

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, MAY 13, 1920

THE PROHIBITION PLEBISCITE.

Announcement was recently made by the Government that a plebiscite on the question of prohibition would be taken in July. From workers interested in the prohibition movement the Standard is informed that the date, although not yet definitely set, will be between July 26 and 30th, possibly on July 28th, which falls on Monday. While an intimation has yet been made officially as to the nature of the questions to be submitted to the electors, it is obvious, in view of recent happenings in the Legislature, that only two proposals can reasonably be offered. The matter of prohibition of the importation of liquor from other provinces for personal use is not an issue at this particular juncture, in view of the fact that the resolution dealing with that phase of the problem was not adopted by the Legislature. There remain, then, for the consideration of the people of this province the two other outstanding questions, namely, whether the present prohibitory law shall be continued, and, if not, what shall take its place. It is reasonable, therefore, to believe—and this is the view held by prohibition workers—that one of the questions submitted will be as to whether the people of New Brunswick are desirous of continuing the prohibitory law as it stands at present. Should the decision be in the affirmative, it will become the duty of the Government to rigidly enforce this law. Should a negative vote be recorded, then the Government must find something to replace the present law, and as a measure of preparedness against such an eventuality, it may be expected that the second question submitted will deal with the sale in New Brunswick, under certain restrictions, of beer and light wines. The expression of opinion along that line will be valuable as a guide to the Government in enacting future legislation, but it does not necessarily follow that the province will immediately adopt any radical changes from the existing system in conformity with the views expressed at the polls.

THE AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK.

It is good news to learn from the report of the speech by the Hon. Dr. Tolmie, Dominion Minister of Agriculture, that it is proposed to establish ten illustration farms in New Brunswick. Any proposals which have for their object the improvement of conditions relating to the farming industry and fostering greater production in this province will have the cordial endorsement of all classes of the community. In bringing down the agricultural estimates for the current year yesterday, Dr. Tolmie briefly surveyed the general situation from the farming standpoint, and expressed the conviction that the future in that respect was full of promise. The total agricultural wealth of the country, he said, was estimated at \$7,379,299,000, and the value of the products of the farm for the last year was \$197,841,000. This item can be considerably increased, if only the great need for conserving the fertility of the soil is properly observed, and a more general system of education along farming lines put to practical application. Statistics are available which show clearly that by the use of improved methods large increases in the general yield of farm crops can be obtained, without the necessity of sowing a single additional acre. There is of course a crying need for more workers upon the land, and in dealing with this phase of the matter, Dr. Tolmie put in a strong plea for active workers and men of practical knowledge rather than men with no farming experience. Closely connected with this matter is the question of how to keep the boys on the land. This is a problem that is engaging the attention of more people than the Minister of Agriculture, and Dr. Tolmie did not appear to be able to suggest any new or more effective expedient for reaching this desirable end than those already known. His advice was to make farm life more attractive for the boys. Experience has proven that this is more easily said than done. As anyone acquainted with life in the country districts knows, there is not very much opportunity for variety; conditions are such that it is the same old round day in and day out; and an occasional visit to the nearest city or town only increases any sense of dissatisfaction with the daily round on the farm that a boy may already have. The lure of city life is the greatest factor in drawing boys from the farm, and it is difficult to overcome it. Dr. Tolmie's position gives him every opportunity of getting reliable information first hand, and in this respect he is able to speak most hopefully as to the great trade it is possible to do in agricultural produce with other countries. The possibilities in European markets are, he says, enormous, while China and Japan are also outlets for Canadian produce. The only thing necessary to obtain and keep these markets is to maintain a high standard of quality, and this is

greatly assisted by the grading process through which most kinds of Canadian farm products are now put. He instanced the case of eggs, for which English buyers are willing to pay twenty cents more per dozen than they will pay for American eggs, owing to the strict grading that Canadian eggs have to undergo. Dr. Tolmie is taking steps to bring about a closer co-operation between the Dominion and Provincial officials, and as a consequence the cause of agriculture should be greatly assisted and benefited.

THE LOYAL OPPOSITION IN PARLIAMENT.

The Toronto Globe report of the attack upon Mr. Rowell for his defence of the Franchise Bill, says, "The Opposition jeered, and shouted all sorts of taunts at him." By way of assisting the reading public to get an intelligible understanding of the rudeness referred to, the London Free Press recalls the composition of the Opposition. It says: "With few exceptions the members were elected upon a platform of no assistance to the hard-pressed forces of Canada in France other than such as might be volunteered to come forward at a time when the country had apparently been drained dry of volunteers. The great majority of these politicians hail from constituencies where the deciding vote is not English-speaking. These gentlemen thrived upon this vote in 1917, and they are particularly keen to see that every last vote of that class shall have the right to measure its strength in the next election."

Taunts and jeers do not come from men who have argument and good principle upon their side. These are the first fruits of embittered and narrowed vision. The sober sense of the nation is not won to the side that indulges in libels, but to those who present reasonable and weighty conclusions in the matter at issue. Is the franchise in Canada so cheap a thing that it may be had over by those whose knowledge of the country is limited, and whose fealty to the British crown may in any wise be open to question? Has the vote no value that it needs not to be won by honest demonstration of the right to possess it? One gathers some idea of the motives of the jeering Opposition from the speech of a French-Canadian member who said that the French wife of a British subject would not have the right to vote upon the franchise. Why the haste to enfranchise the French wife of a British subject? Would France enfranchise offhand the English wife of a Frenchman? Or Germany the Canadian wife of a German? Or Italy the Scotch wife of an Italian? And so on? Let there be decency and order in this serious matter. How are the people to be expected to place value upon the right to vote when the Parliament grants that right itself regards it as lightly as Opposition and political play proposes. Canada calls for dignity upon the part of her public men. Only of ill-mannered schoolboys would it be expected that they "jeered and shouted all sorts of taunts."

CANADA'S EXTERNAL TRADE.

Advocates of tariff reduction, says the Mail and Empire, will find no arguments in the figures of Canada's external trade for the fiscal year that closed on the 31st of March last. In the sum of Canada's imports of merchandise amounted to \$1,045,512,929 as against \$916,429,225 in the fiscal year immediately preceding. That is, the money value of Canada's imports in 1919-20 was \$58,083,804 greater than the money value of Canada's imports in 1918-19. But more important than the difference between the grand totals in the two years in question is the difference between the sums to which the imports of the dutiable goods amounted. In the last fiscal year the value of the dutiable goods imported into Canada was \$693,643,011, whereas in the year immediately preceding it was \$529,476,717. That is to say, in the last fiscal year the dutiable goods imported by Canada were greater in money value than the dutiable goods imported in the year immediately preceding by the large amount of \$167,000,000. Evidently Canada's customs tariff does not prevent dutiable goods from pouring in at an extraordinary rate of increase. In the single twelve-months the importation of dutiable goods increased by more than 30 per cent. It would look as if some of the customs duties were too low. Unless there is an increase at the right points, the balance of trade will become less and less in our favor and the imports from the United States will continue to rise to still greater heights above our exports to that country and keep our money at a large discount across the line. The one satisfactory feature of the increase in imports is that we are increasing our purchases from the United Kingdom rapidly and that the difference in favor of the United States is growing less because of our increased exports there.

Ottawa Journal: A motorist having the other day referred to a certain

class of pedestrians as "jay walkers," the retort discursive is being made by pedestrians. It is probable that motorists are just as open to the epithet of "jaymen" as are pedestrians. There are not a few men and women driving cars today who, either because of temperament or sheer inability to exercise common sense, never should be permitted to sit at the wheel of an automobile. Every hour and every day lives are endangered on our city streets through the reckless and foolish conduct of motor-car drivers.

A special committee of the British Parliament has had under consideration the question of making an assessment upon war-created fortunes, and has come to the conclusion that the proposal is quite feasible. It is estimated that there are at least 75,000 war fortunes, and that not less than \$2,750,000,000 can be collected from them. How much could be got from a similar source in Canada?

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Parties and the Tariff. (Manitoba Free Press.) It is evident that all three parties in Parliament are in favor of a tariff; and the difference between them are those of degree and intention.

A Quiet Tip. (Brookville Recorder.) To the subscriber who wants to know what to do with cats that destroy his garden, we can only remind him that cat skins are worth in the neighborhood of \$150 each.

Oh! That Suspicion. (Montreal Gazette.) At Walkerville, Ont., of all places, an occupant of an automobile was shot dead by a constable who explains that he so acted because he suspected the car was carrying whiskey. To have a bottle or two in tow is considered the most serious crime on the calendar in the sister province.

Rather One-Sided. (Brandon Free Press.) Canadian newspapers continue to suspend the newspaper manufacturer from the crown pulp lands is shipped at large prices across the border, where the pulp lands are practically exhausted. And all to enable a few corporations to make huge profits, while the Dominion, which owes the lands, receives a feeblebit.

Income Tax. (Quebec Chronicle.) A moderate rate of income tax spread over all forms and sizes of incomes would be productive of a much greater revenue to the Government than the tax as it presently exists. The present tax is largely worthless because of the trouble of collection in the case of small incomes, while in the case of large incomes it is so exorbitant as to defeat its purpose.

Starting Them Wrong. (Brandon Free Press.) Anyone who is a careful observer cannot fail to see large numbers of the very young on the streets at too late an hour, or in places of public entertainment, and that at an age when it would be better, from every point of view, for them to be home in their beds.

A BIT OF VERSE

A DOG'S LOVE.
Can love—
Love such as his—
Forever die?
When the light curtain falls,
Shall the light,
Intense,
Wonderful,
Be quenched,
No more to burn,
Often have I,
In reverence,
Almost in awe,
And with swelling breast
And choking throat,
Gazed into the far depths
Of his brown eyes,
And read the story written there
Of deathless truth to me
While life is last,
As a tired child upon his pillow,
When he nestles close
And seems to sigh his longing
For the gift of human speech,
Wherewith to voice his love,
I can but ask
Whether the love he bears,
By day,
And through the lonely watches
Of the night—
Love undimmed through every stress,
Love that would gladly yield his life
for mine—
Is not a spark of that protecting Love
Which guards the human creature of
God's hand,
And notes the sparrow's fall,
Is not love love,
Whether in man or in the faithful
beast?
Does not love emanate from one great
Source?
And can love die?
—Charles E. Allen.

THE LAUGH LINE

Left.
Pat got out of his carriage at a railway station to get some refreshment, but the train started before he had finished.
"Hold on," he cried, as he ran along the platform at top speed. "You've got a passenger on board that's left behind."
His Week End.
Gerald—Am just here for a week-end.
Geraldine—Is your head troubling you?
Too Strong.
Horrowwell—That fellow Blones is too strong to work.
Hardup—What makes you think so?
Horrowwell—Eve tried to work him.
A Rap at Bangle.
Bangle—That steaming looking girl

Benny's Note Book

I bought a mulliger at Mommy Simmies store yesterday afternoon, being a trick mulliger with a rubber ball on the end of a rubber tube and a fat rubber thing on the other end, the trick being to put the fat thing under the table cloth just where somebody's plate is going to be and then squeeze the ball and make the plate go up and down as if it was haunted. Wich I put it under pops plate and left the rubber ball hanging down under the table cloth by my plate, and when the ball rang for supper pop came in and sat down, saying, I feel all shaky today, I believe I've bin working too hard, I'll haaf to cut it out.
And as soon as he started to eat I gave the ball 2 squeezes and pops plate went up and down twice, and pop quick pushed his chair back and looked at the plate, and ma sed, What is it, Willyum, wats the matter?
Nothing, sed pop. And he started to eat agen and just as he was going to eat a lot of pees on his fork I quick squeeze the ball agen and pops plate went up and down once, and all the pees went off the fork and pop quick grabbed up his plate and looked under it without seeing anything on account of the fat thing being all the way under the table cloth, and ma sed, For meeny sake, Willyum, wat are you doing?
Nothing, cant a man pick up his own plate if he wants to? sed pop, and ma sed, And look at those pees all over the table cloth.
Look at them yourself, sed pop. Wich just then it made his plate go up and down 3 times and ma sed, My goodness, Willyum, wat aces your plate? and pop sed, O, you see it too, thank hevin. And he looked at me and I looked ignorant, and he picked up his plate and the table cloth and everything and I had to go rise to bed without hardly anything in my stomach yet but 2 pork chops and 2 helps of mash potatoes and about 40 pees.

over there has been gazing at me for the past 10 minutes. She must be trying to make an impression.
"What time were you to meet him?" Miss Keou—Very likely; people generally use something soft for that purpose.

Neglected.
"I wonder where my husband can be!" said Mrs. Brown. "I have waited here for him since 6 o'clock."
"What time were you to meet him?" asked the friend.
"At 5 o'clock," replied Mrs. Brown.

Hadn't Tried That.
Father—That young rascal comes here too often; I want it stopped.
Daughter—Im sure, father, I do all I can to discourage his visits.
Father—Nonsense! I haven't heard you sing for him once.

She Tried Hard.
Old Maid Hansen was telling her family of an adventure. "Yesterday

on my way home, I had to pass a dark street. Suddenly a man came out before me. Ah! How I ran!"
The sixteen-year-old—Did you catch him?

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