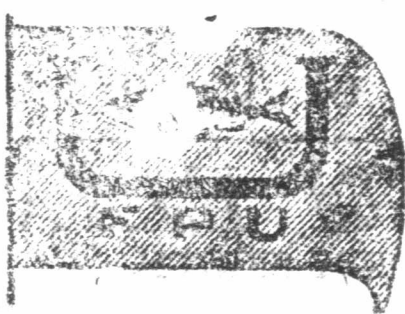


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The Mail and Advocate

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Editor and Business Manager
JOHN J. ST. JOHN

ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., NOV. 18, 1915.

OUR POINT OF VIEW

He "Prefers the Bar"

WE publish below a further epistle from the Rev. Mr. Whitehouse, who writes letters even more freely than sermons, and in this case wastes his eloquence in a bad cause.

In former letters, Mr. Whitehouse opposed Prohibition because it was compulsion, but now he opposes it because it does not compel. In the former he relied on admonitions made by his Bishop in 1912, which he misapplied, but in this last he relies on the Encyclopaedia Britannica, written by a man with like prejudices to his own.

A little knowledge is a dangerous thing. If Mr. Whitehouse knew more, he would say less about a condition of things elsewhere which does not exist here. The author he refers to speaks of state wide prohibition and local prohibition, and says they have not succeeded.

Now, local prohibition is what we here call local option, and upon the whole local option has succeeded here. Will Mr. Whitehouse deny that? In so far as it is evaded, the fault has occurred because liquor has been introduced into local option areas from outside areas.

In so far as State wide prohibition has failed in the United States, the cause has been the same as here in local option areas—the liquor has come in from other states. If Mr. Whitehouse will read his Encyclopaedia closely, he will find that importation into an American state is not unlawful even when the State prohibits the sale, because importation is a Federal matter.

The Prohibition which will prevail here is against importation, manufacture or sale, and is not merely state wide, but is Colony wide. It will be effective because fewer loopholes are provided for escape, and because our people are law abiding.

Prohibition has not been a failure, though its success has been qualified. It is a better system, and has produced better results than the license system of Great Britain, which has created conditions found to be intolerable in this Great War.

State wide Prohibition exists more generally in the United States to-day than ever before, which fact is the testimony to its effectiveness given by the people who know best. Russia has prohibited vodka, and France has banished absinthe. What a wonder those countries had not read the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

Mr. Whitehouse says: "I prefer the bar to the shebeen any day." Either is a bad place for a clergyman any day. We have no choice, because we oppose both. But we thought Mr. Whitehouse was opposed to compulsion. Why, then,

Mr. Parsons' Case

ELSEWHERE in this issue will be found some correspondence which passed between Mr. Selby Parsons of Harbour Grace and the Government Telegraph Department.

From close perusal of the correspondence in question it appears that Mr. Parsons on October 6th, 1914, sent a business message to Adams' Cove. The operator at either Harbour Grace or Western Bay made a mistake in the wording of the message and as a result Mr. Parsons is now out of pocket \$44.90.

The Postal Telegraph Department it would seem from the correspondence herewith do not recognize any responsibility for mistakes made by their operators, and as far as Supt. Scott or Postmaster General Woods are concerned, Mr. Parsons can whistle for his money.

This is certainly a very high handed procedure for the Heads of a Government Department to adopt. This branch of the Civil Service under ordinary conditions is none too good and the present state of affairs is directly attributable to the Morris ideals of conducting the public affairs of our Colony.

Mr. Parsons, to our mind, has done the right thing in publishing these letters for the information of the general public.

Where would Mr. Parsons stand if his loss, through the carelessness or otherwise of a Government postal operator, amounted to \$400.00 or \$4,000.00? Is there to be no protection for the business men of this country who do their telegraph business through the government postal offices?

The public are expected to patronize the Postal Telegraphs; but judging from the correspondence in question we, for one, would think twice before entrusting important business messages to the careless or incompetent operators who evidently operate the keys at one of the Government Postal Telegraph offices.

Mr. Parsons has met a loss of \$45.00 through the error of either the operator at Harbour Grace or Western Bay, this Mr. Woods admits; yet Mr. Parsons or any other business man who finds himself in a similar position, must be out of pocket through the stupidity of some operator whose carelessness is defended by the Superintendent of the Government Postal Telegraph Department.

On several occasions we have published through our columns letters from Outport people protesting against the manner in which some of the postal operators conduct their business in Outport offices. Those complaints tell of many instances where friends of the operator are continually hanging around the office—a practice which is directly opposite to the Rules and Regulations governing such offices, besides being annoying to the general public who have business to transact at these offices.

Perhaps if an investigation was

The Temperance Poll In Newfoundland

THE plebiscite in Newfoundland on the question of prohibition has clearly resulted in an overwhelming affirmative vote. The prohibitionists are, however, under a handicap, placed on them by the Government, in the condition that, however strongly the affirmative vote may be, it shall not count for prohibition unless it represents at least forty per cent of the available voters.

On the other hand, however strong the temperance majority may be in any particular district, it appears that if the vote falls below forty per cent, the deficit is scored up against prohibition. For instance, we are told that the St. George's district voted 549 for prohibition and 336 against, showing a clear majority of 213 for temperance reform. Despite this decisive vote, however, St. George's is scored in the anti-prohibition column by a majority of 620 votes!

The method by which a district which votes "yea" by 213 votes is recorded "nay" by 620, is well worth examining. As a proposition in mathematics, it is not so complicated as it looks, however it may appear from the point of view of the voter. It appears that forty per cent of the St. George's district vote would total 1169. As the prohibitionists only secured 549, they have fallen short of the effective minimum by 620 votes. It seems that this failure does not have the effect of wiping out the count, but of placing it in the anti-prohibition column by a majority of 620!

Before forming an opinion, therefore, as to how the count will go, it would be necessary to master the intricacies of this remarkable system.

Nevertheless it is clear that the people of the Ancient Colony are overwhelmingly in favor of a state prohibitory law, whether they succeed in getting it or not. The result of the vote will be completely summed up in a few days. One would think that if prohibition survives the tests to which the Newfoundland authorities are now subjecting it, there will be no limit to what it can accomplish in the future.

Ballot-box stuffing is a crude and primitive means of defeating the popular will, by comparison with the original methods of tallying they have devised in the old colony.—Sydney Daily Post, Nov. 10.

made this condition of affairs may be found to have been the cause of the error which has cost Mr. Parsons \$44.00.

New Appointments

JORDAN MILLEY, the thrice defeated Tory candidate for Twillingate, has been appointed Superintendent of the Money Order Department in the Post Office, while Mr. McCarthy, the present holder of the job, has been transferred to the position at the Magistrates' Court, left vacant by the death of Mr. Devine.

Mr. McCarthy being a lawyer will fill the vacancy at the Court very well; but to place Mr. Milley over Mr. G. B. Lloyd, who for 30 years has rendered faithful services in the Money Order Department, is an outrage of the blackest hue. Mr. Lloyd does all the work of the Department and knows the duties as no other living man can; yet he is passed over in order to find a job for Jordan Milley, who knows the Morris Party are on their last tack and if he don't get in out of the cold now, he will never find a warm place.

READERS, ATTENTION!

A magazine published in London last month contained a letter received by Archdeacon Wilberforce, Chaplain of the House of Commons, from one of his parishioners travelling in Russia. In order to enable our readers to realize what a change has been wrought in Russia by prohibiting the sale of vodka. We reproduce the letter, which is as follows:—

"The first thing that must strike anyone who has known Russia for the last twenty years is the look of health and happiness stamped upon all classes as the result of nearly a year's total abstinence from alcohol. The poorer folk, even the kindly but once besotted cab-drivers, are all transfigured. In this respect Russia is certainly reaping a blessing from the war, a blessing so great that one needs to see it with one's own eyes to realize the full wonder of it.

"Here, as at home, one finds that the enemy has been busy poisoning the sources of spiritual enthusiasm. There is certainly a party in Russia who are under German influence, and who talk the same kind of pernicious nonsense as one sometimes hears in England. I had hoped that this was not so in Russia, but, like ourselves, the Russians have allowed the Germans to get a very strong hold in all purely material matters.

"Thank God, however, Russia possesses sealed fountains of spiritual and idealism which no German or other poisonous influences can reach. One feels this when one goes about, as I have been doing the last few days, from hospital to hospital talking with the doctors and nurses and above all, with the soldiers themselves. Here all the suffering seems to be quite lost in a wonderful serenity and radiance.

"Yesterday I was talking to a soldier of six-and-twenty with both his legs gone. He was sitting up in bed keeping everyone around him happy and cheerful, and in his face was a look like some invincible, but very tender Archangel. I now understand what Khomiakov meant by 'the Paschal spirit of the Russian people.'

"I am going on to Moscow and probably into the country near Jaroslav, where I shall see the results of the temperance movement among the women, who are saving and making the home what it has never been before. As a doctor said to me yesterday: 'In spite of all the horrors I can hardly wish the war to end until the temperance habit has been firmly implanted.'

"The Russians are buying their salvation with their blood, but they are getting something eternal for the price paid."

MR. PARSONS' CASE (continued)

blatant, considering from whom it comes, a man who will not suffer without railing, any opinion but his own.

Let me advise you to be more charitable and not so reckless. I prefer the bar to the shebeen any day and I suppose most men with their eyes open do the same. People should bear in mind that Prohibition, according to proper authority has been a failure practically everywhere, and results in deceit, political strife and secret drinking to an alarming extent.

Please observe this letter is based on your admission that the State deals with the Liquor Traffic as a public nuisance. There is still the "Christian way" to deal with it, as a sin. Why not try it?

Yours, etc.,
H. V. WHITEHOUSE.
Trinity, Nov. 15, 1915.

THE TEMPERANCE POLL (continued)

Mr. Parsons has a claim, and to our mind a just one, and the quick or the Colonial Secretary enforces his authority on the Postal Telegraph Department the better it will be for the future of the Department, and will go a long way to create a confidence in the Newfoundland Government Postal Telegraph Department, which is sadly lacking nowadays.

Now Mr. Bennett, do your duty. If Mr. Woods or Mr. Scott are unable to manage the Postal Telegraph Department, as it should be put some one there who will do so and who will see that our business men and the public in general are protected from such unnecessary annoyance and expense as is Mr. Parsons of Harbour Grace in the present case.

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