

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN N. B. MONDAY APRIL 19, 1920.

GRAND FALLS DEVELOPMENT.

There are things to be said both for and against the suggestion that the development of the water powers of the Grand Falls be left in the hands of the Fraser Company. In the first place, it may be conceded that if the Fraser Company takes hold of the work, something will be done, and the development which has been looked for for so many years will not be put off any longer. On the other hand, a work of such magnitude and importance should not be left in the hands of a private corporation. The Government should not altogether lose control of such a valuable public utility, because, while perhaps the immediate impelling cause for undertaking the work may be the business necessities of the Fraser Company, the fact remains that the power to be developed will greatly exceed their demands and the surplus will be required by the public up and down the river, and for miles round. Development of this nature is such that the Government might very well, in fact ought to, take at least half the cost, if not more, retaining for itself fifty-one per cent. of the control, with generous safeguards for the Fraser Company.

At any rate, it is high time something was done to develop the power of the Falls. The matter has been left too long already, but as long as the war was on, it was perhaps only natural to make some allowance. That excuse, however, no longer holds, and there should be no more delay. The attitude of Premier Foster in the matter is to be commended, and it is to be hoped that he will not allow any of the interest "to pull the wool over his eyes" and let matters go drifting any longer. It was the intention of the late Government in 1916 to insist that the policy of inactivity which the holders of the Grand Falls development franchise had been following for so long, be discarded, but it was difficult, in view of the adverse conditions brought about by the war, to press that insistence just at the time, and for that reason the franchise holders were given till the end of one year after the conclusion of peace. These gentlemen have known since April, 1916, what they would be called upon to do at the end of that time, and if they have, as appears to be the case, not made any preparations for carrying out their obligations, they must be told to stand aside and make way for more energetic men.

THE INCONSISTENCY OF THE TORONTO GLOBE.

The London Free Press, in a somewhat caustic criticism of the Toronto Globe, which it accuses of misrepresenting the present Government of Ottawa, says that that Government is still the same Government which The Globe found it necessary to support as against the Liberal party, if the country and the cause of liberty were to be saved from destruction. It is a hunch less than three years since The Globe turned its back upon the Liberals as such and supported the war policies of the administration. Surely a Government which could produce a revolution on this order in the attitude of the hide-bound Globe must have been a Government of considerable merit, and the observer will naturally ask himself whether the Government of the Globe has changed, that the latter should now find it necessary not only to oppose the Government, but to persistently and with evident purpose resort to partisan tricks to represent the Government in a false light.

Apparently, notwithstanding all the good-will with which The Globe would attack Government policies, it is unable to do so. It cannot say that the Government is wrong in respect to soldiers' gratuities, because The Globe has vehemently fought against further gratuities. It cannot question the wisdom of the Government in respect to Government ownership of the railroads, because The Globe has vigorously approved that, contrary. Even upon the tariff issue, The Globe proclaims itself opposed to free trade; the Government is likewise opposed to free trade. The Globe does not challenge the honor or the honesty of the members of the Government; there are no scandals, great or small, laid at their door. Clearly it is not planned when it seeks for some ground upon which to base its attacks.

But, says The Globe, the by-elections are going against the Government. These afford "overwhelming evidence" that "the administration has utterly forfeited public confidence." Since when has our contented people accepted the verdict of by-elections as evidence of loss of public confidence? Has the British Government been similarly upbraided because by-elections have gone against it? Moreover, does it rest in the mouth of The Globe to say that a Government has forfeited public confidence when the policies of that Government virtually all find support from The Globe? Obviously, if the Government has "utterly forfeited public confidence," for similar reasons The Globe has also "utterly forfeited public confidence." Unfortunately, even in its references to this

results of the by-elections, our contented people is so palpably untrue that it cannot present the truth of the matter. It says that "four of the constituencies (eleven in all) in which by-elections were held were previously represented by Liberals. There has been no change in the political representation of these ridings." The inference ought to be drawn here is that the Liberals have at least held their own. No mention is made of the fact that these seats were in Quebec, with the exception of one in Prince Edward Island, and that in Montreal the Liberal candidate declared himself a protectionist and appealed to the French vote to prevent a break in the "solid bloc" from that Province. Does The Globe assert, the candidate in question as a representative of the Liberal party? Moreover, our contemporary fails to point out that there is no Farmers' party in the lower province.

The fact is that the broads made upon Government support in the by-elections have been cured by Farmer-Labor candidates, who have won five seats. But even here, again, a majority of these seats were held by Liberals previous to the election of 1917, namely, Assiniboia, Gengarry and Carleton, N. B., and only two of them were formerly Conservative. The Government has held two seats, Victoria, B. C., and Kingston. Do these results show that the Government "has utterly forfeited public confidence," when Liberal candidates improve Government policies and oppose Liberal policies in order to be elected even in Quebec? Would it not be fair to say that the by-elections outside of Quebec have been decided upon a great wave of unrest inseparable from post-war conditions and the introduction of a class movement? Is it not grossly unfair to suggest that the results have been brought about because of Government policies or practices which are inimical to the safety and the prosperity of the country as a whole? Let The Globe place its finger upon the act or policy of the Government which has caused it to be "discredited before the country." The Globe is not in a position so much as to charge that the Government is a friend of the professions, for The Globe's pet Board of Commerce has publicly asserted that profiteering is not "common, nor nearly so common, as may have been charged or claimed. Business in the main is sound and honest."

WHY STOP AT LIME?

What has Premier Foster to say about the policy of Government competition with private enterprise which the Minister of Agriculture has embarked upon, in connection with the supply of crushed lime? Upon what principle is this new departure founded? The Minister of Agriculture says he is going to supply this crushed lime to the farmers at cost price, which will effect a considerable saving to them in the cost of an article of farm fertility that is very necessary in the case of greater production. If this principle, or doctrine, or whatever else you like to call it, is sound, why not carry it out to its full extent? Why stop at limestone? We invite Mr. Foster to supply the farmers with agricultural implements at cost price. This also will be of great assistance to the farmer's production. We suggest, also, that he supply them with automobiles at cost. This will enable them to get their produce to market more quickly and expeditiously, and the consumer will get them in much fresher condition. The farmer and his wife and family will naturally wish to be decently clothed and shod when they come to town in their cars, so why not supply them with clothing and shoes at cost, also? The idea of supplying the farmers with the means of increasing production is a most laudable one, but why be so small about it, and confine Government efforts to such a comparatively insignificant article as limestone? It is an old saying that if a thing is worth doing at all, it is worth doing well. Surely this principle applies just as much to governments as to private individuals. But about the only thing the Foster Government does well in doing nothing, unless it be the getting into debt, and it must be admitted that they have made a success of this.

Some of the Town Fathers of Chatham do not appear to be satisfied with the system of civic government at present in vogue there, and think that a change would be beneficial. Let us remind these Chatham Solons that in some cases it is better to bear the ills we have than to fly to those we know not of. St. John has not found Communism government any great success, or much improvement, if any at all, over the old Aldermanic system. As for the Town Manager idea, unless the official is given fixity of tenure and is absolutely unhampered by the authorities in the execution of his work, no self-respecting man would stay long enough to get used to the work, because he would not stand the everlasting "goings" and "havings" that he would have to do, to accommodate his

actions to the wishes and advice of the different "know-all" in the town. The present system of town administration may have its defects, but no other system has proved superior to it so far.

"Principle has ever been my motto, not expediency," once remarked Disraeli. He, of course, was a Tory statesman, and it would never do for anyone professing Liberal affiliations to follow out any policy promulgated by a Tory leader. This consideration, we presume, accounts for many of the courses followed lately by Premier Foster, for of him and his line of action it may most truthfully be said, Expediency has ever been my motto, not principle.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

BISHOP RICHARDSON'S LETTER TO LONDON TIMES.

Fredericton, N. B., April 16, 1920.

To the Editor of The Standard: Dear Sir,—I see that Bishop Richardson has been writing to the London Times on the subject of Prohibition in Canada, and has vouchsafed the statement that the adoption of the Prohibition law in this country has been a magnificent success. The brief summary which has been telegraphed to the Canadian Press of what is described as his lengthy letter quotes the following statement: "I don't frankly think that there are some grave weaknesses in the enforcement of the prohibitory laws, but I am profoundly convinced that prohibition has brought with it moral and economic benefits of untold value which far more than compensate for any losses."

The Prohibition Act was passed in this Province for the avowed object of stopping the sale of intoxicating liquor for beverage purposes and its use as a beverage in any other place than a private dwelling.

Will Bishop Richardson seriously affirm before the people of New Brunswick that it has attained its object? Will he undertake to even say that drunkenness has decreased since its adoption?

Will he deny that it has actually and substantially increased? Will he seriously affirm that vice and crime have decreased under prohibition?

Will he undertake to deny that it has actually increased? Will he undertake to admit that his home city of Fredericton?

What does he say about his former home city of St. John? Surely the police reports of the two cities for the past year which were published in the daily newspapers, which he reads so regularly, before he ventured to write to the London Times, did not escape his attention.

These reports showed that in each city there was a substantial increase in the number of arrests for drunkenness. During the whole twelve months covered by these reports the Dominion order-in-council prohibiting the importation of intoxicating liquor was in force, as well as the Provincial Act prohibiting its sale and use for beverage purposes.

Will he deny that during that period there were as many as nineteen arrests for drunkenness in St. John in a single week?

Does he know that at the present time the jail in his own home town is full to overflowing with a record number of prisoners? Is he aware that the jail records in the city of St. John also show a record number of prisoners?

Is he aware that the Maritime Penitentiary at Dorchester has also the greatest number of prisoners in its history notwithstanding that prohibition is in force in all three Provinces during the past three or four years?

He has observed the number of deaths which have been caused by drinking of wood alcohol in this Province since prohibition came into force. I venture to assert that if he looks up the newspaper files of the newspapers he regularly reads he will find that there have been at least ten or twelve.

What does he think about the arrest in his home city of three or four boys, who, if I remember correctly, were between ten and fourteen, for drunkenness, who were found in a state of sickening drunkenness from drinking of wood alcohol? And what about the six employees of the Canadian National Railway who are now undergoing imprisonment in his home city for stealing Kentucky rum from the company's cars? And the families of two of them, who were never before in any trouble, thrown into abject misery?

What is his opinion of the forged prescriptions which are at this time going on in his home city and which have shown that physicians' prescriptions for intoxicating liquor are being forged by whores?

What does he think of the cases referred to in the Legislature last week by Mr. Messervy, where doctors have been convicted and fined by Justice of the Peace for writing prescriptions for intoxicating liquor, which afterwards were proved to have been forged, and where his precious Prohibition Act deprived the defendants of the right of appeal, though if the issue had been dismissed, his friend, the Inspector, might have appealed?

And what of the perjury that is taking place in prohibition prosecutions throughout the Province?

Has His Lordship's attention been called to the case of the brave Western soldier, with a record of four years' service at the front, who came away to his home in the West, was taken off the train at Moncton, dead, as the result of taking one or two drinks of what he bought in a bottle labelled with the name of a well-known high-grade Scotch whiskey, but which turned out to be the poisoned product of a prohibition Sociager, with which the bottle had been refilled—a soldier whose commanding officer died at Quebec a few days afterwards was never before known to

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Yesterday I was juggling 7 apples as good as a professional juggler, and Pats Simkins was standing there watching me juggle, and suddenly all of a sudden he said, Look out, yours dropping one.

Which then I did just because he said so, and it fell on the pavement and got a big squash on one side of it, me saying to Persey, Hey you big goggle eyed pill, wats you trying to do, wats you trying to do, wats you think you doing?

Wy, wats the matter, wy? sed Persey trying to look innocent.

You know darn well wy, you funny looking onion, you darn piece of cheese, I said.

Wats the matter, you dropped it, I didnt drop it, did I? sed Persey.

Yes you did, you tank of my paper, sertenly you did, you dried up poor, I said.

Hay, who you calling all those names at? sed Persey.

You, you dirty old rhoo string, I sed. Wich jest then somebody sed, Benny, dont you think little Persey is intitled to an apology for all these anflattering, not to say abusive names?

Being pop standing at the parlor window and looking as if he had bin standing there all the time, and I sed, I wouldnt apologize to him, pop, he aint worth it, the skinny skinnermanink.

You either apologize to him or come in the house and stay in, sed pop, and I sed, Aw O, all rite, I apologize to you, you insignificant nussert spot, I apologize, you old ham sandwich without any ham I didnt mean to call you those names, you empty bannanna peeling.

Youve apologized enuff, Benny, Im sure Persey must feel much better now, sed pop.

No I dont, I feel worse, sed Persey.

Wich I didnt apologize any more anyway.

have been under the influence of intoxicating liquor? Was his attention not called to the killing of a man at Edmundston recently in connection with a few bottles of whiskey which he sold?

What does he think of the moral effect of the Chief Inspector's repeated statement that members of the medical profession in all parts of the Province are constantly violating the law and giving false prescriptions for intoxicating liquor?

What does he think of the moral effect of the notorious fact that men in all walks of life are regularly and systematically violating the law, including members of the Legislature, who passed it and whom His Lordship, and his new associates of the New Brunswick Temperance Alliance, are now attempting to intimidate by the insidious and presumptuous suggestion that they can command the electoral votes of their church members in their latest campaign for the prohibition of the importation of intoxicating liquor?

Surely it would seem, Mr. Editor, that if the people of England, in the words of Mr. Asquith, are at last appreciating the end of "this transient era of organized hypocrisy," the successor of the Right Rev. John Medley and the Right Rev. Tully Kingston in the Bishopric of Fredericton might not be least proud, if he was bound not to see, before venturing to communicate to the people of the British Empire his "profound conviction" that prohibition has brought with it "moral and economic benefits of untold value" and that it has proved "a magnificent success."

Yours, INQUIRER.

To the Editor of The Standard:

Sir,—I see by your paper that Bishop Richardson has been writing to the London Times, in which letter he made the statement that prohibition in Canada had proved a magnificent success. In order that the public may appraise the true value of the Bishop's sweeping assertion, I am taking the liberty of asking you to publish the following extracts which I have cut out of newspapers published within the past week:

The first extract is from a Calgary despatch to the Montreal Star and is as follows: "At present doctors give prescriptions and druggists sell the liquor, and last year the druggists are estimated to have made \$438,463 profit, and the doctors \$1,151,760 profit. He estimates the bootleggers made \$2,000,000 profit and that the total profit was \$3,590,223. The Government venditor sold to druggists, dentists and so on \$1,753,933. So the total traffic amounted to \$4,344,156."

"The doctors profits may be underestimated, for while the majority charged \$2 for a prescription, others charged \$4, and some \$10. I am diagnosed that he should write to the London Times in the strain he did, for if he keeps himself posted on current events his statement to follow the police and other criminal court reports as they appear from day to day, and see for themselves if they can detect in them any evidence of prohibition bringing with it "moral and economic benefits of untold value."

Yours, SKEPTIC.

St. John, April 17.

To the Editor of The Standard,

Dear Sir: I notice in your paper today, a letter from a correspondent asking if Bishop Richardson thinks he speaks for the members of the Anglican community in the attitude he takes with regard to Prohibition. If so, I beg to tell him that at least five-sixths of the Anglicans in this province will regard his action, I am surprised that he should write to the London Times in the strain he did, for if he keeps himself posted on current events his statement to follow the police and other criminal court reports as they appear from day to day, and see for themselves if they can detect in them any evidence of prohibition bringing with it "moral and economic benefits of untold value."

Yours truly, ANGLICAN.

Chatham, April 17.

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