

The Prohibition Vote and Liquor Interests

The Government Must Order the Minister of Justice to Defend its Bill or Take the Consequences When Parliament Opens

The Liquor Saloon interests are attempting through Counsel to upset the whole Prohibition measure and are asking the Court to set aside the whole election and vote as illegal. We are not worrying over what may be done by the Court, as the prohibition vote, if set aside by the Court, must immediately be affirmed by action of the Legislature.

In view of the particulars set up in the petition of the liquor interests, we, in conjunction with the Telegram and News, consider the Government should instruct the Minister of Justice to defend the action of the Government respecting the manner in which the election was conducted, which is the chief objection raised by the Liquor Interest. The Prohibition Committee would do well to instruct their Counsel not to proceed further in the matter, and other course would be unwise and harmful.

If the liquor interests succeed in upsetting the elections on the ground that the vote was not taken in accordance with the act, then the Justice Department as well as the Executive Council will come in for hard blows from the people, who will at once conclude that it was a plot to kill the measure if carried at the polls.

The Liquor interests claim by petition filed before the Court that those who purport to act as Returning Officers in the several districts and to make returns declaring a certain number of votes had been polled in the affirmative and negative, respectively, were not Returning Officers under the Act, and that the writs under which they acted were null and void; that no Returning Officer was duly appointed; that no legal counting of the votes polled took place; that there is no proper return of the number of votes polled; that ballot papers were improperly counted by said person, purporting to act as Returning Officers; that persons unqualified and disqualified voted; that persons not electors and not 21 years of age acted as deputies and polling clerks; that "No Directions for the Guidance of Voters," as required by law were furnished to the deputies, or that such as were furnished were inappropriate and misleading; that unqualified persons acted as agents.

Wherefore the petitioner prays that it may be determined that no return or certificate of the number of votes polled for the affirmative or negative at the said Election was duly made and that such return or certificate as was made was undue and void and that the said Election was void and that such order and certificate be made in the premises as to right and justice shall appertain.

It is clear from the Petition that the issues to be tried are such as impugn the conduct of the Election by the Governor in Council; it is therefore incumbent to our mind on the Government to intervene in answering the Petition and to instruct the Attorney General to defend the course pursued.

Const. John Simmonds, a good efficient officer, has been assigned to duty in the post office, replacing Const Sheppard, who has been assigned to special service.

SPLENDID SCENERY HERE.

The scenery to be used by the Klark Urban Co. during its season here arrived by the express yesterday, one whole car being filled with this talented company is carrying more scenic features this year than it ever before exhibited in St. John's and some of its most picturesque effects will be shown in the beautiful drama to be staged Monday night at the Casino—"Within The Law."

The Best

American Mayo's . . .

15c Plug.

At the Royal Cigar Store, Bank Square, Water Street.

The Greed of the Coal Barons

The Public Are Furious Over Their Brazen Attempt to Soak the Poor at the Treshold of Winter

(Editor Mail and Advocate)

Dear Sir,—During the last two days of the old year certain coal-dealers in this city shut off the sale of the soft coal they had in their stores. Why did they do it? Simply in order that they might have an excuse to raise the price—and they raised it with a vengeance. If they had put it up one dollar, even then they would be extortioners. But to and behold they put it up to \$2.80 per ton. A clean gain out of God's poor over their already high profits, of say on \$8,000 tons of coal, of \$22,400.

Why didn't they put it up \$5.00 per ton. It would be just as honest and God-fearing as what they have done. What's the difference, Mr. Editor, between a man who raises the price of coal \$2.80 per ton, because he knows under the circumstances, he can squeeze it out of the poor and the man who waylays a helpless traveler and putting a pistol to his head, says, "Your money or your life?"

What is to be done, Mr. Editor? Are we to be at the mercy of these land-sharks. It may be that it is the duty of the Government or the Council to step in and under the power they hold to say the price of coal is to be \$8.00, the price, to which it was advanced some time ago, that is for what coal is held in store and all new importations to be at that price plus the extra freight and insurance.

Then the sealing steamers should be engaged and sent at once to Sydney in the interests of the people. It is somebody's duty to take this matter up at once. 'Tis a great social question facing this city and unless a move is got at once this town will be painted red before we know it.

ONE OF THE PEOPLE.
St. John's, Jan. 4, 1916.

Last Night's Treat Presbyterian Hall

At the Presbyterian Hall last night there was a large and happy gathering when the Volunteers and Naval Reservists were given a treat, which was thoroughly enjoyed by the large numbers of both branches of the service who were present. The decorations were pretty and of a patriotic tenor and the tables were heavily laden with the choicest viands to satisfy an epicure. His Excellency the Governor, accompanied by Lady and Miss Davidson and Captain A. Goodridge, A.D.C., attended, while among the many guests were Pte. C. Frampton, who saw active service in France, and Pte. R. Hickey, who was with "Ours" on the Gallipoli Peninsula. The following which was received with warm applause was read by His Excellency:

A Tribute To "Ours."
"Extract from Brigade Orders by Brigadier-General D. E. Cayley, C. M. G., 8th Nov. 1915.

"The G. O. C. wishes to place on record his appreciation of the excellent work of the Newfoundland Regiment during the operations of the last few days. By their conduct in this, their first important work, they have brought distinction to the Brigade and have proved themselves to be possessed of self-reliance, bravery and tenacity, the first qualities of a good soldier."

His Excellency then formally announced this confirmation of the honours conferred on Lieut. Donnelly, Sergt. Green and Pte. Hynes, who made a name for themselves and the Regiment at Caribou Hill, and referred in glowing terms to the work of the Colony's sons in aid of the Motherland. He then proposed the toast of the King's Army and Navy.

Lieut-Commander MacDermott, in responding, gave the highest praise to our men in the Navy, and only regretted that their number was not larger. Following dinner an excellent concert programme was gone through, those assisting being Mrs. Outerbridge; Misses Mare, Herder, Hayward; Messrs. T. H. O'Neill, Luxon, Lloyd, Jago (2), Laundry, Macklin, Berley, Wheeler, Crocker and Hussey. To the ladies one and all who arranged the treat, particularly Miss McKim and to Misses E. Ayr and E. Dickson, who had the arduous task of preparing the dinner, every congratulation is due on the attendant success.

There is a great scarcity of wood in the nearby outports now owing mostly to the fact that the ponds have not been frozen solidly enough to get teams over them with safety. Heavy frost is wanted to enable the men to get countrywards for fuel.

READ THE MAIL & ADVOCATE

East Ender Gets After the Herald

Takes McGrath to Task For His Egotism and Says the People Have Patsy Sized Up

(To Editor of the Mail and Advocate.)

Dear Sir,—I was amused last night in looking over the Herald to see the old-time egotism of Patsy McGrath to the fore again.

"Our remarks of yesterday on the coal question was the general topic yesterday, etc." Could blatant bumpiness or rabid megalomania go further? You are pretty "small potatoes" now P. T., though, of course except in your own estimation, you never amounted to much.

But the people who heard of your remarks, the poor, honest labourer, and mechanic, damned your impudence.

You instructing people, who if poor, always had full and plenty, to economize their coal. You and yours often had to economize for coal and a good many other things before you got your grasping paw in the Government chest. You and yours were always used to the kind of cheese-paring you preach to others and this was well exhibited in the famous expression:

"There is an awful hole in the coal." It is about time for you now, Patsy to stop "stapping yourself in the face," not many in St. John's of any class in society that were reared on short rations than you were. So "stow your 'stiff' now as quickly as possible, else I will throw some further light on your very rich and aristocratic antecedents.—I am, etc.,
DUCKWORTH ST. EAST.

Riverside Blankets. The more you wear them the better you'll like them.—dec29,6i

SUB-COLLECTOR ASSAULTED

We learn that at Odein, New Year's Night, Mr. Power, the sub-collector, was set upon and badly beaten by some men who it is thought were fined by him some time ago for smuggling. We hear that the Customs authorities here have instructed Inspector O'Reilly to proceed to Odein and investigate. It is said the case is a serious one and every effort will be made to bring the attackers of Mr. Power to justice.

NOW AT AYR.

Private Edward Shea, son of Mr. Jno. P. Shea, Water Street West, who suffers from bayonet and gun-shot wounds and who was at Wandsworth Hospital, later going to a Convalescent Home in Newbury, has been discharged from there and is now at Ayr, Scotland, with our boys.

Riverside Blankets. Insist on getting them.—dec29,6i

TEA AND CONCERT.

Yesterday afternoon the St. Bon's Ladies Association held its 4th annual Bean Tea and Concert in the Aula Maxima of the College. It was largely attended and the concert was most enjoyable, numbers being given by Misses Shea, Ryan and Strong, and Messrs Halley and Bulley. Teas and refreshments were served and all enjoyed themselves. To make up for a deficit in the proceeds as far as this year's entertainment compared with last a bridge drive will be held to-night at the residence of the Treasurer, Mrs. J. M. Atkinson.

Riverside Blankets are made from selected woods.—dec29,6i

Mr. Patk. Mansfield who was badly hurt by falling from a telegraph pole, as stated in The Mail and Advocate is progressing favorably at the Hospital, and should be able to leave the institution after a week or so.

St. John's Municipal Council PUBLIC NOTICE

ALL persons having claims against the St. John's Municipal Council to December 31st, 1915, are requested to furnish the same not later than TUESDAY, the 11th inst.

By order,
JOHN L. SLATTERY,
Sec.-Treas.

CHILDREN PLACED.—Thomas Warren, of Woods Island, Bay of Islands, wish to place two motherless children aged nine and five years. Any person willing to take such children as their own, should communicate with the above.—jan4,tf,daily

T. A. Juveniles Hold Gala Day

Visited Rossley Theatre and Thoroughly Enjoyed Themselves—Adult Members Hold Dance at Night Which Was Largely Attended

The annual treat to the boys of the T. A. Juvenile Society was given them yesterday afternoon and the lads spent a most enjoyable time. The lads were in charge of the Guardians, Messrs. T. J. Dunn, Chairman; J. O'Toole, Vice-Chairman; and Messrs. F. J. Woods, T. J. Walsh, M. J. Tobin, M. Walsh, T. Hickey, W. Billingsley, W. Brennan and P. Breen, went to Rossley's Star theatre, where they witnessed the performance of "Beauty and the Beast and saw the several fine pictures, the Guardians heartily congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Rossley on the fine performance.

Going to the armoury of the T. A. Hall then the boys to the number of over 300 were regaled with a splendid tea and enjoyed this with the heartiness and zest which are only possessed by boys under such circumstances. Before leaving, the lads were given a plentiful supply of fruits, candies &c.

At night a most enjoyable dance was held by the adult members and officers, the excellent band of the Society executing a splendid programme of dance music. President W. J. Ellis, who was present during the boys' treat, addressed them in a fluent, kindly and encouraging manner and highly complimented the Guardians and their lady friends on the excellent work done and the signal success which attended their efforts on behalf of the boys.

Misses Ellis, Quinn, Mrs. Buckley, and Messrs Woods, Dunn, O'Toole and others worked hard to make the affair an enjoyable one, and certainly succeeded.

(On account of whom it may concern)

AUCTION

To-morrow, Saturday, the 8th inst., at 12 o'clock At the Premises of

Messrs. CAMPBELL & McKAY, 320 SACKS BRAN

L ANDED in a damaged condition from on board the S.S. "NORTHMOUNT," Sutherland, master, from Montreal. Surveyed and ordered to be sold by Public Auction for the benefit of whom it may concern.

A. S. RENDELL, Notary Public.

Anglo-American Telegraph Comp'y, Ltd.

LARGE accessions of deferred cable traffic, due to the suspension of that traffic by the other Trans-Atlantic Cable Companies have blocked our temporarily-restricted facilities for that traffic, making it necessary for us to suspend the deferred Trans-Atlantic service temporarily, in order to protect our regular patrons in their use of our regular expedited service. Resumption of our Trans-Atlantic Deferred and Cable-Letter services will be made at the earliest practicable moment.

H. A. SAUNDERS, Superintendent.

jan7,2i

FISH For Sale!

We have a quantity of large Eating Fish, suitable for retailers. Price very reasonable. This is a splendid chance for Shopkeepers to secure supplies at Two Dollars per qtl. less than usual price.

Fishermen's Union Trading Co., Provision Department.

Llewellyn Club Formally Opened

Some 300 Men of St. Thomas's Parish Present—Great Interest Taken in the Club—Excellent Musicale and Lecture Given the Members

Last night witnessed the inauguration of the new St. Thomas's Men's Club. Fully 300 men gathered at Canon Wood Hall for the formal opening. Preceding the address of His Excellency the Governor on the Balkan situation, an excellent musicale was given by Messrs Anderson, Dunfield and Rendell, and Messrs. Earle and Seymour, Mr. F. Emerson accompanying. His Lordship Bishop Jones, the Honourary President, took the chair at 8.30 and in a very eloquent address referred to the great necessity that existed for such an organization in parochial work, the assistance the Club would be to the clergy and the great good it would accomplish generally. His Lordship highly appreciated the compliment of being chosen its President of the Club which bears his name, and heartily wished it and its members all success and prosperity.

His Excellency the Governor pre- faced his address by informing the gathering that he had just received official information that the officer commanding the now-famous 29th division had reported that the men of the Newfoundland Regiment were amongst the best under his command, a statement that was received with loud applause. The Governor then proceeded with what proved to be a most interesting and illuminating talk on the Balkan situation. The address was filled with information and dealt with the history of the Balkan States, their feuds and fratricides, and the war now raging there was described as largely a theatrical display organized by the Germans for the purpose of impressing her peoples. His Excellency has no doubt as to the complete and ultimate victory of the Allies, and believes that this year will see the practical ending of hostilities.

A hearty vote of thanks, moved by Mr. C. E. Hunt and seconded by Mr. Andrew Carnell was tendered His Excellency, after which the Rector delivered a brief but happy speech, during which he invited all to partake of a cup of coffee which was served by a bevy of bright young ladies, and was highly enjoyed.

The inaugural meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem when His Excellency and the venerated and beloved Lord Bishop signed the roll, the audience singing the popular and expressive refrain, "He's a Jolly Good Fellow." Llewellyn Club has been successfully launched and The Mail and Advocate bespeaks for and wishes it a very successful career.

We advise trappers to send their Furs to Nld. Fox Exchange, 276 Water Street.—nov23

WORKING AT MUNITIONS.

Letters recently received from England say that Ronald Grimes, son of Supt. Grime of the Constabulary, and Ronald Newell, both well-known in St. John's, are at work in munitions plants at Rugby in the Old Country. Both young men are excellent mechanics and engaged as they are, are doing most important duty for the welfare of the Empire.

Riverside Blankets and Yarns made up to a Standard, not down to a price.—dec29,6i

The Tabasco leaves Liverpool for this port on the 11th inst.

DEATH

LESTER—This morning after a short illness, James B. Lester, aged 59 years, Funeral on Sunday at 2 o'clock from his late residence Mount Pearl Road. Friends will please accept this the only intimation.

LATEST

NOW WANT GENERAL ELECTION

Some Members of Cabinet Think Large Vote Against Conscription Should be Taken as a Signal For an Early Appeal to the Country

LONDON, Jan. 7.—The Daily Telegraph, which throughout the present crisis has displayed the greatest moderation in its views, says that some of the principal members of the Cabinet consider that the important minority against the Conscription Bill should be taken as a signal for an early appeal to the country, and that the difficulty about the votes of the men in the trenches could be overcome by collecting the votes at the front.

Much is made of the fact that three Laborites connected with the Government resigned. The decisions that the three members of the Coalition Government should resign was carried at an executive meeting of the Parliamentary group of the Labor Party, held in the House of Commons after the Labor Congress. The decision was taken by a vote of only thirteen votes to ten.

The Miners' Federation which held aloof from all of yesterday's doings, will hold its own conference next Thursday and the result of it may have an important effect on the situation.

The Liberal newspapers are strongly against a general election, apparently because of the very general belief that despite the opposition of the Labor Conference, the country would vote by a big majority in favor of Conscription, and that in the event of the fall of the present Ministry the new administration would surely bring in a stiffer compulsory bill than Mr. Asquith's, which would be easily carried into law.

CH. UNION THOUGHT TO BE LOST

Big Minority Against Measure Makes it Doubtful if General Assembly Which Meets in June Will Force the Measure

Toronto, Jan. 7.—Church Union has been carried in the Presbyterian Church. The majority for union with Methodist and Congregational Churches, according to official figures announced to-day, was 53,086. The minority, however, is so large that it is considered doubtful if the General Assembly, which meets at Winnipeg next June, will force the union on 93,156 members who voted against it. The total vote was 230,398. The majority given by this vote on Church Union question was considerably lower than that given in 1911, the majority then was 80,251, 12,199 more votes were recorded.

Official Text Made Known

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—The State Department late to-day made public the official text of the Austro-Hungarian reply to the second American note regarding the sinking of the Ancona. It does not differ substantially from the press translation cabled via London.

Survivors Arrived

New York, Jan. 7.—The steamship Patris, having on board three hundred passengers of the Greek liner Thessaloniki, abandoned at sea yesterday, arrived at the quarantine at 9.15 o'clock to-night. She will dock to-morrow morning.

WAS WORTH \$100,000.

We learn to-day, from well-informed people that the late Hon. John Harris' estate was valued for \$100,000. The bequests made under his will comprise sums of \$30,000 each for his three daughters and the residue will be devoted to the expenses of winding up the estate and to some other private bequests.

The S.S. Fogota will leave here for Sydney to-morrow morning for another cargo of coal.

YESTERDAY'S MESSAGES

German Losses Around Czernowitz Enormous

LONDON, Jan. 6.—The Times learns from its Petrograd correspondent that the Russians have pierced the enemy's position in the immediate vicinity of Czernowitz compelling their opponents to fall back to their secondary line and definitely assume the defensive.

The despatch dated Wednesday says that the enemy's losses have been enormous in these engagements and also in the neighbourhood of Czartorysku where he was pressed back westward for several miles.

American Securities Are Now Listed

LONDON, Jan. 6.—The initial list of the American securities, which the treasury is prepared to buy or borrow under the mobilization scheme was published yesterday.

The list contains 54 bond issues, mostly American railways. It includes also, however, American Telephone and Telegraph, General Electric, New York Telephone and United States steel shares. Canada is represented only by Canadian Pacific 6 per cent. notes.

Bulgars Reported In Lamentable Condition

PARIS, Jan. 6.—The Bulgarian army is in a lamentable condition from lack of supplies, according to information given by deserters who have arrived from Gievgell, says a Havas despatch from Salonika, filed on Wednesday.

The Commissary service of the army is totally inadequate to bring up sufficient rations over the rough roads along the limited lines of communication.

French Gov't Give Greece a Loan

PARIS, Jan. 6.—An Athens despatch to the Havas agency, says:—"The French Government informed the Greek Government that they had placed 10,000,000 francs at the disposal of Greece. This sum is an advance on a loan of forty million francs now being negotiated."

Several Resignations Over Conscription

LONDON, Jan. 6.—Arthur Henderson, President of the Board of Education, and Leader of the Labor Party in the Commons; William Bryce, Parliamentary Under Secretary for Home Affairs, and George M. Roberts, Lord Commissioner of the Treasury, also Labor Party leaders, have resigned from the Ministry.

Turks and Bulgars Don't Seem to Agree

PARIS, Jan. 6.—The Havas correspondent at Athens says he is able to confirm reports of an important popular manifestation at Sofia. It was directed, he says, against the Turks, who are reported to have declared that never again would they leave Bulgarian Thrace.

Turks Active

LONDON, Jan. 6.—General Townshend, commanding the British forces in Mesopotamia, reports that the Trusk shelled Kutelamara heavily for about an hour on the afternoon of Jan. 2nd. There was no further firing up to the morning of Jan. 4th.

No Damage Caused

CETTINJE, Jan. 6.—Five Austrian aeroplanes dropped seventeen bombs of large calibre to-day on Saint Jean de Medua in Albania, near the southern border of Montenegro. No damage was caused.

Italian Authorities Keep Details Secret

PARIS, Jan. 5.—A despatch to the Temps from Rome says:—"The Italian military authorities, regardless of the impatience and the nervousness of the newspapers, continue to conceal the details of the operations of the Italian army in Albania. This reserve is justified by circumstances, yet the situation admits of some general information. The Italian expedition is encountering immense difficulties."