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The Bill Boards Are Wrong.

Bill boards are being used in London to tell people how to reduce their taxes. The method seems very simple, as the sign says in big red letters that it can be done by marking a ballot for government selling.

That phrase, "Reduce Your Taxes," is a fine old back. It is as slippery as an eel, and it has been used so many times that we are just a trifle anxious to see where it fits into the present situation.

The first question a person would ask can be stated in one word, "How?" It is by having an opportunity to spend a great deal of money on liquor that residents will have more left to pay their taxes, or does it mean that the city of London will be prepared to reach out and rake in profits derived from the sale of intoxicants?

That is exactly what they told the people of British Columbia prior to the adoption of government selling there on June 15, 1921. They said it would reduce taxation and add to the wealth of the communities in that province. British Columbia has had government selling since 1921, so there has been plenty of opportunity to see how it has worked out.

Take the city of Kamloops, B. C. Last year its people spent with the government for liquor the sum of \$223,976, and the government gave back \$10,508. Does that look like good business? Apart entirely from any question of morals or municipal ethics, can any person claim that Kamloops was richer by sending out \$223,976 and getting back \$10,508?

Prince Rupert is another well-known British Columbia center of trade and shipping. The people there patronized the government stores to the extent of \$282,418. When the government sent back the profits to Prince Rupert the check was made out for \$14,925, and the operating expenses were \$10,042. Was that a good stroke of business? It left the people of Prince Rupert with \$252,451 less than they had at the first of the year.

The city of Vancouver in the same year received profits of \$273,000 from the liquor business, but in order to secure that amount its people had to spend in the government stores \$3,710,113. By this transfer the residents of Vancouver were worse off by \$3,436,000. Nor has the city been allowed to keep its profit. In 1918, a prohibition year, Vancouver police force cost \$325,469. In 1922, the year after government selling was started, the figure had jumped to \$583,616, an increase of \$258,147, almost enough in itself to eat up the "profits." Certainly the taxpayers are not feeling the benefits.

Now as to the real business of taxation in actual figures. We have certified figures of the taxes on a moderate-sized house and lot in the residential section of Vancouver. The assessment has not changed, and the taxes paid were:

1919 \$62.99 *1922 \$101.61

1920 68.19 *1923 106.69

1921 78.06 *1924 140.65

* 1922, 1923, 1924 under government sale.

It would be interesting to know if the parties responsible for using bill boards to tell us that we can reduce taxation by having government selling had looked over the record of British Columbia before they started on their campaign. Of course there is no name signed to the bill board, so it is not easy to go and ask the man if he were really sure of his information, or if he just stuck in those words to fill up the space and look attractive.

To follow this question of "easy wealth" a little farther, let us see what became of all the money after the province of British Columbia got its hands on it. In 1923—and these figures are all from government books—B. C. took in \$21,393,372 from the sale of liquor, surely a fine source of revenue. Well, what became of it? Did the province hold on to it to reduce taxation, or what? We quote the answer from the Vancouver Province, the leading newspaper in the province:

"Out of every \$4 paid by a purchaser for liquor at a government store \$1.25 stays in the province, \$1 goes to Scotland, while \$1.75 goes to the federal government and to the railways."

That is, from each dollar 69 cents goes out of the province and is not available for the business purposes of that province. It means that British Columbia reduced its available cash by \$15,000,000 in one year. The record is not one bit encouraging from the standpoint of lowering taxation or increasing the purchasing power of the people; in fact it runs very decidedly in the opposite direction. The London bill boards are making a claim that cannot stand investigation.

Falling Revenue May Be a Good Thing

The revenue of the dominion is decreasing, according to customs and excise returns. September returns were over four million less than those of the same month last year, due to the fact that Canada is not importing dutiable goods to the same extent it was a year ago.

The logical thing to look for in such a situation would be an increase in our debt. It might be expected that if the government were not getting the usual amount of money from its fixed sources of revenue, it could not meet its obligations from month to month, and would therefore be running behind.

It is not working out that way. Maturing federal obligations to the extent of \$24,000,000 have been wiped off without borrowing; there has been a saving by taking advantage of a cheaper money market of \$3,500,000 per year in interest charges.

A buoyant revenue may be a good thing to

talk about at election times, because so many people have the idea that it means prosperity, that everything is going at top speed, and therefore we must have a good government.

A government is very much like an individual. If the individual finds that money is coming his way in good volume, the tendency is not toward retrenchment—it is apt to be in the opposite direction. He looks around and decides that he will go ahead with an addition to his house, and he will trade in his old car for a new one. If he finds his income dropping, he has to get down to brass tacks and govern himself accordingly.

In the case of a government the same thing is very likely to happen. The government knows that it has not the same elbow room, that it has to make an accounting to the people, and if the government is wise it will proceed to cut its garment according to the cloth available.

That is apparently what has taken place at Ottawa. Falling revenue has called on Hon. Mr. Robb to finance accordingly, and he has done it with the result that even with a falling revenue he is able to discharge \$24,000,000 in national obligations without resorting to borrowing. It is the kind of financing Canada needs.

Since the Prince Left New York.

The Prince of Wales has not been receiving so much newspaper publicity since he went west. Not that he is any different, or that people have lost interest in him, but away out at High River, Alberta, there are not so many reporters poking around all the time. When he was in New York every reporter in town who was found sitting on the corner of his desk was yanked off and told to run out and see the prince. If he couldn't do any better he was to stand on his toes and look over a hedge at him, or if there was a fence, well he'd have to find a knothole. He simply had to see the prince and write him from a new angle.

But it's all different now. The prince is working on his ranch, and yesterday he put in seven or eight hours stooking oats. What could a New York reporter write about that? Not a line. He was accustomed to watching for the prince in New York rolling home in a car at midnight from some gay function, and there was much to write about.

When the prince set up sheaves of oats for a day he was tired. After he had partaken of his flapjacks for supper he was ready to sit down and listen to the radio. It did not take him long to decide that he was ready to hit the hay; there wasn't a two-step left in his royal legs. So he went to his room, and it is not recorded whether he used a bootjack or not to remove his western sandals. But while the night was still quite young he probably blew out the candle, shoved up the window, drew the old gray blanket up behind his ears and went to it.

So that's why the newspapers are not carrying so many columns and pictures of the prince, but when he moves out to where the reporters are thicker and where the special writers grow in greater profusion they'll be after him again. All the same, a prince who can get out and stook oats for a day is not a bad sort to have around.

Why the Senate Stays.

The Toronto Star notes that there are four vacancies in the Senate, and suggests that if the thing were left alone these vacancies would keep on increasing until there would be no Senate.

Nice, peaceful thought that the Senate shall be abolished to the tune of "The Dead March in Saul." But it can't be done that way because there are so many people around who do not want to see the Senate abolished. They believe it is a great institution that needs stronger men in it; in fact they believe the very best in the country should be called there. For that reason they are everlastingly nudging Ottawa, and suggesting that they be put in the Senate.

And that's the real reason why it's so hard to remodel the Senate—there are so many on both sides of politics who watch the death notices year after year to see if a senator has been called up higher. They don't even wait until the funeral is over before they start wondering what it will be like to ride on a free ticket and be greeted in the old home town as Senator So-and-So.

Many of the men who are in a position to give leadership and direction in a wise reform of the Senate are busy nursing the idea that some day they may drop in there themselves when their political ship starts to take in water and shows a tendency to weaken in the ribs.

A Kindly Act in Brantford.

There is an item in the day's news from Brantford that should not be overlooked. It centers around a huge benefit concert in the armories there, in order that \$2,000 might be handed to Thomas Darwen, A.T.C.M., who leaves for California after a nervous breakdown following twenty years' active career as a musician. Mr. Darwen comes from a musical family; his whole life has been music, and the best in music, too. He has stood for something worth while in his own city. The people of Brantford showed that their hearts are still functioning properly when they decided to stand by one of their best local musicians in the hour of his physical difficulty.

Note and Comment.

The Free Press seems to be devoting a large amount of space to foreign affairs just now.

It's a mistake to imagine that charity consists of giving away a lot of things you don't want.

It is urged that some who vote on the 23rd of October can neither read nor write, but still there will be plenty to tell them how to vote.

The sympathy of the publishing world is extended to Mr. John Markey, editor of the Woodstock Sentinel-Review, in the passing of his wife, a woman of talent and accomplishment.

Premier Ramsay MacDonald of Great Britain: "There is nothing that damps down and finally smothers out the happy domestic fire more effectively than drink."

Rarebits By Rex

A PLEA.

I dipped my pen in fiery ink
And called you my sweet fairy,
I wrote of kisses, love—I think
I asked if you would marry.

Each time I promised to be true,
Then signed my name and sent it,
And now I write to ask if you
Believe I really meant it.

The fact is I'm engaged—a deed
That may arouse your fury,
But please, for old times' sake, don't read
My letters to a jury.

A LITERACY TEST FOR VOTERS.
(Every voter should be subjected to a mental test to determine his qualifications for voting.—Editorial note.)

1. Who discovered Toronto? Do you think he should be hanged or shot?

2. What radio station is O. T. A. and why?

3. Which is correct: "Is Arthur mean?" or "Is Arthur Meighen?"

4. What branch of parliament supplies the largest amount of natural gas?

5. Which of the following do you consider entitled to your vote: Barney Google, Addison Sims of Seattle, Velvet Joe, Ocean G. Smith, Jack the Peeper?

6. Fill in the missing words of the following sentences from Shakespeare: Ask the man that one. Keep that ——— complexion, Yes, we have no ———.

7. Do you vote as your father or your wife tells you?

8. Do you see any difference in the following phrases: "The country will soon be prosperous."—Premier King. "The country will soon be ruined."—Arthur Meighen.

9. Have you a little fairy in your home? If so, has she bobbed her hair?

10. Are your glands in good condition or do you play mah jong?

11. What's wrong with this sentence: "Tavish McTavish took a \$50 bill from his pocket and threw it into the gutter. 'Now I am broke,' McTavish said with a typical Scotch smile."

12. When playing bridge, do you call your wife down or has she money in her own right? 13. Do you think The Globe, The Star, The Sun or The Moon is the best newspaper. Which do you prefer to light a fire with?

14. B is a beautiful young girl who dances well but can't cook. C is homely and dumb but would make a perfect housewife. Which would you marry? (This test is intended to show up liars.)

15. Did Kipling or Byron write this classic: "There's something," said I on my knee To darling Daisy Doff, "That's trembling on my lips." Said she: "Why don't you shave it off?"

16. Which is your favorite movie star, Mary Pickbanks, Douglas Fairbank, Constance Talmore, John Barrymore, or Chaplin Charliehorse?

17. In what year did Napoleon discover America? Do you think his discovery will amount to anything?

18. Who, in your opinion, is the greatest man that ever lived with the exception of yourself and your father?

19. How often have you beaten your wife?

(a) At poker. (b) To the morning newspaper.

20. Have you met Agnes McPhail, Premier Ferguson, William Jennings Bryan or Trotsky? What other conundrums do you know?

21. Have you ever been on the stage? If so, aren't you glad that eggs are so expensive?

In Civic Elections

"I'm wonderin' sometimes if this fall when civic votin' comes again, if we will have more speakin' bouts between the warring aldermen. And likewise from the school board ranks more speakers rise to take the stump, and with opponents fan the air and give 'em goodly bump for bump."

No doubt the folks what gather round will have their jaded feelings thrilled, by hearin' of the new high schools that London didn't plan nor build.

Ah, will a trustee rise and say "I'm speakin' in this place tonight to set you straight upon six things, to give you some ten-candle light. I'm tellin' you, you voters here, the city council's for to blame, they be the folks what's got to stand and carry all the fault and shame."

And here they'll thump upon the seats and stamp their hob nails on the floor, and urge upon the candidate to load again and shoot some more.

"The council mused this thing all up, they butted in upon our lot, and says they was the ones to say if we should build them schools or not."

"They couldn't mind their own affairs and stay within their padded stall, and so you see the outcome is we haven't built no schools at all."

The trustee wipes his brow and bows, the folks they like facts that is hot, with spice throwed in along the way, and pepper dusted on the top.

Then comes an alderman to speak, he's all het up and bollin' too, and says as how the folks will change before he's not but half way through.

Says he, "The education board is talkin' through its silken hat, and I'll present you with the facts that's sizzlin' hot right off the bat. When first they talked about them schools they had a million in their eye, us aldermen we took a axe and brought their figures from the sky, we says to them get out of here, your figures is too thick and tall, you'd put six mills upon our tax, a mortgage on the city hall. There's lots of spots around the town for you to put your scholars through, why use the parks in summer time and pack 'em in the fire hall, too."

"I'm wonderin' if they'll speak like that when we be asked to vote again, and if trustees will use rock salt to shoot upon the aldermen. While common folks like you and me a-sittin' backward in the hall, will reckon that they've squabbled much but haven't got now're at all.—ARK."

Dr. Frank Crane

ON FOOT

On foot, Ferdinand Ossendowski, the famous Polish explorer and the author of the book, "Beasts, Men and Gods," and other books of travel, is on a trip of exploration through darkest Africa.

Before leaving Paris, he said: "To see the country, the real country, and the real people, you must live among them. There is but one means of travel which I use, that is walking. To see the country you must see it on foot."

It is a question whether the development of means of transportation have brought people nearer to the heart of nature, or whether it has been so rapid that it has taken them past nature, or people who see the country as it flies past them seated behind the car window do not see the real country. They become intimately acquainted only with the city from which they came and the city to which they go, while all the landscape between them is a confused panorama.

Those who go by automobile usually go so swiftly that they have no time to enjoy the views that nature presents before them. Even those who are managing a horse are kept so busy with their means of transportation as to exclude what is going on around them.

Only those who take their foot in their hand are free. The proverb has it that a naked man goes far. The nearer one is unencumbered by baggage of any kind the more free he is. He is brought into intimate contact with the world. There is nothing between him and nature to take away his attention and nothing but the weariness of his own flesh and the limitations of his own person to stand between him and the complete enjoyment of all that is around him.

He has time to allow nature to sink into his mood, and it takes time to adapt one's self to his environment. This cannot be done in a hurry, and those whose only travel is by a method of rapid transit miss many secrets which nature has for the tramps and the vagabonds and wanderers who are her more favored children.

It is a question whether the aeroplane, as the express train and the automobile, is not merely transporting the city-minded person through the country and whether one who knows the country only by these means can ever know it at all. At least, he can never know it as Ossendowski and others have known it.

BICYCLE, gent's, in perfect running order, only four months old. This wheel is a wonderful buy at \$20. Phone 948M.

THIS LITTLE AD

was ordered for 6 days. The Bicycle was sold after the first insertion.

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PHONE 3670

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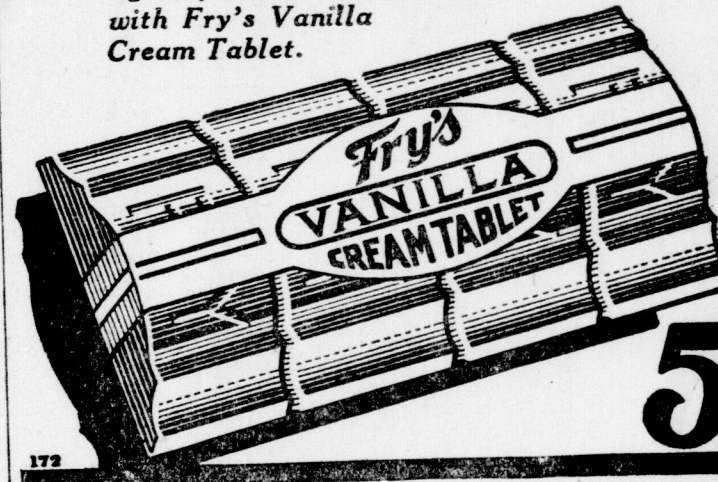
GREEN TEA

cannot be adequately described but they can be appreciated in the teacup.
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You've wanted it back. Here it is! FRY'S Vanilla Cream Tablet—it has been off the market for a long time but it's here to stay, and all good candy dealers have it for you. Has the same rich smooth chocolate—and the same delicious vanilla cream centre you liked so well.

Boy Scout series of cards explaining drill, signals, woodcraft, etc., go with Fry's Vanilla Cream Tablet.



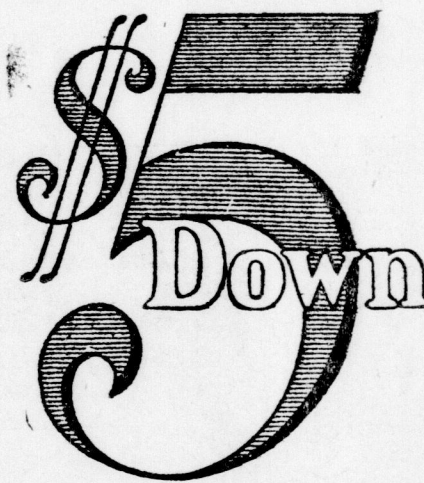
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