

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 1920.

THE PROHIBITION REFERENDUM.

As will be seen from the statement given out by President Hoover, which will be found elsewhere in this issue, the referendum regarding Prohibition is to be held on Saturday, the 10th July. This particular day of the week may not strike everyone as the most convenient of the six upon which to hold a poll, but the reasons for selecting that day are given in the statement, and nothing more can be said. The Jewish fraternity may not like it, for the reason that their Sabbath falls on Saturday, and this fact will probably deprive most of them from voting.

ANOTHER MERGER?

Rumors, which appear to be pretty well authenticated, are afoot to the effect that another gigantic merger of Canadian industries is planned with the aid of British capital. Having successfully corralled the steel industry of the country, an effort is now to be made, it is said, to round up the various pulp and paper companies in one big amalgamation controlled by British financiers. British capital is always welcome in Canada, and the more of it that can be brought into the country the better it will be for our industrial future. There is not sufficient local capital in Canada available for the proper development of the various industries, and it will be infinitely more satisfactory if capital has to be brought in from outside sources, to let it come from Britain and other parts of the Empire, rather than from the United States, which country, of course, would not unreasonably expect, if her capital was employed to develop Canadian industries, to have first call on the products of those industries. This is not altogether what Canadians want; they are willing to deal fairly with outsiders who may bring capital into the country, but they also expect to have some rights left themselves.

PROHIBITION IN THE U. S.

The prohibition amendment to the Federal constitution and the Volstead enforcement have been upheld by the United States Supreme Court. The decision sweeps aside almost the last hope of the wets. The court's action means that the bone dry law is established firmly as the rule of the nation. State of any beverage containing one-half of one per cent. or more of alcohol is forbidden in every State in the Union regardless of statutes adopted in the defence of State rights. Such measures as have been passed by New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island and other States are nullified. The court's ruling, given after three months of legal attacks on prohibition, is complete victory for the Government and the dry forces.

IRELAND'S TYRANTS.

Sinn Fein has nearly shot its bolt. It is clearly shown in the reports from Dublin that power now resides not in Sinn Fein, which will rapidly be numbered with the Nationalism displayed by it, but in the purely Bolshevik wing of Irish Labor. Liberty Hall again dominates Ireland as it did in the rebellion of Easter, 1916, until shells from a gunboat in the Liffey brought Liberty Hall to ruins. The hall has been rebuilt, and the tyrant which it shelters has been re-established. Until sane Irishmen themselves recognize that all their national movements are in the grip of a bloodthirsty anarchy, and pluck up heart to resist and smash that anarchy, there can be little hope of any settlement. Meanwhile it is time to abandon the pretence that Sinn Fein is of much account.

HOOVER AND THE PRESIDENCY.

Probably the only likely Presidential candidate in the United States whom the people of Canada take a real interest in is Herbert Hoover. This is because he was a figure of world importance all through the war, and might well be called the first American who entered the struggle. His

TAKING CHILDREN.

(Montreal Gazette.) If the Minister of Finance will consider small things as well as great, we commend to his attention the plight of the small boy, or it may be, the small girl, who goes to the corner grocery for a one-cent stick of candy. Most children do that. The difficulty is that one cent's worth of candy can no longer be had for one cent. There is a ten per cent. "luxury" tax which the little tot must pay. The vendor, with a keen regard for the needs of the national exchequer and the provisions of the law, adds the ten per cent. but as he cannot collect the exact amount he charges two cents. The cost of the sugar stick is thus raised one hundred per cent. and of the increase, ten per cent. goes to the Government, and ninety per cent. to the vendor. In ordinary commercial transactions a fraction of less than one-half per cent. is dropped. In the case of the one cent candy the fraction is only one-tenth of a cent, but instead of being dropped it becomes one hundred per cent. Surely this is not the intention of the law.

MISPLACED GNEERS.

(Ottawa Journal.) At the same time that the United States stands aloof from the League of Nations it has launched upon a novel programme of a most elaborate character. A super-dreadnought, the Tennessee, went into commission last week. It is advertised that no ship which fought in the battle of Jutland is so formidable. In addition, no less than seven other capital ships of similar or greater size and power are being built or planned.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Natural Compliments. (Detroit Free Press.) Too proud to fight, too obstinate to make peace. After all these two states of mind are natural compliments to one another.

Provided No Action Were Needed. (Salt Lake City Telegram.) If America's industrial problem was in Ireland or China, Congress could think of a dozen good ways to solve it.

Soldiers' Best Friend. (Toronto Star.) It is extremely doubtful if we shall see in Canada any Government or Parliament that will be as ready as those who have tried to succeed as far as possible the demands made by the returned soldiers.

The present Government and Parliament became so used to disturbing immense sums during the war, they became so familiar with the handling of millions, that no proposed expenditure daunts them. If or when those people quit office, the war period will end, and when they go out there will go with them the habit of spend, compensate and repute.

The next Parliament and Government will feel that the after-the-war State of affairs in this world will make a general cleanup and get on with new business, and set the country going on its new career.

The present Government having been in the war, having adopted and enforced conscription, having seen armies of men go away, and their shattered ranks replaced, must feel a responsibility towards the returned soldiers—must feel a more direct responsibility in this world than any subsequent Government will feel as time goes on and the war recedes.

When the present Government of Canada refuses to the soldiers no Government later on is likely to grant.

The News-Print Question. (Montreal Gazette.) It would be intolerable if paper makers in Canada were permitted to contract for the sale of their whole output to American and British newspapers, and so compel Canadian newspapers to cease publication, not only to a degree, and not affecting the principle, it is unendurable when supply is denied some Canadian newspapers provided always they will pay current market prices. Now, that is the position to which some publishers in Ontario profess to have come. Representatives of 27 daily newspapers in that province have informed the Finance Minister that their customary supply of newsprint is being diverted to the United States, with danger of their being compelled to cease publication. If the case be so desperate as that, a remedy must be found. Canadian publishers are entitled to first call at open market prices on the output of Canadian paper mills, and this right must not be alienated. Domestic demand being satisfied, manufacturers are free to dispose of surplus stock where they please; not otherwise. That is the case in a nutshell.

A BIT OF VERSE

A DOG'S PRAYER
Amy W. Eggleston
Daily Prize Poem in Boston Evening Record.

I do not ask a bed of ease
If but my head is on Your knees.
I do not ask for dainty fare
If only I with You may share.

I do not ask an easy road
I'll pack with You whatever the load.
I'll suffer gold, I'll suffer thirst
I'll vena until my heart shall burst.

I'll share Your life however black
If but Your hand is on my back
What though you ply the chastening rod—
You are my master and my God.

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAGE

Ma and pop and my sister Gladys was setting in the dining room waiting for supper to be ready and ma was in the kitchen trying to open a bottle of olives, saying, O shaw, such a stupid way of making a bottle, why don't they make them so you can open them, I never saw such a silly bottle.

You don't go about it correct, my dear, sed pop, and ma sed, O, really, you don't say so, well suppose you come out here and go about it correct.

With pleasure, sed pop. And he went and looked at the bottle, saying, Yours allowed to pry out the rubber first and then the top will come rite off, its very simple.

I should say it is very simple, its downright foolish, sed ma, the idea of sticking a lot of rubber in the top of a bottle just to make people pry it out again.

Wares a fork, ill have it open in a jiffy, sed pop. And he pitched up a fork, saying, Just a jiffy, now, and ma sed, Do you realize thats a silver fork?

Im not surprisid, silver makes the best forks, sed pop. And he started to try to poke the rubber out from under the lid, and after a while ma sed, Well, its a jiffy yet?

Do you want this open or dont you? sed pop, And he kept on trying hard as anything without doing it, and ma sed, How long a jiffy?

Which just then pop gave a fevora poke and bent the fork all out of shape, ma saying, Wilyum Potts, that good silver fork.

Well, the rubbers out, enyway, sed pop, and ma sed, Yes, but I dont see the top coming off, isent the jiffy ay yet?

Very funny, very funny, its all I can do not to laf, sed pop. And he tried to pull the lid off, and the more he pulled the more it stayed on, and pop made a fevora face and knocked the hole top of the bottle of agent the edge of the sink, spilling out about half of the olives all over the floor and saying, Heers your confounded olives.

Hee hee hee, sed ma laffing, and pop sed, It surpris raddy lets eat it.

Wish we did, including wat was left of the olives.

THE LAUGH LINE
Some splinters advance step by step until they become steps.

It is un lucky to come home hungry and find a black cat in the pantry.

Serving the Duck.
When a man calls his wife a duck, she may remind him that a duck is served with dressing—Greenyille (S. C.) Piedmont.

He sure...
The war-made millionaire is a striking example of how not to be a patriot.—Baltimore American.

His idea.
Mrs. Paster—Theres a movement on foot to compel husbands to pay salaries to their wives the same as to any one else who works for them.

Another Near the Skids.
First Steno—Did you hear about Alice getting fired for spelling income 15-0-0-m?
Second ditto—Mercy? She forgot the "y" on the end.

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