

The Standard

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SAINT JOHN, TUESDAY MORNING, APRIL 18, 1911.

THE COMMISSION PLEBISCITE.

The issue before the citizens today is well expressed in the Commission pamphlet as "the most important issue that has ever been submitted to the voters of the city of St. John." And it may be added, with equal truth, that no issue, important or unimportant, has ever been submitted to an intelligent electorate with less information for their guidance. Why this is so it is not now our purpose to inquire. It may be the situation has arisen through incapacity to prepare a charter showing in every detail how the citizens would be affected by this new system, or at the bottom of this reticence may lie motives which it is not thought wise to explain. The fact remains that the people are being forced to the polls like sheep, and by means of an organization such as only unlimited funds can procure, will be urged to vote for a Commission for St. John.

Some one has blundered; of that there can be no question. If this campaign had to be fought over again the risk of losing all they have striven for, which faces the advocates of Commission today, would not again be taken. That is common knowledge. They appointed a charter committee that the people might have some knowledge of the changes Commission government would involve. It was either a subterfuge and the committee had no intention of getting to work while the campaign proceeded—we do not say it was so, but the advocates of Commission lay themselves open to this charge by their silence, and the charge has been made—or it was a case of sheer incapacity.

Whatever may be the reason that the people of St. John are today denied the right to vote on the Commission charter—a right invariably given to other cities—they, the people, are to be the victims. The campaign had to go on, the money had been subscribed and spent, the organization had been completed, the automobiles had been hired, the men to install the right gospel in the ear of the voter at the polls had been arranged for. The people must vote, and "for Commission" if organization could accomplish this end.

But will the people vote for Commission and prostitute their intelligence, the right to know what they are voting for, at the bidding of the Citizens' Committee? Will the weight of influence and organization turn the scale against that sound common sense, which each man exercises in his daily life, of knowing something before hand of the goods for which he pays? It is an interesting problem to those who look on.

The silence of the Executive of the Citizens' Committee in the face of the storm of protest which has arisen is not the least significant feature of the closing hours of the campaign. Is it too much to say that it is a silence born of helplessness? The people are clamoring to know how under Commission their schools will be governed, their representation arranged, the salaries the commissioners will receive, the qualification required for office and other matters vital to the many interests involved. There comes no answer, save the frenzied shrieks of "the organs" whose unsavory record in civic affairs is a by-word: "Vote and you'll be sold afterwards—only vote."

The St. John Globe summed up the situation yesterday in brief, but unmistakable, terms when it said: "The scheme may or may not be a good one, but there is such an uncertainty as to it, such a lack of information in respect of it, such doubts as to its ultimate results, and it is such a complete revolution in our civic system that there may be more patriotism in voting against it now than in supporting it. At least this would seem to be the safer view as to the disposal of the question."

The conviction is hourly becoming stronger that patriotism, a deep rooted faith in the city and its institutions, will prevail.

THE AVOWED POLICY.

In concluding a long article lately published in the Philadelphia Post in advocacy of the Reciprocity Agreement, Senator Beveridge asks:—"Suppose the trade agreement is not what we should like it to be in all of its items. Once the policy is established it is absolutely certain that those defects will be remedied. This is a pregnant statement. The senator is trying to persuade objectors in the United States to adopt the pact. He had already explained that the United States wished meats and meat products, flour, and lumber placed on the free list, but that Canada objected, and added that "the only reason why manufactured goods are not on the free list is because Canada would not agree to it." The United States, he says, "would put them on the free list in an instant if the manufacturers of Canada did not unwisely induce the Canadian Government not to agree to it."

In this Senator Beveridge agrees with the statement of President Taft, who says he authorized Mr. Knox to offer Canada a free trade in all products. We thank both for their frankness, and for the thoroughness and clearness with which they have laid bare the real policy of the United States. What the United States is after then is to include Canada within their commercial territory precisely as any state of the Union is included, and to throw the barriers of protection around our territory as it is today thrown around the United States as against the world. They have not been able to obtain this great national object in the present pact, but they have got much and are on the road for more.

Adopt this instalment, and as the senator says, "once the policy is established it is absolutely certain those defects will be remedied"—that is, that meats and meat products, flour, lumber and manufactured products will be added thereto. Free Trade with Canada is the goal.

The senator has certainly been frank, and Canadians owe him a debt of gratitude. If that is the ultimate goal of the United States policy, and we are foolish enough to step into the Reciprocity ante-room, we quite perceive that in process of time they may force us to enter the parlor and become one of the family commercially. That would mean that we shall give up our commercial independence, our ideals of National development, and our trade connection with the Empire. In the words of Mr. Hill, British Preference will be knocked on the head and Empire consolidation become a dream.

And for whose benefit all this sacrifice of the ideals and policy of 40 years, pursued at immense cost and with

great success? That the cost of living in the United States may be decreased, their hunger for raw material satisfied, their industries further developed, and their markets for manufactured goods enlarged.

Young nations that have spirit and possess great resources, that have a history, that are heirs to the traditions and achievements of the greatest Empire in the world, and aspire to remain an important integral part of the same, do not thus efface themselves at the lard invitations of a neighbor whom they respect and admire, but with whom they do not wish to coalesce. National ideals and boundaries are as real and sacred to Canadians as to Americans and we do not propose to forget or forego either. We believe that nationality is worth something, and that trade policies are a legitimate means to strengthen and develop it and that the cost is not excessive.

To weld together our three thousand mile wide and 800 mile deep territory, lying between the two oceans, we must encourage the industries which can fairly be developed within our borders and for which our great Natural Resources and Immense water powers furnish substance and motive power. We must build great systems of transport and see to it that they are provided with traffic, and to that end must favor and promote our interprovincial trade and direct our foreign traffic as much as possible by our own routes and through our own seaports.

This is a task which was undertaken when we were scarce three million strong, in which we have expended billions of money, and put our best heart and brain. Shall we abandon it when we have accomplished so much, when we have 8,000,000 of people, and are going forward with leaps and bounds? The opponents of this Reciprocity pact in Canada are not so minded, and with perfect goodwill to the great people to the South are determined to "stand pat" on policy and go ahead on the lines laid down by the fathers and founders of our Confederation.

LEGALITY OF TRADES UNIONS.

The British Court of Appeal has decided unanimously that the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants specifically and any trade union with similar rules is, inferentially, a legal association under the common law; a legal society under the Trade Unions Act, 1871, its rules not being in restraint of trade. On this ground the court waived the decision of Mr. Justice Warrington in the action of Walter Victor Osborne against the A. S. R. S.

This litigation is a pendant to the famous case which resulted in the "Osborne judgment" in the House of Lords, which decided that it is illegal for trade unions to compel its members to contribute to the support of members of Parliament. The society appears in an odd role as questioning its own legal validity, while the other litigant insists upon the legality, and is now upheld by the Court of Appeal. After the "Osborne judgment" the society dissolved the Walthamstow branch, to which Mr. Osborne belonged, and expelled him from the society. It is his attempt to annul this action of the society which has led to the present action. The decision of the Court of Appeal does not amount to a reinstatement of Mr. Osborne; it merely removes a preliminary objection to the trial of that issue, which will now proceed.

The Master of the Rolls, in his judgment, dealt with the rules of the society on which the contention was founded that it was illegal under common law. He was unable to assent to the view that there was a restraint of trade in the rule providing machinery for a strike after a ballot of the members. Under the rule the executive committee could only sanction a strike, as distinct from ordering a strike. It seemed reasonably clear that the signing of the notices was a voluntary act, and that the only notices handed in were those voluntarily signed. He could find nothing in the rule which hindered a man who had handed in his notice from resuming work, nor could he find any trace of the right to call out those members forming the minority who had not voluntarily signed.

Mr. Justice Warrington, said his lordship, thought he found it in Rule 9, which provided that any member found guilty of attempting to injure the society or to break it up otherwise than as allowed by the rules, and the same being proved to the satisfaction of the executive committee, the committee should expel him from the society, and he should forfeit all claims on the funds and benefits of the society. He—the Master of the Rolls—found nothing in that rule which established the first proposition that the society was an unlawful association at common law, and that any members unjustly excluded from membership could not invoke the jurisdiction of the court. That conclusion was enough to dispose of the appeal.

The second proposition depended upon Sections 3 and 4 of the Trade Unions Act, 1871, and whether the present action was a legal proceeding brought with the object of directly enforcing a contract or recovering damages for the breach of agreement of the trade union to provide benefits for the plaintiff. In the absence of authority he should answer that question in the negative. His lordship added that he saw no reason why the mere passing of the resolution should preclude the court from granting the plaintiff relief. He thought the plaintiff had an interest in the funds of the society which might be asserted in a Court of Justice. He was of opinion that the appeal must be allowed with costs there and in the Chancery Court, and the action proceed to trial in the usual way.

Lord Justice Moulton and Lord Justice Buckley also concurred in thinking that the appeal should be allowed and the action restored. The appeal was accordingly allowed.

DISEASE AND SUGGESTION.

There is an oriental legend to the effect that the Plague met Fear on a highway. "I have killed my thousands," said the Plague. "Aye," returned Fear, "but I have killed my tens of thousands."

A Washington dispatch reporting the proceedings of a National convention quotes a chief speaker at the meeting as saying that the death rate from tuberculosis in a single state—Idaho—had increased 120 per cent. in a year under a health crusade of the authorities. A lecturer paid by the state, according to the speaker, devoted himself constantly to giving magniloquent exhibitions depicting the horrors of the great white plague before farmers' institutes and gatherings of teachers and school children.

"Persons left these exhibitions," he continued, "greatly depressed and with many the depression was turned into terror from perusal of the weekly bulletins which the lecturer regularly furnished the newspapers. The result was that many people predisposed to consumption fell ready victims to it."

The influence of suggestion upon disease has long been a pathological study. It is generally admitted by the fraternity that certain illnesses are aggravated by mental depression which pictures the sufferer's condition as alarming. To what extent the propaganda against the white plague is defeating its purpose by the very publicity given the terrors of tuberculosis cannot, of course, be even guessed. But it is certain that if the hopeful aspects of the victim's condition were pictured rather than the fact that scores of thousands of consumption's victims die within a given period the end of the anti-tuberculosis campaigner, that of teaching people how to avoid the disease, would be better served. There is much in the implied criticism of the Washington lecturer to merit careful attention.

ELECTION CARDS

YOUNG MAN,
As a NEW MAN, and a
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Alderman for Lorne Ward
in the coming Civic Election.

FRANK H. ELLIOTT

To the Electors of the
City of St. John

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:
You elected me last year as one of your representatives. In return for the confidence placed in me I have tried to serve you by endeavoring to lessen your burdens, and have already succeeded in having a flat rate of taxation, which means no income earner can be assessed at a higher rate than \$1.98 for five years more. Now help me to remove all taxes on income, personal property and improvements, and place it on land, which means building on all vacant lots. If I have not succeeded so well as expected, I have tried to do something for St. John and the people, and I hope to again receive your valued support for Alderman-at-Large.

FRANK L. POTTS.

Electors of the City
of St. John

I am a Candidate for
ALDERMAN AT LARGE
and solicit your support.
If elected I shall endeavor to serve you to the best of my ability.

W. B. WALLACE.

To the Electors of the City
of St. John

Ladies and Gentlemen:
At the elections on Tuesday, April 18, I will again be a Candidate for the Aldermanship of Lorne Ward. If elected I will endeavor, as heretofore, to keep down unnecessary expenditures, without neglecting the City's interests.

H. E. COOPER.

To the Electors
of the City

At the request of a large number of the electors I am again a candidate at the coming election as
ALDERMAN AT LARGE
and respectfully solicit your support.

W. E. SCULLY.

VOTE FOR

Allen A. McIntyre,
M. A.

Candidate for Alderman

Lansdowne Ward

To the Citizens of
St. John

At the solicitation of a large number of citizens I offer myself as a Candidate for
SYDNEY WARD

Very truly yours,
STEPHEN B. BUSTIN

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY
OF ST. JOHN.

I will again be a candidate for ALDERMAN FOR PRINCE WARD, and as I will be unable to see you all personally, I take this opportunity to solicit your votes and support.

Yours truly,
JAMES SPROUL.

To the Electors of the City
of St. John

At the request of a large number of the electors from all sections of the city, I will be a candidate for ALDERMAN FOR PRINCE WARD at the election to be held next Tuesday, and respectfully solicit your support.

Yours truly,
J. W. KIERSTED.

To the Electors of
St. John

I desire to inform you that I am again a candidate for election as
ALDERMAN-AT-LARGE

and solicit your support and vote. Respectfully yours,
R. W. WIGMORE.

To the Electors of the City,
VOTE FOR
G. HERBERT GREEN
Duke Ward,
For Economical Government.

ELECTION CARDS

To the Electors of the City of
St. John

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—
At the request of a large number of the electors I will be a candidate for
ALDERMAN FOR KINGS WARD

at the election to be held on Tuesday, April 18th and respectfully solicit your support.

Yours truly,
CHARLES T. JONES.

To the Electors of the City of
St. John

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—
Complying with the request of a large number of the electors, I will be a candidate for
ALDERMAN FOR LANSDOWNE WARD,

at the election to be held on Tuesday, April 18th and respectfully solicit your support.

Yours truly,
A. O. H. WILSON.

To the Electors of the City of
St. John

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—
At the request of many electors I will be a candidate for
ALDERMAN AT LARGE

at the election to be held on Tuesday, next, April 18th, and respectfully solicit your support.

Yours truly,
GEO. W. COLWELL.

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY
OF ST. JOHN:

Ladies and Gentlemen—At the request of a large number of the electors, I will again be a candidate for Ald. for Duke's Ward at the election to be held on Tuesday next, April 18th. For the last six years I have been chairman of the Safety Board and during all that time the estimates have not been overdrawn. Respectfully soliciting your support.

I remain yours truly,
J. W. VANWART.

To the Electors of
the City of St. John

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:
I will be a candidate for
ALDERMAN-AT-LARGE

in the coming elections and respectfully solicit your support.

JOHN H. BURLEY.

To the Electors of the City
of St. John

At the solicitation of a number of citizens, I offer myself as a candidate for Guy's ward.

Yours very truly,
H. G. SMITH.

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