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Feb 24 '17

MINARD'S LINIMENT FOR GARGET IN COWS.

## Prohibition as it is.

Editor Evening Telegram

Dear Sir—A few days ago I wrote, and you were good enough to publish, a letter in which I endeavoured to present my reasons for believing that the system at present in force in Newfoundland is not calculated to serve best the interests of the individual citizen or the country as a whole. Since then a couple of letters have appeared by way of rejoinder to my remarks, and with your consent, I now propose to make reply to these critics of mine. I am sorry that my former communication does not appear to have made my meaning as explicit to your readers as they were to my own mind. Capt. Kean, for instance, professes to believe that I argue for abolition of control of the liquor traffic and that I am advocating a return to the old system of licensing the sale of ardent spirits. While I do not quite understand just how he could read such an interpretation to any of my remarks, let me state right here that he misunderstands and misrepresents my contention. I do not favor any such reversion to the old regime nor was any advocacy intended to be made by my letter of the other day.

One of my critics—Capt. Kean, I think—shows an inclination to sneer at my contention that the liquor traffic can be controlled by the government in such a manner as at the same time to produce the moral and economic effect desired and still to lift from the shoulders of the people some of the burden of revenue-producing taxation they now have to carry. He professes to see in such a contention a contradiction in terms and in principle and attempts to laugh it out of court. Still, if Capt. Kean's attitude toward the drink traffic governed all our life and conduct, this would be a mighty unpleasant world to live in. Capt. Kean's argument, in effect is: some men indulge in liquor to excess; by so doing they dissipate their mental and physical resources and play ducks and drakes with their money, while at the same time making a nuisance of themselves, therefore all men should be prevented from using. Because some men use alcohol to excess, therefore all men must be prevented from using it even in moderation. The Church, says Capt. Kean, cannot persuade the few sinners to see the error of their ways, therefore the Church invokes the law, introducing

intolerance into our civil life and makes scapegoats at the same time of the great mass of our population, who are sober and temperate by inclination as well as from habit. Well, if the advocates of a morality by act of Parliament are quite sincere and quite consistent, they must now insist on legislation for the repression of cigarette smoking, because excessive indulgence—fairly common nowadays—results in the lowering of the mental and physical stamina. They must insist upon the enactment of laws forbidding such practices as gambling with cards or on horse races because these habits are result of time and of substance. As a matter of fact, such a principle applied generally and consistently to the affairs of everyday life would pile up legal "Thou Shalt Not's" until the average citizen would find it easier to take up an abiding residence in jail rather than devote his memory exclusively to futile attempts to remember multitudinous laws and put in his time almost entirely trying to avoid breaches of statutes innumerable. All of which reminds us that the Great War was fought to save the world from domination by the German nation whose civil and military life was pretty much monopolized in order to avoid what was "Verboten" (Forbidden) by the All-Highest and his minions.

Temperance in all things is commendable; rigid prohibition of any ordinary line of conduct that can safely be left to the individual conscience is objectionable, in that it saps the moral fibre and lessens the moral resistance. Prohibition aims at moral reform through act of Parliament. But Prohibition can be successful only in the moral and spiritual sentiment of a people be behind it. If it were true, then there would not be such wholesale and persistent attempts to break the law as it now exists. That such breaches are attempted is testified by the developments of the times. Only the other day a schooner captain was fined for attempting to smuggle a cargo of spirits worth ten thousand dollars into Newfoundland. Further testimony to this effect is borne by a statement made by a member of our local parliament who declared from his place in the House of Assembly that within a short period of time and within a limited area eight hundred gallons of rum were smuggled into Newfoundland. And, when Capt. Kean and other champions of prohibition "as is" in Newfoundland today claim that the regime is as popular as ever, they ignore the effect that the majority of the signatures were secured in districts that voted most strongly for prohibition when the plebiscite was taken in 1915 then it is very manifest that a marked change in public sentiment regarding this matter has taken place during the seven years of the "dry" regime.

And, after all, what evidence is there to facilitate former supporters of the regime faithful to prohibition? The regime came in under a cloud of misrepresentation. Moderates were told that every effort would be made to make it possible for outport people to obtain their necessary household stocks. Nothing of the kind has been done. Yes, even though cases of habitual drunkenness have been very materially reduced and intoxication has been very materially reduced from our streets, the fanatical section of the prohibitionists persist in efforts to cut off even the very moderate supplies available in the city and outport folk. And what are we to say of the testimony the other day of a minister of the Crown to the effect that under a prohibition regime the penitentiary and asylum are filled to overflowing? And now very ardent prohibitionists are arguing for an increase in the detective and police forces to make possible the continuance, with effect of an anti-drinking campaign that is degenerating into little better than persecution.

Surely, then, every intelligent Newfoundland will admit the validity of my claim that there is grave cause for discontent with the prohibition regime as we know it in Newfoundland. It has lessened our revenue and increased the burden of our taxation; it promises to further increase our

public expenditure. And, if more conclusive testimony of my word be demanded, then I must refer readers of this letter to the findings made by the Royal Commission, composed of Sir W. F. Lloyd, Rev. L. Currie, D. D., Rev. E. Jones, Ph. D., Drs. A. Anderson and T. M. Mitchell, and Messrs. J. V. O'Dea and G. F. Grimes. These gentlemen admitted the necessity for modifying the prohibition law and suggested the issuing of ration cards for spirits, wines and beer to heads of households. Their claim was that only by such a course could the use of dope, the manufacture of moonshine and the practice of smuggling be discouraged, such a modification of the prohibition law, applying equally to all parts of Newfoundland, would meet the suggestions I made in my last letter. It would result in an increase in the revenue, it would remove hardship and handicaps under which our outport people suffer and it would attract tourists in large numbers to any up-to-date hotel erected in St. John's or in other parts of the country. To be practical, the conditions and needs of the times must be met. We have had seven years of prohibition and the experiment of the regime cannot argue that it has not had sufficient trial. Let the people now be given a chance to express their sentiments through a referendum. They can then vote for bone-dry prohibition, for modified prohibition along the lines suggested by the Royal Commission or for a wide-open regime such as existed before the prohibition era. Those who object to such a referendum simply proclaim their lack of faith in their own cause. Yours truly,

B. B. STAFFORD.  
May 7, 1922.

## Wedding Bells.

SNELGROVE-BELLMAN.

On Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock at the Cochrane St. Centennial Church by Rev. Mr. Johnson, Miss Cynthia Bellman was united in marriage to Mr. Geo. Snelgrove. The bride looked charming in grey costume with hat to match and white furs, carrying a bouquet of white carnations. She was given away by her uncle Mr. Pretty. The groom was supported by Mr. G. B. Snow and W. Simms. The bridesmaids were Miss Gladys Snelgrove, sister of the groom and Miss Stella Peckford. A reception at the home of the groom's parents, Batters Road, where congratulations were extended and an enjoyable evening spent. The grooms present to the bride was a check, to the bridesmaids gold brooches. The wedding presents were both numerous and serviceable, testifying to the esteem in which both bride and bridegroom are held.

## The Daily Questionnaire.

THURSDAY, May 11.

Sir M. P. Cashin.—To ask the Prime Minister, in the absence of Hon. the Minister of Agriculture and Mines, if the Government and Mines if the Government gave any options or made other arrangements with any parties in the Colony for the sale to said parties of the pulpwood or pitprops cut last winter and the previous winter, or for part of the same; if so, to state the terms and conditions of such options; also, if the Government recently declined to recognize such options on the ground that Mr. Coaker had effected a sale of all this material in the United States; if so, to whom has he sold the material, at what rates, and under what other conditions; also, if it was intimated by the Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Mines to parties here holding options, that machines for removing the bark from the wood would be sent here and operated, and if so, who will send them, who will operate them, and who will pay the cost of the same; and also to lay on the table of the House copies of all correspondence in relation to this matter, between the Prime Minister, Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and any other parties in regard to the said matter.

Mr. Fox.—To ask Hon. the Minister

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In Black, 3.30, 3.50, 4.00, 4.50, 5.00.

In Brown, 3.80, 4.00, 4.50, 5.00, 6.00.

In Brown with rubber heel, 4.00, 4.50

In Black with rubber heel, 4.50

3.30 the pair.



SPOOL HEEL LACE SHOES,

in Black, Brown and Patent, only 2.75.

ALL PATENT LEATHER PUMPS, spool heel, 2.75.



INFANTS' BOOTS, in Black or Brown Kid, lace and button, 1.35.

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Infants' Soft Sole Boots, assorted shades, lace and button, 65c.

## Summer Footwear at Lower Prices



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Men's Brown Calf Boots . . . 5.00

Men's Gunmetal Boots . . . 5.50

With rubber heel . . . 5.50

Men's Brown Boots . . . 6.00, 7.00

With rubber heels . . . 7.50

Dark Brown, 5.00 the pair.

MEN'S SUMMER SHOES

Black Kid, rubber heel

Brown Calf, rubber heel

Black Kid, rubber heel

Brown Kid, rubber heel

Brown Brogue . . . 7.50

Women's 1-Strap Shoes . . . 2.50

Women's 3-Strap Shoes . . . 3.50

Wo's Tan 4-Strap Shoes, 4.50

Wo's Tan 2-Strap Shoes, 4.50

Wo's Pat. 4-Strap Shoes, 4.50

Women's Grey Suede Shoes, 6.00, 7.50



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20 dozen Plain Spring Blinds in Deep Cream and Green; dependable rollers and fittings.

Sale Price, 60c. each

### CURTAIN LACE.

A few pieces White and Cream English Curtain Lace; assorted prices.

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### SILENCE CLOTH.

Protect your mahogany table from hot water jugs and kettles. Regular Price, \$2.00 yard.

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For the next two weeks we will give some wonderful values in Ladies' Silk, Georgette, Crepe de Chine and Muslin Blouses.

### A REGULAR CLEAN UP.

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10 dozen Ladies' Tan Hose, full size; wonderful value.

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Prepare for summer. A big lot in Men's Silk Lisle and Cotton Hose. They come in Black, Tan and White. Value for \$1.20 pair.

Your choice for 75c. pair

### OIL CLOTH SHELVING.

30 pieces Oil Cloth Shelving, in time for spring cleaning of pantry shelves; 6 inches wide.

Sale Prices, 6c. per yard

### BOOTH TOWELING.

A few pieces of the wonderful Booth Toweling, pure white. Regular Price, 85c. yard.

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## Marshall Bros.

of Posts and Telegraphs if it is correct that the British Admiralty recently offered to the Newfoundland Government, free of cost, the Wireless Station at Mount Pearl, which offer was refused. If so, when the offer was made and why was it refused; and to land Government or any department thereof in reference thereto.

Keep Empire Day for Athletic Carnival, Casino Hall, May 24th and 25th. may 21, eod

—By Bud Fisher.

## MUTT AND JEFF—

