

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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AN UNFAIR CHARGE.

It is somewhat surprising to find an old and usually astute campaigner like the Examiner express the opinion that because Public Works expenditures on election years are frequently heavier than on other years it indicates political corruption on the part of representatives and electors.

Before swallowing Mr. Bell's statement that thousands of dollars had been corruptly spent on roads and bridges previous to the election, the Examiner should have asked Mr. Bell to be more explicit; to point to a single dollar that had been spent unjustifiably, to a single farmer who had accepted a job on the road in exchange for his vote, to a single piece of road or a single bridge upon which money had been needlessly spent.

It is a very easy matter to make vague charges and Mr. Bell is an adept at the business; the Examiner should know better.

It is quite frequently true that more money is expended on public works towards the end of a parliamentary term than when things are running their ordinary course. It has been customary for both political parties to put off any public works that could be put off till necessity compelled action; customary in administrative business as in many others to procrastinate till the last minute.

The Examiner, we take it, will not seriously question the legality and the propriety of this latter course. It may pose as a Simon Pure director of public opinion and public morals but will not raise any conflict with the old orthodox political as well as military creed that "to the victor belong the spoils."

We note that expenditure for printing, stationery and advertising for the past fiscal year was \$14,127.44 as against \$9,624.31 for the previous year. Would the Examiner argue from this that the printing houses were more sumptuously fed on election year in order that those previously supporting the government should not forget their allegiance to the party or in the hope that the opposition printers might come over?

The Examiner's charge is not only uncalled for but casts a very grave reflection upon those who do work on the public roads, bridges, etc., (at a rate of remuneration ridiculously small in comparison with the cost of living) nine tenths of whom are farmers who would scorn to barter their votes for a paltry political job.

COST OF STRIKES.

According to the Labor Gazette there were 298 strikes in Canada during the year 1919. The number of employees involved was 138,000 and they lost in all 3,942,000 working days. Calculating their pay at an average of \$4.00 per day the loss to Canada, the amount to be overtaken by production in Canada will amount to nearly \$16,000,000.

Some of the strikes were justified and succeeded in righting a wrong; others were absolutely unjustifiable and useless and an absolute loss to employers, to employees and to Canada. Moreover the strike was a grave hardship to many innocent employees and their families. Every article manufactured for the market passes through the hands of several outside the immediate employ; failure to manufacture it affects all those others so that while the economic loss is estimated at \$16,000,000 the actual wage loss of the strikers, the amount may be multiplied by three or four before we arrive at the ultimate loss.

Strikes are an expensive remedy for grievances and while they continue we need not look for a reduction in the cost of living or for successful competition with nations which work longer hours and are free from strikes.

CURRENT COMMENT

We issued a gentle challenge to the Patriot, Premier or any Liberal member to name a specific sum which they would stand by and defend as an actual honest deficit on transactions of the year 1919. Of course the trap was too well baited and they shied clear. We now offer them another venture.

Will the evening organ or any man jack of the combination undertake to prove that there is a clear, clean, honest, actual and uncooked deficit exceeding \$100,000 on the transactions of the year 1919. In computing this nothing must be excluded. Capital expenditure, debt, increase, unpaid accounts, revenue, credits, (now purposely hidden) and every receipt and outlay properly belonging to the business of the year, must be accounted for.

Their claim from an unconfined page of the accounts, contradicted by the debt account in another page, that there is a shortage of \$232,423.05. Parrot like repetition of this by the Examiner, Patriot, Pioneer and Liberal members will not conform to fact and truth. By off repeating they may in the end try to believe it themselves, but to the extent that it is a crooked exaggeration so is their representation of it.

Now trot out your proof.

Mr. Higgs is perhaps a little too straightforward for his political company. He sometimes talks out, and this causes embarrassment when he sought, no doubt with the most charitable motive, to throw a veil over the Patriot's sensational attacks upon the financial credit of the province, he deserved something better than the cold crack measured out to him in Saturday's issue. The Patriot discredited, and the Guardian defended. Because Mr. Higgs did not specifically name it, the evening organ tries to crawl from under by assuming the City member to be a nincompoop who did not know what he was talking about, and that he "PROBABLY MEANT THE GUARDIAN." How, shallow and childish.

Proportionate representation is fast becoming a live issue in Canada. Manitoba has already come to the fore-front in legislation and as a result Winnipeg will have ten seats after the next election. Other provinces have also taken active steps to press for equitable representation of cities and industrial centres according to population. In these days of stress and increasing impositions upon the public, the old slogan against taxation without representation becomes more forcibly applicable than ever. Our City Council have done right in bringing this before our provincial house and should have the backing of the Board of Trade and other responsible bodies as it surely will have the sympathy and cooperation of the citizens.

Another Father and Son week has passed, exceeding in interest and effective work the best since the movement began. It is hard to conceive a grander sight than these gatherings of men and boys, every face bright with a radiant smile and every one with a heart and soul delighting in the exer-

Daily Selections Guardian Readers

Furnished by W. S. Louson

THE "IF" OF SPRING

(With Apologies to Kipling.)

If you can clean your house when all about you

Are in the way, and blaming it on you

If you can rise at six with pail and dust mop,

And be half dead at night when you get through;

If you can scrub, and not be tired by scrubbing,

Or, being cross and hot, keep bravely mum,

Or, being lashed by the family,

Don't answer back, and yet don't look too glum—

If you can treat with dirt and trash and cobwebs

And treat all those disasters just the same;

If you can bear to see the rugs you've beaten

Tracked up with mud, yet how to fix the blame!

If you can take each glass and picture token

Down from the wall where it has always lain,

Or watch the things your mother gave you—broken—

And stop and glue the pieces on again;

If you can fill each swift, vexatious minute

With soap and brush and all the strength you've got—

Your house is clean! and every thing that's in it!

Others' View Points

"MOVIES" AT JERUSALEM

(The Boston Herald)

Jerusalem now has, according to report, only one English picture palace, while during the war there were two nightly shows "taking advantage of good halls to stage some elaborate effects." At the Theatre Royal outside the Jaffa gate at Christmas, 1917, "Cinderella" was produced. Do the natives delight in film plays? Do they applaud Chaplin's throwing unerringly a custard pie? Do they wonder at Mary Pickford and Theda Bara? There was no trace of a theatre in Jewish history until Herod building one wounded severely the Hebrew conscience. The Semitic mind, Renn maintained, had no taste for elaborate fictions. He attributed this dislike of theatrical representations to the absence of a complex mythology, which is the rich source of epopee and drama, as is observed in the history of the Greeks and the Hindus. If "the song of songs" was intended for a drama, it was performed privately in the course of wedding festivities.

"VULGAR" DAFFODILS

(Westminster Gazette)

"Let him," said Mohammed, "who hath two leaves sell one, and buy narcissus, for bread is but food for the body, while narcissus feeds the soul." Yet in certain minds the "Lent lilies" which have lately brightened London streets do not excite pleasurable emotions. Sir Herbert Maxwell, attending a Kirk service one March morning

clashes of the hour. The performances of the young people who took part were surely excellent and must be most gratifying to those who in the Trail Rangers and Tuxis Boys movement have devotedly laboured and interested themselves in the coming men of our land. Eloquence has of late been mourned as a lost art, but in this week it was revived into life. It existed in the unspoken happiness all around. It spoke loudly in the hearty and the united applause of the "little multitudes, and it voiced its greater force in the earnest, instructive and impressive addresses, with those splendid lessons which have their lasting effect. To the ladies whose refreshment tables were so excellent and generous too much praise cannot be given. It is pleasing to note that in one church at least there is to be a return banquet for the Mothers and Daughters, and may it have equally good results.

THE PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by its correspondents.

G. W. V. A. AND THE GOVERNMENT

Sir,—In compliance with a resolution passed at a regular meeting of the Charlottetown Branch of the Great War Veterans Association, I am directed to request you to publish the attached copy of a letter recently sent to the Premier of the Province.

Thanking you, I am, Sir, etc.,

H. R. STEWART,

Secretary G. W. V. A. P.E. Island, Charlottetown, April 19, 1920.

Hon. John H. Bell, K. C.,

Premier of Prince Edward Island, Colonial Building, City.

Dear Sir,—We are directed in accordance with a resolution passed at a regular meeting of the Charlottetown G. W. V. A. held on Friday the 9th, instant, to state that this Association feels very strongly regarding the failure of the Government to appoint a returned soldier in the position of "Clerk of the House."

We had submitted and strongly recommended three applicants, but they were not shown consideration. It is considered to be a slight upon the Returned Men of the Province.

We assure you, Sir, that it is not our desire to embarrass the Government by submitting names of men for positions for which we know them to be unqualified. At the present time much indignation is felt in this regard and it is hoped that the Government

An' there was grey nebbit Johnnie, the tongue of the trump to them a', and he get no hell for his had the de'll gets na justice

was distressed to see that the daff and decked the manse grounds with gold, had all been moved down, and lay withering in the sun. Asking for an explanation, he was told that the minister's wife considered yellow "a vulgar color." This would have horrified Walter Pater, the unconscious father of the Victorian "aesthetes," who was wont to decorate with various shades of yellow his rooms at Brasenose.

Spring brings with it again the reminder that the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association is prepared to encourage the window-sill and area garden by prize competitions. "My gardens," wrote Gray, "are in the windows, like those of a lodger up three pair of stairs in Petticoatlane or Camomilestreet, and they go to bed regularly under the same roof as I do." The Association wishes to make it known that it will assist in this "three pair of stairs" gardening by co-operating with any parochial or other organization which has a satisfactory scheme by arranging an outside window competition this summer. It is wonderful what can be done with a window-box, even in the murkier parts of London.

CAIRO TO CAPE—NOT YET

(London Daily Telegraph)

With the news of the failure of the Silver Queen II comes a pang of disappointment. All the machines which started out from Cairo on the task of reaching the Cape of Good Hope by air (and incidentally of shortening by a thousand miles the route between the two places) have now come to grief. Africa still remains to be conquered. But this is only the first round of the struggle, and it will not be long before Africa has to own herself beaten. When that time comes, whenever and by whomsoever the feat is accomplished, we must not forget to estimate at its true value the work of the men who have failed in this first and most interesting attempt. They have carried out experimental tests of real value upon the results of which their successors will depend in their efforts. The jungle path of today becomes the high road of tomorrow; and the fame of the achievement goes to the man who supervises the building of the road rather than to the man who first cut that track through the jungle. Kipling's "Explorers" knew all about this.

"Well I know wholl take the credit, all the clever chaps that followed—

Came, a dozen men together—never knew my desert fears

They'll go back and do the talking

They'll be called the pioneers!"



For the Younger Set

Never before have the very youthful needs seemed to have been so insistent. For Fashion at her best this Spring has a saucy, jaunty coquetry, but altogether adorable air that belongs only to youth, and that is altogether winning. Puffings and pleatings she has made her own. Short sleeves she insists on, the shorter the better. Square necks, wide and shallow, win her absolute approval.

A Touch of Loveliness

The witcheries of the blouse are surely woven into these georgettes, silk and voiles on which Fashion has placed the seal of her High Favor. See them at Patons, priced from the girlish middy at \$3.15 to the exquisite dress blouse at \$30.00.

Fashions for Rainy Weather

April goes merrily on with showers and dirty weather calling insistently for the umbrella and rain coat. Picture yourself in one of Patons stylish tweed raincoats, or slickers with cap to match, then enjoy the sensation by buying yourself one. There are lots to choose from.

Patons Patons

will seek to co-operate more closely with this Association when making further appointments. We are, Sir, Yours faithfully, T. H. FISHER, President. H. R. STEWART, Secretary.

THOSE AUTOS

Sir,—It seems by the letter of "Farmer" Who Owns An Auto, that we who want two days of each week without autos are born in the back woods. It does not make much difference where a man is born so long as he does not stay there, but I believe this auto farmer who was sent to the woods after he was born says he drove 6,000 miles last summer and never saw a horse that was frightened. He must have been chasing his shadow around the barn while the horses were in the back field. He also says that tourists tell him the roads are wider on this Island than they are in Nova Scotia. Let me tell my good friend they are not such things. Our roads here are not much more than half as wide as they are across in Nova Scotia. Does he think we are going into town with our horses to get them used to the autos? If he is a farmer he ought to know we have a law for that business. Liberal members throughout this part promise in two days out of every week that of autos. LET THEM FULFIL THEIR PROMISE. I am, Sir, etc. FARMER

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