

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1924

# The Evening Times-Star

The Evening Times-Star is printed at 25-27, Centre-street, every evening (Sunday excepted) by New Brunswick Publishing Co., Ltd., A. D. McKenna, President.  
Telephone: Private branch exchange connecting all departments. Main 8417.  
Subscription price: By mail per year, in Canada, \$5.00; United States, \$6.00; by carrier per year, \$6.00.  
The Evening Times-Star has the largest circulation of any evening paper in the Maritime Provinces.  
Advertising Representatives—New York, Frank R. Northrup, 330 Madison Ave., Chicago, E. J. Powers, 15 South La Salle Street.  
The Audit Bureau of Circulations audits the circulation of The Evening Times-Star.

ST. JOHN, N. B., OCTOBER 24, 1924

## THE ONTARIO VOTE

Pyrrhus, after his victory over the Romans near the River Sira, said to those sent to congratulate him:—"One more such victory and Pyrrhus is undone."  
The victory for the O. T. A., recorded by the voters of Ontario yesterday, is manifestly Pyrrhic. Another such victory and the Prohibitionists of Ontario are undone, and perhaps the Prohibitionists of Canada also; but these are campaigns; the war is unfinished. However, on whichever side of the argument the observer's sympathies may lie, there is no blinking the significance of a prohibition majority reduced from more than 400,000 votes to 25,000, or 40,000. And while we are saying that we must not forget that, while some two million voters were eligible in Ontario, the large majority of the O. T. A. votes were cast by the voters of the O. T. A. districts. The first natural feeling of an outsider upon reading the Ontario returns this morning would be an expression of regret that the people did not return a really decisive verdict.

But we must consider the facts as they are, and that which stands out is that the wave of opinion against prohibition—or rather against the conditions which have prevailed under prohibition legislation, for as yet no province in Canada has really had prohibition—has swept over the country from the coast, through the prairie section, and has been halted at the borders of Ontario, but only temporarily. All the forces that were arrayed against the Ontario Temperance Act, and against similar legislation, whether rightly or wrongly so arrayed, will feel in the light of yesterday's voting that it is only a matter of time until Ontario will adopt some form of government sale. There is, too, the necessary implication that the Maritime Provinces will be likely to follow. Whether the country will stick to government sale is quite another question.

The issue in Ontario, as presented in the ballot, was plain beyond misunderstanding. Here is the ballot itself:  
1.—Are you in favor of the continuance of the Ontario Temperance Act?  
2.—Are you in favor of the sale as a beverage of beer and spirituous liquor in sealed packages under Government control?

In 1919 there was a plebiscite, and the people of Ontario were asked:—"Are you in favor of the repeal of the O. T. A.?"  
The answer was in the negative in the proportion of more than two to one, or 777,237 against and 370,248 in favor of repeal. The majority in favor of the act in that year was over 400,000, and at that same election the majority against a proposed system of government control, which was also put on the ballot, was also over 400,000. The significance of the majority reduced from more than 400,000 to the margin by which the act was sustained yesterday is too clear to be ignored. There is a sharp cleavage between the city and country population on this question in Ontario, as elsewhere, and this sticks out prominently in the vote, but an examination of the returns shows that, while many of the larger cities and towns went wet, by no means all did so. In Waterloo and Essex Counties, where there are large distilling and brewing interests, and in places like Kitchener, Windsor, Ottawa, Sudbury and Port William, the vote was exceedingly heavy against the O. T. A. Majority in 1919 gave prohibition a majority of 21,000, while yesterday it voted for government control by more than twenty-five thousand.

Evidently the fact that liquor was quite freely obtainable in Ontario yesterday, the O. T. A., although perhaps in less degree than in any other province under prohibition, had much weight with many of the electors. Many of them did not want prohibition any way, but many who did want it and voted for prohibition, expecting to get it, were disgusted by their experience under the act. A matter for much regret is the evident existence of so much apathy, proved by the failure to bring out a much larger vote. Apparently an astonishing proportion of the eligible electors did not think enough of the issue to take the trouble to go to the polls, although the weather was fine and all the conditions prevailing favored a heavy vote. In this very failure of so many voters to place themselves on record, one way or the other, there is great food for thought. Some 2,000,000 votes were eligible. About half voted.

The Premier of Ontario is on record as pledged to enforce the O. T. A. up to the hilt in case it was sustained at the polls; but the small margin of victory will inevitably have a tendency to modify enthusiasm for enforcement, and already there is talk of the introduction of a local option, although the Premier's recent declarations would appear to forbid that course. The result of yesterday's vote will be to encourage the anti-prohibitionists throughout Canada, and the extension of the "government control."

area during the next few years is obviously indicated.

The Maritime Provinces were waiting for Ontario. Ontario has spoken. If it is proposed to have a similar test of popular opinion in the Maritime Provinces, it would be highly desirable to bring out the highest possible proportion of the eligible vote, and one this would be to enforce the law now on the statute books up to the hilt from now until the vote is taken. This would stir up the forces on both sides to real action, and there would be thus produced a real expression of the popular will upon which the government could base its action. Such a course would be sound public policy and, incidentally, good politics.

So far as Ontario is concerned, and so far as the meaning of yesterday's voting goes, Pyrrhus said it.

## THE GALLIOWS

It is a grim business to hang four men at once, as Montreal did at dawn yesterday, but their lives were forfeit, and thus the majesty of Canadian law is vindicated and notice is served upon the more desperate members of the underworld that in this country banditry and murder lead to the gallows. It becomes known—it is thus written in letters of fire before the eyes of criminals, native or alien, both in the Dominion and in the adjoining States—that Canada is not a safe or inviting territory for hold-up men or for murderers.

Even in Canada, through lack of evidence, or at times through undue sentimentality on the part of jurors, some detected criminals do escape punishment; but in the matter of the more serious crimes our record is good by comparison with the United States, though it leaves much to be desired if compared with that of Great Britain. Our judiciary stands high, true to noble precedent, and in most cases of gravity—though by no means in all—our juries do their duty, however unpleasant.

Justice is not vengeful; its scales are true. The accused bandit or murderer has the advantage of every safeguard in court. Rightly, our judges frown upon many of the technicalities and subtleties which are permitted to bedevil the administration of American criminal law; but we still have something to learn from the English practice whereby the judge takes a much more active part in the trial of a criminal case than is the rule here.

It is worth noting, in discussing the Montreal executions, that since the recent crime waves in the United States, there are now but eight States in the American Union in which the death penalty is not in force. A few years ago there were twelve.

## THE SAVING SENSE

A small circle of folk with the saving sense of humor contrive to get some amusement out of the American presidential race, heated as most of the population is by political controversy now that the candidates are in the home stretch. Mr. William McAdoo, son-in-law of Woodrow Wilson, is charged by a Republican journal with supporting Mr. Davis with a visibly modified enthusiasm, the idea being that Mr. McAdoo could bear with fortitude the defeat of Mr. Davis, as in that event he himself might be selected as the Democratic candidate in 1928.

Very probably Mr. McAdoo is not glib, but at all events he is not glibly the cause of gaily by remarking that Mr. McAdoo's cordiality towards the Democratic nominee recalls Charles A. Dana's casual remark about another Democratic candidate, General Winfield S. Hancock, that he was a good man, weighing two hundred and fifty pounds.  
Naturally the prophets in the presidential campaign, particularly toward its stormy close, are both numerous and vociferous, and, as is not unusual even in countries other than the Republic, their predictions are plentifully colored by their partisan affiliations. The New York Times, which is not altogether happy because its candidate, Mr. Davis, appears to be running a bad third, nevertheless contrives to discover some cause for mirth in the exaggerated claims and prophecies which are made by Republican managers and press agents. The Times presents an imaginary forecast, supposed to emanate from Republican sources. It says:—"We are on the eve of the most momentous election in the history of the United States. The Constitution and the honor of the American people are at stake. The profound apprehension and excitement of the American people are too great to be expressed in words, so great they do not dare to show it. As Mr. O'Rourke puts it, still waters and people run deep. Many Democrats admit privately that if this election

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### ONLY THE GAME FISH SWIMS UP STREAM.

(Grandland Rice.)  
It's easy to drift as the current flows; it's easy to move as the deep tide goes; but the answer comes when the breakers crash.  
And strikes the soul with a bitter lash—Where the goal ahead is endless fight—Through a sunless day and a starless night.  
Where the far call breaks on the sleep-er's dream,  
"Only the game fish swims up stream."  
The spirit wanders where it knows no road;  
The soul turns soft down the Easy Road;  
There's fun enough in the thrill and shroud;  
But life in the main is an uphill job; And it's better so, where the softer game Leaves too much fat on a weakened frame;  
Where the far call breaks on the sleep-er's dream,  
"Only the game fish swims up stream."

### BANQUET BEGINS FIRESIDE SEASON

The Fireside Club of St. David's church held its formal opening of the season last night when 35 of the members and their friends sat down to a banquet that was a feast of good things. R. Strain was the toastmaster and chairman for the evening and there was an excellent programme of music and addresses. Ronald Shaw led a sing-song of popular music and every one joined in heartily. Bert Courne was the accompanist. The toast to the King was proposed by Charles Ellsworth and was responded to with the singing of the National Anthem. Mr. Lawson proposed the toast to the church to which Rev. Hugh Miller made the reply. E. C. Girvan gave a very pleasing vocal solo and the toast to the Sunday school was proposed by S. R. Christopher and replied to by W. H. Magee, associate superintendent of the school. J. McKinnon, the leader of the club, addressed the members briefly and J. Jones gave a comic sketch that was much enjoyed. The toast to the ladies was proposed by William McNair and replied to by Mrs. S. J. MacGowan. The programme closed with the singing of Auld Lang Syne.

### UTILITIES BOARD ISSUES ORDERS

The Board of Public Utilities, in private session yesterday, issued temporary orders for reductions in the price of electric current in Moncton and Fredericton. The Moncton rate was made applicable from October 1, the same as the Fredericton. The order of the board with regard to the Fredericton rates was to make the Midram reduced rates effective at the billing for the current used in October and November up to the date of meter reading.

### Discipline.

"What are you going to do this morning?" "A fellow called just now; wanted to see you."  
"Second office boy—What was he like, tall or short?"  
"Oh, both."  
"Both? How do you make that out?"  
"Why, he was tall and wanted to borrow ten dollars."—*The Star.*

### Would Welcome the Blow.

It was getting late in the afternoon and Jones was on a feverish hunt for funds to meet a sudden call. In his haste to catch a friend before the latter left his office he turned a corner too swiftly and collided with a very little man, who went down with a thud under the force of the impact.

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### WILLIS LODGE HAS BOOSTERS' CLUB

William Golding is President—Mayor is Among the Speakers.

The Boosters Club, of Willis Lodge, L. O. L., No. 70, staged their first annual entertainment in Orange Hall, Fairville, last night. About 160 were present. The purpose of the new club is to increase the membership in the lodge and incidentally to increase the interest of the members in the work of the organization. The smoker and entertainment last evening was their first effort and was unanimously voted a success. Each member had been asked to bring a friend and the majority complied with the request. Councillor William Golding and William Keir comprised the entertainment committee. William Burns and Walter Stevens looked after the refreshments. Short addresses by His Worship Mayor Potts, Dr. J. H. Barton, J. Starr Tait and others were listened to with great interest. In each instance the speaker commended the Boosters Club for its initiative and wished it success in the efforts to create a greater interest among the members in the work of the lodge.

### TRUE BILLS IN HOME BANK CASE

Toronto, Oct. 23.—The grand jury in the assizes today returned true bills on the new indictments against the Home Bank directors. In the new indictment, M. J. Haney, a former president of the Home Bank, is also charged. There had been no charges against him previously. The names of Sidney Jones, Home Bank auditor, and Oscar G. Smith, chief accountant, are dropped in the new indictments. The charges are conspiracy.

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