

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 Premier Levesque, 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 showing more can be said. The Jewish fraternity may not like it, for the reason that their Sabbath falls on Saturdays, and this fact will probably debar most of them from voting.

As forecasted in these columns some little time ago, the second question on the ballot paper is whether beer and light wines should be available to the public as in the case in Quebec, and this will probably be the main matter for the consideration of the public. No one wants to see a return to conditions under which every kind of ardent liquor could be got at any time by any one, and rather than such a condition of affairs should ever be revived, the vast majority of people will be only too glad to retain the prohibitory law as it now stands. But as regards the sale of beer and light wines, conditions are not at all the same. There are many people who will not tolerate the consumption of spirits as a beverage at any cost, but who do not regard the consumption of beer and light wines with any horror. These people will now have the opportunity of recording their opinions in an effective manner.

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 national 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.

The announcement of this proposed undertaking comes at an opportune time. Some misguided individuals over the border are endeavoring to coerce this country into the making of certain arrangements that will practically place the control of the Canadian pulp and paper industry in the hands of the United States concerns, and Canadians would then literally become "hewers of wood" if not "drawers of water," for their neighbors to the south. It is necessary that Canadian industries should be built up, and this cannot be done unless our raw materials are manufactured here; and that the pulp and paper industry is destined to become probably the largest and most important of our national industries no one who knows anything of the situation will be disposed to doubt. There are hundreds of millions of acres of forest lands covered with pulpwood in this country available for manufacture; and given only the necessary capital, Canada will in the not distant future become the greatest paper-making country in the whole world. And it must not be overlooked in this connection that in these times a paper mill, guaranteed a full supply of pulpwood at all times, is as good as a gold mine.

The conclusion is plain. The United States, which has voted threats to cut off Canada's coal supply if it is not permitted to control Canada's pulp limits, is not to be permitted to acquire them either by negotiation or by quiet purchasing control. British capital is willing to throw down the gauntlet and to forge another golden riveted link in the chain of Empire by consolidating the paper industries of Canada under Imperial control, thus taking the second step in the endeavor to make the British Empire commercially independent and self-supporting by developing the vast latent wealth of each of the Dominions.

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

great abilities are internationally recognized, and it is on this account that the people of Canada, being unable to bestow any honor on Mr. Hoover, would be glad to see his fellow-countryman elect him President.

In the opinion of the Mail and Empire it does not seem probable Mr. Hoover will be nominated by the Republicans at Chicago. The boom in his favor did not originate with political manipulators, and is not generally favored by them. They fear that Mr. Hoover would not be as amenable to party discipline as another candidate who has served a long apprenticeship in the ranks and has worked his way gradually to the top. Indeed, for some time it was doubtful whether Mr. Hoover was a Republican or a Democrat, and the first prominent newspaper to suggest him as a candidate was the New York World, one of the most influential of Democratic newspapers. The World declared that it would support Hoover as a Democrat, as an independent, or even as a Republican. Some time later Mr. Hoover announced that he would accept only a Republican nomination.

But now, according to a correspondent of the Boston Transcript in San Francisco, there is a possibility that the Democrats may, after all, nominate Mr. Hoover, which is by all means the most interesting political rumor that the past few weeks have brought forth. With the possible exception of Mr. Wilson, whose hold upon the rank and file of his party and upon the independent element is a matter of mystery, Mr. Hoover would be the strongest candidate that the Democrats could bring out. He is the only candidate who would appear to have a good chance of winning, for the Democratic nominees at present appear to be about a twenty to one shot. If the Republicans should nominate Hiram Johnson and the Democrats should nominate Herbert Hoover the odds would be in favor of Hoover. Johnson is not liked in the East. He is not liked by the more conservative element of his own party. He has the gift of making enemies. No matter on what ticket he ran, Hoover would poll a tremendous Republican vote. If the Democratic managers could induce Hoover to accept the nomination, and especially if they could get President Wilson's approval, they would deal the shrewdest coup in American political history.

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. Sale 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.

Sustaining the amendment the court ruled that prohibition is a subject which may be dealt with properly in the Constitution and does not in any way conflict with other articles in that document. Hardly, however, had the opinion been read when counsel for the wets declared they would file petitions for rehearing on all the seven cases involved.

The court's decision is sweeping and conclusive. It goes so much further than anything expected it to go that it settles all the pertinent questions now before all the courts in whatever form. All the questions as to the technicality of Congress proceedings while the measure was enacted, as to concurrent powers of the nation and the States, as to the Volstead law application—everything goes by the board. "But," says New York Sun, referring to the court's decision, "it is one thing to fix clearly the intent of a law and to determine definitely the status of the law itself. It is another thing to make a law acceptable to the people."

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 ruin. The hall has been rebuilt, and the treasury which it shelters has been re-established. Until some 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.

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 lacrosse, 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 SNEERS.

(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 superdreadnought, 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. An American newspaper sneers at the League of Nations and asks why the League has not stopped the present European fighting. If the League of Nations has not been a success it is largely due to the action of the American politicians who have prevented American participation and on the contrary are setting a fine example of peace by building an enormous armada.

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 these who have at present to succumb as far as possible the demands made by the returned soldiers.

The present Government and Parliament became so used to disbursing immense sums during the war, they became so familiar with the handling of millions, that no proposed expenditure daunts them. If or when these people quit office, the war period will end, and when they go out there will go with them the habit of spending, commensurate and requisite. The next Parliament and Government will feel that the after-war years are the time to begin to save. They will want to make a general cleanup and get on with new business, and set the country going on its new career.

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

Will the present Government of Canada reduce 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 be dependent on the whim of a foreign publisher. It is undurable when supply is denied some Canadian newspapers 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 newspaper 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 now 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 run 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 sitting 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 correctly, my dear, sed pop, and Ma sed, O, really, you don't say so, well suppose you come out here and go about it correctly.

With pleasure, sed pop. And he went and looked at the bottle, saying, You're supposed to pry out the rubber forest and then the top will come right 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, I'll have it open in a jiffy, sed pop. And he picked up a fork, saying, Just a jiffy, now, and Ma sed, Do you realize that's a silver fork?

I'm not surprised, 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, is it a jiffy yet?

Do you want this open or don't you? sed pop. And he kept on trying hard as anything without doing it, and Ma sed, How long's a jiffy?

Which just then pop gave a fierce poke and bent the fork all out of shape, Ma saying, William Potts, that good silver fork.

Well, the rubbers out, anyway, sed pop, and Ma sed, Yes, but I don't see the top coming off, isn't the jiffy up yet?

Very funny, very funny, its all I can do not to laugh, sed pop. And he tried to pull the lid off, and the more he pulled the more it stayed on, and pop made a fierce face and nodded the hole top of the bottle of olives all over the floor and saying, Heers your confounded olives.

Hee hee hee, sed Ma laughing, and pop sed, It suppers redly lets eat it.

Which we did, including what was left of the olives.

THE LAUGH LINE

Some spinsters advance step by step until they become stepmothers.

It is unlikely 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—Greenyville (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: There's 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 tax—m-m?

Second ditto—Mercy? She forgot the "b" on the end.

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