

## The St. John Standard

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## THE LAW OF NATIONS.

Many deep and searching thoughts are stirred by a perusal of the report of the recent meeting of the International Law Association, as published in an English exchange which is just to hand. As Lord Reading, the Lord Chief Justice remarked in his presidential address, we all learned during the war that international law is of no avail when it is defied and challenged by force of arms. It was a tragic lesson for impatient enthusiasts, who seldom rightly appreciated the magnitude of the problems involved in bringing the world under the mild sway of reason. The Hague Tribunal was working helpfully in 1914, but it was never so much as consulted by Germany when she unleashed the hurricane of death and ruin upon the innocent peoples of Europe. But Germany's barbarous disregard of law is, surely, no ground for denying the ultimate hopelessness of establishing a universal reign of law. On the contrary, the very horrors we have had to abide in consequence of Germany's crime ought to spur us on to realize that grand ideal. We need law, in short, to prevent civilization from perishing. Law is the only alternative to the sword, and, therefore, no good citizen can hesitate in his choice. The cause of international law was never more vital to human security and happiness than at the present hour.

Lloyd George and so many other distinguished men of late, passionately reminds us that the League is the single hope of saving the world from a war that will destroy everything we value most. What is that but saying that we should work as if it were a religious duty to render the League of Nations and the reign of international law a living fact?

## THE FORTHCOMING PLEBISCITE.

With all due respect to Premier Foster and those whom he associated with him in drawing up the questions to be submitted to the people regarding prohibition, we think the form he has adopted is, to say the least, clumsy. Why have four questions when two would answer the purpose better? Why not ask the simple question, Are you in favor of the continuance of the present prohibitory law, and then add "Yes" and "No" after it, so that the voters may strike out which ever answer they choose? And the same with the second question. It would be infinitely less confusing, and people would understand what they were asked to do very much better.

Again, how is a voter who is in favor of beer and wines to mark his ballot regarding the prohibitory law? Is he to say he is for it, or against it? There are any number of voters who don't wish the existing law to be repealed, but who would like to be able to get beer. Will it be possible for them to vote in favor of continuing the Act, and also to vote for the sale of beer without one answer nullifying the other? The Premier, in the statement he issued, provided for some contingencies, but he did not include this one. There may be a majority of people in favor of prohibition being continued, but it is quite conceivable that there may at the same time be a majority in favor of the sale of beer also. Unless it is intended that those in favor of the sale of beer are to leave the other question unanswered, how is it proposed to deal with such a situation?

## THE RULE OF THE ROAD IN B. C.

British Columbia and the Maritime Provinces are the only provinces in Canada which have so far retained the good old British rule of the road, all the others having fallen in line with the Yankee practice, which was originally adopted just to be different from the British practice. Now, however, British Columbia is apparently about to fall from grace—as our own province may do sooner or later if some misguided enthusiasts are allowed to have their way—and learn from a Vancouver contemporary that to make the change in the rule of the road will involve one of the largest and most intricate feats of engineering in the history of street railway operations in Canada, and which will cost the B. C. Electric Railway Company anywhere from half a million to a million dollars. All this company's cars, with some few exceptions, are built to conform with the "keep to the left" rule, and to change the rule of the road does not simply mean turning the cars around and running them on the other track. Many replacements must be made. All switches must be taken up and new ones installed, but perhaps the most delicate operation involved will be the rectifying of trolley wires, which do not follow the natural curve of the car around the track, but are adjusted to the swing of the car.

All this expense, and the confusion and inconvenience which the change will cause, is to be undertaken for the benefit of the few hundred automobile tourists who visit the province each year. Can anyone possibly imagine a more diabolically wicked waste of money for so unnecessary a purpose?

## CANADIAN RAW MATERIALS.

The attitude of the press of Canada, in relation to the pulp and paper industry, without exception, has been, says the London Free Press, one of keen opposition to any recognition of the United States' demand that the paper mills of that country should have free access to the pulp of this country. Congressman Underwood is proposing that except we remove the embargo upon Canadian pulp going into the United States our neighbors should reciprocate with an embargo upon coal, and thereby seek to compel us to furnish raw material for the American paper mills.

The purpose of the Canadian pulp embargo has been to force the manufacture of paper in Canada. This policy has led to the erection of great paper mills in various parts of the country, giving employment to thousands of men and producing millions of dollars annually in manufactured wealth which otherwise would have accrued to the benefit of the United States. It is one of the measures by which Canada seeks to build up her own country. As such it is entirely justifiable, and, as we have said, has the unanimous support of the press of the nation.

If these special means for building up Canadian industry are appreciated

upon the one hand, why not in all cases? Why should we insist that we will ship our plywood out of the country only in the shape of the completed article, and neglect to promote to the utmost the manufacture of other raw materials? Even our grain might go forward in the shape of the manufactured product, instead of that we should keep the mills of other countries busy. Such a policy would be most beneficial to our live stock interests, affording it an abundance of grain offal, now sometimes so scarce as to endanger the live stock industry.

The matter is not one wholly in our own hands, however, for we do not possess all the raw materials which enter, for example, into the manufacture of paper. Some of the chemicals must be imported. We doubt if the machinery employed to make in Canada, though this could be remedied. We need, therefore, to work carefully. But of the wisdom of giving Canadian labor the advantage of converting our raw materials into the finished product, insofar as that principle may be safely carried out, there seems to be no question.

## WHAT OTHERS SAY

**Wives Who Smoke.**  
 (London Daily News.)  
 Is a husband with "old-fashioned" prejudices justified in smacking his modern wife if she smokes? The question was raised by two cases which have been heard in the Police Court this week. A husband who appeared before the Aston magistrate, as reported in the Daily Express yesterday, objected to his wife's cigarette habit, contracted during the war, and someone extra called yesterday another husband who was summoned for attacking his wife, stated that her smoking habit irritated him.

**Cheerful Work.**  
 (London Express.)  
 There are good workers and willing workers, said the two are not always one and the same. It is far better and much easier to be one of the willing workers. Time means that when some extra effort must be made, when some unforeseen burden must be shouldered, when a job of work will not fall very short of your duty. If you become careless of what your true self thinks of your work, you will fall very short of your duty. It is time to turn back.

Some, too, say "I go" and go not, while others, kicking and grumbling, do the work. We all know these types. There is a better. He says "I go" and goes.

**The Supreme Court.**  
 (Hamilton Herald.)  
 There is a remedy for the impotence of the Supreme Court when its members break down in the self-interest of the Board of Commerce. Either another Supreme Court judge should be appointed or the number of Supreme Court judges should be reduced to five. In either case there would then be a majority of the judges on the same opinion, and judgment could be rendered accordingly. Why there are six judges, making deadlocks possible, we do not know. It seems a foolish arrangement. Nine judges, including the Chief Justice, constitutes the Supreme Court of the United States, and of course when five or the nine agree upon a decision that is the decision of the court.

## THE LAUGH LINE

**A Railroad Mystery.**  
 Why does a train that starts out from a station as if it were really going somewhere suddenly stop? It doesn't stop, you see, it only seems to. It couldn't have known beforehand that it might have to stop at that particular place. This being so, why doesn't the train wait until it is assured that it will go on without stopping? Nobody knows. Probably nobody will ever know.—Life.

**Famous Words of Famous Men.**  
 "When are you going to learn to stop charging things?" M. E. S.

**Thoughtful Child.**  
 "Have you said your prayers?" asked Willie's mother.  
 "Of course!" replied the child.  
 "And did you ask to be made a better little boy?"  
 "Yes, and I put in a word for you and father, too."—London Tit-Bits.

**Off the List.**  
 "Don't you subscribe to Blank's magazine any more?"  
 "No; when I was in France I received a notice from it asking me to notify one month in advance if I changed my address."—Home Sector.

**Traps and Trappers.**  
 Tourist—"My good friend, do you earn your living by simply trapping and skinning animals?"  
 Trapper—"Yes! It runs in the family. I got a brother in Philadelphia in the same business."  
 Tourist—"In Philadelphia?"  
 Trapper—"Yes. He owns one of them apartment houses."—Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.

**Consolation.**  
 From the agony column: "Young man, recently selected, desired apartment."

## Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

This afternoon ma sent me to the store for something, and on the way I met Patsy Shinkins, saying, Hello Patsy, I got to go to Smith's meat store, come with me?  
 With Patsy started to do, saying, I wonder why people call it Smith's meat store when he sells vegetables too?  
 Well that don't pervent it from being a meat store, does it?  
 I said. Which it don't, and we keep on going till we got there, and Mr. Smith said, Well, Benny, what you do for you? Meaning wat did I want to buy, and just then all of a sudden I forgot wat ma sent me for, and I said, G, I did know.  
 And I started to try to think without any tawts coming, and Mr. Smith said, Was it meat or vegetables?  
 I forgot, I said.  
 Potatoes? said Mr. Smith.  
 Maybe, I forgot, I did know, I said.  
 Some kind of chops or stake? said Mr. Smith.  
 I don't think so, maybe, I said.  
 Maybe it was something in a can? said Patsy. And him and Mr. Smith kept on saying the names of all the different things in the store without reminding me of wat ma told me to get, and all of a sudden some lady that came in after me got mad and said I don't intend to stand heer like a dummy all day wat she said boy shows his ignorance. Meaning me, and she quick walked out, and Mr. Smith said, There, contoward you, you made me lose a customer, think of wat you want or elts go back and find out.  
 G, I remember, I said, it was 2 loaves of bread at the baker's store, I aint supposed to be in heer at all.  
 Then get out, and get out quick, the 2 of you, said Mr. Smith.  
 Wich we dia.

ments adjoining those of young couple possess of a baby that cries all night, causing father to promenade in pajamas, good, loud, sweaver preferred.  
 Boston Transcript.

## IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

## PROHIBITION AND PERSONAL LIBERTY.

To the Editor of The Standard:  
 Sir,—In an article in your paper recently you asked why, if there was to be any prohibition in the matter of drinks, there should not be similar restrictions as regards food and clothing. I notice in a letter to The Telegraph this morning that our reverend friend Dr. Harrison scouts the idea that there can be any comparison between prohibition of drinks and of food and clothing. Yet we have as it is, prohibition in regard to these matters. The law prescribes certain regulations as to clothing which we all follow. Suppose some of these hot days some young woman were to walk down King street in a one-piece bathing suit and a sunshade. She would find herself in the hands of the police very quickly. Yet there is no law in this country, or any other, that will prevent the girl walking about inside her own home in that costume, so long as the other inmates don't mind it. That is one form of prohibition.

Then we are forbidden to eat certain food at some periods of the year, such as fish and game. This is also prohibition. But both these matters of clothes and food are backed up by unanimous public opinion, which demands the former for decency sake, and the latter in the interests of the conservation of game animals and fish. But no such considerations apply to matters of drink, as to which public sentiment is divided as widely as the poles.

Dr. Harrison is right enough in his denunciation of drinking in public places, but for Heaven's sake let a man do as he likes in his own house, as long as he does not interfere with other people.

Yours, etc., H. C. L.

St. John, 10th June.

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