

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, JULY 24, 1919.

THE HARBOR.

If this harbor proposition has to be made the subject of discussion at public meetings or elsewhere, let's get at it and have the thing over. Complaint is made at City Hall that beyond what has appeared in the newspapers nothing has been heard from Ottawa.

It is entirely what might have been expected. Ottawa, as indicated by the attitude of the men responsible for the bill recently enacted, is not anxious to take over St. John Harbor, but prepared and put through that legislation at the request of our local representatives, who, however, are disappointed in not being able to secure better terms yet feel that we should take what is offered rather than turn down the opportunity.

Whether this attitude is one which should be adopted by our people as a whole is the question to be decided, for the electors of St. John have the final say in the matter and are to express themselves on the proposal as soon as a plebiscite is arranged. Ottawa may officially notify St. John of the steps taken so far, but this is not really necessary. The Act has not been approved, the purchase money is available, and all that now remains to be secured is the consent of our people to the transfer.

When that has been settled, the necessary legal steps can be taken, the Commissioners appointed, and control of our harbor pass to the Federal Government. It is not really necessary that we should wait for Ottawa to send along a purely formal notification of something which is already published in the official records of Parliament. The plebiscite may be brought on at once.

While there are still a few minor points to be settled, such as the operation of the ferry, etc., the agreement in the main is as already set forth. The Dominion takes over entire ownership and control of the harbor. We receive two million dollars, a portion of which will be in cash, the remainder an assumption of liability on existing bonded issues. We retain the accumulated sinking fund provided against these bonds, which fund now amounts to something like three hundred thousand dollars, but this is our own money and is considered as part of the purchase price should also be added to our valuation of the property, which, however, has not been done.

As against this we transfer our greatest asset, one which we find difficult to manage, which will require large expenditures in the very near future, but which has, as a result of our own efforts, put St. John on the map of the world. The property is valued by the prospective purchasers at more than two hundred thousand dollars in excess of the amount they are prepared to give for it, and is valued by us at three hundred thousand dollars above even that estimate.

We are expected to cut off half a million from our own price, or roughly a quarter of a million from the acknowledged value fixed by the government, in order to relieve ourselves of the burden of future years. This would be a small matter were the future assured—which it is not—there has as yet been no declaration of policy on the part of Ottawa nor any intimation that we will be able to continue in competition with other ports in the years to come.

Open discussion of the whole subject will help to clear the air, for while there are many who believe it advisable to jump at the chance of selling out for whatever we can get, there are others who would prefer that we retain our harbor even though contained management will undoubtedly mean something of a struggle.

MERELY A SUGGESTION.

His Worship Mayor Hayes and others who are interesting themselves in the proposed reunion of New Brunswick's soldiers have invited suggestions as to the best means of preparing and carrying out a programme. Without desiring to intrude, The Standard begs to call the attention of those concerned to the fact that in the year 1918 the Foster Government assessed the people of New Brunswick for \$118,000 for Patriotic and War Purposes. This was a direct tax and was collected from nearly all of the municipalities. A certain few refused to pay it, properly enough, but sufficient was collected from the assessment to provide a very gratifying sum. Out of that amount \$10,000 was paid to the Halifax Relief Committee and a few odd thousands handed out to the G. W. V. A. and the Military Hospital Commission. We are told that the remaining ninety thousand was expended patriotically on war roads, but this, of course, was only a jocular remark for no member of the Foster Government would ever think of applying to such purposes money so levied. Consequently there remains in the Provincial Treasury something in the vicinity of \$90,000, lying there idle and just waiting for a patriotic purpose to turn up in order to give it a chance. Now there is talk of bringing to St. John, on the occasion of the royal visit, some seven or eight thousand of our returned soldiers in order

that they may be entertained by this city on behalf of the province and given a welcome which will in some measure express the gratitude of our people towards them. Naturally it is not the duty of St. John to spend its own money in an enterprise such as this, which is of a provincial character. But, having this money on hand, contributed as direct taxation for patriotic purposes, and having this patriotic purpose directly in view, what could be more fitting than that Mr. Foster, Uncle Peter, Dr. Roberts and the rest should put two and two together and hand over whatever portion of this fund may be required for the purpose of giving our soldiers the time of their lives. Certainly this expenditure would commend itself to the fathers and mothers who originally provided the cash, and who would like to see their boys and their neighbors' boys enjoy such entertainment as might be provided through that assessment. None of these people want their money back, and The Standard feels sure that all residents of this province would be delighted to have Mr. Foster and his colleagues act generously in this particular respect and undertake to meet the bills for all legitimate expenses in connection with providing a fitting programme in acknowledgment of the services of our men overseas.

ACTION AND INACTION.

France has taken action to reduce the cost of living by appointing a commissioner to carry out plans decided upon by the Cabinet. Food selling booths in Paris will be doubled in number and other booths of a like character will be established in other centres of population. Cheap restaurants to supply all meals at fixed prices and conducted under control of the Ministry of Supplies, will be immediately organized everywhere in the country. All war stocks of foodstuffs held by the Government will be sold to the public chiefly through co-operative societies, and a special service already organized in the Ministry of Supplies will take drastic action to check speculation in food. A bill now before the French Parliament provides amendments to existing laws against speculation and addresses penalties.

Along with this announcement comes another from the Illinois Department of Agriculture to the effect that there are now stored in Chicago warehouses, chiefly under control of the five big packing companies, enormous quantities of foodstuffs which, if placed on the open market, would result in a material reduction in prices. There are \$5,000,000 lbs. of beef, 70,000,000 lbs. of pork, \$300,000,000 of butter and \$260,000,000 dozens of eggs. These stocks have grown tremendously since the cessation of hostilities and the consequent cancellation of food contracts in Europe. The figures now presented will be used as evidence in the Federal inquiry into the high cost of food products in the United States.

THE BISLEY SHOOT.

The Bisley Meet, which has been held during the present month for the first time since 1914, was confined almost wholly to teams of individual marksmen from the British Isles. Yet the interest displayed in this national competition was such as to indicate that in future years it will be more popular than ever before. The shooting, strangely enough, averaged below the pre-war standard. Changes, of course, have been made in the rules, which now, among other things, call for 303 bullets. Indeed ordinary service ammunition with a somewhat heavier propellant charge has been used throughout, and in the majority of matches the service rifle has also been to the front to the exclusion of the special match rifle formerly favored among marksmen. It had been anticipated that familiarity resulting from military service might have produced marksmen of greater capabilities than those who participated in this gathering in peace years, but such was not the case, for the scores ran lower than formerly and the work of all classes is described as having been ragged.

WHAT THEY SAY

Equally Loathsome. From The Kingston Whig: A red sign in other days meant that smallpox was in the home, now a red sign means Bolshevism is dwelling within. But both are about the same thing.

Familiar Stuff. New York Tribune: The warmest admirer of Senator Swanson, of Virginia, will scarcely contend that he added much to the enlightenment of America and of the world by the three hours of discourse he unloaded on the Senate. The track that he trotted has many footprints; the cart he dragged is loaded with familiar stuff.

An American View of Ireland. From Life (New York): No one who does not feel a valid obligation of conscience to know about Ireland should attempt to do so. Looking at political Ireland is like looking into a kaleidoscope. You take your eye off of her to make a remark, and when

you put it back there is a new set of combinations. Until the fun blows out of that remarkable island, there promise to be fairly continuous fireworks there. Perhaps when the lion lies down with the lamb the South Irish will lie down with one another and an Ulsterman will lead them, but the millennial combinations still lag.

A Demolished Argument.

New York Herald: The fact seems to have escaped those fervid partisans who were hurling epithets at critics of the covenant of the League of Nations, but nevertheless it is a fact that the announcement of resumption of business with Germany completely destroys the partisan contention that in holding up ratification of the peace treaty until they can be sure of what it means senators are reopening war or delaying the arrival of peace.

Facing Both Ways.

New York Sun: Was there ever anything quite like this since international diplomacy learned to talk? To Europe: "America demands it; I have her mandate; I dare not abate or compromise; do not disappoint her; do not desert me home to merited scorn." To America: "Europe demands it; do not abate or compromise; dare you break the heart of the world?"

Sharing the Responsibility.

New York World: Those who are confident of their financial ability to lay in a stock of drinkables sufficient to last for years, whether they were light wine or not or prohibitionists or not, are in part responsible for the present situation. Even more culpable, however, are the people who thought up to the last moment that some way would be found to defeat a movement which they did not take the trouble to resist. To these two elements quite as much as to the Anti-Saloon League we are indebted for prohibition and all the inequalities and humbuggeries that are bound to follow in its train.

The Baffled Wets.

New York Times: Hope springs eternal in the breast of the wets, but it has mighty little to do with them. If the galleries of the House could be forbidden to visitors and selected balloting provided for, a majority might be found for moderation and common sense and the repeal or modification of the wartime prohibition act, or at least, for the permitted sale of light wine and beer. But up in the galleries sit the prohibition hoaxes, watching their thralls on the floor. If a member wishes to deviate into toleration, he is forbidden to do so. The inexorable tab on him. It is an old story. Still, the hearts of the faithful are not so hard, there is reason to believe, before long their arid tongues will.

A BIT OF VERSE

THE GLORY OF WAR.

(A re-constructive piece to the keen sensitiveness of Puseon and many another.) The glory of war! It is the most momentous of all things that is that to the broad human race, its crosses and ribbons as symbols are; And the sham from the real find their place.

As the power behind, Light-air—water, and all, Draws from earth and foul matter The life and wheat; Does not the Eternal Clearly shine in humanity, Thro' character's "third degree" tests— War, adversity, too great prosperity— All that the individual is, or may be, Man or cheat?

But what is the glory of peace? May it not be right for righteousness sake? Let the alive carry on youth's flaming torch, And in mine and hearts try dull care to decrease, As they lead to the light and the dark—ness forsake! —N. MACKENZIE, Toronto, July 14.

A BIT OF FUN

The Doctor Knew. "I don't like your heart action," the doctor said, applying the stethoscope again. "You have had some trouble with angina pectoris." "You're partly right, doctor," said the young man sheepishly, "only that ain't her name."

Author Too Particular. The Star: "The author of this play is a great stickler for realism." The Manager: "I haven't noticed it." The Star: "Why, he objects to my wearing diamond rings in the scene where I pawn my hat to buy food for the children."

The Only Help. When the railroads were tied up with the worst glut in history, one severe winter, one train was fifty-seven hours late, and a passenger became wearied. "Get me something so that I can figure out when I will get to New York," he said to the colored porter. "Yes, sah, I'll get you a time-table, sah," replied the porter. "Time-table? Time-table? Then, no! What I want is a calendar."

Hard for Chaos. The wholesale grocer was carefully explaining matters to the commercial traveller whom he had recently engaged, and the C. T. was making himself as nice as he could. "Mr. Binks," said the boss, "your predecessor was not up to his job. His affairs were all tangled up. He was a muddle." "Yes, sah," replied the new hand meekly, as though he was sorry, but couldn't help it. "That being the case, Mr. Binks," said the wholesale purveyor, "it is up to you to get order out of chaos."

For a moment the commercial booker puzzled. Then a beautiful smile spread itself across his countenance. "Sir," said he, eagerly, "I don't happen to know Mr. Chaos, but I'll get an order out of him, if I have to go and live with him!"

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE. The Park Ave. News.

Weather. Free sutch as it is. Sports. Last Tuesday afternoon Benny Potts, Artie Alexander, Puda Simha and Larry Shooter had a contest waiting along seeing who could pick up the most bent matchsticks, picking up 213 altogether, counting 13 tooth picks, which they tried to sell them to the junk man but he said he wouldn't take them for a gift.

Sisley. Mr. Sam Crosses sits cawf in the throat which he had last Saturday morning completely disappeared Saturday afternoon as soon as his mothers box of cawf drops was all gone. Mr. Sam Cross saying they tasted more like sane kind of candy than what they did like cawf drops. Intriguing Packs About Intriguing People. Ed Davis is very fond of reading, often reading the same book twice without remembering he read it once before.

I drew a picture of a battle scene Signed at the bottom by me, But it didn't look enuff like a battle scene So I called it "A Rock at Sea."

THE EDITOR'S MAIL

PROHIBITION QUESTION. Editor of The Standard: ... very pleased with the report in your paper of Monday of the sermons on temperance preached by the pastor of Exeter's great church. Some of us were amazed at the deliverance of certain members of the Medical Society given in the press of the press. They are in direct contradiction to the very best medical authorities of the days in which we live. Allow me to give a very brief quotation or two from their very foremost men. Sir Samuel Brodie says: "Stimulants do not create nervous power; they merely enable you to use that which is left, and then they leave you more in need of rest than before."

At a conference of medical men held in London some years ago Dr. Monroe of Hull said: "It is now seven years since I have ordered any alcoholic drink, either as a medicine or diet, and the success attendant upon its disuse in cases where in former years I should have ordered it largely, and condemned myself if I had not done so, so gratifying as to lead me to its entire abandonment in the treatment of disease. In typhoid fever, as well as in other cases of fever of the worst character, in epidemics and in epidemic and violent hemorrhages, in delirium, in rheumatism, in gout, and in many other diseases, the success of this treatment, without the use of alcohol, has been most marked and satisfactory."

Again, in a report of the London Temperance Hospital Dr. Edmunds, who treated 683 cases, writes: "I have not, in any case, thought it necessary to prescribe the use of alcoholic beverages as medicine. The results of the non-alcoholic treatment have been in my judgment, entirely satisfactory, and the treatment was done much good in directing attention to the errors in diet, work, etc., which were the real cause of the disease, and by dispelling misapprehensions as to the supposed advantages of resorting to alcoholic beverages." And in the same report Dr. S. W. Moore says: "Among the 36 patients who have been under surgical treatment it has not been deemed necessary, in one instance, to administer alcohol in any shape or form."

Leaving doctors to differ, it is often well to ask what business men have to say on such an important matter as this. And it is well known that some railroads will not employ a man who is in the habit of imbibing alcoholic drink because of the disastrous results. Still after stated in the American Union have voted prohibition. A New York paper of last week says: "Among the 36 patients who have been under surgical treatment it has not been deemed necessary, in one instance, to administer alcohol in any shape or form."

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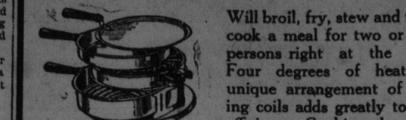
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FERGUSON & PAGE

land will lose her economic supremacy to America within a generation unless England sobers up and keeps sober. The best thing that England can do is to follow the example of America and drive drink out of the realm. Now, Mr. Editor, you are a politician, and these declarations may not carry much weight with the editor of a party newspaper. But Lord D'Abernon, chairman of the Central Board of the Liquor Traffic, England, a man of great ability but not a prohibitionist, says: "If instead of having prohibition and control to choose between the choice by between prohibition and a relapse to pre-war conditions, I should not hesitate to support prohibition at any cost, rather than be a party to the nation's disgrace which would be involved in a deliberate and voluntary return to a lower level."

As you, sir, seem so generally to invite discussion in your article "Doctors and Preachers" in Tuesday's Standard and say: "Much more may be said on both sides," I may add the preachers do not fear discussion of the most public character, because the leading physicians, manufacturers and politicians are with them on this important question.

Yours, etc., ROBERT S. CRISP.

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