

The St. John Standard

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Henry & Charles Malters Bldg., Chicago
Louis Klebahn 1 West 44th St., New York
Freeman & Co. 9 Fleet St., London, Eng.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, MAY 29, 1920.

THE LEGISLATIVE VACANCY.

There has been a disposition on the part of the friends of the Foster Government to assume that there would not be any opposition to the re-election of Dr. Roberts on his acceptance of the portfolio of Public Health, and they have not hesitated to give currency to reports to that effect. It was simply a case of the wish being father to the thought. The announcement that a Convention of the Opposition party will be held next week to select a candidate to run in opposition to Dr. Roberts, will surely dispel any dreams that the friends of the Government may have that the Opposition intended to let the election go by default.

It seems to have been generally assumed, too, by the friends of the Government, and the newspapers that support its policies, that if opposition did develop, it would be on account of the Health Act. As a matter of fact, that Act is only a detail. Dr. Roberts will run as a member of the Foster Government, and it is the Government that is going to be opposed. The Health Act is only one of their misdeeds, and by no means the most objectionable of them at that. True, it has certain features to which many people have strong objection, but these are capable of remedy. The Foster Government unfortunately cannot be remedied; the only thing to do with it is to displace it, and a beginning can be made with Dr. Roberts.

The Opposition will not have the slightest difficulty in electing their candidate if the friends and supporters of the party put their shoulders to the wheel, and work with a will. The fact that the Government deliberately refuses to call on an election in Carleton County is a very clear indication that they feel that their record will not stand up to a very severe criticism; dare not fight on that record in Carleton, but they think that perhaps the Health Act will carry them through in St. John. It will be idle for them to try to fight with this as the chief issue; as far as the Opposition is concerned, that Act will not be made an issue, except as a part of the general record of the Government; and they will find that the shabby treatment they have meted out to the Opposition in Carleton will have its effect in this constituency, no matter how they may attempt to excuse it. The Government candidate will be soundly beaten if the friends of the Opposition only choose to exert themselves.

THE SPEEDING EVIL.

Everyone, even the chief offenders, will admit that there is too much fast driving on city streets and country roads, that this practice is a source of grave danger and that it should be promptly and effectively checked. But it must also be admitted that there is a wrong way as well as a right way of dealing with this evil, and apparently the proper procedure is not always adopted. Our provincial regulations governing motor traffic, on country roads particularly, are of a vague and indefinite form. Such regulations as may be legally applied should be decided by the Provincial Legislature, for as the Legislature exercises direct supervision over the various parishes and municipalities the duty of making their own laws. Nor is it reasonable that any one man connected with the Government should arrogate to himself the right to decide what shall be the maximum speed in any locality. It is reasonably clear that towns and cities have the privilege of exercising control over all traffic within their limits, and that in villages drivers of motors and other vehicles may not exceed a speed limit of fourteen miles per hour. But on country roads the rate at which cars may be driven is practically left to the judgment of the drivers themselves, for our provincial regulations state very clearly that drivers may not travel at high speed unless the road is clear before them. That is, if a motorist sees a good stretch of road free of what he considers obstacles and chances of danger, he may drive at any speed. It is this vagueness which is largely responsible for fast driving on country roads today, and certainly that practice is becoming more of a menace each season and should be checked by the adoption of regulations which may be applied alike in all parts of the Province.

MILITARY SERVICE.

The Department of Militia and Defence at Ottawa is evidently unable to make up its mind with respect to a future policy. With an evident desire of creating and maintaining a more efficient militia than existed prior to the war, it has authorized the organization of various units in all the provinces of Canada, which organization is now under way. To develop a keener interest and to create at least a certain measure of efficiency, rural camps of instruction were recently ordered and preparation for these has been for some time in progress. Now, however, these rural camps have been cancelled. The motives leading to this cancellation

are said to be economy and a realization that young men of the type desired are not sufficiently eager to participate in these camps. But it is intimated that training will be carried on at corps headquarters, and this will involve an expenditure almost equal to that necessary for the maintenance of summer camps. It is of course possible that training at home may draw to the ranks a much larger proportion of recruits than would be found in camp.

But as a matter of fact is not this whole country from one end to the other weary of military display, discipline and routine? For five or six years we have been forced into unexpected familiarity with red tape, gold braid and lavish expenditure. Our men who went overseas experienced real service, in comparison with which the monotony of militia drill proves wholly unattractive. Those who were not in service during the war have paid in other ways, and the very apparent reticence displayed everywhere about joining or rejoining militia units is only the natural outcome of that over-dose of militarism which all have been compelled to endure. It will be much better to take things quietly for a few years until the now apparent reaction has worn itself out.

PROTECTIVE TARIFFS.

The determination of two of the Western members to support Mr. Peabody's amendment to the Budget, although one of them, Mr. Wright, of Battleford, admitted that "he did not think that there was anything material in it," will not cause any very serious discomfort to the Government. Supporters who cannot be depended upon are better out of the ranks altogether. Mr. Buchanan, of Lethbridge, the other member, bases his perversion from the Government ranks upon the claim that the Budget proposals provide no relief from taxation for agricultural implements, the duties on which he claims are a handicap to greater production.

The duties on agricultural implements are no greater today than they have been for the last ten years, yet the cost of such implements has gone up from fifty to seventy-five per cent. in that time. Why does not Mr. Buchanan "kick" about this phase of the situation? Why does he not complain about the increase in the wages of the workers who make them? Why not complain about the increased cost of the raw materials used in their manufacture? Why not complain about the shorter hours the men work nowadays? Why find fault with the only thing in connection with the manufacture of these implements that has not changed at all? And why, please, should agricultural implements be the only implements of production that should be free of duty? Is not the machinery used in the production of every other article necessary to the comfort and enjoyment of everyday life equally entitled to exemption, if there is to be any exemption at all for any such things? The whole question is one of principle, and if it is to apply at all should apply to all or none.

Common sense dictates that there should not be any exemption at all for any kind of implements or machinery coming into this country to compete against the home-made article. The whole intent and purpose of a protective tariff is to help to build up Canadian industries, which otherwise would go to the wall if compelled to compete with the cheaper products of other countries, manufactured under conditions which we in this country have not the advantage of. The trouble with Western members, or a great many of them, is that their vision is not broad enough to permit them to see further than their own particular interests; and until they do cultivate a greater breadth of view they will never be able to appreciate the fact that any fiscal policy adopted in this country must be for the benefit of all sections of it equally, and not for any particular one.

THAT EMBARGO.

The resolution to authorize the President of the United States to appoint a commission to treat with Canada upon the subject of the embargo placed by this country upon pulpwood, used in making newspaper, has been favorably reported to the House of Representatives by the Foreign Affairs Committee. It has already passed the Senate.

In its report the Foreign Affairs Committee suggests that if Canada is unwilling to rescind the embargo on pulpwood, the United States would be justified in preventing the exportation of coal, sulphur, kerosene and dyes to Canada.

We can only say to our friends over the border, "Go ahead, and do it." The consequences might, and probably would, be that some inconvenience might be caused at first, but it would only be temporary. As far as coal is concerned, it might be a good thing in the long run to have our American supplies cut off, for then our own coal deposits would have to be worked. According to Mr. Arthur V. White, consulting engineer of the Canadian

Commission of Conservation, "there is no menace to Canada's economic and general welfare at all comparable to the fact that she is so largely dependent upon a foreign country for her fuel needs," and he urges Canadian development of its own coal resources. In respect of quantity, quality, and accessibility for mining purposes, the Dominion, he declares, "possesses coal deposits which compare favorably with those of the greatest coal mining countries of the world. She has nearly 1,000,000,000 tons of semi-anthracite coal, 215,000,000 tons of bituminous coal, and 10,000,000,000 tons of sub-bituminous coal and lignite. Canada's only sane policy is to develop as rapidly as possible both her own fuel and power resources, and to provide for the distribution and storage of fuel in all communities of the Dominion."

If there is all that amount of coal in this country waiting to be mined, it is clearly the duty of the Government, under present circumstances, to assist in getting it. This is all the more imperative owing to the fact that the deposits are so situated as to make their profitable development by private capital impossible on account of the difficulty and cost of transportation. This matter of cost, however, would, or should, under Government operation, be a matter of secondary importance. The main thing is to get the coal.

With regard to sulphur and dyes, these can be got from other countries than the United States, and there is not the slightest need for Canadians to be dependent upon that country for them. The British Empire is big enough, and its productions are varied enough to permit of Canada getting anything she needs in the way of industrial supplies, without being beholden to foreigners, even if they are her next door neighbors.

WHERE ARE THEY AT?

With nothing better to guide them than the following regulation, it is not to be wondered at that motorists and motorists are perplexed:

"Motor Vehicle Law, 1915. Section 4.—No person shall operate a motor vehicle on the public highway at a greater rate of speed than is reasonable and proper, having regard to the traffic and use of the highway, or so as to endanger the life or limb of any person, or the safety of any property."

It shall be prima facie evidence of a rate of speed greater than is reasonable and proper as aforesaid, if a motor vehicle is operated on a public highway where contiguous territory thereto is closely built up, at a greater rate than one mile in four minutes, or in any town or village at a greater rate than one mile in five minutes, or outside of any city, town or village where a clear view of the road cannot be seen for at least two hundred yards, at a greater rate than one mile in three minutes.

Thus the maximum speed in towns or villages is twelve miles per hour in thickly settled districts fifteen miles per hour, while on clear country roads the limit is off.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

"Canada Goes Out."

(The Commonwealth, London.)

Canada is to send a special envoy to Washington so that she may negotiate all questions arising with America in the interest of the British Empire. Canada realizes that the next "war to end war" may be with America, and in preparing to stand out. The Canadian naval establishment has been scrapped, and only \$300,000 are provided in the naval estimates for 1920-21. The permanent army is to consist of 490 officers and 5,377 men. Wise and happy Canada that has learnt her lesson in imperialism.

Time To Tax Land Values.

(Toronto Globe.)

The time is not far distant when a considerable part of the mineral wealth recovered from the bowels of the earth will reach national and provincial treasuries in the form of taxation. This is the only workable alternative to the nationalization of mineral resources, which many men besides Mr. Lloyd George—who is confronted with the issue in Great Britain at this moment—believe would greatly lessen productivity and hamper private enterprise. The amazing value put upon

SHORT OF BREATH

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When you go to a physician to be examined for any heart trouble one of the first questions he asks is: "Are you short of breath?" Now, when the heart becomes affected, there ensues a feeling of a choking sensation, a shortness of breath, palpitation, throbbing, irregular beating, smothering sensation, dizziness and a weak, sinking, all-gone feeling of oppression and anxiety.

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Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Yesterday I nudged out one front tooth trying to jump the fire plug without touching it with my hands, being a loose tooth anyway on account of its going to have another one in the same place, and I started to go home with an empty space in my mouth instead of a tooth, thinking, O, well, ma, see this she'll think I had a fierce accident, I better brake it to her easy.

With I did, standing in the hall outside of ma's room and saying, Hello ma, are you in there?

Yes, are you out there? and ma.

Part of me is, I sed.

Wat, wat on earth do you mean? and ma.

Now don't start to get worried me, it ain't hardly anything, wats a broken arm? I sed.

Benny, sed ma loud as anything. And she jumped up and ran out and saw me standing there with both my arms looking like they awt to look, saying, You wicked boy, wat do you mean by frightening your mother like that, wats the matter with your arm?

Nothing ma, im breaking it easy, I aint my arm, its my leg, its slittely out of place, I sed.

Wat leg with leg, O my goodness, sed ma.

No it aint, ma, no it aint I quick sed, im breaking it easy, its only a front tooth out, look, ma.

And I opened my mouth so she could see the hole and she gave me 3 farse cracks on the side of the face, saying, You krazy thing, ill brake something else for you, thats wat ill do.

And she started to look as if she was going to give me 3 more cracks, and I quick ran up stairs instead of waiting to find out.

Proving you mile as well leave people find out things for their selfs.

The steel emerger's Nova Scotia coal leases and Bell Island ore frehold will give point to the demand that mineral wealth shall contribute more freely to the public revenue.

THE LAUGH LINE

You Know What You Think of Them.

The worst extravagance from your neighbors' point of view, is buying what the neighbors think you can't afford.—Boston Globe.

And the chances are at least even that the neighbors have the right view of the matter.—Bridford Journal.

Got the Wrong Office.

"Got any mail for Mike Howe?" asked the stranger at the small town post office window.

"No, nor anybody else's cow," returned the indignant postmaster.

A Double Surprise.

The young man with the uncut hair and hungry look had submitted a poem for editorial consideration.

"Well," said the man behind the blue pencil, after a hurried glance at it, "how does thirty shillings strike you?"

"Why—er—really," stammered the rhymester, "that is more than I—er—"

"Well, that's the best I can do," interrupted the busy editor. "I couldn't think of printing a poem like that for less!"

An Exception.

It was a model prison, and the warden was talking with his latest "guest."

"Now, my man," he said, kindly, "have you a trade, or are you skilled in any line?"

"Why, yes," the man replied. "Good! We always put men to work at their specialty. I'll do so with you."

"I am afraid you won't, sir," the man replied regretfully.

"Oh, yes, we will. What are you?" "Advisor, sir"—The Home Sector.

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