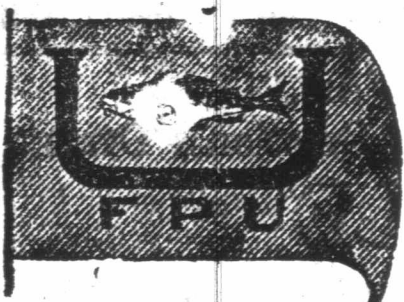


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("To Every Man His Own.")

The Mail and Advocate

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ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., SEPT. 28, 1915.

OUR POINT OF VIEW

Employment

THE GOVERNMENT will have to provide employment for a large number of men during October, November and December, and at least 2000 in addition to the usual number will require employment during the winter.

What have they done in this matter so far? Have they really considered the situation at all? Can't they do something to prove their ability to initiate something in a constructive way that will give employment and not press heavily upon the public finances?

Surely some of them are capable of more than grabbing in big profits as coastal contractors, supplying institutions with coal, and goods, insuring public property and hiring whaling steamers for picnics to anywhere. Can't they now make an effort to prove they are not all nonentities, capable only of graft and grab designs and laying plots of Confederation wherein they design to carry off the spoils?

Three Thousand men will be seeking employment next week, but where are they to find it?

The Colony entered into a contract with the Reids to construct branch railways to Fortune and Bonne Bay, and that contract must be completed, unless the Reids say they are willing to cancel it. If this work is to be carried out, why can't some of it be done this fall? Is there not as great a demand for employment to-day than there was in 1909 when Morris without legislative authority spent \$250,000 on railway construction in anticipation of the passage of the Branch Railway Contract?

If Morris cannot see his way to sink more money in railways, he certainly can arrange to employ 3000 men cutting pit props in the interior. That proposition is fully capable of looking after 3000 men this Fall and Winter and securing next year the returns of every cent expended.

There is a large quantity of pit props material belonging to the Colony along the railway line, and if Morris appointed a commission of three men and allowed them to manage the whole business, all the employment required would be provided at no cost to the Colony except the use of its credit for about twelve months.

Railway facilities for shipping two cargoes of pit props every week during the open season are available. Fifty cargoes of pit props would mean 100,000 cords; and not only would give employment to 3000 men this Fall, Winter and Spring, but would provide employment for 500 men all next Summer and Fall, as well as supply the Treasury with \$100,000 revenue from the export tax. One Hundred Thousand cords of pit props would mean \$500,000 expended in labor alone, which would provide the Minister of Finance with \$200,000 additional revenue through the expenditure of that amount for goods which would be in addition to the ordinary earnings.

We do not advocate pit props cutting under normal conditions

SERMON

Delivered by Rev. W. H. THOMAS, at the
Congregational Church, Sunday, Sept. 26

IT must have been a source of great gratification to all of us who were present in this Church on Sunday evening, May 2nd, and who voted for the Resolutions there and then adopted to find that the Prohibition Bill brought in and passed in the House of Assembly a few weeks later, conformed so closely to our wishes as expressed in those Resolutions. We are now in the midst of the campaign which has been initiated, and which must be diligently and enthusiastically conducted if we are to secure on November 4th a sufficient vote to carry Prohibition.

As to the nature of that campaign I would like to express my own personal approval—and even admiration.

In this country, as perhaps in most others, the greatest obstacle, perhaps, to progress and advancement consists in political partisanship. In the present fight, we are, as I believe, free, thank God, from that encumbrance.

There is, however, another menace which often threatens progress in this country, and is peculiarly capable of damaging the present cause. I refer to denominational bigotry and rivalry. The initiation of the campaign, therefore, required the utmost delicacy, and called for the wisest diplomacy. That these qualities were available, and were put into excellent and effective use is conclusively proved by the mode of campaign adopted and the personnel of the General and Sub-Committees appointed.

It is a great relief and joy to note that the best elements of our three main denominations are throwing themselves into this fight with complete co-operation and enthusiastic disinterestedness. What better omen can we have of a sweeping victory at the polls.

It has been becoming more and more apparent to thoughtful Temperance workers that the only effective way to mend the Liquor Traffic is by ending it. In regard to other trades, the public welfare can be safeguarded by legislation that regulates, but in regard to this, only by legislation that eliminates. One of the incidental, but valuable lessons the world has been learning during the great European War, is that national indulgence in alcoholic liquors spells national inefficiency.

I know of no stronger argument against alcohol than the fact that Russia, France and England have done more during one year of war to lessen its consumption than in all the previous centuries of their long history. No Army or Navy

to provide labor, but under present circumstances with 5000 fishermen destitute, every available channel of employment should be utilized, especially in view of the fact that the law was amended at the last session of the legislature extending the exporting of pit props from Newfoundland for another year.

Sir Edgar Bowring, who toiled so hard to secure the pit prop business for the Colony last Fall, will now have an opportunity to prove his sincerity and ability in connection with providing employment during the coming Fall and Winter for those who have not been able to earn a \$20 bill since last May.

Some people are uncharitable enough to think that Sir Edgar's park, trade, and pit prop interests was prompted by the sole desire to receive a Knighthood. Sir Edgar Morris has given him the Knighthood he so much coveted, will it now transpire, that all Sir Edgar's interest in the public has disappeared, in consequence of having received what he was after, and the public interests are no longer congenial to him.

If Sir Edgar is the man he pretended to be when seeking for honors, he will now put his shoulder to the wheel and take a hand in providing pit prop employment for the toilers who have toiled so long during the present season and made nothing.

Prohibition

TOMORROW we will publish the strongest Temperance appeal we ever read—the strongest indictment of the Liquor Traffic we ever read—by Bishop Casey of St. John, N.B., who was subsequently raised to the high position of Archbishop of Vancouver.

Every man and woman in Newfoundland should read it. It is contained in one of Archbishop Casey's pastorals.

reaches its highest point of efficiency until the canteen is wholly cut out.

What are the arguments against Prohibition?

I have been trying to find out. Here is one given me from actual experience. It represents the view point of a woman and a wife. I cannot think it is typical of many. My old man takes his glass and likes it. Why shouldn't he? Even when he takes too much and comes home tipsy, he never makes a row and he never abuses me or the children. As long as it pleases him, and he doesn't hurt me—well, let him have it. Such an attitude needs no comment—certainly no refutation.

There are, however, two contentions which I have heard made that have some show of reason in them. One of them is this: Prohibition would interfere with my personal liberty, therefore, I am opposed to it. One weak spot in this argument is that it proves too much. All legislation may be regarded as interference with the freedom of the individual, just as all other restraints of a social, moral, or religious nature. Says our objector: "If I want a glass, why should anyone render it impossible for me to get it?" By the same process of reasoning one can say: "If I want to carry a gun on Sunday, why hinder me; or if I want to catch trout or shoot cartridge on the 17th of September, why can't I do so?" You are proving too much. You are setting yourself up as a lawgiver and a law unto yourself and that way lies anarchy and chaos.

But the objector shifts his ground and says: You don't understand my position. What I mean is this: Here am I, a moderate drinker. I never drink to excess. I know when to stop and I never make a beast of myself or abuse my wife and children. Of course I know there are others who lack self-control, who never know when to stop, and who become dangerous and abusive. But why should you penalize me because of these weaklings?

The other day our City Council ordered a man who had built a house for himself in the Battery to remove it, otherwise they would do so and he would have to pay a fine.

In another case they refused to give permission to a man to build a house on a piece of land which he had bought for that purpose. Why? Because there was no main sewer within easy distance of either spot.

I should not be surprised if these men feel themselves bitterly aggrieved. They might argue with the Council: "This is my land. I have bought and paid for it. My old home was always kept in a sanitary condition, and I would see to it that my new home would be the same. I know there are people who neglect sanitation and cleanliness, but why should I suffer?"

Now, no one doubts that the Council's Bye-Law in this particular is a good one, though it appears to bear harshly in these individual cases. If the moderate drinker objects to Prohibition on his ground let him think of the advantage that would accrue to the drunkard and his wife and family, also to the whole community. And, if, further, he be disposed to ask "Am I my brother's keeper?" let him remember that the first man who put that question had murdered his own brother, and that he himself, if he actively or passively opposes Prohibition may be indirectly laying himself open to the same charge in the sight of God.

Let me put the situation before you in this way: "A circuspeet person walks along the pavement and notices a piece of orange peel on a flag stone. He avoids stepping on it and passes by. There follows a less heedful one, who, not noticing the danger, steps on it, slips, falls, and fractures a limb. Would the circuspeet one, think you, not feel happier if he had kicked the obstruction over the curb? Would you not think higher of him as a citizen and as a man? I know you would."

Thank God that is what so many are going to try and do on November 4th—kick the obstruction into the gutter, where too long the victims of strong drink have lain.

In this campaign I am delighted to note the attitude of so many moderate drinkers. They confess they are not teetotallers. But they also announce that they are going to work and vote for Pro-

hibition. That is, they realize that they are their neighbour's keeper. They love their fellow man better than their glass of liquor. It is these that will help us to win and may their number increase.

But the strongest argument against Prohibition is undoubtedly that it would lessen the revenue, and that just now we cannot afford that loss. It is estimated that \$400,000 is the contribution of the Liquor Traffic to the Country's exchequer. I can imagine an objector on this grounds waxing eloquent and saying, "We cannot afford it. As it is we need all the money we can get and more to run the Country, and to meet the additional expense incurred by our War contribution to the Empire."

I have heard this cynical reply made to that argument. The loss to the Revenue will not matter anyway for the Country is Bankrupt already. But, seriously, how shall we answer this objection. I suppose we spend in this Colony about a Million Dollars on intoxicants. When Prohibition passes that Million Dollars will presumably go to buy other goods. These goods will pay Revenue. But you say, not to the same extent. Granted.

A friend estimates that on Revenue alone we shall lose \$150,000. How is that to be made up? To begin with: One Million Dollars spent on any other goods whatever will give far more labour than when spent on drink. That is proved beyond all doubt. Additional work means additional income, expenditure and revenue; put that against the deficit, then consider what you will save in expenditure on the public services.

To-day your constabulary is small—under Prohibition it can almost vanish. The expense of the Administration of Justice would be considerably reduced. I am told that for every day in the year on an average the Country has to house and clothe and feed at the penitentiary forty people who are sent down there by strong drink.

That is a very small cost you say. Yes, but Prohibition will save it for you; and, in addition, the Country is losing the labour of all those people all this time. Who doubts that you would save a very high proportion of those disbursements now made through your poor law officers. The overcrowding in your poor house and asylum would cease, and you would save the expense of additional building operations.

But while all this is undeniable and constitutes a strong answer, I want to direct your attention to the heart of the question. It is not the amount of the Revenue that matters so much as its character, and how it affects the Country's earning power. It has been proved scientifically that alcohol, being a poison reduces a man's efficiency. That is admitted by all men of sound judgment. If there is anyone here to-night who doubts that, let him go down Water Street to-morrow and try to find a position for one who is over fond of drink—you will not succeed. I know, for I have tried. Business men know that alcohol decreases a man's capacity for work.

Here are two men who apply for the same job. They are equally qualified. One is a total abstainer, the other a moderate drinker. The keen employer will have no difficulty in making a choice. He will engage the total abstainer. When I consider the fact that the Revenue receives \$400,000 from the sale of alcohol, I am saddened and alarmed, for to me it forms an indescribable proof of an enormous reduction in the earning power of the community.

I well remember the Liberator Crash. It was a company which had a great reputation, especially in Free Church circles in the Old Country. Indeed among its agents were many ministers. For many years it paid promptly and invariably 5% dividend which was then considered a very good investment. When the crash came, it was found that the capital had long and heavily been drawn upon to pay the dividends.

That is just what the trade does. With one hand it pays a big sum to the Revenue of your Country, and with the other it takes it many times over out of your Country's capital. Would you invest money in a concern, however high the rate of interest, if even a portion of the dividends was taken from the capital? Knowingly you would not. That is the kind of thing you will do if, on the ground of loss of Revenue, you vote against Prohibition, or abstain from voting at all on November 4th next.

Read the fable of the Goose that laid the Golden Eggs, and when you have laughed at the foolish owner, whose greed led him to kill the valuable bird, go to your

bedroom, look in the glass, and lo you will see a greater fool than he who would to-day slay the Goose that laid the Golden Eggs.

Listen to the words of David Lloyd-George: "England has three enemies—Germany, Austria and Drink, and I am not sure but the last is our greatest." The Minister of Munitions would be the last man to underestimate the strength of Germany and Austria, and yet he is disposed to regard Drink as a greater foe.

Beloved, our Sons and our Brothers have gone out to fight the two former. While we are comfortably seated in this Church to-night they are within sound, at least, of the boom of cannon and the splutter of shrapnel, and will doubtless be soon in the trenches doing the actual fighting for which they have undergone a twelve months training. Who dares to whisper even that they will fail to fight valiantly and courageously? God aid, guard, and bless them all. Our safety and our honour depends upon them and their fellow soldiers.

Sirs, you and I are approaching a conflict. We are training for a fight. On November 4th we shall meet the foe of Drink. Our boys have, many of them given up lucrative positions. They have left comfortable homes. They have undergone the toils and labours of severe military training, and now they are about to risk life and limb. The greater foe which you and I can conquer needs but the casting of a ballot.

Sirs, can we fail to do that? Nay surely, for that were the last extremity of despicable cowardice.

They are ridding the Empire of its foes. Shall not you and I rid this Colony of their foe and ours? How shall we bear to meet them on their victorious return, if we have failed to rid their Native Land of a foe, which if left alive, may overthrow a manhood which neither German, Austrian, nor Turk was able to vanquish?

Nay, I am persuaded better things of you, beloved, You will be worthy of your Sons and Brothers and there shall be but few "slackers" on November 4th.

HOW TO VOTE

To vote for Prohibition, place
the X against the "Yes"

Are you in favor of Prohibition the importation, manufacture and sale of spirits, wine, ale, beer, cider, and all other alcoholic liquor for use as beverages? **YES X**

STRIKE, BRITAIN, STRIKE!

OH, BRITAIN, we who love thee in pain—

Though conscious, too, of all thy storied might—
Our brothers perish on thine ancient main,
The victims of Teutonic fiends night!

We wait, we wait! We do not seek to know
Aught but thy vengeance yet will strike its blow!

For this is England! From that magic word
Springs all the promise of a righteous day.

For we are British! Who that hath not heard
We bow not head nor heart to tyrant sway!
And, Muse of History, open fair thy scroll—
Brought we not blessings where the oceans roll?

Oh, Britain, in the patience of the strong.

Thy people yet will wait, though off the fire
Of wrath blaze forth against barbaric wrong.

And men give voice unto suppressed desire
That thy great arms, with trident or with pike,
Rise swift in glorious anger—and thou shalt strike!

FRANK MUNRO.
Freemont, N.H.

Appeals to Turkey to stop killing the innocent Armenians might better be addressed to the Kaiser. Responsible for Austria's ultimatum, he is also responsible for Turkey's savagery.—Montreal Mail.

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