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Semi-Weekly Telegraph

ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 17, 1907

THE GOVERNMENT AND TEMPERANCE

The Premier's thoughtful and courteous reply to the New Brunswick Temperance Federation should convince friends of reform that recent statements of some of the temperance men, complaining of the government's course, arose from a misapprehension of the facts. The Premier says—and the record bears him out—that no facts showing neglect or refusal to enforce the Liquor License Act have been presented to the government; that the inspector has been told to enforce the law, and that action will be taken if evidence is submitted to show that he or other officials have failed to do their duty.

As to the Federation's request that the government pass a prohibitory law similar to that in force in Prince Edward Island, the government, after due consideration, declines to take this course at present. In giving reasons for this decision the Premier says that while members of the executive are fully alive to the evils resulting from intemperance, they are bound to consider the past experience of New Brunswick with prohibitory legislation, and to examine the results of such legislation in other countries. The most experienced advocates of temperance, the Premier reminds the Federation, recognize that in order to enforce a prohibitory law successfully there must be a strong public sentiment to uphold its provisions and what ever action is necessary for carrying them out. The government feels that to pass laws which cannot be enforced would tend to bring about a want of respect for all laws and so would do more harm than good. The present act, he points out, provides that a majority of the ratepayers in any parish or ward may secure prohibition in that parish or ward by asking for it. This local option clause, the government feels, might well be acted upon in those sections of the province where a majority of the people desire to prohibit the sale of liquor. In several portions of the province the prohibitory clauses of the act are in force.

As to the Canada Temperance Act the government believes that it is not a failure, citing the fact that in nine counties it has been in force for many years and that the attempts made to have it repealed have failed. It is, in the opinion of the executive, productive of much good in the rural districts where temperance sentiment is strong; but in cities and towns, where the prohibition sentiment is weaker, the results are different.

If a prohibitory law for the whole province were introduced, the government's fear is that it could not be enforced successfully in the cities and towns and in several of the rural districts where a considerable proportion of the people would be opposed to it. So much for the present. The government notes with pleasure, however, that temperance sentiment in the province is growing fast, and suggests that in the not distant future the state of public feeling might warrant a refusal to enact a prohibitory law. Meantime, in order that definite information may be had, the government is to appoint a commission of three men, of whom the Federation is invited to name one, to visit Prince Edward Island and inquire into the working of the prohibitory law there in force and report on the subject to the Legislature. The Premier also refers to amendments to the Liquor License Act which the government is making in order to facilitate a vote under the local option clause.

The Premier's reply to the Temperance Federation discloses a fair and judicial attitude on the part of the government, a frank recognition of the strength and value of temperance sentiment in the province, and a desire to place new temperance legislation on the statute books just as fast as public sentiment justifies such a course. There is no use multiplying the communities which have a prohibitory law that is openly violated daily, which do not pretend to enforce it, and which deliberately use it as a source of civic revenue. So far as St. John is concerned, what would be its condition under the Scott Act if they have it elsewhere in New Brunswick?

SEVEN TO FIVE

Most people probably expected a disagreement of the Thaw jury, yet probably no small number hoped the wretched affair would be disposed of once for all. Our despatches say that seven of the jurors stood for a verdict of murder in the first degree, and that five desired to acquit on the ground of insanity. We had not supposed the "brain storm" theory would have so much weight, and it may be that some of the five jurors who held to the insanity idea really thought the killing justified and so were unwilling to send the prisoner to his death. From the public standpoint the worst feature of the affliction is that it will be necessary to try the prisoner again, and that necessity suggests the probability that many of the worst features of the drama just played

repeated. The New York Legislature is in the court room may have to be re-talking about abolishing expert testimony as to insanity, and if this is done the next trial may prove shorter and more to the point.

One of the jurors is quoted as saying that the woman's testimony made no great impression upon the twelve men in the box. Probably this is true. It would seem to follow that the jurors who would not send Thaw to the electric chair either really believed him irresponsible or thought no human being deserved to die because he had killed a man like White. But, as the judge made very clear, the law is not concerned with the character of a victim. The law forbids any citizen to act in his own quarrel as judge, jury and executioner, and it provides that murderers shall be executed.

The failure of the jury to agree very strongly emphasizes the truth of Mr. Jerome's contention that but for the prominence and wealth of the victim and the assassin the trial would have been short and simple. He was quite right when he said that the principal elements in the tragedy were those common to any Tenebris murder. Had a pedlar killed a bootblack for a similar cause the State of New York would not have had to waste three months and a large sum of money in order to vindicate the law. There are now some thirty or forty other homicide cases awaiting trial in New York. Probably no ten of them together will occupy so much time as has the Thaw case, which is still unfinished. Thaw goes back to the Tombs. As a majority of the jury favored a capital sentence he cannot be admitted to bail. He must await his turn now, and it will be long in coming. Meantime many things may happen. One thing is certain. The removal of the Thaw drama from the stage will be a relief not only to New York but to the country at large, for it carried with it a degrading atmosphere. The thing most to be regretted is that it is ever to be revived.

ENGLISHMEN IN CANADA

In several English and Canadian cities, notably London and Toronto, a discussion has been going on concerning the failure of certain Englishmen who come to this country to get on well with Canadians. Some have asserted that the new arrival was disposed to assume an air of superiority and that Canadians promptly resented it. By some the English accent has been held responsible, and others said the trouble was due to an English readiness to assert that everything and everybody in the Dominion were far below the English standard. An American reviewer after examining some of the complaints made by Englishmen in their newspapers ventures the opinion that there is fault on both sides.

He makes this suggestion, which is not without reason. "If," he says, "every Englishman who goes to Canada to live could be as well advised as one man, there would be no trouble. A wise friend said to him, before sailing: 'Be proud of England, but don't throw England in a Canadian face.' The person who said that knew all about the certain condescension in foreigners' which Lowell has noticed years ago." A Canadian, he says, does not dislike any Englishman unless he is given some cause to do so. But the Canadian has no reverence. "He will laugh at an Englishman who talks cockney soon as an American; he will as quickly ridicule English manners in speaking or dress. Of course, he does not hate Englishmen, unless some individuals make themselves obnoxious by forever throwing England in his face. . . . The Englishman comes over to what he naturally regards as one of his country's colonies, or 'dependencies.' He may even regard Canada as 'an outpost of the Empire.' It is like a Roman citizen going up into Helvetia to settle a century and a half after Caesar's conquest. The Englishman may not be conscious of this feeling, but the feeling is in him and, in spite of himself, it will crop out. Unconsciously, perhaps, he looks for a certain deference to be paid him by the colonial simply because he hails from the seat of imperial power and culture. The colonial, already sensitive as to his colonial condition, quickly detects the soul attitude of the Englishman and takes the most particular pains to ignore his aspirations to recognition."

The sensible Englishmen who come here do not expect any "deference" merely because they come from England. They know that in this country a man counts for what he shows himself to be. If he has sense, and proves it, he experiences no trouble. If he is foolish and shows it, he is likely to be laughed at—no matter where he hails from. And in these matters Canadians are not a peculiar people, but very much like white men the world over.

TRUTH PASSES THE CENSOR

Time was when the Czar's censor would have been horrified by such despatches as are now passing to him daily. It is a good sign, Russia is still savage, but when the facts are set before civilization daily it is a sign that a change is coming. Indeed it is one of many signs. The truth that comes freely over the wire now is horrible enough. For example, there is a recent cable from Stephen Bonsal, the New York Times correspondent in St. Petersburg. Bonsal is an experienced newspaper man who won his spurs in Africa long ago, and whose despatches from Cuba during the Weyler regime did much to hasten the suppression of the "reconcentration" policy which was depopulating the island. In discussing the future developments will depend largely upon the government's decision in the matter of drumhead courts-martial. For a short time past the sentences imposed by the military courts have been suspended, and as a result of this cessation of executions the revolutionaries have almost entirely abandoned their campaign of assassination. The understanding is that should the military courts recom-

mence the hanging of condemned prisoners the terrorists will resume the murder of officials.

Bonsal, in a despatch of April 9, gives figures which will convey to the world at large an adequate idea of what has been going on in Russia at a time when there was not generally supposed to be much violence. "What this cessation of crime, official and revolutionary, means," he writes, "will be more clearly understood when I say that a careful examination of the official figures discloses the fact that since August 1, 1906 men and women have been hanged or shot under sentence of the military courts, mostly within forty-eight hours of arrest. The other side of this gory picture is equally appalling. During the same period 1,242 wearers of the Czar's coat of high and low degree, died at the hands of assassins. How many innocent bystanders were involved in these tragedies is not easily ascertained, but the number is conservatively estimated at 2,000. For many of the recent revolutionary murders, even by those who do not preach liberty with the dagger doctrine, mitigating circumstances have been advanced. Some of the victims undoubtedly were monsters. Others, however, were killed simply because they wore the Czar's coat and because ever since the military courts have been set in motion, the revolutionaries demand a life for a life, and a few more for good measure."

The official killing, he finds, is all the more horrible because of the bungling and awkwardness of the executioners. Calculated ferocity, he says, is not a Russian trait, but the soldiers make the poorest of hangmen: "The executions never take place in the prisons or fortresses owing to disorders and riots among the prisoners which several times occasioned. At midnight the victims, escorted from their place of detention by two officers and a file of soldiers, proceed out by railway to an isolated station, and one after another the victims are hanged to a tree by soldiers inexperienced in the duties of their duties. Waiting their turn, they must witness the agonies of their comrades. The greatest secrecy has always been observed in carrying out the hanging parties. Information as to details follows almost exclusively from the unfortunate officers upon whom the executioner's task devolves. While certainly the officers in the St. Petersburg district are loyal to the Czar, they do not fear to talk of this matter with outspoken deliberation."

Mr. Bonsal is by no means confident that the present truce between the government and the revolutionaries is going to be of long duration. A great deal depends upon the Duma. Unless the more radical elements there can be controlled another dissolution is probable, and it would be likely to lead to another reign of terror.

TRUST FUNDS

What is the public view of the man in a position of trust who makes use of the funds of the institution with which he is connected, say in the manner Hon. Mr. Foster did? A contemporary sets down, side by side, Mr. Foster's own way of looking at these matters, and Hon. Mr. Aylesworth's. The contrast is somewhat striking.

Mr. Foster's view:—He was not responsible for forming the Union Trust Company, and he had no part or lot in making the investments of the trust funds of the Foresters. The Supreme Court made the investments, and after they made the investments he was handling the Union Trust Company's funds under the laws of Ontario. It was absolutely a misrepresentation to represent him as investing the trust funds of the Foresters, who had the amount of money they put into the stock of the Union Trust Company. Mr. Foster proceeded to quote from the evidence of Dr. Oronhyetehka and from the charter of the Union Trust Company to show the powers of investment by the Foresters. The capital they put into the Union Trust Company could be invested under the laws of trust and loan companies of the country for general investment, and they could invest in the security of real or personal property, and he challenged any man to point out any security or investment which contravened their powers.

Mr. Aylesworth's view:—Only twelve months ago a gentleman, one thought to be a gentleman, held in honor by those who knew him, the respected manager of what was then a respected bank of the country, was engaging in a career of investment, of speculation, whichever they chose to call it, in the stocks of established companies. That transaction resulted disastrously. There was a great failure, and the wreck and ruin of the institution of which he was manager, and the loss to many an honest man and many a poor widow and fatherless child of everything which they had depended for the remainder of their lives. These money were imperilled, and the manager who did so, and who failed, was today in the position that all knew. But in the present case money which were even more sacred, funds which were to provide for the widow and the orphan, were sunk in the purchase of unimproved lands in the new Provinces of Canada, which if they happened to go up in price would produce a return to those who had put their money in, while, on the other hand, if they became dead stock in the market it would mean the loss of every dollar that was invested, and would result as disastrously as the similar efforts of the manager of the Ontario Bank had resulted. That was what he called imperiling funds, trust funds, and most assuredly that was the investment of trust funds in the way contemplated by the statutes of the country.

SPIRITS

Dr. I. K. Funk, editor-in-chief of the Standard Dictionary, whose studies of spiritualism have been long and earnest, has written a book called "The Psychic Medium." This latest journal the Presbyterian Witness, in reviewing the Funk's production, raises many interesting not to say

diverting questions. The Witness does not believe (as we read with some relief) in the "materialization" of spirits, yet it recites with evident wonder or sympathy several familiar occurrences which Dr. Funk describes, and admits that it is open to conviction. It asks:

"Can the souls of the departed be called back to hold converse with their friends who are still living? or must they borrow other people's voices? Is Spiritualism true? Are its numerous manifestations to be taken seriously?"

"We heartily agree with Dr. Funk that physical research ought to be frankly encouraged. Get a million dollars if you can to endow such research. Get at the facts from all quarters, and by and by the science of the facts may be unveiled."

We turn now with some sense of surprise to the occurrences which appear most to have impressed the Presbyterian Witness. "The part of the book which interests us most," it says, "is that which records the 'independent voices,' so called."

"A lady, Mrs. French, of Rochester, has been the medium for voices which she did not utter. The voices sounded loudly in the room while she sat or stood without any motion of tongue or limb. The room had to be absolutely dark before the spirits could find utterance. An Indian chief known as Red Jacket has been the chief spokesman, his speeches ranging from ten to fifty minutes. 'Some of the voices were bright and some were snappy, but the voice of Red Jacket and the voice of Dr. Hosack were exceedingly serious.' These voices were associated with Mrs. French's presence for over twenty years. Mrs. French's voice was exceptionally feeble, and she is very deaf. Red Jacket's voice is strong. One night he spoke for fifty-five minutes. At more than one session a loud laughing voice was heard repeatedly. Other voices were also heard. An Irish voice was heard distinctly with a humorous brogue. Dr. Funk attended thirteen sessions in all. At all these he heard strange voices the origin of which he cannot explain. Dr. Funk does not believe in intentional fraud or imposition. There was no money paid or accepted in connection with Mrs. French. Red Jacket is an orator and a philosopher. He can argue closely. He told Dr. Funk: 'We make our own vocal organs.'"

NOTE AND COMMENT

Hon. C. W. Robinson will doubtless be returned by acclamation in Westmorland. His prospects in provincial politics are very bright.

The news of the earthquake in Mexico grows in gravity. After San Francisco and Valparaiso there is reason to fear extensive damage and loss of life.

Hon. Mr. Fiddling's resolution concerning Dominion subsidies for new railroads includes aid for the projected St. John valley line. The field is now clear for MacKenzie & Mann's engineers.

In discussing, or rather, dissecting Mr. Foster's speech in his own defence, the Montreal Star speaks of the honorable gentleman as if he were a sort of deacon who had turned burglar. Mr. Foster does not please the Star much more than Mr. Fowler.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's despatch to Hon. Mr. Fisher in reference to St. John harbor improvements was evidently delivered at Ottawa, notwithstanding the report that it had gone astray. No doubt the information desired will be given when the remaining estimates are brought down.

A despatch to a contemporary represents Mr. Jerome as saying:

"The real question here is whether New York city is to become a mining camp. If this sort of thing can go on—if the only thing between a citizen and his enemy is a brain storm, then every man had better look a man."

What he really said was not "look a man" but "pack a gun"; and what he really meant was "carry a pistol."

Mr. Hazen confirms The Telegraph's statement that he has had occasion to employ the principle of much government legislation this year. In some minor matters he thinks the government has borrowed his ideas. If Mr. Hazen has by any chance hit upon any useful suggestion no doubt the government would adopt it, since the principal object of the administration is to serve the public. The principal government measures were such as Mr. Hazen scarcely dare oppose.

Some idea of what is happening in Russia may be got from the estimate of a Russian writer, A. Belov, in the Stuttgart Neue Zeit, that the number of political prisoners in the country last year was 159,000. Imagine, for an equivalent, says the Springfield Republican, "the whole population of Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire put into prison. It is easy to see how dreadful must be the condition of jails meant for only a fraction of the number of people thrust into them."

There are 108 packs of foxhounds in England and Wales.

Correct Styles in Clothing for Men

Our clothing business in March exceeded all former spring records. April bids fair to be even greater! This remarkable growth is not meteoric, not for one season or two seasons, but has been steadily cumulative for many years.

Men have had time to prove to their own satisfaction that greatest variety of correct styles and the best values are here.

This has become recognized as St. John's Foremost Clothing Store, because we provide for every man the best that can be produced at the price he wants to pay. If you want to pay \$10 for a Suit, here is the best that \$10 will buy—the same is true at all the different prices. Being manufacturers we can and do sell for less than it is possible for other stores to, do who have not the same advantages.

SPRING SUITS, \$2.00 to \$25.00
OVERCOATS and RAINCOATS, 8.00 to 18.00

Well Dressed Boys Wear Oak Hall Clothing.



Boys' styles closely follow the lines of men's garments—but always with the saving clause of youthfulness. The long sack coat, the broad shoulders, the semi-form-fitting back—the tendency to run to the waist line—are all like the men's in kind, though different in degree, and always dressy. Oak Hall Boys' Clothing prepossesses parents and the boys alike. It's in a class to itself—you'll hear in other stores, "This is as good as Oak Hall." But the "as-good-as" are never as good.

Sailor Suits, 90 to 7.00	Norfolk Suits, 2.00 to 9.50
Bloomer Suits, \$4.25 to 7.50	3-Piece Suits, 3.50 to 9.50
Russian Suits, 2.50 to 5.00	Reefers, 2.00 to 6.50
Sailor Collar Russian Suits, 3.00 to 7.00	Top Coats, 4.50 to 6.50
D. B. Bloomer Suits, 4.50 to 7.00	Rain Coats, 3.50 to 15.00

OUR SPRING CATALOGUE. HAVE YOU HAD ONE?

If not send for one at once. It is a book of 64-pages and full of information such as you should have before purchasing your Spring Clothes. FREE FOR THE ASKING.

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Branch Store, 695 Main St.

Mr. Foster's Position
(Montreal Star, Con.)

It would be fatuous to pretend that in this case Mr. Foster helped his cause by his vicious attacks upon Judge MacTavish and Mr. Shepley. He can hardly expect the country to take the view that the commission was a body of men, though it is popularly believed to be "good for grass" and for the flow of maple sap.

But there is a crop upon which the average farmer has not put the attention it deserves, and this is the one time of the year when he can best plant it; trees. In this latitude there is no kind of tree which grows more surely, more rapidly or more profitably than the ordinary white pine. The supply of pine lumber is constantly diminishing. The demand for it, and consequently the price, is constantly increasing. There are thousands upon thousands of acres in New England which were once covered with pine trees, but are now naked wastes, commonly described as pastures. In reality they deserve no such name. Nature plainly intended them only for the raising of trees. If their owners would stop to reckon up the trifling cost of transplanting upon such lands the tiny white pine seedlings which they can readily obtain from any neighboring wood lot, and satisfy themselves of the great possibilities of their crop when it has matured, thirty or forty years later, they would discover that right at their door has lain neglected a practically unlimited source of wealth.

The bureau of forestry of the department of agriculture sends to any inquirer bulletins of information which are well worth careful attention. From these one learns that April and May are the months best adapted for planting, and that cold and rainy weather is best for the purpose.

Instead of bemoaning his fate at having such weather as the present to contend against, let the Yankee farmer look into this matter and see whether his natural thrift and energy do not point another way to wealth for himself and his children in planting his waste lands to white pine.

Tree Planting Time
(Boston Herald.)

The recent weather may not suggest much beyond bad language to the average citizen, and particularly to the farmer. Snow in April is not much of an encouragement to the man who has ploughing and planting and market gardening on his mind, though it is popularly believed to be "good for grass" and for the flow of maple sap.

But there is a crop upon which the average farmer has not put the attention it deserves, and this is the one time of the year when he can best plant it; trees. In this latitude there is no kind of tree which grows more surely, more rapidly or more profitably than the ordinary white pine. The supply of pine lumber is constantly diminishing. The demand for it, and consequently the price, is constantly increasing. There are thousands upon thousands of acres in New England which were once covered with pine trees, but are now naked wastes, commonly described as pastures. In reality they deserve no such name. Nature plainly intended them only for the raising of trees. If their owners would stop to reckon up the trifling cost of transplanting upon such lands the tiny white pine seedlings which they can readily obtain from any neighboring wood lot, and satisfy themselves of the great possibilities of their crop when it has matured, thirty or forty years later, they would discover that right at their door has lain neglected a practically unlimited source of wealth.

Not a Party Question
(Toronto Telegram.)

Why should the perfection of Hon. Geo. E. Foster and the imperfection of the Royal Insurance Commission become an article in the working creed of the opposition at Ottawa?

It was not as a member of the opposition that Mr. Foster put himself on the wrong side of certain findings.

In pursuit of his own private interests, Hon. George E. Foster was somewhat damaged in transit through the hands of a commission that brought Oronhyetehka, for instance, out unscathed.

The party did not put Mr. Foster on the worst side of certain facts which the Royal Insurance Commission discovered. The party's duty is to look after itself and leave Mr. Foster to stand or fall, according to the logical consequences of his own acts.

The country does not care greatly for the Royal Insurance Commission's opinion of Mr. Foster's actions. The country cares still less for Mr. Foster's opinion of the actions of the Royal Insurance Commission. And could not understand.

A fool there was, and his hoe he broke. Even as you and I.
And his garden was left with weeds to choke. And his back is the last that they call near-broke. But he is unable to see the joke. Even as you and I.

Another of Drummond's
(Boston Transcript.)

It seems that our charming Canadian guest of a few years ago, Dr. Drummond, the poet who has immortalized the "Habitant" dialect, gave to his friend Walter Brackett, the trout painter (they were fond companions of the fishing pool) while here in Boston last, a copy of the verses which he recited in the studio with tears streaming down his face, and which, because they commemorated the poet's own son, Mr. Brackett has thought too sacred and intimate ever to allow published in the lifetime of the author. They are published here as an affectionate tribute to the gifted lover of things "both great and small!"

THE DREAM.

Las' night w'en I'm sleeping I dream a dream
A wonderful man it seem'd
For I'm off on de road I was never see,
Too long an' hard for a man lak me
He ole he can only wait de call
Is sooner or later come to all.

The night is dark an' de portage dere
An' narrow, wit' big logs, an' 'er 'er you see
Black bush aroun' on de right an' left,
A step from de road, an' you los' yourse!
De moon an' de stars shoon a gone
Yet something tell me I mus' go on.

An' off in front of me as I go,
Light as de dream of a fallen snow
Who is dat leetle boy dancin' dere?
Can he lead w'ere I mus' an' call hair,
Can't you show de road, for I need no rest?
So long as it's dere de leetle w'ite dress
An' an' out dere among de trees—

An' den I'm dreamin' a voice is sayin'
"Come along, fader, don't milt' de way,
De boss on de camp is sen for you
See off befor de day, to guide you trow;
It's easy for me, but to me I know
'Cos I travel it many a year ago."

An' 'O! Mon bleu! w'en he turs been dead
I'm seepin' de face of his boy is dead—
Dead w' de young blood in bees vein,
An' dere before me he come again,
W'it' de curly hair an' dark blue ere
So lak de blue on de dunnies' eys—

An' now no more for de road I trow
An' slippin' log by'n' an' w'ere I see
De swamp on de valley, de mountain, too,
But climb it, jus' as I use to do,
W'it' de curly hair an' dark blue ere
So long as it's dere de leetle w'ite dress
An' an' out dere among de trees—

Oh, de leetle w'ite dress de means we lost,
An' de cucumbers we had planned,
They're brought by de huckster, who did
And we know he never knew why
And we should ever disturb the land
And de leetle w'ite dress de means we lost,
Even as you and I.

The Cunard Steamship Company, on the 28th ult., declared a five per cent. dividend for 1906, against four per cent. in 1905.