

The St. John Standard.

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ST. JOHN, N. B. TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1920.

SOME ACTION NEEDED.

Under Provincial legislation a man who operates a stationary engine must be a qualified engineer and hold a license. His recognized efficiency in a form of insurance against accident in the plant in which he is employed. Yet a motor engine propelling a heavy truck or pleasure car may be driven at high speed through the streets of our towns and cities and along country roads, endangering the lives of hundreds of people, by the most irresponsible individuals and without any attempt at restriction by our present Government. There is no license for motorists other than registered chauffeurs; there is no standard of competence required from anyone else. Undeveloped children, semi-lunatics and tottering grandpapas are alike free to tear through the streets at their own sweet will, blissfully unconcerned about the safety of others, and more often than not totally ignorant of the mechanism of the machines which they operate. It is doubtful if in any other country such a state of affairs exists, and certainly visitors from the United States, competent drivers as they must be, are amazed at the criminal freedom allowed motorists in this part of Canada.

The Provincial Government is evidently afraid to introduce legislation compelling motor owners and the members of their families to qualify as drivers before being allowed to operate a car. So many cars are owned and operated throughout the country districts that the Provincial Government is afraid the rural population might object to any restrictions being placed on their activities, and would condemn a government which might compel them to pass examinations as chauffeurs. The regulation which requires a chauffeur to pass a test of competence to drive a car was inserted to prevent incompetent garage employees from acting as demonstrators, but members of the family of a car owner, who have neither the garage employee's knowledge or experience, are assumed to possess, as a matter of course, all the knowledge that is needed. Why is not quite clear. But since the Provincial Government has failed in this respect and evinces no intention of ever taking action, it would not be out of the way for the Common Council of the City of St. John to establish regulations by means of which at least a reasonable measure of safety might be provided and protection afforded the walking population as well as to protect motorists themselves against the vagaries of irresponsible drivers. The imposition of an occasional fine is no deterrent, for not one of a hundred reckless speeders ever gets caught and the occasional payment of a few dollars has no effect on the other ninety-nine. But a by-law which would compel the operator of a motor car to pass a reasonable test, which would permit the issuance of a license subject to cancellation for violation of the traffic regulations, would be an effective method of dealing with this rapidly growing evil. The car owner or the chauffeur who, because of indifference to the regulations governing traffic, is compelled to leave his car in the garage for three months, or who loses his job for a corresponding period, would take more interest in the ordinary course of his driving, and the drastic enforcement of such regulations would very speedily put an end to this criminal carelessness which is making motor accidents (?) or near-accidents so common these days. There are men and women, boys and girls, exceeding the safety speed limit in the streets of St. John today as well as in other towns and on country roads, persons who have no knowledge of the mechanical principles of the cars which they are driving, and who apparently get by simply through the help of Providence and the indifference of the traffic policemen. Our regulations, however they may have been formed, are applied today simply and solely in the interests of motorists. Pedestrians have no rights on our street crossings or on our country roads.

A MEAN TAX

While the war was on, a great many things were done on the pretext that they were necessary under then existing conditions. We not only read of the inequities of war as they were to be found on the fields of Flanders, but we were called upon to endure them at home. All kinds of burdens were put upon the people, but an attempt was made to lighten some of them with the comforting assurance that they would only last as long as the war did. And that it was said that it was only the war that made them necessary at all.

Chief among these burdens was additional taxation; and about the meanest imposition that could be devised

LORD ROSEBURY

"Wanderer" writing in the Winnipeg Tribune says:
 I first saw Lord Rosebery sitting in the gallery of the House of Commons, a goodly number of years ago. I happened to be in the gallery near him when he was pointed out to me. His son, Lord Primrose, was making his maiden speech in the House, and the proud father was present to take the measure of his boy and exult in the young man's triumph. Although I did not think so much of it at the time, I have often reflected what the feelings of Lord Rosebery must have been at a great time of his life. The young man had been but a short time in Parliament—heir to a great name and prestige, it could hardly fail that the boy should not be an important one. He had been admitted to the Ministry as an under secretary of some department, and he was slated for his maiden speech. I remember the boy (for he appeared but a boy) very well. He was almost as attractive as the Prince of Wales. He possessed a beautiful countenance—an attractive figure, a youthful voice, and he spoke with that nice English cultivated accent. I could not help but think that life was spread out before him as a great triumph. There was practically no position that he might not attain. As he talked (and he talked quite fluently) seemed perfectly at home on his feet. I can recall the expression of conscious pride which agitated the fine classic features of his noble face. I do not call him a "noble" because of his title, or for the fact that he belonged to the aristocracy. I think the view I hold with regard to Lord Rosebery must be shared by British people generally. He has always impressed me as a really noble character—a gentleman every inch of him. His association with the diamond—his Bright—was with all the fine characters who, although his seniors, were his contemporaries—seemingly to have had an enormous effect on him. He was also a bosom friend of the late King Edward. I have frequently passed his estate, which adjoins the city of Edinburgh, and if I ever envied anyone any possession, I did envy Lord Rosebery's beautiful home, wonderful landscapes, shrubs, lawns and forest. I cannot see how a man living with such surroundings could grow to be other than a noble fellow.

If it were for nothing else than the pursuit of the speeches he has delivered, and essays he has written, I could always love Lord Rosebery. He has such a rare quality of mind. His association with the diamond—his Bright—was with all the fine characters who, although his seniors, were his contemporaries—seemingly to have had an enormous effect on him. He was also a bosom friend of the late King Edward. I have frequently passed his estate, which adjoins the city of Edinburgh, and if I ever envied anyone any possession, I did envy Lord Rosebery's beautiful home, wonderful landscapes, shrubs, lawns and forest. I cannot see how a man living with such surroundings could grow to be other than a noble fellow.

Frank Oliver's New Light.
 (Edmonton Journal).
 Those who were Edmonton newspaper readers two and three years ago, and were impressed by the persistent attacks which were made by a certain editor on Mr. Crear (then a member of the Union government) on the ground that he represented "Big Business"—the reference being to the powerful grain company of which he was the head—must be somewhat confused by the same editor's present fervid pleas for co-operation between Mr. Crear and Mr. King.

Credulity Ended.
 (New York Times).
 It was hard enough to believe that the imprisoned Lord Mayor of Cork took no food until just before his death, but to do it was possible when all the circumstances were considered. Even the possibility of belief wanes close to the vanishing point, however, in the case of the nine hunger strikers in Cork Jail, for they have now passed the nineteenth day—three full months—without eating anything—"so far as known," the dispatch on the subject says with obvious caution.

Yet it is also declared that the physical condition of these men is just about what it was a week or more ago, when there was the mysterious cessation of reports concerning them. And then it was asserted that they were dying.
 That release cannot be gained now by hunger striking. The British Government has made clear. The Cork prisoners know it and all their friends have advised them that further fasting would be useless from every point of view. The presumption that they have heeded the advice is a strong one, and that the breaking of the fast has passed without revelation or comment by the prison authorities is further evidence that those authorities—well that they are not the harsh jailers that they have been called.

I drew a picture of his bright, brilliant, fair-to-look-upon only son, Lord Primrose. With the fire of patriotism burning on the altar of his soul, the young man went forth to battle with the German brute in the late war, and he fell—died gloriously fighting for England and for freedom; died as thousands and thousands of the best and richest and noblest blood of England died, in defence of the liberties which had been purchased by their ancestors at such frightful cost of blood and treasure, and strongly defended for a thousand historic years. To the glory and credit of it that aristocracy of Great Britain it will always be remembered that its blood was poured out freely and copiously in the mighty struggle which ended the reign of a tyrant on the 11th of the present month.

What a heritage are such men as Rosebery to a nation. Britain is great because of her great sons, and amongst these great sons the name of Lord Rosebery will always be embalmed.

and his victory does not come as any surprise. It was a three-cornered fight with all the uncertainties that usually accompany triangular contest.

Ottawa Journal: One cannot help wondering what would be said in Protestant Ontario if in Catholic Quebec, a priest of the Church of Rome were given authority to enforce with revolver at his hip, a legislative enactment with which not everybody was in accord. When the priests of the church, whether Protestant or Catholic, become politicians, armed or unarmed, will not the beneficial influence of the Christian church become undermined?

"I don't think a man should be so 'sensitive' as to object to having his 'zip' searched," said Attorney-General Ranney. Mr. Ranney appears to be a man of peculiar ideas, to say the least. Canada's "zip" was until the advent of prohibition a free country and her citizens were supposed to be free men.

There are thirteen entries for a motor car race at Los Angeles, and the result is likely to justify the superstition.

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

THE PARK AVE NEWS.
 Weather, Continuous.
 Sisisty. Miss Mary Watkinson's rite stocking came down last Sunday while she was taking a walk on Broad street and she had to go all the way home lobsided holding it up with one hand, the scandal not being over yet.
 Miss Maud Jonson's little sister Miss Dottie Jonson made her entrance into sisisty last Saturday afternoon by following Mr. Charles (Pads) Simkins and Miss Maud Jonson when they went to take a walk, and she made her entrance out again when Miss Maud Jonson warned her several times and then chased her half way home.
 Pome by Skinny Martin.
 TO MY BEST GIRL.
 I like my oatmeal nice and sweet,
 My tea with plenty of sugar I greet,
 Yo ho and a bottle of rum!
 I eat lump sugar like a horse,
 I spread big spoonfuls on my force,
 But you're as sweet as they come.
 Intriguing Facks About Intriguing People. Sam Cross says he hasn't got any grudge against getting his hair cut but what he hates is the sensation of setting in the barber chair without doing anything.
 Lost and Found. Neither.
 Advertisements. None.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Simple Justice.
 (Regina Post).

Sir William Meredith, chief justice of Ontario, thinks the Crown should pay costs when a person is charged with a criminal offence and honorably acquitted. It is not a novel idea, but it is novel to put it forth by a chief justice. It ought to be the practice, since it is simple justice.

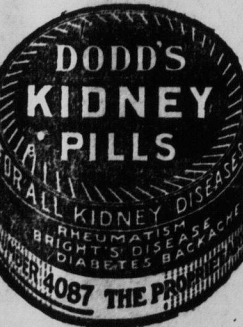
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