

# The Charlottetown Guardian

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## EXPLODED CHARGES

As intimated in Saturday's Guardian, the debate on the reply to the speech from the Throne is finished, and both the House and the country will have an opportunity to look backward and sum up the results.

When the House opened there were two courses open to the Opposition. They could either confine themselves to a discussion of the questions touched upon in the speech and leave the charges which they had preferred against the Government during the campaign till the various votes came before the House during the budget debate, or they could discuss them on the address. They chose the latter course. The leader, Mr Bell, before the echoes of the speech had died away, proceeded to rehash those charges; went voluminously and volubly into all the allegations that had been made against the Government during the past two years, reproduced all the scandals that had been launched since the campaign began. He was supported by certain members of his party. The charges, the scandals, the allegations were thrown at the House from every angle, and every one of them was proved to the hilt to be groundless, misleading and without the shadow of an excuse save for electioneering purposes. The oats scandal to which Mr H. D. McLean put the finishing touches in an unqualified denial of a statement made by Mr George E. Hughes as to delay and demurrage; the hay scandal which was disproved, not only by members of the Government, but in the Patriot the mouthpiece of the Opposition, by Mr John McQuillan, one of the largest produce exporting merchants in Charlottetown; the Prohibition question, the schools, in short everything that had been brought up against the Government and by misrepresenting which many of the Liberal members had secured their seats—was threshed out to a finish, and in not one instance did the Opposition sustain a charge or an allegation.

Such was the finish of the first round between the Government and the Opposition.

In the regular course, during the budget debate, appropriations will be made for the various departments. The subjects already threshed out to a finish may be up again incidentally. The Opposition members are once more at the dividing of the ways, two courses again lie before them. They may reiterate the scandals and the allegations, present them again to be refuted, to be proved groundless and childishly mischievous as before, or they may admit their error, admit they were mistaken, and apologize to the Government for having wasted nearly two weeks of valuable time and apologize also to their constituents whom they misled and hoodwinked during the last election campaign. As to which course they will adopt, we shall see what we shall see.

Meantime the Government has come out with flying colours and the whole country will now be able to judge upon whom to place reliance when there is a difference between the statements of the Government and the Opposition on matters of public interest.

## LEST WE FORGET

During the past year or more some thousands of socks have been sent from this province, as from other parts of Canada, to the soldiers at the front. Many are still being forwarded, but not to the same extent as during the first enthusiastic and widespread effort.

The need at the front continues the same, however, whether our enthusiasm can be sustained or not, and the need is greater than we think. Have our readers noticed the new medical term, "trench foot," that appears sometimes in the casualty list, and do they know what it is? It is a disabling condition arising from continued wet feet, the only kind of feet that soldiers can have when living in the trenches—unless they have such a supply of socks as will enable them to change frequently. General Alderson, Officer Commanding the Canadian troops, recently made a statement to Canadian journalists who visited the front to the effect that "trench foot" has practically been eliminated from the Canadian troops because of the comforts sent out by the women of the Empire, through the Canadian War Contingent Association. And not only has this disabling and distressing malady been eliminated, but the health and happiness of the soldiers have been maintained to a remarkable degree, so much so that the Canadian soldiers are said to be the healthiest bunch of men on the battlefields. The visiting journalists were shown how this desirable condition was maintained throughout the difficulties incident to the battlefield. Men who had come in from the trenches, entered the baths, threw off their wet clothing, took hot and cold water baths, put on dry underclothing and socks and no matter how tired and worn they had been on coming in after days and nights in the trenches, they were revived and transformed into new, lively, happy men.

The rule is to allow every man, if possible, four pairs of socks. When the men are in the trenches socks are sent to them and the discarded ones are sent back. General Alderson told the journalists that he had saddled the officers in command with the responsibility of seeing that there were no "trench feet," which meant that they had to look after the

men properly. "You cannot send too many socks," was a frequent remark by all the officers consulted, as "trench feet" seemed to be one of the most dreaded of all the ills incident to the battlefield.

The women of this province have helped greatly in bringing about this very satisfactory condition, have done their bit towards ameliorating the hard lot of those who are offering their lives on behalf of others. It is a great privilege to do this for them, a great privilege to have done even this much in connection with a war that will, through all time to come, be the one outstanding feature in the history of the world.

Let the good work go on. The war is not over yet by any means. Thousands more of our own men and thousands more from every part of the Empire will yet be poured into the conflict. Such comforts as we can give them should be given freely and promptly. All over the province many women are knitting socks and these are being sent forward as soon as received. According to the soldiers themselves this is the outstanding and constant need. We trust the supply will not fail, that the first flush of enthusiasm and interest in the good work will not wane. There are many yet who have not done their share and the call is to all, and the need was never more urgent than it is to-day. Send along more socks.

## TEMPERANCE FACTORS

An investigation was recently made among 140 steel and iron concerns in the principal industrial centres in the United States with a view to ascertaining the attitude of employers towards the temperance question. Replies were given by 113 of the establishments, which are summed up as follows:—

Six of the 113 firms permit the use of alcoholic drink in their shops or plants.

One hundred and seven firms prohibit liquor in their works.

Eighty-three discriminate against employees who use intoxicants at any time, and will not promote drinkers.

One hundred companies not only prohibit drinking during working hours but are carrying on a campaign to discourage drinking at other times.

Sixty-three concerns have undertaken constructive abstemious work to determine the effect of drinking upon a workman's efficiency.

Ten firms prohibit drinking at all times.

While good and sincere men and women everywhere are using their influence to promote temperance and to remove the evil and the waste of drink, the silent forces which rule the industrial and commercial world are also working, working quietly, steadily, relentlessly in the same direction. The industrial world has discovered that the drinker is an uncertain and an unprofitable quantity and therefore has practically shut its doors against him, as is indicated by the investigation above referred to. It has said to its employees and to would-be employees: These are my terms. Accept them if you will. My doors are closed against the man who drinks, because, other things being equal, he is less efficient and less reliable than the total abstainer.

Time was, and not so long ago, when, if a man turned up comparatively sober at his work, no particular fault was found and even his occasional lapses into helplessness were regarded with considerable leniency. To-day it is different. The figures given above are probably fairly representative of industry throughout the world. Eighty-three out of one hundred and thirteen discriminate against employees who use intoxicants at any time and will not promote drinkers. This is the busy world's ultimatum to the drinker, and the drinker is therefore very largely excluded from the world of busy men. It is natural that the moral and religious world should be more lenient. In principle it would exclude the drinker; in practice, and in conformity with its Christian charity, it will not. Here the sinner may return. To the business man's world he cannot return.

The cast iron rule of the business world, now all but universal, is a strong factor in the temperance movement, perhaps its strongest factor. That it will accomplish the work undertaken by our moral reformers is, however, impossible. Its methods are applied only to its own interests, to its own facilities for manufacturing dollars and cents. When we learn to regard our fellow-man as something higher than an economic machine, as something more than an employee, we shall do at least as much to make him morally efficient as we do now to make him economically efficient. In the meantime and until we learn to read a deeper meaning in the fact that we are our brothers' keeper, both factors, the economic and the moral, working together will draw the cords increasingly tighter around the liquor traffic, and if we do not succeed in strangling it to death we shall at least keep it pretty well crippled.

## NOTES

Since he became Premier in the autumn of 1911 and, unwaveringly, until the present Sir Robert Borden has held a firm grip on Canadian affairs, but never was that grip so strong as it is to-day and never did he and his Government possess the confidence of the people to a greater extent than now. The Government has been faced with tremendous responsibilities but has not failed in the test. A few years ago it was the limit of a government's financial duties to handle transactions aggregating, in the course of a year, forty, fifty or sixty millions of dollars, yet, in the past year, the Borden Government has handled hundreds of millions and no one has had the temerity to impute the slightest suspicion of graft to any member of it. Even when the case of J. Wesley Allison is attracting attention we find the Toronto Globe, the leading organ of Canadian Liberalism, careful to say "No one has charged Sir Sam Hughes with participation in this orgy of war contract graft."

## Debate on Address Closes

(Continued from page three.)

opposite, he was being held up in this manner. He had intended to refer to the past history of the different leaders opposite individually, but as they had resented it he would now bunch them altogether.

Mr JOHNSTON again rose to a point of order. He thought the hon. member was conducting himself in a rather unusual manner. He thought he should modify his language before proceeding further, and he considered that his rights should be protected by the Speaker.

The PREMIER: The hon. member for Cardigan is himself out of order. The Speaker's ruling was that the hon. member's remarks were not to be taken into consideration. We may simply assume that as the hon. gentleman has submitted to this ruling he will do so now or later before he concludes his remarks.

Mr MURDOCH MCKINNON said this difficulty was due to there being a number of new members unfamiliar with the procedure of debate, and to the fact that the hon. member from the First District of Queen's, though an old member, had not previously taken much part in discussions in the House. He did not think there was any reason to suppose a member withdrawing or modifying anything which had been ruled out of order. The rules of the language to be used were rather strict but once a member became familiar with them it was not difficult to keep his remarks in order or to withdraw where he had overstepped the rules.

Mr KENNEDY said now that so much time had been wasted over nothing, perhaps he would be allowed to proceed. He would sum the whole thing up and deal with the Opposition members as a whole.

Mr JOHNSTON: I insist, Mr Speaker, upon the hon. member complying with your order to modify the expression he uses.

The PREMIER: The hon. member is entirely out of order. He is insisting upon taking the conduct of this House out of the hands of the Speaker. It is for the Speaker, and not any member to insist upon an hon. member complying with his ruling, and if he refuses then there is other means to which there may be recourse.

Mr BELL said the Leader of the House had made a very dangerous suggestion when he said the hon. member who had offended may delay obeying the ruling of the Speaker.

The PREMIER said there again they had disorder emanating from the other side. The Speaker suggested that the hon. member for the West District should modify his language, and it was for the Speaker to insist upon his ruling—not any member of the House.

Mr KENNEDY said if it would satisfy the member for Cardigan he would take back anything that was offensive, but he could not see how he was to modify his language without being allowed to explain. He had simply been making a straight statement, which independent people could grasp, to show how the aggregation now calling itself by the name of the Liberal party and constituting themselves its leaders got together and stuck together during the last election. How had these gentlemen managed to get returned to that House? They had simply pursued the lowest, meanest, most contemptible campaign tactics ever experienced in this province.

They could not claim to represent the principles of the Liberal Party, most of them were not Liberals by conviction or anything else. They had gone to the country with no principles, with no politics, with no platform except slander and abuse against those opposing them. They had heard their general friend, the Leader of the Opposition, giving a great lecture on temperance in that House. It was along the lines he had spoken throughout the election. He posed as the friend of temperance, and accused the Tory party of being its enemy. What was his record on temperance? What did he do in Bedouque district? How did he carry on his election campaign there?

Mr BELL: Do you want an answer now?

Mr KENNEDY: If he stood on the floor of the House and talked till next year he did not believe a man in that House would believe a word he said.

Mr BELL rose to a point of order, and the Premier asked what was the point. Mr Bell said the hon. member had stated that no one in the House would believe a word he said.

The PREMIER said he would like to know where the unparliamentary language came in. That might be the fault of those who heard, not the hon. member.

Mr BELL said that it was an offensive remark and should be withdrawn.

The PREMIER thought the Leader of the Opposition would be wise to let the matter pass.

Mr BELL pressed for a ruling and the Speaker said he would reserve his decision.

Mr KENNEDY proceeded and said that the Leader of the Opposition seemed determined to interrupt him, but if he

## DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

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## SETTING UP

If every man would pay his bills, just when those bills are due, we'd sidestep many grievous ills which now make people blue. The merchant carries on his books about a million debts, and some who figure there are crooks, and some misfortune's pets. Some hope to play the honest game they have got the tin, and it may be they'll do that same, soon as their ships come in. But some ships travel mighty slow of winds and waves the sport; some hit the reef of Norman's Wee, and never come to port. The merchants have to charge us more for everything they sell, to cover the defaulter's score, and hence H. C. of L. Whenever you buy a pound of pills, or quart of pumpkin seed, you're paying something on the bills of those who are behind. If you, who read these simple rules, will pay your bills on time, you'll help to cut the price of prices, and make your life sublime.

wanted a modification he would say that perhaps some in the House would believe him. The campaign in Bedouque had been conducted by Mr Bell as an apostle of temperance. The hon. member for Tignish had informed the House that thirteen cases of liquid "soap" had been imported into Mr Johnston's district. He was informed that 35 cases of liquor were landed in Summerside and brought into Bedouque district and the Leader of the Opposition knew something about it. He (Mr Kennedy) had a statement of the facts and he challenged Mr Bell to deny them. He would show the facts to the hon. members if they cared to see them. He believed that a man who posed as a leader of any party, and especially of a temperance party, should have clean hands, fight fair and square, and not go around the country like a wolf in sheep's clothing. If Mr Bell challenged the accuracy of his statements he would certainly go into them, and name anyone that Mr Bell was no friend of the temperance party in this province. Mr Kennedy next proceeded to expose the gross misrepresentations of the Opposition regarding the Field Service Oats and concluded by exposing the latest Opposition falsehoods regarding the hay contracts. The facts were that the representative of the British Government called for tenders in this province for hay, and that of Carvell Brothers was accepted for \$21.50 per ton L.O.B. Charlottetown. The farmers were paid from \$14 to \$15 per ton landed at the nearest railway station and the freight and truckage brought the average price to \$16.50 landed at the farm. The cost of re-pressing, etc., amounted to between five and six dollars, with the result that the contractors lost between seven and eight hundred dollars on the first contract for 1,500 tons. Additional contracts were obtained at an advance of one dollar per ton, on which the margin for the contractor was only fifty cents per ton. Instead of 5,000 tons being supplied the total quantity was only 3,224 tons. This every statement made by the Opposition regarding this transaction was false and misleading. Mr Kennedy pointed out by referring to the statement by Mr Howatt that a road in Miscouche had not been attended to or the winter road broken. Mr Kennedy said if the hon. member had gone out and done his share of the work, his example would no doubt have been followed by others.

As Mr Kennedy resumed his seat, Mr Hughes asked about the automobile question.

Mr KENNEDY said he noticed the automobile was bothering the hon. gentleman. He would just say that three years ago he was opposed to automobiles in this way: he had asked the privilege that if the people wanted the automobiles they should have them, and if they did not that they should not be forced upon them. Further than that he would not go. What was the result? The bill was brought down and it was passed without opposition. The Leader of the Opposition who preceded Mr Bell, while not opposing the introduction of the autos, sneaked out of the House without voting.

Mr HUGHES: What will you do in the matter?

Mr KENNEDY: Whatever I do, I shall do fair and square and above board.

Mr H. D. McLEAN concluded the debate on the address by relating the facts with regard to the arrival of the Morwenna in Havre. Mr Hughes had stated that a week's delay and demurrage had been occasioned by the bungling of the Government with respect to charter. Mr McLean assured the House that this was absolutely untrue. He accompanied the Morwenna as superintendent and they arrived in Havre on Friday, Christmas Day, which was a holiday, and were given liberty to berth by the British Naval Patrol on the following Monday, Friday (Christmas Day), Saturday (Boxing Day), and Sunday were holidays, so that no delay was experienced by the Morwenna. Havre, The British authorities at Havre had complimented him on the dispatch with which the vessel was berthed and discharged.

The motion for the adoption of the address was then put and carried.

The COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE intimated that the Lieutenant-Governor would attend at 3.30 on Tuesday to receive the address, and the House was adjourned till then.

**BUSINESS FOR THE HOUSE.**

15. Mr McDonald gives notice that he will ask the Commissioner of Public Works to lay on the table of the House a detailed statement, showing:—

(1) What amounts were collected by the several road masters of the province in their respective districts during the year 1915 for road tax, horse tax and dog tax?

(2) What of said taxes remained uncollected at the close of the year and what were the names of the several parties arrears?

(3) What amounts were disbursed by the several road masters in their respective districts during the year 1915.

(4) What amounts were returned by the several road masters to the Provincial Treasurer during the said year.

(5) What amounts were paid or advanced by the Government to the said road masters, during the year 1915, to be expended in their several districts?

(6) In what manner are the road masters accounts audited? Are they submitted to or audited by the Provincial Auditor?

16. Mr Hughes gives notice that he will ask the Leader of the Government to lay on the table of the House:—

(1) A copy of the Order-in-Council providing for a vote to be taken at the school meetings—for and against the

(Continued on page seven.)



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