

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (founded 1887) \$5.00 per year (in advance) delivered \$4.50 per year (in advance) mailed in Canada and United States.

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The GUARDIAN may be obtained from the following agents in Charlottetown: Maritime Stationers, Grafton St.; Carter & Co., Queen St.; A. Brown, Stump Vendor; Stephen Duffy, Richmond St.; Railway Bookstall; J. D. Taylor, Grafton St.; Wm. Dalziel, Spring Park Road; P. T. Murphy, Prince St.; Greeney J. P. Duffy, Queen St.; W. C. Wright, Kent Street West; R. Thomas White, 125 Elm Ave.; Fred Gaudet, Great George St.

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 16, 1924

EDUCATION

It is conceded by practically all classes of our people that education, real education, that is—is the most valuable asset our province possesses, more valuable than money or lands and houses. With this to give to our children or to bequest to them we may rest in the assurance that we have provided abundantly for them. Without this, though we give them money and lands and buildings, though we leave them abundantly provided for materially, we have no assurance as to their future welfare.

Do we know whether our children are being educated or not? Do we know all that we should know about the running of our schools? Do we know whether the course pursued in our schools and colleges is the best course to fit them for the duties of citizenship, for the ordinary duties of men and women?

When we speak of education we mean not merely a compilation of text-book, memory verses or problems, we mean such a leading out—as the word education means—of the minds of the children as will enable them to make an honest living, enjoy a happy life and give the land they live in a reasonable return for the privileges they enjoy. There are many men and women who have literally swallowed all the text-books prescribed in their schools, colleges and universities and who are withal ignorant so far as the essentials of useful citizenship are concerned.

This province long held an enviable reputation for scholarship. Its students won honors in the universities and very many of them became outstanding men and women in various professions. We still have our brilliant students in the universities and we still have among the finished products of the universities men and women who are making good in many walks of life. Yet the rank and file are with us, the boys and girls who are to be the men and women, the law makers, the directors, the makers and unmakers of governments and of municipal councils. Are we sure we are doing the best for them? We hear occasional complaints. Not long since there was a controversy over the proportion of failures at our yearly examinations for teachers' licenses. Nothing came of the controversy. Would it not be the part of wisdom to look into the whole matter and find out whether we are doing the best possible? A sane commission might well look into the question of education and compare our general system with systems elsewhere. We can get nowhere by indefinitely comparing ourselves with ourselves.

ORGY OF EXTRAVAGANCE

In a strikingly able article in the January 15th number of MacLeans' Mr. Gratton O'Leary begins an expose of the "orgie of extravagance at Ottawa" which is to be continued in future numbers of the magazine.

"The first cold truth that must be disclosed," says the writer, "is that at the basis of Canadian debt and taxation is the profligate extravagance of federal administrations at Ottawa. It is a spirit of waste, a squandermania that permeates practically every department of our government."

Continuing, he cites the enormous growth, numerically and in cost, of the Civil Service Department. In 1918-19, Armistice year, the number employed in the inside Civil Service was 12,742 and the cost \$13,368,691. In 1921-22 the number of employees had increased to 144,739 and the cost to \$23,149,511.

Separate figures for the Inside Civil Service for 1923 are not available but, according to a return tabled in parliament towards the close of last session the total number employed in both the Inside and Outside Service for that year was 39,204 and the total salaries \$50,355,721.

These figures are staggering and Mr. O'Leary promises to analyze them in a future article. The history of the year 1923 has not yet been written and there is more than the Civil Service to be explained. It was a year of junketing and of Royal Commissions, a year of extravagance hitherto unknown in the history of Canada, a year of extraordinary and crippling emigration, of growing debt and increasing taxes. We trust Mr. O'Leary will continue the work he has so well begun. Canada needs an awakening and, if we mistake not, a symposium on the "Orgy of Extravagance at Ottawa," will not be conducive to undisturbed sleep. Mr. O'Leary is in a position to speak authoritatively on this subject as official figures in every department are available to him. We commend his undertaking. The truth is not always palatable but it is at all times wholesome and if there is anything that Canada needs today more than any other it is the naked truth about affairs at Ottawa.

CRIPPLING CANADIAN INDUSTRY

The Dominion Linens Limited of Guelph, Ontario, growers, spinners, weavers and finishers of flax, in a letter to their shareholders recently, explained why it was necessary for them to pass the dividend this year. The tariff had been further reduced, making the fourth reduction in the past three years and compelling the company to face a competition which necessitated curtailment in output and leaving them with quantities of unsold goods on their hands.

The following extract from their letter to the shareholders speaks for itself: "This situation has affected our business adversely, as it has many other businesses in Canada, and we have grave doubts as to how long some industries in Canada can continue to operate. It is a curious state of affairs that while the Government is reducing the existing Tariff, it did not prevent them imposing a high Tariff on artificial silk. It would be interesting to know the full details as to why this was done.

There was a small bounty for the spinning of linen yarns from Canadian grown flax. We asked the Government to renew this bounty to the extent of the amount that had not been won, but which had been provided in the estimates, approximately \$57,000. The Government would not do so, they cancelled the bounty, but had no hesitation in providing a bounty of \$1,000,000 for hemp, and which we believe will be of no benefit to the Dominion."

Notes By the Way

Hon. Mr. Fielding's progress towards recovery has been many times reported in Ottawa despatches as satisfactory. This is of course, gratifying to his many friends. Such reports have been made on the authority of his physician and must be presumed to be reliable, but with a single exception we have not noted any intimation of the nature of his trouble. The exception was a Canadian Press despatch under date of January 11, which made mention that he was "so much improved that he would be able to move about his home without assistance were it not for his eye trouble." The despatch went on to state that this information was furnished by his physician, also that Mr. Fielding receives a few visitors, dictates letters and shows his usual keen interest of public affairs.

Other despatches were published shortly before that, several days in succession, intimating a keen desire among Mr. Fielding's colleagues to know what the Finance Minister intended to do as to whether he would return to his official duties, would he probably appear in Parliament at the coming session and so on. As it now appears that the honorable gentleman was receiving visitors, dictating letters, etc., the question naturally arose: Why does not his leader or someone of his ministerial colleagues ask him what he intends to do? At a later stage, when Premier King had invited Messrs. Crerar and Dunning to come to Ottawa and they were on the way, several Ottawa correspondents of Liberal journals pointed out again that nothing could be definitely agreed upon by the Premier and his Western visitors until it was known what Mr. Fielding intended to do.

The distinguished invalid, whom we were told retained his keen interest in public affairs, no doubt was cognizant of the statements and rumors in the press that it was not expected that he would be able to deliver his budget speech in Parliament during the coming session, and that that duty would devolve upon Hon. Mr. Robb, now the acting Minister of Finance. These statements and rumors were current in the press, along with expressions of embarrassment in official circles because they did not know what Mr. Fielding intended to do, when Messrs. Crerar and Dunning arrived in Ottawa and met with Premier King. Surely this series of statements, rumors and incidents was enough to make a sick man sicker, if not to make a well man sick.

Mr. Fielding did not tell his leader or his colleagues what he intended to do. He told them, or caused them to be told what he was doing! He was preparing his budget speech! By so much he reminded them that he is still Finance Minister of Canada and purposed to so remain until he was good and ready to vacate the position. It was a neat and impressive object lesson for any expectants that if they were waiting for his official shoes they might go for some time barefoot!

That reminder of the "Little Gray Man" from Nova Scotia was evidently not without its effect upon Premier King and upon his visitors from the West who had come to demand, with so much confidence four portfolios for the Prairie Provinces. It was a case of "No Bananas Today." And so the attempted scheme of Fusion failed and the Westerners turned back westward again.

Quebec has had five portfolios from the beginning—Justice, Marine, Trade and Commerce, Customs, Soldiers' Re-establishment. Give up one of these to the Western Free Traders? If so sixty-five more or less Protectionist Liberal Members will know the reason why! More than half the party following Premier King—65 out of 115—come from Quebec and they hold only five portfolios out of the 16. The three Prairie Provinces returned only three Liberal members in 1921. To now give them four portfolios would seem preposterous to the Liberals of Nova Scotia, or Prince Edward Island. Yet that is but a small part of the purchase price of enough votes to carry the King Government safely through another session. Millions to complete the Hudson Bay Railway and build other railways, lost revenues by tariff reduction and other costly tributes to the West are included.

Yet the Progressives hold the King Government at their mercy. At any moment they can accomplish its defeat and force a general election. Some published despatches tell that Western Progressives expect an election this year. It is just possible that the demands which Mr. Crerar says he made upon the Premier, several of which were impossible of acceptance, were an ultimatum preparatory to a declaration of war. Those demands, if refused, might make a formidable manifesto for an election campaign.

The Liberal party or its leader, Sir, it may be interesting for P. E. I. school teachers to know that N. B. teachers receive a good deal more for their services than those on the Island do. A second class male or female may receive anywhere from \$500 to \$800 per year—of about 40 weeks. There is no "penalty" for being a "female" in regard to salary. Equal service brings equal pay in the N. B. public schools. But a feature that strikes one rather strangely is the fact that the school district is required to raise about 80% or 85% of the teacher's salary. For instance a teacher, say of the second class, comes along and bargains with the trustees for a school. The teacher may ask for, say \$650 or \$700 but there may be "nothing doing" because the trustees offer only \$575 or \$600. Possibly the teacher goes elsewhere and bargains at \$700 or he may return to the first trustees and agree to "split" the difference, and get the school. His grant from the Government will vary according to the number of years he has taught. If it is his first year he will get about \$125 of a grant. Hence a N. B. teacher gets on the average round \$700. Another thing that P. E. I. teachers may not know is that a N. B. teacher may secure a first class license without a word of French or Latin. Latin is required however, for superior license. A teacher with superior license may (and some do) get as high as \$900 per \$1000 from the "District"—or about \$1000 including Government Grant.

The Public Forum

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

HOW NEW BRUNSWICK TEACHERS ARE PAID, ETC.

Sir,—It may be interesting for P. E. I. school teachers to know that N. B. teachers receive a good deal more for their services than those on the Island do. A second class male or female may receive anywhere from \$500 to \$800 per year—of about 40 weeks. There is no "penalty" for being a "female" in regard to salary. Equal service brings equal pay in the N. B. public schools. But a feature that strikes one rather strangely is the fact that the school district is required to raise about 80% or 85% of the teacher's salary. For instance a teacher, say of the second class, comes along and bargains with the trustees for a school. The teacher may ask for, say \$650 or \$700 but there may be "nothing doing" because the trustees offer only \$575 or \$600. Possibly the teacher goes elsewhere and bargains at \$700 or he may return to the first trustees and agree to "split" the difference, and get the school. His grant from the Government will vary according to the number of years he has taught. If it is his first year he will get about \$125 of a grant. Hence a N. B. teacher gets on the average round \$700. Another thing that P. E. I. teachers may not know is that a N. B. teacher may secure a first class license without a word of French or Latin. Latin is required however, for superior license. A teacher with superior license may (and some do) get as high as \$900 per \$1000 from the "District"—or about \$1000 including Government Grant.

The Normal Entrance Examinations are not entirely confined to text book bearing. In Arithmetic and History practical problems and current events are considerably taken into account. This requires pupils to keep up with the times in reading the newspapers and magazines as well as in the practice of daily business transactions—this is a good thing. The system of payment of teachers has its advantages and disadvantages. In a well-to-do district there is no difficulty in raising the teacher's salary, but in a thinly settled district it is either a very heavy assessment per \$100 valuation (as high sometimes as \$2.75) or be satisfied with a third class teacher—or none at all—or one on "permit"—a pupil who has not as yet attended Normal School. This system militates against the poorer districts. It is true however, that very poor districts may get help from the Government. In an average district some rate-payers pay over \$50.00 in school taxes. How would a P. E. I. rate-payer like to pay \$2.25 or \$2.75 or \$100 valuation? I am Sir, etc.

READER

Daily Selections FOR Guardian Readers

MY COTTAGE

It isn't very large, it's rather stumpy. Its windows look beyond a river blue. And oh, the porch it twists around a corner As it to catch another lovely view. Its shingled side rejoices in a chimney. You'd know a fireplace made a room to smile. And ingeniously and unexpected turnings Are joys that sort of cheer you all the while. The dining room is filled with golden sunlight. The dishes in their cupboard quietly shine. And linen that ancestors loved and cherished Make even an old table dear and fine. No one can ever take my treasure from me. And sometimes very strange it really seems. It stands enshrined, sweet hopes around it gather. This little waiting cottage built of dreams. By ALIX THORN

ROD AND GUN

There is interesting reading for every sportsman in the February issue of Rod and Gun in Canada, including as it does stories and articles, dealing with deer and moose hunting, fishing and canoeing, photographing wild life, animal stories, guns and ammunition, talks on outdoor life, articles on trapping, and an interesting kennel department. "A Diary of the Limerlost Hunting Club" by Harold Tarlton is a good account of this flourishing club and is written in an original style. Bonnydale Dale the well known Canadian naturalist of Nova Scotia continues his article on "Camera Hunting" before the Season opens in Nova Scotia" which is written with the author's ease and ability which make his contributions outstanding. "An Indian Enoch Arden" by Martin Hunter is an interesting yarn, while "Touring the Wilderness" by Roy Brayley is an article dealing with the outfit necessary for a trip into the wilds which will be of interest to all those who are planning trips. J. W. Winslow has his first article "Bird and Man" which opens a series on Canadian Birds, a subject on which this writer is an authority. M. U. Bates, a trapper of long experience has his department filled with interest for the trapper, while F. V. Williams has contributed an amusing account of "A Tale Twice Told." W. C. Motley and F. H. Walker are also represented with good departmental field trials forming an especially interesting feature of "Kennel," Guns and Ammunition is particularly large this month with first class articles by E. T. D. Francis, Ashley A. Haines, Fred J. Stiff, and a large number of queries and answers.

Exceptional Winters

Comments on our Climate by C. Birch Bagster

(W. L. Cotton) This winter has, so far as we all know, been an exceptionally fine one. A gentleman passing through Queen Square garden in the course of the Christmas season remarked upon the beautiful green of the grass then growing there, and on the lawns throughout our town. Usually we have the coldest weather about the 12th and 15th of January; but the 12th of this year was as mild as a day in April or May in ordinary years. This fact is the more remarkable in view of the reports of extremely cold and stormy weather that comes to us from the Middle States of the great Republic, and all the countries of Europe. It is related that January, February and March of the year 1826 were exceedingly mild—for Prince Edward Island. Only in February of that year was there a total cessation of labor in our fields. In the memorandum quoted it is stated that "the months of January and March both witnessed the plough at work."

The following winter—that of 1827 was also, according to the same narrator somewhat remarkable. In the first week of January the wind blew "with great violence from the Southwest." The swell of the sea made numerous large fissions in the ice, which soon began to break up. "After that there were a series of gales with occasional showers of rain and snow. Then the January weather was "mild and serene" with gentle breezes from the Southwest. Communication with the opposite shore of the river by means of the ferry boat was interrupted. The strait was full of soft drifting ice so that "the mails were unable to cross to Pictou."

In the course of his sketch of the progress and prospects of Prince Edward Island W. C. Birch Bagster remarks that "Few would suppose that Prince Edward Island was a climate so healthful that endemic diseases are unknown, so salubrious that longevity is quite a feature among the inhabitants, and so congenial to the human constitution that delicate persons and invalids might well anticipate a fresh lease of their lives by even a temporary sojourn in this region of vigorous health. The cold in winter gives birth to pleasures from which none need shrink; and the heat of summer is rendered balmy and sweet by the soft influences of the gentle airs that keep the foliage in constant agitation, and the atmosphere redolent of freshness."

There are, it is true, continues Mr. Bagster "unpleasant transitions from cold to heat and from heat to cold. Spring does not emerge from its wintry birth place without a struggle with the icebound area of its vegetation. Summer, delightful summer, does not prolong its loving promises without indications of autumnal change. Autumn does not yield its fruit in due season, without variation of change. When the harvest comes—the harvest hopes are realized winter often approaches mixed up and irresolute, like the hybrid of contending and opposing seasons. By the seasons of Prince Edward Island are seasons which if they are not uniformly perfect and acceptable, possess characteristics which raise them above many that have been the theme of poets and philosophers."

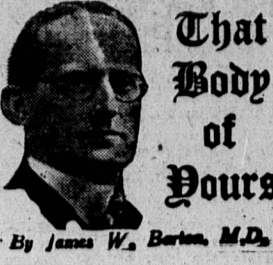
Mr. Bagster closes his brochure with a poem written by himself, of which the following are the first and last verses: "I have wandered in search of some beautiful spot For a home that spoke gladness, where life might be free But my greatest allurements run back to a cot In the Isle of Prince Edward, that gem of the Sea."

THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS DAMAGE

MONTEVALLO, Alta, Jan. 15.—Damage amounting to \$30,000 was caused by the malicious convicts who last night surrendered after a day of terror at the mines of Thomas Weller Company at Aldrich, according to estimates today by D. A. Thomas, President of the Company. The 66 convicts surrendered late last night after having mutilated yesterday morning and held off armed guards throughout the day and night by hurling dynamite. No one was seriously injured. The convicts gave in after prison officials and owners of the mines went into the slope and appealed to them. What punishment will be given the rioters has not been decided on. They are said to have gone on strike in protest against alleged cruelties by Warden Jernigan. Three of the convicts were reported to have been disciplined the night before by being imprisoned in a "dog box," a room only large enough for a man to stand. Convicts are working in Alabama coal mines under a lease system. Governor Brandon announced recently that negotiations were under way to abandon it.

Babes of The Sea

(By Dominion News Service) LONDON, Jan. 15.—The fact that a man happened to take his horse for a dip at a deserted part of the beach at Skegness has resulted in the averting of what would have been a very pathetic tragedy. When the rider appeared on the beach he was horrified to find two children playing on a sandbank, blissfully unconscious that the swiftly advancing tide was rapidly cutting them off from the mainland. The man dashed his horse into the sea and rescued the children one by one. By the time he had lifted the second child to safety the sandbank was already completely under water.



By James W. Barton, M.D.

NOT AN IMAGINARY TROUBLE

Many years ago I met a man in Baltimore who greatly aroused my sympathy. He had clammy palms, his heart seemed to be going like a trip hammer, he seemed tired out all the time, and complained of a continuous headache. I got in touch with a couple of physicians who had treated him at various times and their only comment was—"He only thinks he's sick. There's nothing really wrong with him." I therefore tried to reason with him and pointed out the necessity of taking hold of himself for the sake of his family and himself. When I returned to Baltimore some years later I inquired about him and found that he had died about a year after I had left. "And the cause?" I asked. "Oh, he just seemed to be so tired that he died."

They have a scientific name for this now, and call it Neurasthenia. Are the symptoms all in the man's mind? No! He actually has the headache which is with him all day until he gets off to sleep, because sleeplessness is usually one of the distressing symptoms. And the tiredness all over? Yes he is actually tired all over, and it is not in his imagination only. Besides this, he suffers from cold and hot feelings over different parts of his body, from indigestion, and a heart that beats over one hundred times a minute. And his mind? He finds it hard to concentrate on anything for any length of time. Do these people get better? Yes, because the cause of the trouble is very often found. The trouble is due to actual tiredness of the nerves. They are worn out by hard work and little sleep, hard play and little sleep, worry, grief, emotional disturbances of various kinds. The physician to-day goes into the history of the man's everyday life for months, even years back. He finds that the man has broken all the laws of health and common sense, in the care of his body. By the simple measures of change of work and diet, and a little more of the sunlight and exercise he gets his patient into normal condition again. Remember, over play can wear out the nerves just as easily as overwork.

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RICH IN VITAMINES

A WOMAN'S VENGEANCE

(By Dominion News Service) TOLEDO, Spain, Jan. 14.—A Toledo woman has taken a terrible vengeance upon her husband for his infidelity. The man who was a prosperous merchant was taken ill, and upon medical advice asked his wife to prepare a hot bath for him. She did so, but instead of water she filled the bath with hot oil. When the unsuspecting husband plunged his foot in the boiling oil he drew it back shrieking wildly, but his wife pushed him into the boiling mass. Neighbors, attracted by the frantic cries of the man, found him in the bath fatally burned.

Flattenflat had arrived home late from the office, and his wife was not the sort of woman to let a thing like that pass unnoticed. "Why didn't you catch the 7:30 train home tonight, Herbert?" she demanded. "Well, you see, dear," replied Herbert, "I asked a porter from which platform my train started, and he said if I turned to the left I'd be right." "Well, didn't you?" "Unfortunately, no, my dear!" replied her husband. "A little mistake on my part. I turned to the right, and was left!"

FIENDISH CRUELTY

(By Dominion News Service) MANCHESTER, Jan. 12.—Violent scenes were witnessed at Manchester Assizes when a man's fiendish cruelty in cutting off the hands of his step-daughter, aged five, was described in broken sentences by counsel. Women staggered from the public galleries, unable to listen longer, and there were exclamations of horror all over the court. Some of the jurors overcome by emotion, turned their faces aside as the story of the crime was told. The man, John Whalley of Acricington, was sentenced to penal servitude for life. He pleaded guilty, and the child Agnes Wildman, was thus spared the ordeal of repeating the evidence.

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WINTER SALE WILL COMMENCE

ON JANUARY 24, 1924

Fine Furs, such as Fox of all kinds, Beaver, Otter, Lynx, Fisher, etc., intended for the January Sale, should be in New York not later than the morning of January 4, 1924.

Staple articles, such as Skunk, Opossum, Muskrat, Mink, Raccoon, Bear, Wolf, etc., reaching New York by the morning of January 11, 1924, should arrive in London in time for inclusion in the Sale.

Messrs. C. M. Lampson & Co., report by cable that their market is becoming very active, owing to an increasing interest on the part of Continental buyers.

A good demand exists for White Fox, Raccoon, Muskrat, Southern Muskrat, Skunk and Opossum, and a fair demand for Mink and Northwestern Wolf.

Generally speaking, Messrs. Lampson & Co., expect to realize full October prices at their January Sale; but it is possible that, if the offering of American staple articles proves to be short, some improvement in prices may take place.

11-20-14

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