

The Planet

S. STEPHENSON, Proprietor.

THE REFERENDUM IN MANITOBA.

In introducing a government prohibition bill in the Manitoba legislature, Premier Hugh John Macdonald is taking a position which is new in Canadian politics, and also, we believe, in British politics. For although his government assumes the responsibility for the measure, the Premier, who is chiefly responsible for it, avows that he doesn't believe in the principle of it. He admits that he is not a prohibitionist in principle—that he "never did believe, and does not now believe that those who sell liquor are running counter to the Divine commands." Nor has he much faith in the efficiency of the prohibitory legislation that he has introduced.

Hugh John's position seems to be this: "The people of Manitoba have declared at the polls by a large majority that they are in favor of prohibiting the liquor traffic by legislative enactment. The will of the people shall be respected. I promised that if I were elected to power I would give effect to their will, and now that I am in power I am bound in honor to carry out my promise to the letter. Although I doubt the utility of the legislation which I now propose, it is only right that the system desired by a majority of the people should have a fair trial."

This is government by the people directly, as distinguished from the British system of responsible government, which is government by the people indirectly. Hugh John's act in giving effect to the people's will as expressed in the prohibition plebiscite, and against his own judgment, means the introduction of the initiative and referendum as part of the machinery of government in Manitoba.

Heretofore, when a great public measure has been introduced, it has been initiated by a government, the principles upon which it was based were adopted as the policy of the party supporting the government, and the government's existence has depended upon its ability to carry the legislation for which it became responsible. In this particular case the measure has been initiated by the people, and the government merely undertakes, as the agents of the people, to give effect to their will.

It will be interesting to note the results of the grafting of the initiative and referendum upon the British system of responsible government. The new plan has its advantages, but it is likely to weaken the ministerial sense of responsibility.

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MUST BE CONSIDERED SETTLED
WHETHER IT IS OR NOT.

Two weeks ago the members of the Winnipeg Catholic School Committee waited on Premier Macdonald for the purpose of laying before him their views regarding the present position of the Manitoba school question and to ask him to bring in legislation for the relief of the Catholics in the matter of education. Under date of 13th June, the Premier has written a letter to P. Martin, secretary of the committee, in which he says:—"I have given careful thought and attention to the question, and I am sorry to say that I fear it will be impossible to meet the wishes of the delegation which waited upon me. The public have been informed, both by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the Premier of the Dominion of Canada, and the Hon. Thomas Greenway, who, at the time, was Premier of the Province of Manitoba, that this vexed question was settled; and that the settlement had been reduced to writing and made law in the amendment to the school act, which was passed in 1897. Such being the state of the case, the position assumed by my party during the last election was that this matter, having been settled, should not be disturbed, and having taken this position it is difficult for me to see how we can properly move in the direction you desire."

For a "business" government that emergency ration scandal shows the ministers practice some queer methods.

According to reports presented at the synod now in progress in London, there are in the diocese of Huron 11,613 families of Anglican faith, an increase of 292 over last year. These comprise a total of 54,641 souls, against 54,219 last year and 54,450 in 1898. The total contributions of the diocese, including contributions for parochial, diocesan and all other purposes of the church, amounted to \$225,172.95, an increase of about \$20,000 over the previous year.

Isn't it time some check was put on needless expenditure for the alleged administration of criminal justice in this county? Take this Ferguson abduction case, in which the county has just been at the cost of a trial. At the time of the affair the police investigated it and found to their own satisfaction there was nothing in it. The matter apparently dropped, but weeks after bobbed up again, got past a magistrate's examination and finally came up for trial at the recent county court sittings. Judge Bell promptly dealt with the matter, as the chief of police had done—threw it out, but in the meantime it had travelled the usual channel which rolls up fees and involves expense. The county council should have one of its committees investigate some such cases as this and see who is responsible for their reaching the higher courts and who gets fees out of them.

MISSIONARIES UNPOPULAR.

Detroit Tribune.
From the trouble they give it is probable that Downing street is not the only foreign office in which missionaries are unpopular.

Why should a sailor be the best authority as to what goes on in the moon? Because he has been to see (see.)

LOCAL BRIEFS

R. E. Miller, of San Francisco, is visiting friends in the city.

Mrs. Reed, of Chatham, is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Jas. Brady, Con. 9, Raleigh.

John Munro, Liberal, was elected by acclamation in North Renfrew to fill the vacancy in the local legislature, caused by the death of Andrew White, Conservative.

Court Pride of Dover, A. O. F. 4 has entered a team in the tug of war against the C. O. F. team at a picnic to be held in Dover on Tuesday next.

The Lake Erie employees were engaged to-day pulling down the coal sheds to make room for the freight shed which formerly stood on Wellington St. east. The freight shed was also being moved down to-day on two flat cars.

Mr. Eigin Miller, San Francisco, was in the city yesterday and left for New York to join Mrs. Miller. They will leave for Europe the end of next week and will spend next six months visiting many of the principal places of interest.

Lost—On Thursday, June 14th, 1960, on the 13th con. line of Dover, near Bear Creek, a pocket book and diary for 1899, about \$70, mostly in \$10 bills. The finder will be suitably rewarded by returning it to the owner or to Colwell book store, Wal-lacburg.—Willie Howe.

London Advertiser:—At the police court this morning Wm. Hasenach, charged with fraud by George Henry, a local photographer, was found not guilty and discharged. The charge arose out of a partnership formed between the parties to conduct a photographing business at the militia camp.

Messrs. Corp. Clark & Co., publishers, Toronto, have just issued a story of Lady Smith, entitled, "Four Months Besieged," being unpublished letters from H. H. S. Pearce, special correspondent for the London Daily News, with maps and illustrations, and "The Bath Comedy," by Agnes and Egerton Castle, authors of "The Bride of Jennico," and other popular novels. The foreign publishers of the books are the T. McMillan Co., Limited, of London, England. They can be obtained upon application to the local booksellers.

A choice lot of Lawn Mowers and Refrigerators at Morton's Hardware Store.

Ald. Sulman is the proud possessor of a copy of the Weekly Planet of January 26, 1960. The town council that year were Mayor Askin, Councilors Evans, Northwood, Atkinson, Duff, Earl, Smith, Higgins and Sheriff. The chief article of interest in the paper is a refutation of a political libel made by the Detroit Free Press on Chatham. This American paper had published an article, manufactured from whole cloth to the effect that Chatham had taken possession of the schools by force. The story was made up for the purpose of catching the Democratic vote and creating a proslavery feeling just prior to the last election before the civil war. The Free Press was forced to retract its slander.

GOES BY CONTRARIES.

"This is the coldest June I have seen in a long time," said Ald. Scane today. "Many people were prophesying that this would be the driest and hottest summer in many years. You can always rely on it that when people begin to make such statements that the weather will be the exact opposite and you will be safe in preparing for the reverse of such expressed opinions."

LEAMINGTON.

June 20.—Principal Elliott entertained the teachers and the pupils of the third and fourth forms of the high school at tea last evening.

Harry Nicholl, Detroit, is spending two weeks' holiday at his home here. He has a copy of a new book entitled, "The Life Story of Findlay Booth," written by Rev. Hammond Wigle, Winnipeg, formerly of Leamington. The financial proceeds of this book go to the benefit of Booth, the hero of the story, who is needing and deserving of assistance.

The Leamington increase club was organized last night with the following officers: Hon. Pres. Mayor Hughes; Hon. Vice Pres. Geo. F. Cronk; Pres. W. D. Cox; Vice-Pres. E. A. Rawling; Manager, E. C. Manning; Capt. Thos. Ashby; Sec. Treas. Geo. Johnson. The membership fee was fixed at \$1.00. A good deal of interest is being taken in this fine game and the town will have a good club.

Joe Cross, who left here about ten days ago, has secured a good position in Fort William. He also plays the trombone in the town band. Bob Craig has gone on to Winn peg.

Bills made an attempt to go through the residence of Mr. Wagner, of the tobacco company, last night but were frightened off by Mr. Wagner, who was returning home at the time.

The funeral of Mrs. Munnis Wilkinson took place yesterday afternoon.

THAMESVILLE.

June 20.—The gentlemen of the Lawn Tennis Club played their first match this season with Bothwell yesterday.

Lawn social at Beachwood to-night. Mrs. Robt. Fleming had the misfortune to break her leg just above the ankle on Sunday last.

The bills are out for the laying of the corner stone of the St. James Presbyterian Church on Dominion Day, July 2nd. The stone will be laid by R. Ferguson, M. P. A number of gentlemen have been invited to take part in the proceedings. After the laying of the corner stone, supper will be furnished by the ladies of the congregation in the Mayhew Music Hall. In the evening a lawn social will be held on the beautiful grounds of R. Ferguson. Everybody is invited to spend the day in Thamesville.

James Langford, of Kent Bridge, had the misfortune to have his barn burned early yesterday morning.

Harvey Fowle has gone to Toronto. Mr. Fowle's brother, of Erin, has charge of the store during his absence. The lawn social held on A. Hubbel's lawn, Monday evening, proved to be, as in former years, a very pleasant affair and was enjoyed by all. The Thamesville Cornet Band furnished some excellent music. Dr. Becket acted as chairman in his usual happy manner.

Miss Maggie Lamperl, of Chatham, is visiting friends in town.

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Chatham's
= Dominion Day =

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A Drill Competition

For \$175 in gold, open to the Cadet Corps of the Collegiate Institutes of Western Ontario.

"Daughters of the Regiment"

A crack military company comprising twenty-four young Windsor ladies, in uniform and with their own bugle and drum band.

The Public School Championships

In athletics, open to all public and separate school children in the County of Kent. A handsome silver cup, a solid gold medal, twelve solid silver medals and a number of special prizes are offered in this series of events.

A Series of Amusing Contests

On King Street, for which over \$100 in prizes will be given.

A Calithumpan Parade

With three prizes—1st \$25, 2nd \$15, 3rd \$10. The terrible effects of the Boer war will be clearly demonstrated in this feature.

Professional Baseball

The Kind that's worth looking at—by the Chatham and Grand Rapids International League Teams.

Football

Between the Chatham F. B. C. (champions of the Peninsular Football League and holders of the Walker Trophy) and the Football club of either London, Glenora or Windsor.

First-Class Music

All day long by the City Band and the Excelsior Band. Over \$400 in prizes and yet no charge for entry to any of the contestants. No charge to the general public for admission except the baseball games and the evening performance.

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