fancy bringing a child like that to a funeral. What pleasure can it be to her?"

General Housework.
 Mistress (to cook)—Now, Bridget, I'm going to give a birthday party.

Panics.
 Doctor—Did you open both windows in your sleeping room last night as I ordered?
 Patient—No doctor, not exactly.

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Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

I was waiting home yesterday not looking for anything, and I found a key, thinking, G, if the bolt on the bathroom door ever gets broke or anything, maybe this key will work in the key hole.

Which as soon as I got home I went up to try it, and the bathroom door was shut and I put the key in the key hole and it turned as easy as pie, me thinking, Gosh, I awt to be a inventor.

Which just then the dinner bell rang for supper, and I went down stairs and we started to eat, being stake under onions, pop not being down yet, and me sed, Wait on ork is keeping that man, he must be three shaving by this time.

And he went out in the hall and called up, William, William, Wait! I cant hear wat you say. And she came back and sat down agen, and pop kepp on not coming down, and after a while me sed, Benny, go up stairs and see wat your fathers doing and ask me if he intends to come down to his supper.

Which I went up to do, the first thing I herd sumbody pounding on the bathroom door, me thinking, Gosh, G, I forgot to a look it. Meaning the bathroom door. And I stood outside of it, saying, Is that you, pop?

Is anything out there making this door stick? sed pop with out trying weather it was him or not.

Start Wat door? I sed, and pop sed, This door, this door, were do you think I am, down the cellar?

The bathroom door? I sed, and pop sed, Ye gods, wat a brite boy, wat a marvel of intelligence. Meaning me, and I sed, There a key in it pop it must be locked.

A key, Jumping Julester, I've bin trying to get this blasted door open for 10 minants, who put it in there? sed pop.

Wat, the key? I sed.

Open this door, yelled pop loud as anything. Which I did, and pop gave me 3 cracks some place before I had time to explaine I started Wat door? I sed, and pop sed, This door, this door, were do you think I am, down the cellar?

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