

LIQUOR CONTROL IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Statement by Attorney-General Farris at Convention

Liberal Candidates — Mr. s. Ralph Smith Again in the Field and Receives a Great Ovation—Her Record as a Legislator.

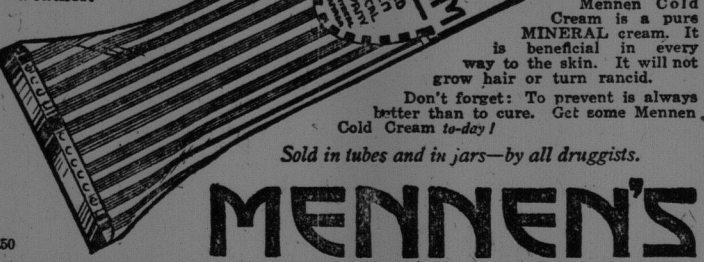
(Vancouver World.)
"We aim to please the people, and we honor their every whim. We gave them clear, cold water. Now we give them wine and gin. The only big man in the voter, and we pay our respects to him, as we go marching on."

"Glory, glory be to Honest John; Glory to his government that help him carry on; Glory to the rest of us who cheer them with our song, As we go marching on."

The above poetic tribute to the recent expression of the vox populi at the polls, set to the inspiring air of "John Brown's Body" made the welkin ring and the delegates laugh and cheer at the nominating convention of the Vancouver Liberal Association in Dominion hall last night. There were a number of other

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verses, each one of which paid a tribute to individual members of the party. The selection to contest the city for the party was made on one ballot, R. C. Campbell-Johnstone, whose name also went before the convention, moving a resolution that the vote be made a unanimous one. This left the slate as follows:—M. A. Macdonald, Capt. Ian MacKenzie, Mrs. Ralph Smith, Attorney-General Farris, James Ramsay and J. P. Doherty. Other names which came before the convention were James H. Falconer, James Conley and James Ball, but due to the fact that they were not allowed to be balloted on. Following the announcement of the slate Attorney-General Farris addressed the convention.

There is no doubt that it was a good natured, enthusiastic and unanimous gathering and from all appearances the party is going into the coming fight with colors flying and with a united front. The meeting was opened by the chairman, James Conley, calling a number of prominent members of the party to the platform. Among these were General Odium, W. G. Anderson, Attorney-General Farris, M. A. Macdonald, M. P. U., J. S. Cowper, M. P. P., Mrs. Ralph Smith, M. P. P., Mrs. Menzies, Mr. Falconer, Lieut.-Col. Worden, James Ramsay, R. C. Campbell-Johnstone, S. S. Taylor, K. C., in his best forensic style to which was added, for the occasion, a touch of old-fashioned gallantry, evoked thunderous applause when he brought forward the name of Mrs. Ralph Smith, "first in the hearts of her countrymen." Mr. Taylor stated that he considered himself specially favored in having the high honor of proposing the name of a lady who was not only an ornament to her sex, but to the legislature and was fast becoming recognized as a pillar of the state.

To her was due some of the most important legislation which had been passed. And with it all continued Mr. Taylor, the modest manner in which she had filled her difficult position as the first lady member upheld the credit of her sex, was beyond all praise. Although Mrs. Bell was running as a Liberal the speaker felt sure that she would receive the support of all and be returned at the head of the poll. Mrs. Menzies seconded the nomination and assured the nominee of the whole-hearted support of the Women's Liberal Association.

James Ball then proposed the name of Attorney-General Farris, which was well received by the crowd. Mr. Ball pointed out that Hon. Mr. Farris had stood by the party in storm and sunshine and had successfully fought the legal battles of the province before the privy council. He also would head the poll.

Mrs. Ralph Smith received the greatest ovation of the evening, the delegates joining in singing "For She's a Jolly Good Fellow." She expressed herself as greatly touched by her reception. She believed she was going to be sent to Victoria because she was needed to look after the men. (Laughter.) In this connection she was willing to admit that she had a job on her hands. (Renewed laughter.)

Attorney-General Farris thanked the convention for the confidence which had been reposed in him and for the choice of such a splendid ticket.

"The fight is on," he said. "There is only one way in which the six candidates can be selected. That is through the policy of the 'Codill Six' this should be the watchword. If I have friends in the city they will not be truly my friends unless they vote for my five colleagues." "A few words on the record of the government," he continued, "Mr. Bowser said the other night that this government will never be returned to power to deal with the liquor question because of the record of the attorney-general. Although I did not make a statement regarding the election no one could say that I said it would be before the session. The people decided that they would put this liquor question in the hands of the government by their vote on the referendum. I say that this gives the lie to Mr. Bowser's statement. If

the times comes and if necessary I'm prepared to meet Mr. Bowser on the public platform." Mr. Farris declared that Mr. Bowser had boasted at Collingwood before the last session that he would "show the government up" on the liquor question and this he failed to do.

"There had been a suggestion going around," continued the attorney-general, "to the effect that about one-quarter of the time I am on the fence as regards the liquor question. I was playing with both sides, it was said, I want to reiterate the position that I took over a year ago.

The speaker read an extract from the Nelson News in which he had stated that "the present evil (referring to abuse of prescriptions) must be abated, that such a condition must not be allowed to continue," and that "the present act must not be changed at the next session." He recalled that when the session came on he had introduced the bill, which reduced the amount of liquor obtainable to eight ounces. As a result

sales of liquor at the government vendors had reduced from something like \$150,000 a month to about \$10,000, no month since the amendment came into force totalling over \$11,000 from the sale of liquor.

He had stated at the time if, when the time came, the prohibitionists could not secure the support of the people, then the time would have arrived for the discontinuance of the present act. He had taken the position that the question should be taken out of politics entirely. The situation is different now, he declared, and the vote throughout the province had justified the taking of the referendum.

"The government will see to it," he declared, "that the will of the people is translated into legislation, not of a loose character, nor of the kind which will take the lid off, but will give the people government control of liquor along the lines for which they voted."

COAL PROFITEERS AND GOVERNMENT

(New York Evening Post.)
The gouging of coal consumers has become so extreme, and the failure of efforts to check it has been so complete, that the threat of Government price-fixing served on the coal trade by the Senate Committee on Reconstruction meets an imperative need. Coal men themselves freely admit profiteering all along the line. Four or five years ago the best soft coal was \$1.50 at the mouth of the mine; operators believe, and the Black Diamond asserts, that \$6 net would be fair now; yet spot coal in the East has been selling at above \$10 net. The gougers have laughed at the Lever act. The wholesale and retail trade speculators who try to obtain small quantities of coal and then take advantage of local shortages to resell it at unjustifiable prices are easily 100 such speculators, new-comers to a business in this city alone. To a limited extent the price increase is traceable to the excess of demand

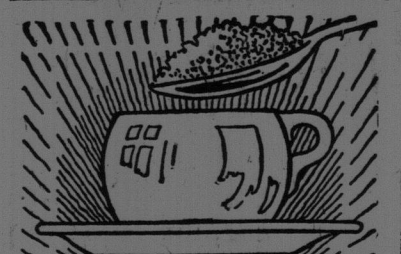
over supply, especially since the business and by the meeting of the most urgent plant of slacking on the part of the ness of supply has been so confused by demands of New England and the workers will not hold an instant. The transportation difficulties. This cause Northwest for a "priority" supply. The miners have been digging coal harder for higher prices is being lessened by the greatest cause for price-increase lies in than ever. It is the "trade" that is at recent increase coal production, by the trade practices which the coal interests fault, the "trade" must reform, or the slackening of industry in some quarters, can stamp out if they try. The familiar Government will reform it.



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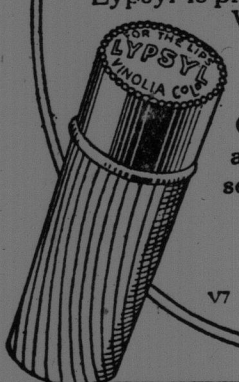
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