

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 1920.

THE LUXURY TAXES.

A feature of the recent taxation scheme which seems to have been ignored by Sir Henry Drayton is already creating very serious difficulties among certain manufacturers. The quality of merchandise varies. Some manufacturers buy cheap clothes and turn out cheap clothing, while others, catering to a different class of trade, confine themselves to the production of high-class goods. In every line of manufactured article different qualities are to be found, and it is very frequently true that the manufacturers specialize in qualities. Yet the man who is today producing the highest grade of goods is penalized for the benefit of the manufacturer of the shoddy stuff. Suits of clothes for men may be bought for less than forty-five dollars. Many factories are producing such garments, and the recent Budget proposals have brought to these factories heavily increased taxes. Such clothing is exempt from taxation. But the firm which, using higher grade cloths, is making suits to sell by retail at more than forty-five dollars, finds itself already swamped with cancellation orders from retailers who fear a slump in sales because of the so-called luxury tax. What is true of clothing applies equally to boots and shoes, to women's garments, to hats, to almost every article of wearing apparel. And while this taxation imposed upon the better quality of merchandise may, and undoubtedly will, restrict to some extent the sale of these higher grades, it is evident that the country will suffer very seriously indeed through manufacturing depression brought about by the cancellation of orders for goods which have formerly been in strong demand, and which thousands of factories are equipped to produce. Indeed in a number of instances the situation is really serious. The information is given from Montreal that unless retail shoe dealers there continue to take delivery of the higher grade shoes which they had ordered, and which they are now endeavoring to cancel, the manufacturers may be compelled for their own salvation to sell direct to the consumers.

NEW BRUNSWICK'S CABINET.

In referring to New Brunswick's lack of representation in the Federal Cabinet, the Star has had the intention of endeavoring to promote the interests of any individual. This journal does not consider it a part of its duty to suggest to Premier Borden the men whom he should associate with himself in the government of the country. The selection of his colleagues in the administration is the sole privilege of the Premier, who might very properly resent outside advice. At the same time the Standard repeats that there are in New Brunswick today a number of men who are quite capable of taking their places in the Federal Cabinet, and maintaining the honor of this province, as regards both personal intelligence and administrative ability. The ministers we have sent to Ottawa in the past—three of them now holding very high public offices—have been men of more than ordinary ability, and if given the opportunity New Brunswick would today produce equally competent representatives to guard our interests at the Federal Cabinet. This question is not entirely one of party politics. The cabinet circle is incomplete. The vacant seats should be filled, in the interests of the country as well as of Union Government, and representation of New Brunswick in that Cabinet is a matter which affects not the well-being of Union supporters alone, but of every resident of this province. The issue today does not involve the claims of any one man or any group, but does involve the question of justice to a province which has been ignored by Ottawa for too long a time.

DEMOCRATS AND PROHIBITION.

Prohibition appears to be likely to play a prominent part in the forthcoming elections in the United States for millions of Americans of both political parties are more interested in the position the Democrats will take with regard to prohibition than they are in the identity of the Presidential candidate. Governor Cox, of Ohio, and Governor Edwards, of New Jersey, are avowed "wets," and both have their strong backers for the nomination. They do not attack the prohibition amendment, for it can only be repealed as a result of action on the part of the various State Legislatures, supplemented by an Act of Congress, and it is admitted that before a majority of the States could be got to vote for repeal years must elapse. What the "wets" intend to do, if successful, is to repeal the Volstead Act. This is the Act that enforces prohibition. If it were not in existence, or some similar Act, prohibition would become a farce. It would be like a crime for which the law had neglected to prescribe a penalty. The Volstead Act is, in fact, the teeth in prohibition. It declares that all liquor containing more than one

half of one per cent. alcohol is intoxicating. Now, just as the last Congress was competent to declare intoxicating all liquor containing more than one-half of one per cent. of alcohol, the next Congress will be competent to declare that liquor containing less than one per cent. of alcohol is not intoxicating. According to the Mail and Empire, what is desired by the "wets" is the sale of ordinary beer and light wines. Few of them champion spirits. There can be no doubt that there are millions of Americans who favor the sale of wines and beer, and that if the Democrats would choose a "moderate" candidate or declare for the repeal of the Volstead Act these millions would line up behind that party. President Wilson himself is not a prohibitionist, and he recommended that the wartime measure imposing prohibition on the United States should be repealed before the constitutional amendment came into force. Congress, however, declined to accept his advice. Mr. Bryan, of course, is a prohibitionist, and declares that he will oppose the nomination of any candidate who does not come out strongly for prohibition, and Mr. Bryan has great influence with the party. There is also to be considered the fact that the Southern States, which constitute the chief strength of the Democratic party, are supposed to favor prohibition. The liquor question is likely to be for the Democrats some such problem as the League of Nations was to the Republicans. The latter simply ignored the prohibition issue. It is doubtful if the Democrats will take this course.

BRITISH VS. CANADIAN FILMS.

Commenting upon a resolution passed by the National Council of Women, which advocated the exhibition of British and Canadian films in preference to the American article with which the country is flooded at present, the Ottawa Citizen claims that American films are the best in the world, and will not be displaced in Canada until British or native productions excel them. Without wishing to belittle American films in any way, we cannot agree with our contemporary that our neighbors' films are so much the superior of the British article. There have been British-made films shown in this city that can not be surpassed either in technique, in photography or in any other respect; but notwithstanding their general excellence, they were received with a lukewarmness that is, to say the least, not very creditable to a country over which the British flag floats. The attitude of the public regarding British pictures is one of tolerance at the best; they don't appeal to the people because they are not American, that's all. Anything that is American "goes" in this country, or in this province at any rate—whether it is a question of pictures or anything else.

BRITAIN'S FINANCIAL RECOVERY.

Otto H. Kahn, the well-known New York banker, has recently returned from an extended trip through Europe, and has given an interview to the New York Journal of Commerce, outlining the European financial position as he judged it to be. Mr. Kahn characterized the statement that America would replace Britain as the world's financial centre as piffle, and stated that while he was willing to admit the good position that America undoubtedly would be able to assume, he did not believe that the financial prestige of Great Britain could be wrested from her. Mr. Kahn found the people of England busy and prosperous, and expressed the opinion that the acute problems and difficulties of the post-war situation either have been dealt with, or the assured prediction is justified that they will be overcome. He said: "They have been overcome in the main, in England. The spirit of wise yet daring enterprise which is traditional of England, the experience, insight and financial skill gained in the course of centuries, her wonderfully perfected machinery for international trade, her old-time prestige based upon the justly earned reputation for fair and honest trading, her resolute and clear recognition and pursuance of the facts, her governmental methods of fostering trade and co-operating with commercial interests—all these and other elements have been effective toward her recovery of her old-time position. She is prosperous, and she is going ahead apace. Throughout the world, her far flung activities are in full swing. If anything, rather too much may possibly have been attempted too quickly, and too great a strain may have been put upon England's current resources, which may lead to a reaction. But, if so, I am convinced that it will be temporary."

The milk situation seems to have undergone some little change. Until yesterday it was charged that the Kings County milk producers were depriving the babies and invalids of this city of milk, because they refused to get up earlier in the morning to catch the train, which had been put

ahead an hour to challenge citizens who summer out of town. The railway authorities have now expressed a willingness to restore the train to its old time, if it will be satisfactory to the travelling public, to wit, the summerers out of town. Now, there's, it is up to the latter class to say if they will be content to get into town an hour later, in order that the babies and invalids may get their milk. They (the summerers) have called the milk producers every opprobrious name under the sun because the latter selfishly would not get up an hour earlier for the sake of the babes and sucklings; are they themselves unselfish enough to wait an extra hour in order to give the infants what they said the farmers were denying them? If they won't, their insincerity is clearly proven.

Although the United States is now supposed to be "bone dry," it is abundantly evident that prohibition is not by any means wholly approved of even by those who are strong temperance people. It is pointed out by an American contemporary that while comparatively few people in that country are in favor of spirits being procurable, they do want beer and wines. It is more than likely that the same sentiments obtain in this province. Temperate men—that is men who favor temperance as opposed to enforced abstinence—don't want hard liquor sold at all except for medicinal purposes, but they do desire to have beer and wines. This is a tolerant attitude, and is wholly undeserving of the abuse which is being showered upon it by the "bone dry" advocates.

Another Little War?
(Daily Herald, London.)
Congratulations to the Daily Express on its discovery of the little war that is going on in Arabia between the King of the Hedjaz (mentioned and financed by the foreign office) and the Emir Ibn Saud (mentioned and financed by the Indian office). It is a good story. We ought to know because we told it in the Daily Herald very nearly a year ago.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL.

St. John, N. B., June 24th, 1920.
The Editor of The Standard,
City:

Sir—I read with much interest and approval the letter which appeared in your issue of the 22nd inst. in which you stated that the writer drew attention to impertinent suggestions contained in advertisements published by Prohibitionists.

May I call attention to another in yesterday's paper—an hysterical advertisement based on an editorial which appeared in a paper of the Chatham Gazette (I must confess I never heard of the paper before) and which editorial the person who prepared the advertisement was endeavoring to curtail by saying that "it is unfortunately too long to be reproduced in its entirety." I presume he meant entirely. That portion of the editorial reproduced contains the following choice sentences: "In the old days, if you walked up Water street and did not see, hear and smell a dozen drunks, you wondered what the deuce makes the town so quiet. To-day, if you have a car, or a car or two drunks see or hear, for there are he spinsters—throws up the hands of holy wrath and cries out." etc. A wonderful editorial!

If this is a sample of the article as a whole, it appears to be it is distinctly fortunate and not unfortunate that it was too long to reprint in its entirety.

"Excited epistle"—I fancy the result of the advertisement next following, namely, "Women getting ready to vote" will prove a boom-rang if the holier-than-thou advocates cannot be a little more polite. "Excited epistle." How do unmarried ladies like that?

The advertisement proceeds:—"The same conditions are true in St. John. I prefer to take the opinion of the Police Magistrate, a gentleman of many years experience and who knows the facts, and he view publicly expressed time and again is just the reverse."

If we can obtain wholesome beer and wine instead of the "bone dry" city and province inundated by the illegal sale of liquor and by the wholesale vending of lemon extract, sometimes by persons from whom the community might reasonably expect a different course of action, we will have a much healthier tone in public and private life.

Yours, etc.,
ANTHUMBUG.
P. S.—Since writing the above, I notice another prohibition advertisement in today's paper, in which a certain undisclosed North Wharf merchant complains that the amount of food stuffs required at the goal is noticeably decreasing. Too bad. If the same merchant knows anything about the lemon and vanilla extract trades, will he tell the public whether the sale of those goods has been increasing or not? Why does not the "certain North Wharf merchant" come out under his own name and not seek to hide his "complaint" under the name of anonymity? Is he a lemon extract vendor?

(Oh, well, at least the Gazette Editor brought the office cat into the limelight.—Ed.)

The Editor's Mail, etc.,
Patricia, N. B., June 23rd, 1920.
To the Editor of The St. John Standard.

Sir—In your account in this morning's Standard of the Referendum meeting in the Central Baptist Church last evening, I am reported as saying: "That if the statement is true that Prohibition is no good and that it has utterly destroyed beer, then it would be better if it were not there. That was the logic of it." That statement is just the opposite to what I did say, as anyone at the meeting could testify. I cannot conceive of a situation when it would be better if the bars came back. The logic of facts is altogether against the bars ever coming back.

My statement at the meeting was: That the Premier in announcing the conditions of the Referendum vote

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Last night after supper I went around on Broad street with the fellows and listened to some man waving his arms and talking about Socialism, and when I got home pop was up in the sitting room smoking and thinking with his feet up, me saying, Pop, do you believe in Socialism?

I do not, and never did and never will, sed pop, every man on his own merits, that's my motto, I don't believe in this dividing up himself by not, pop, ain't all men born equal? I sed.

They may be born equal, but they don't stay equal very long, and the most unequal ones are always Socialists, sed pop.

Well G, sed, pop, I sed, the man around on Broad street sed it ain't fair for some men to have all the money without working and other men to do all the work and not get hardly any.

Let me tell you something, my earnest young thinker, sed pop, if all the rich men divided their money with all the poor men today, how long do you think it would take for the same men all to be rich again and the others all poor again?

How long, pop, 2 weeks? I sed, and pop sed, Well that would be a trifle sudden, say 5 years, yes 5 years, in 5 years the intelligent men would have most of the money just as they had at first.

5 years, pop? I sed.
Yes, 5 years, sed pop, 5 years is a conservative estimate.
Well gosh, G, pop, I sed, my accident they divide up every 5 years then, and keep on making it even?

Yes gosh, sed pop, a good argument rolls off you like water off a ducks back, go to bed, its late.
Which I did.

said: "Whatever the result of that vote there would be no return to the old system of the open bar—the vast majority of the people do not want to see the open bar restored." We are told also by opponents of Prohibition "that nobody wants the open bar restored." Why is this? What is the reason for this opposition by these people to the open bar? Evidently great advantage has come to the community through the abolishment by the Prohibitory Law of the open bar. Even its enemies being judges it is not true to say the Prohibitory Law has done no good, but that it has brought about one of the most beneficial changes of this generation. It has done and is doing more good than its enemies are willing to admit and the closed bar is one of its blessings.

I am opposed to the proposition to incorporate in the law the sale of intoxicating wines and beers for beverage purposes, because it would destroy the character of the Prohibitory Law and open the way, even if it is another form, for many of the evils destroyed by the closing of the bars.

My counsel was to vote for Prohibition against the sale of wines and beer.

Yours truly,
THOMAS MARSHALL.
RE THE MILK SITUATION.

To the Editor of The St. John Standard.
Dear Sir—How much longer will the infants and sick people of St. John be punished for a few suburbanites from previous appearances, unwilling to sacrifice their health for to further their own selfish ends? To be sure it is a duel between the milk producers of Kings County and the railroads; but it is not so—it is a battle between healthy suburbanites on the one part and the sick people and infants of the city, and the longer the argument lasts the worse it will be for the health of the healthy, and the more numerous suburbanites care not.

Now, why does not the city officials order the railway department in the name of humanity to put a milk train on between Sussex and St. John composed of an engine and car, with clear right of way for the present and let such foolish disputes be settled later. Other cities have milk trains; why not St. John? The dealer has to pay freight enough on his goods to offset the expense, and let it be remembered the railroad is the people's and should not be operated for a profit. It is the same as the one at once in the name of humanity.

I note in your morning issue statements of Mrs. J. W. W. Lawlor of pasteurized milk and wrapped dry bread fame, where she advocates boy-

ing Kings County farmers; but I do not think any one will take the statement seriously, especially after having to pay extra to have dry bread wrapped and all sticky pastry left unwrapped, and Mr. Wetmore and his customers not finding fault. His customers are surely an exception.

However, let us feed the babies like good citizens and let the dollar and cent sport take care of himself, for our friend the farmer is our greatest friend today and his life on the farm is not one continual round of pleasure, and besides, he is a much wiser man today than the farmer of yesterday. I congratulate Mr. Broy on his manly and firm stand in this matter. Here in the market today there was hardly any veil to offer on account of calves being fed what the above named should have on account of a few selfish people.

So, thanking you in advance, Mr. Editor,
I am yours,
JAMES SHEEHAN.
East St. John, June 23.

PULPIT AND POLITICS
(Chatham World.)
The Prohibition campaign managers appear to be well provided with the sinews of war. They have most of the churches on their side, but evidently don't believe that elections are won by prayers. Paid election appeals, some of them with advertising marks and some without, are appearing in the papers. If they have money to spend in this way we suggest that they be required to contribute towards the salaries of preachers who deliver campaign speeches in their pulpits. Why should men and women who think that the style of Prohibition enforcement which we have is a great evil than restricted and regulated sale of intoxicants pay for preaching Prohibition campaign sermons? The platform or the stump is the place for partisan political appeals, even when the speaker conceives that moral issues are involved.

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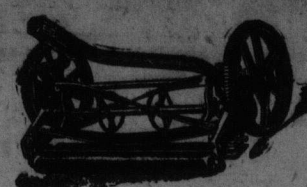
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The Musical Merchandise Sales

Circuit Court

Cases Yesterday

In the Circuit Court yesterday morning, Mr. Justice Barry, presiding.

A true bill was found against Norman Burley charged with breaking into and robbing the store of Robert L. Adams, West St. John.

A true bill was also found against David Hennessy, charged with assaulting a policeman. D. Mullin, K. C., who appeared for Hennessy, asked His Honor to adjourn the trial pending his study of indictment to which he intended to take objection. Grant-ed.

The trial of Curley was then proceeded with before the following jury: P. C. Gregory, George D. Ellis, M. T. Morris, Charles E. Lowe, Luke J. Lowe, J. Fred Brown, D. W. Pundington, E. W. Rowley, George H. Hamilton, Walter Hart, W. J. McKenzie and Edward F. Richardson.

Detective Biddecombe, Ernest Law and Harris Gilbert gave evidence for the Crown. The prisoner testified in his own defence and the case was adjourned.

The Hennessy case was resumed in the afternoon. Mr. Mullin disclosed that the indictment did not disclose any offence in law, first, because counts had been included in one indictment, and there being but one count in the indictment; second, neither of the offences had been sufficiently set forth; third, no legal offence had been alleged. Counsel then moved that the judgment be quashed. The judge refused the motion and stated that he would hear an appeal for a reserve case, before the court closed next week.

The trial then proceeded. There was but one witness for the plaintiff policeman Walter MacNeil, and but one witness for the defence, the prisoner himself.

In his address to the jury, counsel for the defence raised the point that the prisoner was not in his right mind when the offence was alleged to have occurred being crazed with lemon extract and therefore not responsible for his actions.

The judge when charging the jury advised them that if they did not believe the prisoner understood the meaning of the act, they should bring in a verdict for common assault. The jury then retired and returned within a half an hour with a verdict in which they found the prisoner not guilty of the indictment but guilty of common assault. The court then adjourned to Tuesday.