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THE GUARDIAN

An Independent Journal, untrammelled and fearless, aiming to be just, impartial, reliable, newsy, and acting at all times to further the best interests of the people, and recognized throughout the Province as the People's Paper.

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THE MORNING GUARDIAN

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1904.

THE LIBERAL GOVERNMENT AND P. E. ISLAND.

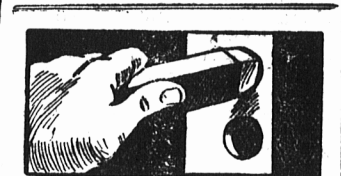
The Guardian has not failed to criticize the policy of the Laurier Government from time to time, always with freedom and sometimes with severity where we thought severity was due. While doing this we have had no desire to imply that the Government had not done many things worthy of commendation and for which due credit ought to be given. It was, for instance a commendable act when a second winter steamer was provided, thus doubling the means of transportation between the Island and the mainland in the winter season. Equally commendable and noteworthy was the act on the part of the Government in admitting the previous failure of the Dominion to fulfill the terms of the union compact in regard to steam communication and to indemnify the Province for this failure by placing one million dollars to our credit. The interest on that sum, \$30,000 a year, is now paid to the Province and constitutes a notable act of justice for which the Government ought fairly to be commended.

We must also place to the credit of the Liberal Government the construction of the Hillsboro Bridge and the Murray Harbor Railway, both now approaching completion. We have objected with good reason, to the slowness of progress in these important works and also their too great cost, but after all objections are made the fact will remain that these important works, costing some three millions of dollars, will form a most important addition to our Island Railway system. They add one-fifth part more to our former railway mileage, and will furnish railway service when put in operation to the one large and populous section of the Province which was before shut out from this great modern improvement. Other extensions are projected and to some extent provided for to be hereafter built, but we need not speak of them here, as we are dealing with what has been already done rather than what is merely promised.

We have long complained of the costly and inadequate telegraph service which has so greatly handicapped the business men of this Island in the past. To be quite fair to the Government we ought to give them full credit for having placed in the estimates for this year the comparatively large sum of five thousand dollars for an additional telegraphic

aid with the object of placing the Island on an equality with the other Provinces. If the Anglo-American Telegraph Company will take a reasonable view of the case this sum should be ample to secure for us what we desire in the way of improved telegraph service. Thus, after long delays an honest effort has been made to settle this vexed question. That it has so far advanced is no doubt due in very large measure to the earnest and persistent efforts of Mr. Haszard, M. P., assisted by other Island representatives. We most sincerely hope that these praiseworthy efforts may lead to a fair settlement of this long standing grievance. Fairminded persons of both parties will, we think agree, that in the matters above adverted to, in which several millions of dollars were involved, the Laurier Government has made some effort to deal justly with our Island Province.

It is not our purpose to enter upon comparisons between successive Governments Liberal and Conservative at Ottawa with respect to their liberality towards the Island. We have not received from either all the consideration to which we thought ourselves justly entitled. We shall not be quite satisfied until the Dominion takes over and operates the connecting links between the Government railway lines on opposite sides of the straits, and thus, practically extends the Intercolonial to our shores. But that is a matter for the future. Our wants are still quite numerous, but we may fairly recognize that something has been done which may serve as a fair basis for the hope of other betterments in the years to come. Our people are not ungrateful when real service is rendered them, whether by one party or the other, and we trust that whichever party may win in the forthcoming election may be disposed to treat this Province—the smallest of the seven which make up the Dominion—at least with fairness if not with generosity.



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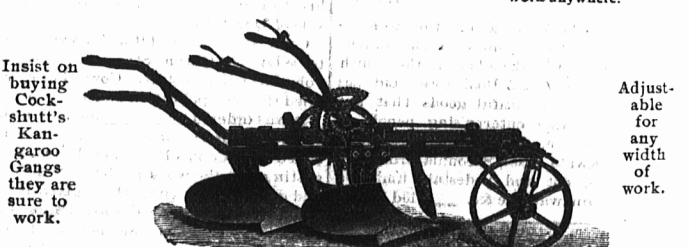
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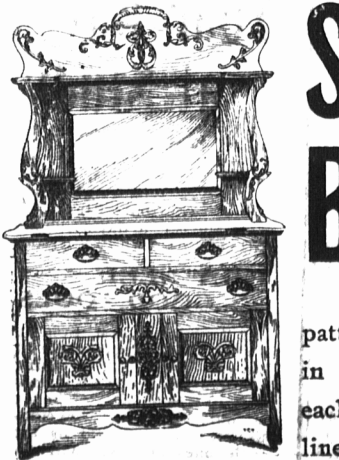
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