

The St. John Standard

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THE IRISH ELECTIONS.

The Irish Municipal elections offer some hope of a revival of moderate opinion that may save the country from the present drift towards anarchy. Before the elections Mr. Dillon issued a manifesto condemning Sinn Fein and most of its works, and arguing the Nationalists to assert themselves. Mr. Dillon has been described as the best judge of a political situation and the worst hand of one. At any rate he had apparently come to the conclusion that Sinn Fein was losing power and prestige, and that there were fair prospects of re-emergence of constitutional Nationalism. This view appears to have been justified; at any rate the Nationalists have re-emerged as a political force.

Sinn Fein is still the strongest party, but with only 31 per cent of the seats it cannot control without an alliance with another party. Its leaders apparently claim that they will have the support of the Labor party, but this remains to be seen. At the Parliamentary election in December 1918, the Irish Labor party refrained from putting up candidates and threw its weight with Sinn Fein, boasting that it was the only labor party that was prepared to place national considerations above class interests. Apparently it expected that the triumph of Sinn Fein would result in a new order of affairs in Ireland. The fact that the Irish Labor party ran its own candidates in Municipal elections and captured 17 per cent of the seats would seem to indicate that in the view of Sinn Fein had not delivered the goods. About 18 per cent of the men elected are labelled Independents and returned, and it is likely they represent a moderate element in Irish affairs.

Mr. Dillon in his recent manifesto did not deal with the Lloyd George Home Rule bill, but the fact that he did not condemn it is taken as a sign that he is willing to consider it. The important thing for Ireland is that with Constitutional Nationalism again becoming articulate, it should not continue itself to denunciation of Sinn Fein, but should promote practical discussion of the plan for reconciliation. Some prominent Irishmen are opening the door to discussion. Thomas Lough, who fought for Home Rule in the House of Commons for twenty-six years, declared the other day that Lloyd George's proposals were much better than those of Gladstone or Asquith; in fact he affirmed that they embodied "the only plan that ever contained the promise of a real adjustment." He thinks the financial proposals of the bill are extraordinarily generous, and believes they will appeal to the Irish elector if he takes the trouble to examine them. The Earl of Darnley, on behalf of the Federalists, has issued a statement urging careful and honest consideration of the Prime Minister's proposals. Apparently Mr. Dillon thinks the Government should moderate the irksome features of the semi-military administration of Ireland before she feels called upon to convict herself to a definite opinion on the new Home Rule proposals.

LIBERAL CHALLENGE TO FARMERS.

In order perhaps to give countenance to Hon. Mr. King's pretension that the Farmers' movement is the handmaiden of the Liberal Party Mr. Dewar has challenged Mr. Drury to combat in a Toronto constituency. Mr. Dewar was elected by a large majority in a Toronto constituency, and doubtless he thinks he could be easily elected again if the Leader of the Farmers' Party would run against him. Such a challenge, however, does not indicate that Mr. Dewar thinks Mr. King or any other Liberal has much chance of forming an alliance with the farmers. At any rate he is not disposed to follow a course of action in Provincial politics that would fit in with Mr. King's verbal attitude to the farmers in Federal politics.

It is hardly likely that the Farmers' leader will accept Mr. Dewar's challenge, though perhaps if he did Mr. Dewar might not lead the polls. The London Free Press thinks Mr. Dewar's recent victory in Toronto was largely due to the dissatisfaction with drastic temperance legislation of the Hearst Government, and that if he had to run an election now his chances would not be so good, as the Labor vote which was an important factor in his election would now go to the candidate of the Farmers' Party, with which Labor is in alliance. It thinks, too, that a large Conservative vote which supported Mr. Dewar in the general election would swing to Mr. Drury if he entered the lists against Mr. Dewar in Toronto. It adds:

"The Conservative party generally is no antagonist to the farmers, and in Provincial politics is determined upon giving Hon. Mr. Drury and his associates a real opportunity to make good. No one upon the Conservative side has manifested the spirit of keen, even bitter, opposition to the Farmers' party that is being displayed by the Liberal

leader, who seems to fancy himself the rightful occupant of the Prime Minister's office and to regard the farmers as usurpers and interlopers.
"But if Mr. Dewar is ready to contest a Toronto seat against the Premier, the latter might suggest in reply that the election take place in a rural constituency and that Mr. Dewar should here stake his political future upon the result. If the outcome in Toronto might be in doubt, that in a country riding would not be."

THE SHIPPING BOOM.

How long the present shipbuilding boom will last is a question which is occupying some attention in marine and other journals. In spite of the enormous war losses, the world's tonnage is now greater than in 1914, but it is not all in commission for commercial purposes, as the British and other Governments are using a big fleet for clearing up war commitments and for European relief, while a large number of vessels which have been released are still being reconditioned. At present 8,000,000 tons of shipping are in course of construction throughout the world. The United States heads the list of shipbuilding countries with 3,500,000 tons gross under construction. Great Britain comes second with 2,800,000 tons, and then follow Japan, France, Italy and other countries. In Great Britain the vast amount of repair and re-conditioning work made it impossible to construct as much new tonnage last year as had been planned. Moreover, a very considerable proportion of the new tonnage, and by far the larger number of vessels sent off the stocks in Great Britain last year consisted of craft of more or less naval character, representing the tapering off of the vast naval programme which dominated the yards and workshops for five years. The change from naval to mercantile work has now been practically accomplished, and all the British yards are fully occupied with the repair and re-conditioning of privately owned cargo and passenger ships and high speed craft for the Channel services.

The fact that the shipping under construction the world over is now four times as great as the amount in hand in a normal year before the war, indicates a great expansion of constructive capacity, and in the view of some shipping men it means very keen competition in the near future, and possibly a slump in freight rates.

RECKLESS DRIVING.

Complaints are being made of reckless driving of automobiles in St. John. Hill climbing may have given St. John citizens the agility of mountaineers, and accidents fortunately have been few, but that is no excuse for the high speeds at which some automobilists take street corners. Time may be wasted for those who can afford automobiles, but mostly it appears to be the joy-riders who have an inadequate conception of the rights of pedestrians. Automobile recklessness should be discouraged here in its infancy, or it will grow to a condition of lawlessness such as exists in some of the American States. In New York State last year 1,270 persons were killed by motor vehicles, and large numbers were injured more or less seriously. The death toll has been increasing rapidly in New York State, yet only 141 motor licenses were suspended last year. Massachusetts and other New England States have tackled this problem with vigor; with a small death rate from motor vehicle accidents last year Massachusetts suspended 2,049 licenses. Most of the New England States have a rigid bonding system, which makes the automobilist realize his responsibility to the pedestrian, and insures the material punishment of offenders.

Possibly some attention should be given to the correction of adult delinquency in St. John. The Parish Council who observed that too many families here could not find houses where children could be reared in decency may not have been beside the mark. The problem of juvenile delinquency may not be unconnected with that of proper housing accommodation. Housing Courts, such as they have in Australia, might meet a bigger need than Juvenile Courts. No doubt a probation officer might help the wayward city children, but a probation officer who would guide the city fathers in the direction of civic betterment would be a greater blessing.

It is unkindly suggested that Mr. Dewar's efforts to queer Hon. Mr. King's labors to effect a rapprochement with the farmers is inspired by the hope that if he can only induce Mr. Drury to recognize him as Leader of the Opposition to the Farmers' Government he will be able to connect with the salary which Ontario pays to the leader of the Opposition.

The action of the United States Railway Board indicates that American railways and ports have their own

troubles, and that congestion is not confined to St. John, or due wholly to Union Government. Probably the American steel trust wishes that Carnegie had spent his money on port equipment, instead of oilbarrels bearing his name.

Apparently The Telegraph's idea of nationalizing the port is that it should be managed by the C. N. R., as at Halifax. That might not be fair to the C. P. R., which has a big interest in how the port of St. John is managed. It is up to The Telegraph to define the form of management which would obtain under what it calls nationalization.

WHAT THEY SAY

A Very Tough Problem. (Springfield Republican.)
The history of Ireland since Gladstone's first home rule bill in 1871 forces the conclusion that it is one thing to introduce a home rule bill, and another thing to put it across the channel.

Limiting Production. (Vancouver Province.)
Believing that economy should apply to speech as well as civic funds the Calgary City Council has fixed a time limit of five minutes for speeches by the members.

Timely Tip. (Toronto Mail and Empire.)
Mr. Frank Murray now owns the New York Sun and New York Herald and Telegram. We suggest that he purchase the New York American, and after trying a stone round his neck drop it off where the water is deep.

A White Man's Burden. (Toronto Telegram.)
The British Empire is far more necessary to the natives who clamor for self-determination in Egypt and India than these natives are necessary to the greatness of that Empire. All that is needed to make India, Egypt and Africa and the Isles of the sea a hell of death, misery and tyranny is for the people of the British Isles to get their shoulders out from under the white man's burden of looking after other people, and begin to look after themselves.

The Reviving Buffalo. (Hamilton Spectator.)
It is interesting to learn that the Dominion Government expects to make a lot of money out of one thousand buffalo bulls it has to sell from its herd browsing on reserves near Wainwright, Alberta, and W. J. Blair, M.P., enthusiastically declares that in going into the buffalo breeding business the federal authorities builded better than they knew. A herd of 600 buffalo purchased in 1905 has increased its numbers to 5,000, and it is estimated that the 1,000 bulls to be sold will bring not only sufficient money to meet the original cost of the herd, but to wipe off all that has been expended for care and feeding during the eleven years.

A BIT OF VERSE

POOR LITTLE FELLOW. (Exchange.)
Poor little fellow, your case is sad,
You must go to school when you'd like to play,
And you want to be old like your dog,
Who may come and go in his own sweet way;
And you seldom have traveled on railroad trains,
And never alone you may wander far,
You long to be done with your growing pains,
And get off there where the big men are.

Poor little fellow, your life is hard,
There are so many things that you may not do;
So many pathways to you are barred,
So many rules that are made for you;
Oh, you see men come and you see them go,
Old and battered and worn and gray,
And to win the freedom you think they know
You would fling all of your youth away.

Poor little fellow, time was that I
Looked out on the world through the selfsame eyes,
And the years seemed long and I wondered why
I couldn't be old and grown and wise;
Then I used to dream of the days to be
And the joys I'd claim and the things I'd do
When the years had fashioned a man of me—
Now I'd give them all to be just like you.

Poor little fellow, don't sigh for age,
For the years are swift and their cares are great;
Bitter the battles that men must wage,
As grown-ups learn when it's all too late;
Oh, soon, too soon, shall you come to see
When the work of the world shall be yours to do,
Why there's never a man but would die gladly for
A poor little fellow once more like you.

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Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

I had 5 cents yesterday, and I was wawking along worrying wat to do with it wen I saw a man standing on the corner with a satchel full of little bottles, saying, Heer you are, good peepie, the wonderfull Japanese cooking powder, 2 or 3 grains will give an intire dinair the most delicious flavor you ever tasted in your life, dont miss this grate opportunity, one bottle will last a life time or longer, and ony 5 sents a bottle.

G, 5 sents, I thawt.
And I bawt a bottle and took the cork out and tried to smell it and cooldent on account of it not having any smell, and I took it home and went back in the kitchen and nobody wasent back there and there was a big thing full of noodle soup berling on the stove, me thinking, G, gosh, Ill put some in the soup and nobody wont know wat made it taste so good.
Wich L did, umpumping about half of the bottle in the soup, and then I went up stairs and ma was fixing her hair, saying, Benny, I want you to look nice and neat for supper, Mr. and Mrs. Hewes will be heer.

Yes mam, I sed. And I washed my hands and face so hard they didnt hardly leave a mark on the towel, and pop came home with Mr. and Mrs. Hewes and Nora brawt in the noodle soup as soon as we went in to supper, pop saying, Ah, noodle soup.
Now Willyum Mr. and Mrs. Hewes will speck too much, sed ma, and Mrs. Hewes sed, Not a tall, not a tall. Being a big and fat lady with glasses on her nose but not erround her ears, and Mr. Hewes sed, Not a tall. Being a little man with a big bald spot. And ma gave everybody soup, and everybody taisted it at the same time, having the feastest taste I ever taisted, properly on account of the Japanese cooking powder.

Mervay sed my sister Gladdis, and pop looked surprized as anything, and Mr. Hewes cawfed as if he was trying to sound polite, and Mrs. Hewes put her spoon down with a fainting expression, and ma sed, O dear, Im afraid sumthing dreadfull must of happened to the soup, and I thawt, Gosh, G wizz, holey smoaks I must of put too much in. And jest then Nora came in with a awfull expression as if she had jest taisted it herself and ma told her to take the soup out. Wich she did, and the rest of the supper taisted natural on account of not having any Japanese cooking powder in it, and rite after supper I went out and wawked about 5 blocks and throo the rest of the Japanese cooking powder over sunbodys gate.

A BIT OF FUN

Not Deliberate.
"Charles," said his mother, "I'm afraid you told me a deliberate falsehood."
"No, I didn't mamma," protested Charles, "I told it in an awful hurry."

Not Her Fault.
He—it's reported that we are engaged.
She—Well, it's not my fault that it is only a report.

The Final Test.
"I thought you said this bathing suit was in fast colors," said Binks, indignantly, to the hosier of whom

he had bought this suit this morning.
"Yes, sir, that's what I said," returned the hosier.
"Well, every wretched stripe on the thing has come off on my back," retorted Binks.
"Ah, but wait until you try to get 'em off your back," smiled the hosier, suavely. "Then you'll see."

Norwegian Joke.
A butcher put up a sign reading: "Furveyor to His Majesty." Washing to improve upon this, he added, "God Save the King."

The Widow's Spite.
The Parson—"Mrs. Smithers seems very cross with me—didn't you notice she almost cut me?"
The Friend—"But, why?"
The Parson—"Don't you remember when you were preaching, 'her husband's funeral sermon you said he had gone to a better home."

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