

The St. John Standard.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1920.

THE BY-ELECTIONS.

The through-going endorsement of the Dominion Administration by the electors of St. John-Albert and Colchester on Monday is not at all pleasing to the press supporting the Opposition in Parliament, which professes to regard the result of the polling as due entirely to local and personal considerations. One of the members of this press avers that the constituencies opened were deliberately hand-picked as the two safest ones to open; that Messrs. Wigmore and McCurdy were given places in the Cabinet simply because of their personal popularity with their constituents, who could be relied upon to reject them without any trouble. This will suffice most people as rather a shallow sort of excuse, but it will doubtless serve the cause of the apologetic as well as any other.

Messrs. Wigmore and McCurdy are popular with their constituents, there is no doubt about that. But their popularity would have been of very little practical benefit to them if they had been championing a cause with which the public generally had no sympathy. Parliamentary elections are not fought on the lines followed in party contests by any means. The issues involved in these by-elections were of the greatest national importance, and it was upon these issues that the electors voted. They were asked to say by their votes whether they were in favor of a Government that is pledged to a continuation of the sound, practical policies that have been followed in Canada for many years now, and which have resulted in bringing to the country the gratifying degree of prosperity and greatness it now enjoys, or whether they preferred to turn the direction of public affairs over to a party led by an irresponsible enthusiast who is in favor of trying a series of experiments in fiscal matters that to one on earth can forecast the result of. This was the issue before the electors on Monday, and they spoke their minds in no uncertain manner. This same issue will be presented to the electors of Canada as a whole in the not distant future, and it is to be doubted that the result will be the same in the vast majority of the constituencies in the Dominion. It is sheer nonsense to say, as some newspapers are saying, that these two constituencies are not in any sense representative of public opinion generally in Canada or even in the Maritime Provinces. The same results would have been obtained in any other English-speaking constituency in Eastern Canada at any rate.

THE CHICKENS COMING HOME.

That there should be considerable nervousness apparent in the ranks of the Liberal party in this constituency as the result of Monday's polling is perhaps only natural. The incorporation of Dr. Henry has served to re-open the breach created in 1917, just when the leaders of the party were hoping the wound was healing nicely; and the indications are that the breach now exposed will only become wider as time goes on. And it is apparent, also, that it will extend to provincial affairs. The Premier Government is in that position where it needs all the support it can get in this city, and although the attitude taken by the Premier towards the candidature of Mr. Wiggins was undoubtedly the most sensible and proper one to take under the circumstances, there is a very large number of his political friends and former supporters who are very sore at him on that account, and he cannot be induced to forget that he left them when they needed him, and to return when he will leave him on the 25th October, when he will go to London. They don't understand why Mr. Foster worked and voted for the party opposed to the Union Government in 1917, but failed the same party on Monday. And they are sore.

Then there is another reason why they are sore. The newspapers that are so falsely sounding the praises of the Foster Government now, had not a word to say in favor of Dr. Henry's candidature all through the campaign; in fact they did not appear to know that a campaign was on. As Premier Foster was not supporting Dr. Henry, therefore his newspapers must be dumb also. These newspapers will be asking Dr. Henry's friends to support the Foster Government, when Mr. Foster refused to support Dr. Henry. The attitude of Dr. Henry and his friends is reasonable; they feel that Mr. Foster left them in the lurch when they wanted all the help they could get, and the Premier's position naturally gives him a certain amount of prestige which would have helped them very considerably. The difference now existing between the two members of the Liberal party in this constituency are such that will test all the diplomatic ingenuity of

the Premier to adjust satisfactorily; in fact it is openly hinted that, rather than support the Government ticket in the city, the majority of Dr. Henry's friends will hold aloof altogether, or else bring out a candidate of their own. The Premier will find the chickens coming home to roost all right.

MORE PROGRESS.

There is an old saying, "Take care of the pence, and the pounds will take care of themselves." The Foster Government does not believe in the use of undisciplined means; they are old-fashioned and out-of-date. They don't take care of anything except their own interests. An instance of their disregard for small things is shown in the amounts spent for contingencies during their time. Contingencies, like charities, cover a multitude of sins, and the Government is able to hide under this somewhat elastic head, many things that they would not care to openly provide money for. In the last year of the late administration, 1916, the total contingencies of the Legislature and Departments amounted to \$20,934. In the next year, the first under the present administration, they rose to \$25,934. In 1918 they swelled still further to \$30,769; and last year, 1919, they had reached the tidy little sum of \$31,468. There is no use denying the fact that in some respects the Foster Government is the most progressive of modern times; but their progress is like the Rake's, not along very creditable lines.

THREE-DOLLAR WHEAT.

The demand in the Canadian West for a three-dollar minimum on wheat is probably based on the need of a profit on production. But what does it actually cost to grow wheat? Before the war, when wheat was 80 or 85 cents a bushel, the Saskatchewan Government ordered an enquiry, which showed remarkable differences in cost on various farms. The average cost was placed at about 60 cents. Three-dollar wheat has been an increase of four times that cost, whereas even the extreme increase in the cost of living is not figured at more than 150 per cent.

According to the Mail and Empire, the present cost of wheat is an unknown quantity, because the factors entering into it have all varied in value, like everything else. But there is one factor the West freely will admit has much to do with the case. That is, consecutive poor seasons. The Western farmer is said to figure that one really good crop in four or five will put him on his feet, economically, and average up well with the probable poor years. If the Western system of "mining the soil" simply pouring in the seed over an immense area, and gambling on the result—leads to poor crops in seasons of only average weather, should the deficit be made up by loading onto a good crop an extra price? The question is interesting theoretically, but not practically. Even if the Canada Wheat Board were still in control, the selling price of what could not be determined by it, when the United States wheat is decontrolled, shipping is plentiful, and other countries have large crops. The exceptional markets in foodstuffs that gave the Canadian farmer so excellent a profit partly came from great war prosperity in Canada, and partly from Europe's insistent need for food. The price was paid, because the supplies could only be obtained here. But the new Australian crop is a record, the United States has again almost a record wheat yield, the European yields are heavy, and buyers are able to sit back, with deliberation, before they buy. In this situation, therefore, further control of wheat prices in case of a disastrous slump, would be largely ineffective. The Western farmers have been having abnormal price returns from their crops, as a whole, and, as Premier McEwen said at Kingston, the large increase in the value of farm land shows that the farmers' economic position has not been injured by the unusual course of events.

ALONE.

A grim and ironic light is thrown on the policy of Sinn Féin by the plight of the Dublin Corporation. This body, in its fine republican frenzy, defied the decree of the British Government that compensation should be paid to the relatives of murdered policemen. The British Government had the audacity to retort by a reduction of grants from the British Exchequer to a corresponding amount. What is the result? The Dublin Corporation cannot pay its way. All sorts of expenditures for the benefit of Dub-

lin have been retrenched. Tuberculosis treatment, sanitary improvements, local hospitals are suspended, and a quarter of the wages of the corporation's employees is to be withheld until the end of this month.

One member has said bluntly that the corporation will become a laughing stock. We doubt, however, whether the workers who receive only three-quarters of their wages will find much to laugh at. They will, however, find material for new reflections on the blessings of Sinn Féin. They may even contemplate ruefully the Irish Republic of their dreams without any money from England. "Our-selves alone" is well enough—so long as the "alone" is well very small.

A few days ago we referred in these columns to the unfortunate incident that took place at Woodstock in which Liquor Inspector McAlister figured rather prominently. Our criticisms were based upon the statement sent to us by Chief Inspector Wilson, and were, we think, fully justified if such statement truthfully represented the facts. We have since ascertained, however, that the statement sent by Mr. Wilson was not prepared by him, but was sent to him to get published by a Woodstock resident, and is a grossly distorted version of the incident. It is much to be regretted that statements such as that referred to are offered for publication, as the truth or falsity of them must very soon become apparent. There appears to be no ground whatever for supposing that the town officials were in any degree wanting in their duty, as the statement would lead the reader to suppose; but that if any blame is to be attached to anyone it must be to the inspector, who took himself too seriously in view of all the circumstances.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

The Lambeth Conference.
(The Bishop of Peterboro in the Daily Herald, London.)

There is an old saying that the soul of an improvement is the improvement of the soul. This sounds a little narrow at first, but in its profound truth, for it only puts in pitiful language that the ultimate thing in life is not material but spiritual, that no capture of life's gains can bring a man to permanent satisfaction apart from the capture of his own personality, and that no fellowship can reach its true height and depth unless it is based on interests which can neither be weighed in the scales nor measured in terms of cash.

The Man who said "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness" and no ill dreamer, but the Man above all others whose outlook on life was sane, balanced, healthy, and true. For it is obvious that if his principles were acted upon our problems, international and industrial, would be solved, and we should be free to throw our energies into the development of the human family in the whole vast range of its activities which is the aim of all true reformers.

Great Social Worker's Visit.
(Social Worker, Toronto.)
Mrs. Barnett, widow of the late Canon Barnett, founder of the famous Toynbee Hall University Settlement, will spend three weeks in Canada, in September and early October. Tentative arrangements have been made for her to address meetings at Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Hamilton. Other meetings may later be arranged. Mrs. Barnett will be accompanied by Dr. Helen Boyle. Mrs. Barnett is visiting Canada without any promise of payment. It is hoped, however, that hospitality will be provided in the cities which she visits, and that railway expenses will be met by the organizations securing her services. In view of Mrs. Barnett's eminence as a writer, social worker and speaker, it would be of great advantage to have her speak in many Canadian centres. Mrs. Barnett's chief lecture will be on the subject of housing, with special reference to her own important garden subject scheme in Hampstead. Every lecture will be illustrated.

THE LAUGH LINE

Why She Wanted It.
The house-surgeon of a big hospital was startled one morning recently by the request of a young patient for an extra allowance of butter.
"But why, pray?" he demanded.
"Don't you get sufficient?"
"Well, sir," she explained, "my sweetheart is coming to see me to-day, and I want my hair to look nice."

A Slight Omission.
Bertie—Good heavens! What a sight you are!
Reggie—Just as I was leaving the house to come to the club my wife pulled me with flowers.
"But that doesn't account for your bruised and battered appearance."
"No, you see, she forgot to take them out of the pot!"—Edinburgh Scotsman.

Had Gone the Limit.
Mrs. Hicks is so painfully neat that she makes life miserable for her family. One of her rules is that all members of the household must remove their shoes before entering the house.
"Bill," she remonstrated one day with her husband, "I found a grease spot on one of the dining-room chairs and I think it came off those pants you wear in the shop."

A brief silence ensued, the volcano erupted: "Well, Miranda, for the last fifteen years I have taken off my shoes every time I come into this house, but I'll be hanged if I'll go further."

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAZ

I woke up all of a sudden last night on account of a mosquito buzzing around my bed and landing on different parts of me such as my nose and my eyebrow, which every time I tried to hit it I hit the place on my face the mosquito had just got off of, probably doing me more pleasure for the mosquito than what it was for me, me thinking, Jimmy crickets, G, wizz, wat fums this?

And I went down stairs in my pajamers and took up pop; saying, Pop, I can't sleep, there's a mosquito up there and the more I try to sleep the more it won't let me.

And do you consider that sufficient excuse for coming down here and disturbing my rest? sed pop, and I sed, Well, G, goch, pop, how can I sleep with a big mosquito keeping on getting on my nose and getting off again?

What do you want me to do go up and speak softly to it? sed pop, and I sed, No sir, I jest thawt I'd come down and tell you. Wich jest then I heard something buzzing around my ear, saying, G, pop, hear it is now, it must of followed me down stairs.

Well you follow your nose back up stairs, I'd like to get a little sleep tonight if you don't mind, sed pop.

Wich I quick ran up to my room again and shut door to keep the mosquito out in case it was the same mosquito, which it probably was because this morning at breakfast I looked at pops face and there was a fearsome bump rite on his eye, me saying, G wizz, pop, holey smokes, was that that mosquito?

I didn't ask it, eat your egg, sed pop, and I sed, Well G, goch, pop, do you think it was?

Shut up, sed pop.

Wich I did.

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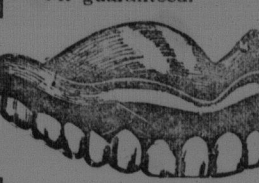
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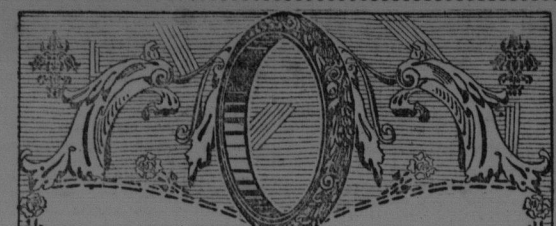
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"It is possible there are two fac- advocating the res- the cause of a in form of gov-

"The mischief monarchists are but it is evident been put into cir- are best upon ou- plunges the situa- less disorder.

"We hereby ob- object is to pro- tive and to fur- farm of govern- with the will of

"The signers- soter in the ov- club in Peking of Chin-ful, former- most powerful in control of the

"The advisers re- in the negotiat- and the south an- southern leaders indicated a destr-

commodation was ment are approp- eracy of Char- cter general of di- ing will streng- after bringing the ment of China in- Chang Tso-Lin, t- posed to the con- financing of Chin- ests on the grou- would limit Chin- erately and ten- national war.

POP BOTTLES

Madrid, Sept. from the special- becoming almost

bell. Bullfight- pleased with the assailed him with

His was obliged to

tion. "Pop" bott- at Spanish bull- are therefore obli- on rocks as can feel impelled to disapproval.

CHANCE

There will be on at Chapp's- the City of Saint County of Saint of New Brunswi-

sixth day of Nov- 12 o'clock noon, of the Supreme C- tion, issued sixth 1920, in an acti-

Marr, and Henr- lands and prom- and the plaintiff- described as follo-

"A certain lot- in the said City- lying and bound- "the said City, "lots designated "and 230 on a "portion of the "John being sub- "bounded and of "Beginning on the "of Union Street "distant seventy "quarter indivi- "toward westward "of Union Street "tion thereof be- "of Charlotte "westwardly be- "Union Street 6 "of a lot of land "Saint John on a "Station now sta- "ly about the C- "of division bet- "Number 219 a- "Number 218 a- "a lot formerly b- "thence eastward "the said lot an- "Street aforesaid "inches (35 ft. 9 "of property fr- "street aforesaid "ly about the C- "Granor and oth- "ly along the lin- "seven feet eight "to the northwe- "building now st- "eastwardly abou- "brick building "of 4 ft. 4 in. to "the concrete b- "upon the lot of "meadow northwa- "the said cement "feet four and 4 "ft. 4 1/2 in. to "another buildi- "Street thence "line of the said "feet two inches "thence northwa- "ft.) more or le- "gaining togeth- "erections and "and the rights "and appurten- "fronting on in a "ing, such sale "existing lease- "lease that port- "erly occupied l- "fitted, with the "dorsed Master "Court pursuan- "Act, 1903, and "thereof.

All parties be- For terms of c- ticulars, apply to- Plaintiffs, or to- to be.

Magist, A.D. 19- Master of the S- City and Cou- BARNHILL, SA- Solicitor.

F. L. POTTS, A-