

WHEN SIR GEORGE E. FOSTER TOOK HIS FIRST DRINK OF LIQUOR

Sir George Foster is writing his political reminiscences extending over fifty years of public life. One wonders whether he will recall the one and only occasion in his life when he "took a drink."

It was in the general election campaign preceding the polling of 1887 Mr. Foster who had been in parliament for a little less than five years and Minister of Marine & Fisheries for less than two, was regarded as one of Sir John MacDonald's strong young men and his platform services were much in demand, especially in what was then Western Canada, the Province of Ontario, for there was little political interest taken in the results of the polling in the territory west of the lakes.

A great conservative demonstration was arranged to take place in the drill hall on Craig street, Montreal, one winter evening. The chief attraction was J.A. Chapleau then the real party leader in the Province of Quebec, though Sir Hector Langevin was the titular head. Feeling ran high against the Government in Montreal owing to execution of Louis Kell in November 1885 and a lively meeting was anticipated. It was decided that Mr. Foster should be the chief speaker after Chapleau making his appeal to the English speaking section of the electorate. (The much proportionately larger than it is now.)

Great preparations were made for the demonstration. Immense coal and wood stoves were placed at various points in the edifice. A big platform was erected decked with the Union Jack and the French tricolor. The caretaker of the drill hall was Captain Emond, a strong henchman of, and an intense admirer of Chapleau. He knew his master's peculiarities. Among them was that in order to make his speeches run smoothly, although one of the most powerful orators ever produced, Chapleau needed a lubricant.

This consisted of a strong concoction of De Kuyper gin and water, which is the color of water. Emond carefully prepared the mixture in the proportions which he knew would tickle his master's palate and just before the meeting had begun brought it on the platform in a glass carafe, which he carefully placed on the centre of the table and then withdrew to do some more large managing in the rear.

Chapleau orated. Despite the efforts of a turbulent element to howl him down by such choice epithets as "assassin," "traitor" and the like he carried the meeting with him speaking first in French and then in English. At frequent periods during his speech, he had resorted to the glass jug, which the majority of the crowd thought contained merely just water.

It came Foster's turn to speak. He was received with that courtesy which is the attribute of a French-Canadian audience to a speaker in English. His eloquence so captured the crowd and during his speech at least, there was no repetition of the Nationalist disturbance. He had been speaking for about ten minutes when his throat went dry. Bending over to the centre of the platform, he seized what he thought was the jug of water, poured out a glass-full and started to drink it.

No sooner had he tasted it than he realized the mistake of which he had been the innocent victim. Taking out his handkerchief he tried to get rid of as much of the gin and water as he could, but despite all his efforts, some of it got down his throat. Sir George Eulas Foster had broken his temperance pledge! Excusing himself to the audience for a few seconds he asked for a glass of fresh water, asserting that that in the jug had warmed up. It was brought. It was consumed. Mr. Foster went on with his speech, and only a very few in the hall knew what happened.

When he sat down he turned to the English chairman, Hon. G. A. Drummond, afterwards Sir George—at joint meetings in big centres in the Province of Quebec, it is customary to have two chairmen one English, the other French—and asked what was in the jug. He was taken aback but he was game.

"That was the first time in my life I tasted gin," he told the chairman, and it shall be the last. I cannot see now people can drink such stuff. It was poisonous to me."

"That so," replied Mr. Drummond. "You see that tastes differ." Subsequently one of the newspapers present told Captain Emond of the incident and that worthy was much perturbed that he might have given offense to one of the party leaders. So he waylaid the minister of marine as he left the hall and apologized most profusely, saying in his broken English:

"You know, Mr. Foster, that if I had known you were a teetotaler, what they call a man who does not drink—I would have brought you a jug for yourself; but I thought that all politicians liked their liquor!"

The apology was accepted in the split in which it was made; but Chapleau used to tell how he often poked fun at his temperance colleague by reminding him of the "drink" he had at the drill hall meeting.

SCHOOL WAR ON IN CHATHAM, N. B.

Twenty-Five Pupils Refused Admission Because \$30 Fee Unpaid

Chatham's school war which has been raging for years reached a climax Tuesday when 25 or more children from the Middle Island district were ordered from the town schools upon failure to pay a charge of \$30 each for the year's tuition.

The Board of School Trustees met and ordered that the children be not admitted unless the amounts were paid when the public schools opened. After being refused admission to the schools the children and some of their parents paraded about the town with a banner bearing the inscription: "We are Put out of School—Why?" They called upon Mayor Hickey and sang the National Anthem in front of his office.

MARKING YOUR LINES
Most people find it difficult to mark their lines properly. All sorts of little troubles arise, and as often as not, the name when it is written is an eyesore. But really it is quite simple if done in the following way:

First of all, do not use the broad quill pen which is supplied with some brands of marking ink. Only an expert could hope to be satisfied with it. Use rather, a new set nib, and throw it away when the batch of marking is done. Take the article to be branded and wrap it tightly around a flat ruler, so that the place where the name is to be written is on the upper surface of the ruler.

The material must be perfectly level, and without creases. It is, though, desirable, pencil in lines to indicate the heights of the letters.

Do not write, but print in letters. Do not have the nib full of ink. Make all the strokes downward. Place the index finger and thumb of the left hand just above and below the spot where each letter is to be printed. If you mark your lines this way you will not experience any trouble.

Horses Stung By Swarm Of Bees

St. Hyacinthe, Que. Aug 27—Three horses employed in moving loads of gravel were killed yesterday on the highroad between St. Damase and Kougeon, near here when thousands of bees settled on the animals and literally stung them to death. The horses were completely covered by the bees and maddened by the stings tried to kick themselves free from the heavy wagons. The harness was eventually severed by knives and the animals, too weakened to bolt, were sprinkled with poison to get rid of the bees. They died shortly afterwards.

ENGLAND'S FAMOUS HANGMAN IS A NERVOUS WRECK

John Ellis, England's famous hangman, who lost his nerve and relinquished his sinister occupation last year after executing Mrs. Edith Thompson, was found last week at his home seriously wounded with a revolver lying beside him. It was said that he had spent a sleepless night prior to the shooting. Ellis, who isolated himself socially during nearly a quarter of a century he served as public executioner was said to have brooded over the fact that he sent to their doom more condemned murderers than any other man who had ever held the hangman's office. After the execution of Mrs. Thompson he declared that he would never ascend the gallows again.

FISHERMEN MAY RACE FOR TROPHY

Another battle for the International Fishermen's Trophy between American and Canadian fishermen is regarded as assured.

Capt. Marty Welch who first won the Halifax Herald Cup with the American fishermen Esperanto, and Capt. Angus Walters of the undefeated Bluenose of Lunenburg have been conferring.

Capt. Walters expressed the desire to revive the annual fishermen's contest by racing Bluenose against Columbia some time in October, thus settling last year's most unsatisfactory contest. When Captain Welch communicated Captain Walters' desire to the Gloucester fishermen they were more than eager for a race.

Walters wants the race held off Nova Scotia and while Gloucester would like to see the battle off its own coast, it will waive that point for the sake of getting the two ships together.

Columbia is reported as now on her way home from the fishing grounds with 250,000 pounds of salt cod.

With her arrival it is expected the rival interests will get together and agree definitely on the terms of the race so that the Columbia can time her next fishing trip so as to return in season to be made ready for the international contest. The American race committee is in communication with the Halifax officials and Capt. Walters as to date and terms.

American fishermen generally hail the prospects of a continuance of these famous international contests with unconcealed joy.

HON. PASCAL POIRIEUX IS SENIOR SENATOR

The death a few days ago of Hon. Pascal Boldouc marked the passing of the senior senator of Canada. The oldest now in point of service, is Senator Pascal Poirieux of Ottawa and Shediac who was appointed to the Upper House in 1885 and thus is in his fortieth year in that body.

WISH YOU WERE HERE

The vacation postcard season is now at its height. Hundred of the "having a good time, wish you were here" post cards are arriving here every day from various resorts about the country. A vacation post card sender usually gloats over the "this side for correspondence" section for an hour before he decides to mail it concealing a good one to tell his poor friend back home whom, he thinks will be green with envy. "But the recipient of the card usually tears it up and forgets all about it" said a business man as he tore up one and threw it in the waste basket.

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