

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1921



'Goodness me' I've forgotten the name of that medicine for the wife. 'What is it for, Sir?' 'It's to build up the system.' 'I know what you want, it's... Dr. Wilson's HERBINE BITTERS



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NEW GAME BIRDS

A valued correspondent in Regina who was born in Prince Edward Island sends The Guardian some information with regard to Hungarian partridges, which he thinks might be profitably added to the list of our native game birds.

These beautiful birds have thriven in Alberta and are replacing the native partridge and the prairie chicken which were disappearing as the country became settled.

The Alberta government has taken steps to have the Hungarian Partridge colonized in all sections of that province and our correspondent adds that if other provinces east or west should desire to share in the production of these game birds and the sport that would follow, the government of Alberta would be glad to accommodate them.

There are many Islanders in Alberta, one or more of them in the government. They have planted the famous Island silver fox out there, and we appreciate the spirit of reciprocity which would give us some game birds in return.

by the way, there should be something doing at once if the birds are to be imported from the west this year, as our correspondent suggests.

PAY YOUR INCOME TAX

Saturday, April 30, is the last day for the payment of the Dominion Income Tax. The law throws upon the taxpayer the duty of stating exactly what his income is and of filling up the necessary blank forms.

It would be better that the entire tax should be paid at once, but the taxpayer is permitted to pay the rest in three instalments two, four and six months after April 30—with 6 per cent interest from that date.

Remember that there are very serious pains and penalties for neglect to make return, or if you put your income too low. The law fixes these penalties and the government officials have no power to let you off.

If you understate your income by a trifling amount up to one tenth you will have to pay income tax on the deficiency with 10 per cent interest. If the deficiency is 20 per cent or more the whole of the unreported income is taken. Thus, if you state your income as \$4,500 when it is really \$5,650, you are fined \$1,150 besides the unpaid tax.

If you are late in sending in your return 25 per cent is added to your tax. A false statement as to your income may be punished with a \$10,000 fine and six months in jail. There are other penalties for lesser offences, even if your error is unintentional.

It is assumed that the great bulk of our people are honest and desire to pay their fair share of necessary taxes. The penalties imposed on those who neglect or refuse to pay, or who fraudulently understate the amount of their incomes are heavy but they are just and necessary.

Current Comment

The Light, Heat and Power Act constituted the storm centre of the legislature for a considerable portion of the business period, taking a prominence second only to Current Comment and the Guardian, in vehement discussion and declamation. It was glowingly dilated upon by the Premier in his budget speech and idolized as the cornucopia from which was to flow a stream of usefulness, comfort and contentment which, as like oil upon the troubled waters would soothe the turbulence and discontent against the Government, in the country, and establish the truce of peace.

And yet it almost proved the hidden rock upon which the Bell Government struck its doom. In fact if it were not for the gelatinous nature of the combination, further strengthened by the adhesive influence of a \$2,000.00 stipend, crowned with an additional \$500.00 indemnity, there is serious doubt as to whether it would not have produced collapse. The principal figure in the contest was the Hon. Attorney General Johnston. It seems marvelous that a high official of a government, not only elected by the people to safeguard their interests, but also receiving a large salary, out of reasonable proportion to the

limited duties of his department should be the most persistent fighter on behalf of the proposed corporation, and against the rights and interests of the people. It can hardly be believed that a company, boasting of a two million dollar capitalization, would ask to escape the regular fees chargeable in all cases by the legislature and always paid without protest by corporations seeking the provincial charter, yet here we find Mr. Johnston, as introducer and promoter of the bill, fighting with all the power he could command and with all the eloquence of special pleading that he could put forth, to cut down the fee from \$490.00 to \$200.00 and thus deprive His Majesty's Government of \$290.00 of its just revenue, which it was his duty as a minister of the Crown and a servant of the people to safeguard and protect.

The same treatment was meted out to several amendments proposed by different members of the House to prevent injustice to existing rights, and to safeguard cities, towns, and similar companies from unreasonable injury from what with too much of control, a large and powerful corporation might have imposed upon them. Fighting, resisting and opposing amendment after amendment with a life and death persistence, with repeated and tedious argument and giving way only under the overwhelming voting of the House. In one instance, that of the reduction of the fees to \$200, he, associated with Mr. D. C. McDonald, even moved that a decision of the speaker in relation thereto "be not agreed to," but in which it was snowed under by an enormous adverse vote. To the Hon. Mr. Arsenault, and the whole opposition, together with the Premier, Hon. Geo. E. Hughes, Messrs. E. T. Higgs, B. W. LePage, S. Heslan, and some others who spoke on the Government side, full credit must be given for the softening down and changing of those objectionable clauses, which might have resulted in severe injury to the interest of the province.

As the outcome of the contest that,—"In the person of the Premier this, province has a man who WILL HOLD A TIGHT HAND ON THE TREASURY". But why single out his leader for this little side thrust? Doesn't it strike him very forcibly that there are others clinging with a life-like tenacity to the benches that connect them with the treasury? The hon. gentleman himself seems slightly tarred with the same stick, or at least we have not heard of him advocating a response to the demand of the people for an election. Perhaps he didn't mean holding the "tight hand" in this particular way but it is the only way in which he would truthfully speaking, and we must so interpret it. For, in Mr. Gallant's own language they are spending more money, and spending it now, an operation most surely not indicative of "tightness" in this particular sense. There was one mournful dirge, and only one, in the hon. gentleman's address, and that was when he saw the vision of the people's indignation floating before his eyes, when he joined in the general pleadings of his party for the people to co-operate with the Government, A USELESS APPEAL, AND NOW A PRACTICAL IMPOSSIBILITY.

Reverting again to the debate on the budget, the Hon. Benj. Gallant was, as he always is, interesting and amusing, but not very convincing, along his own lines of argument. One truth escaped him, perhaps in a moment of absent mindedness, and that was that,—"The Government did not wait until election year to spend money—they are going right ahead and spending it now." He rather threw a wet blanket over Premier Bell's charge against the late Government's improper expenditure of \$110,000 by quoting very convincing figures to show how much more than this they were spending themselves. An ordinary road work alone he pointed out that they had spent twice as much in 1920 as the Arsenault Government had spent, and that THIS YEAR THEY ARE GOING TO SPEND STILL MORE. With arguments of this nature cropping up at every turn it is really becoming more interesting to learn from what source the Premier procured the material for his frequently quoted fable. It must have been an awful big ghost story, or else the Hon. Jas. McNeill, must have had more marvelous accomplishments in magnifying and expanding dollars than we gave him credit for.

There was a pronounced laughter when Mr. Gallant declared

Daily Selections Guardian Readers

If we were to believe our eyes and ears these days there is no such thing in this world as sin and no such person as the Devil. Evil is so disguised in the garb of sweet innocence or bedizened in the apparel of conventionalality that its hideous form scarce obtrudes itself upon our vision. But it suits some people to believe that falsehood is truth and crime virtue and they seem to succeed in convincing themselves by miserable platitudes and specious argument. So false statements to creditors, lying to customers, and deception between clerks and employers are characterized as amongst the "exigencies" of business and referred to flippantly as the "white lies" of trade. The sleek and unjust advantages taken in business deals are called commercial shrewdness, and a successful assignment with a "nest egg" saved from the wreck is considered a good "stroke" of financing. Adultery goes by the name of "having a good time" or living at a fast pace, or if the conscience of the adulterer is tenderer than usual, divorce gives him ease. The greater the sin the more chance there seems to be for giving it some gloss that will remove its obnoxiousness. But sin is sin, and as sure as it will find its author out, "For who can make straight that which he hath made crooked?"

From Stray Shots DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS ALL KIDNEY DISEASES RHEUMATISM BRIT'S DISEASE DIABETES BACKACHE 4087 THE PRO

Our Ottawa Letter

OTTAWA, April 18th, 1921. An attempt by the opposition to roll back the stone from the sepulchre of Reciprocity, was the most significant development of the past Parliament week. It was significant, not so much from the fact, that it shows that Mr. King and his followers still care more for an economic theory than for their country's prosperity, but rather for its revelation of the utter unreliability of the Opposition leader's word. It is only two months since the by-election of West Peterborough. In that election Mr. King pledged himself to make no change in the tariff unless and until the country had an opportunity to pronounce upon the question. "Do not let them (the Government) deceive you," he said. "The Liberal party would never think of touching the tariff policy of this country before a general election." Now this was a specific pledge, given without reservation. Yet the same Mr. King and the same Liberal party stood in Parliament a few days ago and demanded a sweeping change in tariff policy, not after an election but after the people were heard, but at once. They urged that the Government "accept, confirm and ratify" the Reciprocity agreement of 1911, practically a fiscal revolution.

Under the circumstances only two conclusions are possible; Mr. King was dishonest with either the electors of Peterborough or with the House of Commons, or he was dishonest with both. In either case the position is a pitiable one, for it indicates that the Liberal leader is still back at the old obsolescent game of trying to achieve power by trickery and deceit. Nor is the position of Mr. King much more alluring from the standpoint of policy. Reciprocity with the United States would have been bad in 1911, it would be catastrophic in 1921. Canada last year bought goods to the value of a billion dollars from the United States and sold only a half billion in return—the consequence of that, with such an enormous balance against us, the Canadian dollar is at a heavy discount, in New York, this resulting not only in humiliation, but in a tremendous hardship as well. Now the question the average Canadian must ask himself is this: "If a billion dollars worth of American goods are flooding this country now injuring Canadian industry menacing Canadian labor and undermining the value of the Canadian dollar, what would happen with duties swept away, as is proposed by Mr. King? The answer, of course, is clear. It is the same as that which has been the vital question of the loss of revenue which would be involved apart from the further fact that the Americans just now are talking of lightening instead of lowering their tariff, acceptance of Reciprocity at this stage would be the same as the suicidal suicide.

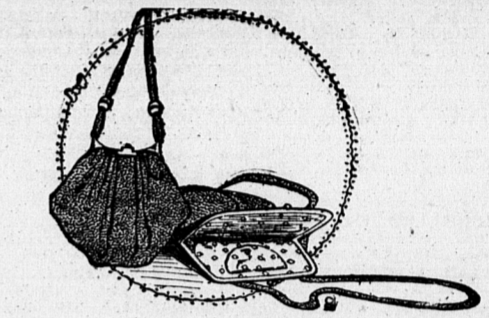
And so the House of Commons voted the proposition down, a not insignificant fact being that, despite the Agrarians, the majority of Western members voted with the Government. Even pronounced low tariff men like Mr. Henders, an ex-president of the Manitoba Grain Growers, could not swallow Mr. King's folly. Having thus revealed himself in a game of double-dealing as well as willing to commit the country to a desperate, discredited policy, Mr. King capped the climax of a bad week by engineering, or permitting his followers to engineer a filibuster against a proposition which reduced to its simplest terms merely asked that the Government live up to its contracts. When, four years ago, the Government launched upon a shipbuilding programme, it was because it was urgently called for by the submarine war. The Opposition by that time gave the proposition hearty support. The party which in 1913 had fought so hard to have shipbuilding established in Canada (Mr. Puseley urged it even though it turned out a financial loss) the Liberals saw in the programme not only an attempt to foil Von Tirpitz, but also a vindication of their stand and leaders of the party like Mr. Lemieux and Mr. Fielding lauded the proposal to the skies. When last year the Government asked for a vote to complete the programme, there was no protest. The Opposition, in fact, was anxious to share the credit for the

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building up of a merchant marine, and still regarded it as a justification of their stand in the naval debate of 1913. This year however, there was a change. Everywhere in the world shipping suffered; ocean fleets declined, there was a surplus of ships, scarcity of cargoes, and consequent loss; and the Opposition trimmed their sails to suit the new wind. Thus, when the Government this week asked for a vote of eight millions to complete contracts to which the whole House, Liberals included, has been a party, the Opposition led by Mr. Duff, fought it tooth and nail. Their position was well described by Mr. Meighen, who said: "You supported our programme, and you were joined with us in ordering ships, but you refuse to join with us in paying for them." The Opposition attitude in fact, was an utterly unappreciable one. The money asked for was either spent or contracted for, and a refusal to vote would simply have meant that some of our own people would have been defrauded of money which they had earned; and so the Government suppressed the Opposition's obstructionist tactics by an application of closure. A similar measure had to be adopted to pass an interim supply bill to which Mr. King, for reasons not quite clear, took exception. Meanwhile a committee of Parliament has been formed to inquire into certain phases of the railway problem. Its main task will be to ascertain how much information the National Railways management can turn over to Parliament without endangering it with its great rival the Canadian Pacific, and while no one expects the committee to work wonders, nearly everybody is disposed to give it a fair chance. Another committee from which something concrete is expected is that of fuel supply. The Budget is still to come. Ordinarily this would mean the session would be greatly prolonged, but as there is not much of other legislation, and as it is now seems quite probable that the Government is view of the fiscal uncertainty in the United States and other countries, will delay its own tariff proposals, it is altogether likely that proration will come within two months. QUEBEC WOMEN OPPOSE EMPLOYMENT BUREAUS.—The abolition of employment bureaus operated for private profit will be demanded by French-Canadian women, according to an announcement at the close of the luncheon of the Federation Nationale St. Jean Baptiste, at which Mrs. L.A. Taschereau, wife of the Premier of Quebec, presided. In her address she predicted that in French Canada the influence of women in public life would be all the greater for the fact that seeking no political favor and aspiring to no high offices, they would think more sanely and more impartially of men and things and their opinion would be all the more valued.

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