

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, MAY 20, 1922.

THE BYE-ELECTIONS.

In view of the fact that the present Provincial Government has always shown a marked distaste for filling vacancies in the Legislature Assembly whenever it appeared probable that they would be filled by supporters of the Opposition, it must be inferred from the fact that bye-elections have been called in St. John and King's Counties that the members of the Government have expectations that candidates of their own party affiliations will capture these seats. This expectation, we are told, is particularly strong in regard to St. John County, and for that reason the day of polling in it has been fixed for a week ahead of the polling in King's, where the Government party is not nearly as strong as could be wished, in the hope that a victory in the former may put more life and energy into its supporters in the latter. The idea is good, of course, but it is rather a forlorn hope.

The Government forces go into the fight under a heavy handicap, and it will tax all the ingenuity its members can muster to explain and apologize for conditions that are confronting the province at the present time. The Hon. Dr. Foster, for instance, although he is not the Provincial Secretary, Treasurer, is virtually in control of the finances of the province, will probably find it difficult to explain just how under a business man's system of government, the annual balance sheet has shown a deficit every year since he took control of affairs, in spite of the fact that the revenue has more than doubled in this time. The electors of St. John and King's Counties are not backwoodsmen who can be put off with any old story; they are intelligent men who are able to think for themselves and to ask questions that will probably be somewhat difficult to find satisfactory answers for. Many of these men remember the adverse criticisms which the then Mr. Foster made in the election of 1917 regarding the late Government's method of carrying on public business, and when they contrast the promises he then made, if the people would only put him in charge, with the manner in which he has carried them out, the comparison is not likely to be very much in his favor.

Then, of course, there will be Mr. Veniot, who will be able to give the electors the cheering news that in five years of his administration of the Public Works Department, he has managed to overrun his appropriation without the slightest trouble every year. He will be able to explain to the wondering electors just where \$5,511,871 have been expended on the roads in the last five years, and \$1,673,952 on bridges in the same period; and also he may be able to say just how it is that with all this money spent on them, the roads and bridges of the province still appear to need so much more laid out on them to make them fit to use. He will probably tell them that he only stopped spending when he did because there was no more money left to spend.

Then again, there will be Dr. Roberts, leading his three year old child, little Miss Public Health, by the hand. He will be able to point out the marvelous growth she has attained, due to the fact that he employs a staff of several score doctors, nurses and other officials to look after her welfare, whose salaries and expenses the public has to pay. He may too be able to explain just why it is that this unfortunate girl seems to have such a very decided objection to de-fecating these towns, and to show how very foolish they are to take the attitude they do regarding them. The child having been brought into the world, must be properly maintained, even if she does cost \$40,000 a year from the Provincial Treasury and anywhere from \$5,000 to \$7,000 a year from each of the various counties.

Then too we may have the Minister of Agriculture, with whom will probably be associated Col. O. W. Wetmore, chairman of the Agricultural Committee of the Legislature. Their difficulty is going to be here, that the Government is now carrying out practically the same policy as was laid down and carried out by their predecessors, but that while it was in the hands of the late Government, it was about as bad as could be, and yet in their hands it is an excellent policy.

Then at a pinch, the Hon. Fred Macdonald may be called in to show how under the system of universal testing now in use, school boys now leave school without any idea of what the only thing they need before starting to right away on full fledged journey-men, is to learn their various trades. The campaign fortunately will be short, but it will probably be a very one-sided one.

AMERICAN DIPLOMACY.

The reluctance which the United States has shown with regard to taking part in the Geneva Conference seems to justify the remark of a critic some time ago, that the United States seemed to be the hardest country in the world with which to carry on diplomatic business. For instance, President Wilson went to Paris apparently as the representative of the American people. He launched there a campaign for the League of Nations and was the chief contributing factor in its formation. France was frankly critical as to its accomplishing anything, and other countries were indifferent. It was the enthusiasm of the President, combined with the desire to meet the wishes of the great American Republic, which carried the scheme through. President Wilson returned to the States to find such bitter opposition in the American Senate that the treaty was rejected and his own country was the only great nation which refused to enter the league.

President Harding last summer initiated a movement for universal disarmament and to secure permanent peace on the Pacific, the most likely source of future trouble. The nations were invited to Washington and a four-power Pacific treaty resulted. It was a fair treaty and a treaty which should prevent war for years, if not permanently, on the Pacific Ocean. Later, however, an agitation for which the Hearst papers were largely responsible, was started against the treaty, and for a time it looked as though the larger part of the work of the Conference might come to naught.

The whole trouble seems to lie in the irresponsible character of the American system of government. In Canada, Great Britain or any country under the British system of responsible government the Prime Minister and Cabinet are members of Parliament. They are responsible to the House of Commons and to the people. If they agreed to a treaty they could reasonably expect to secure the approval of Parliament. If they did not, they could directly appeal to the people for endorsement of their policy. No Canadian Senate, except for most outstanding reasons, would dare reject a pact agreed to and passed by the popular assembly. On the other hand, in the United States, the Cabinet is not responsible to Congress. The Cabinet is simply a group of executive officers or council picked up by the President and responsible only to him. It is a relic of the system in vogue in Great Britain in the days of the Stuarts, when the Cabinet was not responsible to Parliament. The President and Cabinet can negotiate and make treaties and then have them vetoed by the Senate. There is no possible appeal from the Senate to the people. If the Senate kills a treaty, that is the end of it.

As a result, there are a number of instances in American history where months of negotiations and discussions over treaties with foreign nations have come to naught through the perverseness of the Senate. If the Americans are to continue to do business with the rest of the world, they should amend in some manner their constitution in regard to the making of treaties.

The congratulations tendered to Lady Blandford some time ago in regard to the privilege of taking her seat in the House of Lords, seem to have been a little premature, for the latest ruling of the Committee on Privileges is that she had failed to make out her case. Whether the lady, and the other persons in their own right who are similarly circumstanced, will be content to let the matter rest here, remains to be seen; but if they are possessed of the same spirit of persistency that most women seem to call into play when they want anything, the chances are that the last has not yet been heard of it.

The loss on operation of the Valley Railway for the seven years 1914-1921, is given by the Minister of Railways as being \$880,961. Compared with most of the other parts of the nationally owned railways in this country, the loss on the Valley Railway is a small one; and considering the enormous expenditures it is to the people in the provinces through which it runs, it is to be greatly justified. Even the small loss incurred makes no further reduction of proper attention was given to its management.

China and Ireland seem now to be the only countries in the world where the population tends to electing one another up as a means of settling political differences though for a long time, the same practice was common in Central Africa and the South Sea Islands.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

A Humiliating Policy
(London Free Press.)
To every patriotic Canadian who is not only proud of his country, but proud of the achievement and of the British Empire, the announcement by Hon. George P. Brown of the almost complete dismantling of the embryo Canadian navy and the handing back of our cruisers and submarines to England will be received with a feeling of humiliation and shame. The party in power at Ottawa is everlastingly prating about our national status and complete autonomy, and yet they could propose handing all defense by sea. They would return to the position of a crown colony. They would depend solely for our protection upon the navy of the Motherland, and the overburdened taxpayer of England will continue to foot the bill. They would secure all the advantages of nationhood, but would accept none of the responsibilities.

After his experience with the estimates of the militia department Hon. Mr. Graham evidently decided to take no chances and consulted first his Quebec supporters. It is a Quebec-made policy. If the Washington Disarmament Conference had decided on an absolute disarmament program, or the League of Nations had insisted on any size of character, a slashing reduction would be logical and defensible, but complete disarmament is still far in the distance, while Canada has never had a navy that was more than a joke. To hand back the few vessels Great Britain presented to Canada at the close of the war is the shortest of an insult to the Motherland.

Most Canadians will heartily agree with the sentiments of The Toronto Globe, expressed in an editorial appearing on the same day as Mr. Brown's announcement, that the policy written previous to the receipt of the news. The Globe says:

"If money is to be spent for defense at all, why should it all go to land defense, which it would be difficult, if not impossible, to sustain successfully against the only possible invaders, leaving nothing for the protection of our shores against the most likely form of attack in a conceivable war? No one will say that the very modest Canadian naval establishment—a cruiser, two destroyers and two submarines—is consistent with any conclusions of the Washington Conference and the trend toward disarmament. It is not a heavy financial burden, but it asserts the principle of self-help, and it conforms to the local policy upon which the Dominions have resolved, and which is the only practical way in which the naval defense of the empire can evolve into a navy which will depend upon world developments. To return the ships to Great Britain would be an ungracious act, and a repudiation of the idea which was embodied in the naval defense of the empire in 1918-19. National self-respect will not sanction such a course."

Mr. Baxter's Address
(Mail and Empire.)

Hon. J. B. M. Baxter's address at the first luncheon of the Liberal-Conservative Business Men's Club is a type of the speeches the new organization invites. The manner and the matter of it were all that could be desired. It was delivered so that every member of the audience could hear it. It was not too long. It dealt with live politics instructively, and in a way to raise interest to the point of enthusiasm. Facts of the present session of the House of Commons were cited to show how greatly the King Cabinet's government practice conflicts with established government principles. That is a matter upon which public opinion should be riveted. Instead of boldly taking a stand in support of policies and measures with which it is willing to be identified the King Cabinet waits until the matter is decided according to the "draw" of the majority. It gives no leadership, but is itself led by the nose. The solid Quebec contingent has a leader who knows what he wants, and a lead from him the Prime Minister must reverse action on any line of policy and stoop to unmanly what he said with seeming fervor a year before. There is nothing more humiliating in our politics than the spectacle Mr. King made of himself in the debate on Mr. McMaster's resolution to make holders of company directorships ineligible for Cabinet office. Sir Louis Gouin ought not to ask a man to go through so pitiful an exhibition. Very humbling to the pride of the Minister of Defense was the cutting down at the same instance of the little estimate after he had brought them forward in the House. Even more mortifying to Mr. Graham must have been the uttering of the Quebec "naval policy." Mr. Baxter's review of the session dwelt on the opportunism and hypocrisies of the Government. His speech was one of criticism in the true sense of the word and was free from querulousness. It could not have been better appreciated than it was by the new Club, which is to be congratulated on the fine earnest and brilliant success of its first meeting. We expect the club to be a real force in politics.

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If Your Kidneys Are The Trouble

ASK YOUR NEIGHBORS ABOUT DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS.

Cape Breton Man in Few Words Gives Reason Why Dodd's Kidney Pills Are a Household Remedy.

North Sydney, Cape Breton, May 19 (Special).—Right to the point is the statement Mr. Lawrence Brown, a well known resident here, makes with regard to Dodd's Kidney Pills. Here is what he says in his own words:

"I suffered from backache and kidney trouble. After taking a few boxes of Dodd's Kidney Pills, I was completely cured. I am now as well as ever. For more than a quarter of a century I have been suffering from kidney trouble, and I have tried every remedy known to me. It was Dodd's Kidney Pills that cured me. They are really and truly a household remedy. I can recommend them to anyone suffering from kidney trouble. If you suffer from kidney trouble, you will find Dodd's Kidney Pills the only remedy for you."

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAGE

Yesterday after supper pop took off his shoes and put on his slippers saying, Ah, now for a cigar and 14 carrot cold comfort.

And he put his feet up and started to smoke with a satisfied expression, and ma said, I should think you'd be tired of staring home every afternoon. I should think you'd feel the need of a little amusement and recreation.

Joe sitting here on my 4th from the last varnished and drawing good clean smoke into my lungs is amusement and recreation enough for me, said pop.

With he kept on doing, and ma said, Why don't you call up Mr. Lewis and see if he wants to bowl or play billiards or something?

Well, well, I thought you didn't like that, said pop, and ma said, Well, nobody can be as black as they're painted and there's no use being narrow minded, do you want me to call him up for you?

No, I want to stay home and take it easy, my feet are tired, my lungs tired, my head tired, and other words in tired, said pop.

That's impossible, said ma.

The doco it is, whose feet are they, whose head is it? said pop.

I mean it's impossible for you to stay home tonight, said ma, the Passover Committee of the Dawners of Clapnetters is going to meet here tonight and everything is supposed to be very secret and everything, so for goodness sake don't get too comfortable.

To repeat the blind man's famous remark, I see, said pop, well, far be it from me to wish to be the note representative of the male sex in any gathering of the Dawners of Clapnetters.

And he took his feet down and took his slippers off and put his shoes on and took me to the movies.

THE LAUGH LINE

Corroborated
"You can't lend me a couple of dollars?"
"Sure enough, but how did you know?"

Or Somebody Else Did
A man who took several shots at his wife offers the excuse that she tried to make a fool out of him. Our guess is that she succeeded.

Hired
A dog groomer was hiring a caddy. "Can you count?" he asked. "Yes," said the boy. "Can you add up?" "Yes, sir." "Well, what's six and seven and four?" "Twelve, sir." "Come along," said the groomer, "you'll do."—Detroit Free Press.

Too Much Complexion
He's been waiting with his host's ugly old daughter and was in a currier repairing damage. Here he was asked by his would-be paymaster:

"What is the flower of my family, sir?" said the father. "So it seems," answered the young man. "But she comes off so, isn't it?" he continued, as he gave another vigorous rub at the white spots in his own sleeve.

Trustful
The tramp knocked at the farmhouse door and asked for the farmer. To that worthy he presently related a tale of woe, and asked me for a job. "Yes, you can have a job," said the farmer. "You could gather eggs for me if you are certain you won't steal any."

The tramp choked with gratitude and emotion. "Sir," he said with eyes brimful of tears.

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—Your Taste is Lost
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