

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, JULY 2, 1920.

SIR ROBERT BORDEN.

Sir Robert Borden has tendered his resignation as leader of the Government, and it will be received with the deepest regret from one end of Canada to the other. No man who ever occupied the position which he has done in the public life of this country more richly deserved the sympathetic regard of the people than he, and it is equally certain no man ever received it in a greater measure. The Canadian public had the fullest confidence in him, and he never failed them. It is not necessary to say more.

Sir Robert Borden will go down to posterity as the statesman who steered Canada through the most momentous period in her history. The problems that had to be faced demanded courage and foresight. They were new to Canadian politics, and they called for the exercise of qualities that none but a truly great man could be expected to possess. Sir Robert showed himself equal to the occasion, and as a result of the policies he promulgated and carried through, Canada found herself, and today takes her place among the great nations of the world. Canadians must rejoice that a man of Sir Robert Borden's calibre was at the head of affairs when the time of trial came. What would have happened but for him? Other political leaders, been in charge of Canada's destiny at the time one dreads to think.

Sir Robert will take with him in his retirement the whole-hearted goodwill of a thoroughly sympathetic people, who, while they deeply deplore the cause which compels his severance from active political life, will realize that nothing but necessity is the cause. His stern devotion to duty, and his earnest determination to give to his country the best that was in him through all these trying years, have had the not unnatural effect of undermining his health, and now that the crisis is passed, and the direction of affairs can be safely left in other hands, it is but natural that he should wish to seek some little repose. In his retirement, and in his quest for restored health, he will carry with him the admiration of a grateful people, whose earnest hope will be that he will yet be spared many, many years in which to enjoy the rest and recreation which he has so surely earned.

THE PLEBISCITE.

A great deal of uncertainty seems to exist, even among the most ardent temperance workers, as to the objects and effects of the approaching plebiscite. It must be clearly borne in mind that this vote is not being cast for or against the principles of prohibition. The plebiscite is being held for the purpose of securing an expression of public opinion with regard to the present New Brunswick Prohibition Law—the law as it stands today, not as it is being enforced today—and not on the subject of prohibition generally. There are thousands of people in New Brunswick who may be opposed to the present law, but who are entirely in favor of prohibition. These people should clearly understand that in supporting the present prohibitory law they are not voting for the principle of prohibition as it should be applied, but rather for more rigid enforcement of the Act now on our Statute Books. There are no doubt thousands of others who are staunch supporters of the present law and who are desirous of seeing it properly applied. These latter are the ones to whom the issue of the present month stand clear.

If the majority of the electors of New Brunswick vote in support of the present prohibitory law, that law and no other will be maintained. The extent to which this is true will depend wholly upon the result of the other vote, namely that dealing with the sale of beer and light wines. If the majority of the votes cast favor the sale of beer and light wines, then, on the pledge of Hon. Mr. Foster, the present law will be so amended as to permit the sale of beer and light wines under government control. If, on the contrary, the vote of the people is opposed to the sale of beer and light wines, then the present prohibitory law supported by the majority of the people, will, on a similar pledge, be more rigidly enforced than at present, but will stand exactly as on the statute books today. The verdict which that plebiscite may give will be a guide to the government as to its future policy in such enforcement. If the plebiscite shows the majority of electors in New Brunswick opposed to the present prohibitory law, that law will be repealed and in its place will be substituted other methods involving, on Mr. Foster's promise, proper government control of the sale of liquor. In no event, however, will there be a return to the license system.

This, it should be perfectly clear to all that the vote of July 10th is not for or against the principles of prohibition, but for or against the present prohibitory law, and that the second question on the ballot, that respecting the sale of beer and light wines, will affect in a very decided degree the

application of the present law. Remember that if the vote is in favor of the sale of beer and light wines the present law will be amended to permit of the sale of beer and light wines under government control. If beer and light wines lose and the prohibitory law carries, that law as it stands today will, without any amendment whatever, be enforced.

GREATEST DIPLOMAT.

Last year Canada was the first of the dominions to be visited by the Prince of Wales. The reception accorded him demonstrates our regard and his own words testify to the feelings of the Prince during his stay with us.

Australia and New Zealand have welcomed him this year with the same cordiality shown in our land. Next year the Prince goes to India and on his way will visit Japan, who is more than ready to receive him. The following clipping shows how he is esteemed in the Mikado's kingdom. It emphasizes, too, the nature of the influence this quite remarkable young man has already exercised in world affairs.

Says the Tokyo Ochi: We were very sorry that when the Prince of Wales visited New Zealand and Australia His Royal Highness did not grant us the honor of a visit, but we now delight in the report that His Highness will visit this country next year on the occasion of his journey to India. Let us hope that the decision will not be changed. If the expected visit of the Prince of Wales takes place it may be said that there will be a continued political union between Great Britain and Japan. But apart from this question and no matter whether the Anglo-Japanese alliance exists or not, it will be unfortunate for the Prince of Wales, who is so democratic in temperament, if His Highness, owing to political drawbacks, is unable to enjoy the beauty of landscape in Japan. His great popularity not only in England, but in Canada and America, is due to his democratic inclination as well as to his innate personality. An observer has rightly said that the Prince of Wales is the greatest diplomat in the world. It will be very fortunate for Japan if the visit of His Royal Highness has the effect of opening the eyes of bigoted and narrow-minded officials at the imperial household department and doing away with the mistaken idea of creating barriers between the imperial family and the people.

The Ochi then points out that the Japan Advertiser was right when it said that: The mistaken assumptions in England and America regarding the course of events in Japan at the time the Diet was dissolved are due to ignorance of the special relations between the Japanese imperial family and the people. In order to make more ideal the relationship of the throne and the masses, it is necessary that the imperial household department should be reconstructed in accordance with the spirit of the new world situation. This is one of the most urgent needs of the times. The personal example of the Prince of Wales will perhaps give as much support to the progressists in this country as is afforded by a million reinforcements to an army in distress. We can but be proud of the splendid reputation already won by the Prince, but prouder still of the fact that in these reconstruction days not only Germany, but Germany's most avowed political admirer, Japan, is calling out for a form of monarchy and a constitution which shall to some extent approach the constitution and the monarchy of Great Britain.

The oldest and the finest democracy in the world is thus the most approved model for those just venturing into government by the people for the people. It is a reputation worth having.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

What Others Say.
 I am not an alarmist, and I do not want a huge army, but to be prepared is the greatest guarantee of peace. With a strong navy and men trained in army, peace will be assured.—From speech by General Lord Horne.

Public Ownership.
 Congratulations are due to the town of Barrie, upon the payment of its hydro-electric debt in full. In this respect it leads the race. Before many years, all the municipalities will have caught up, and power and light, already cheap, will be much cheaper—thanks to public ownership.

League of Nations and Poland's War.
 I ought to have said to Poland: "This cannot be." It ought to have prevented these operations. And yet the official answer in the House of Commons is: "This is not a new war, but the old one. Great Britain was not consulted, and it is not a case for the league to interfere." Who, then, is to interfere? Poland is an ally member of the League of Nations and cannot be checked in this endeavor.—General Jan C. Smuta (South Africa).

No Difference in Old Parties.
 From speech by Sir Lomer Gouin in the Montreal, June 21, 1920.
 I believe that we can be good Lib-

erals without being integral free traders. I believe we can be good Liberals and moderate free traders. I have never found the difference between the Liberal moderate free trader and the moderate protectionist. The moderate of the one means the moderation of the other. The Liberal party has made the fight in favor of free trade of a more advanced nature than we defend today. Do not make a credo of a matter like that.

Sir Lomer Gouin's "Liberalism."

(Montreal Gazette.)
 Sir Lomer Gouin's speech at the Reform Club on Monday is not, we feel assured, to be interpreted as his political swan song. He is about to cease his activities in the provincial field which for fifteen years he has dominated, but there remains open to him a wider sphere of usefulness in the Parliament of Canada, where his peculiar talent can be employed with increasing distinction to himself and advantage to the country. Canada is much in need of men of Sir Lomer's type in the conduct of public affairs in this period of unrest and discontent, when willing ear is given to the nostrums of quacks and the theories and demagogues are abroad in the land. A sane mind is his notable characteristic. He is what may be called a safe man, firm, deliberate, perspicacious and profoundly patriotic. Calling himself a Liberal, and throughout his life actively associated with that party, he is none the less essentially a conservative in the unswayed by passionate impulse and unmoved by the clamors of the reckless crowd.

CONSERVATION OF FOREST RESOURCES

Annapolis Royal, N. S., June 25th, 1920.
 To the Editor of The Standard.
 I notice that the rate of annual growth in our forests must be increasing quite rapidly, as in the issue of the Pulp and Paper Magazine of May 15th, the Vice President of the International Paper Co. claimed a 4 per cent growth, while in the issue of May 27th he claims it to be 11-12 per cent, and that there may be no misunderstanding in connection with these figures I will quote his statement verbatim:

"As to the 4 per cent increment, I desire to quote from a Ninth Annual Report of the Commission of Conservation of Ottawa, and from Professor C. D. Howe of the Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto, in his monograph entitled 'Forest Regeneration on Certain Outcrops of Pulpwood Lands in Quebec.' In this brochure on page 10 he states as his conclusion from exhaustive studies made in the St. Maurice Valley, it would take 70 years for a spruce tree, 4 inches in diameter, to attain a diameter 12 inches.

"Let us see exactly what this means in growth percentage. A block of spruce 1' long and 4" in diameter contains 120 cubic inches. A block of spruce 1' long and 12" in diameter contains 1357.2 cubic inches. Therefore in 70 years a foot section of a 4" spruce tree would gain 1208.4 cubic inches in attaining a diameter of 12 inches.

"This is an increase in the 70 years of 800 per cent, or an annual average increase of 11.57 per cent annum.

"And in considering this astoundingly large percentage of annual growth, it must be remembered that this is simply circumstantial growth, and takes no account whatsoever of altitudinal increment."

The International Paper Company must be very short of wood when it becomes necessary to grow trees at such a rapid rate.

It is much to be regretted that pulp cannot be manufactured from fine theories. If it could, there would certainly be no shortage of paper today, but we are faced with a condition and not a theory. The figures quoted by the official of the International Paper Company are the very best evidence that there is positively no net annual growth in our much-abused forests as they exist today, for if there were 11 per cent growth, a 4 per cent or even a 1 per cent net growth, there would be more standing wood on the Quebec leased lands today than there was when they were first cut.

I am not voicing for any of the above figures, except the annual cut, which is correct. I am merely using his own figures to show that his contention that there is no net annual growth is ridiculous. When the cut only amounts to less than 1 per cent of the stand of timber and still our supply is diminishing, so very much more than this amount every year, how can there be any net growth?

The fallacy of the contention that there is any such amount of growth in a forest that should be properly planned to any school boy. We might just as well contend that each child that is born lives to the age of three score years and ten in which case the world would be as densely populated with human beings as the Vice President of the International Paper Company would have it covered with trees.

If any one questions the rapidly with which our supply of timber is diminishing, I would ask why it is that some of the larger operators are now cutting in such remote sections that it takes two years to drive their logs to the mills, and why it is that limited advanced in price from \$100 per square mile to \$150 per square mile? Why pulpwood has advanced from \$3 per cord to \$30 and more, i.e., 1000%? Why fee land has advanced from \$1 per acre to \$15 or \$30 and over? Also why the size of logs has dropped from six or seven down to six or seven to the thousand feet? Why they are shipping wood out of the country by rail that runs in size from 4 or 5 inches down to 1 1/2 inches in diameter, mere poles that have only just begun to grow? Also, why are all the large paper companies in Canada planting seedlings in a large way as fast as they possibly can?

With the above cold facts staring us in the face it must, of course, be perfectly apparent to any man of ordinary intelligence that any claim made as to net annual growth is simply a "delusion," and the greatest satisfaction we have in this connection is in the knowledge that all of the people cannot be fooled all of the time.

FRANK J. D. BARNUM.

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

DOORS.
 Most houses have all the doors they need and no house is complete without at least one. The 2 main differences between a door and a gate is first, their opposite location, and 2nd, people have much less respect for a gate and would rather kick it than knock on it. But a gate is more useful than a door because it does everything a door can do and beside that it can be climbed over and awfen is.

One of the most embarrassing things you can do in a strange house is to walk into a closet when you want you was opening the door to the hall. One way to avoid this is to put a little chalk mark on the inside of the door when you come in, in case there's a lot of closets.

The doornob is a small but important part of a door which people never appreciate till it comes off. Most people never notice the doornob unless it is brawn to their attention on account of having jam or something on it when they go to turn it.

Doors are quite things to give people privacy and would give them still more if it wasn't for the key holes.

One of the most disgusting things a door can do is to skewek when you don't want anybody to notice you going out.

The easiest way to close a door would be to slam it if somebody didn't generally make you go rite back and close it rite.

The only thing that makes a grown up person madder than banging a door when you go out of the room is not closing it at all.

One of the last things children learn is to shut doors after them, on account of they would jest as leef have them open as shut and maybe leerder.

Would Take No Chances.

Miss Muggins—If you were me, dear, would you be married in the spring or the fall?

Miss Keen—If I were you and had actually secured a man, I would set the wedding for the earliest date possible.

Her Query.

"George," she said, "before I give you a final word to tell me something! Do you drink anything?"

A smile of relief lighted his handsome countenance—was that all she

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