

# The Charlottetown Guardian

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## THE DIVIDED OPPOSITION

It was generally anticipated that Mr Bell's leadership would result in the disintegration of the aggregation which nominally follows him, but it was not anticipated an apparent collapse would come so soon as it has done. Yesterday saw the Opposition evidently hopelessly divided on the important question of drainage and wasting the greater part of the day in discussing their differences. On the motion to go into committee on the Drainage Bill, Mr Johnston rose and expressed the opinion that the time was inopportune to introduce a drainage measure and asserting his conviction that it should be postponed till after the war. He advanced no serious argument in favour of his proposal, and it was perfectly evident so far as he personally was concerned that he cared not a rap for the opportuneness or not of the present time so long as he could "hold-up" the Government in its intention of pushing forward the measure to a successful issue. He opened the floodgates, however, and then ensued a debate probably unparalleled in the history of legislative institutions. Instead of the question being discussed between the Government benches and the Opposition, the whole debate was confined to the Opposition to the point of exhaustion, and it became strikingly evident that the Liberals were hopelessly divided in opinion. What the country will think of the exhibition remains to be seen, but when one part of the Opposition supports the bill, the whole bill, and nothing but the bill as submitted by the Government, and another pleads to have Queen's and King's Counties excluded, and the experiment confined to Prince, we can readily realize that the divided counsels do not indicate much homogeneity in the Opposition ranks. This drainage policy is not newly before the public. It has been discussed and approved by the conference recently held, and which was representative of agricultural opinion of all shades of politics. Everyone, without exception, whose views are worth considering, has decided that any scheme which would result in the development of our swampy lands, lands often the best in the province, is deserving of encouragement and approval. When the resolution to bring in the bill was before the House, an opportunity was given for a full and free discussion on the subject, and the consensus of opinion favoured the project. It was left for Mr Johnston to sow apparent discord in the Opposition ranks yesterday by his suggestion to hold up the measure till that indefinite period "after the war." The farmers of the country will know on whose shoulders to lay the blame for this attempt to frustrate the good intention of the majority of the House. The extraordinary and apparently inexplicable thing is that Mr Bell should allow Mr Johnston to oust him from the leadership of the party on a matter so bound up with the paramount interests and welfare of the farmers of this country. Had Mr Johnston some ulterior motive in view in thus seeking to divide his party? Time will tell, but meantime the Opposition has the somewhat unique experience of having gone to pieces on the first important measure that has come before the Legislature. Mr Bell has need of impressing upon his followers the warning that a house, or party, divided against itself cannot stand.

## NO APOLOGY.

Evidently the Patriot still feels very keenly the severe castigation which the Hon. Murdoch Kennedy gave the Opposition in the closing hours of the debate on the address, and would like to convey the impression that Mr Kennedy had been made to apologise for his remarks. It has not the courage to say so on its own authority, but it stated that the Speaker had said Mr Kennedy had done so. Yesterday the Speaker referred to the subject and directed attention to the Patriot's report, which he said was incorrect. What he had stated was that Mr Kennedy had agreed to modify his language. This is quite a different thing. There was nothing said about an apology, and the Patriot has no authority for its assertion.

## THE PATRIOT'S DIFFICULTIES

The Patriot is evidently quite at a loss how to handle the deficit in the public accounts. It has been so long accustomed to Liberal methods of hiding and covering up deficits that it is evidently astounded that the present Government comes down to the House and admits fairly and squarely that revenue did not meet expenditure last year. But the Government has nothing to be ashamed of, nothing to hide, nothing even to regret, except that unforeseen circumstances should have upset the estimates which both the Government and the Opposition adopted after the most careful consideration and deliberation. Notwithstanding the deficit in the present accounts, the Government has a record to be proud of and of which the country has reason to be justly proud. When the finances of the last four years are taken into consideration it will be found that the position of the province has been vastly strengthened compared with what it was when the Government took office. We have no intention of anticipating the Premier's budget speech, which is down for to-night, but we may merely remark that

he is in a position to prove that the investment in permanent public works, etc., is far in excess of any apparent deficit which the public accounts disclose in last year's transactions.

## "MOVIES" AS AN EDUCATOR

We are in receipt of an address recently delivered by Mr Francis Holley at the Second Pan American Scientific Congress, on "Industrial Education and the uses of the Cinematograph in Public Instruction." Mr Holley is the founder and director of the Bureau of Commercial Economics organized under the general educational law and affiliated with one hundred and six of the universities and colleges of the country. The address tells of the advantages of the system of educating by moving pictures and gives a general classification of the films employed. These embrace practically all the industries of the country, such as the manufacture of glass, pottery and china, mining of gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc and coal, the making of linen garments from the planting of the flax through the various processes, the making of cotton garments from the planting and harvesting of the cotton, and so on through the various industries, showing men and women at work and showing also in minute detail the various processes through which the raw material passes until it is finished. In the "travelogue" department views are given of cities, harbours, shipping, mountain scenery, farming, domestic scenes showing the social and living conditions in different parts of the world.

This is a brief summary of the means used to make the children acquainted with the life and industry of their own country and of those parts of the world of which their histories and their geographies treat.

There can be no question that through such pictures as these, showing as they do the actual life of the country, and of foreign countries also, the children will receive a more practical knowledge than they otherwise could. The mind of the child is incapable of forming a correct view of the things he only knows theoretically, and he grows up with mistaken and often distorted opinions of things with which he should be, and is supposed to be, familiar. As a practical educator the moving picture is second only to actual living contact with the things to be studied and the latter is impossible on a scale that could in any way constitute an education. At one sitting before a moving picture screen one can learn more and come in touch with more than in years of travel.

The moving picture has come to stay and must be reckoned with. It is an educator, not simply an entertainer, although it is in the latter sense it is chiefly regarded, and it is in the latter sense also that it is being patronized by old and young alike. Nevertheless, while being entertained we—old and young alike, and especially the latter—are being educated by it. The character of the education is determined by the character of the pictures. Unfortunately the trend of the moving pictures usually shown is towards entertainment rather than towards education, and the trend, through feeding, is increasing. We are told that in Charlottetown the exclusively entertaining film is the only kind that pays; that the educational film is not patronized.

In most cities, some of them not any larger than Charlottetown, there are two or more classes of picture theatres, the one catering to the better taste, including the educational, such as travel, scenery, industry, arts etc., the other to the purely theatrical and sensational. And we know that in Charlottetown many parents scan the advertisements of the shows very carefully before consenting to their children's attendance. When the show is simply theatrical or sensational the children are not permitted to attend; when even mildly educational, not only are the children allowed to attend, but the parents accompany them and enjoy the pictures. The taste for the better class of pictures can be cultivated and we believe that in a very short time the patronage of the best people in the city could be permanently and profitably secured by raising the general tone of the pictures. The people of any city may be roughly divided into two classes, those who desire the best, the educational, the elevating, and those who just want pictures, and we are trying hard to believe that the former is the larger class.

The use of the cinematograph in our schools is, for the present at least, out of the question. In the meantime much good can be done by encouraging the attendance of children at the best shows given here, and quite often there are excellent and informative pictures shown. And much also can be done both in the schools and in the homes by teaching the children what is and what is not desirable in the movies.

## NOTES

In 1915 American automobile factories turned out 892,000 cars, valued at \$761,400,000. That the people of the United States in one year should expend more than three quarters of a billion dollars for new motor vehicles indicates the tremendous growth of a comparatively new industry. In 1916 it is estimated that a million cars will be built and that the total value of the product will aggregate more than \$800,000,000.—Los Angeles Express.

Man is a curious animal. Tell him he can't have a thing or do certain things and he'll go through fire if necessary to prove you a liar. Give him certain rights and privileges and he accepts them in a blase kind of way and exercises them perfunctorily or allows them to lapse altogether. What a howl would go up in this city if all Buffaloniens were disfranchised who, having a vote, did not cast it. Why indignation meetings would be held all over the city and superheated patriotic citizens would harangue excited crowds who would applaud the butting Patrick Henrys as they exclaimed: "Give me the franchise or give me death."—Buffalo News.

## Annual Meeting Exhibition Ass'n

The annual meeting of the Charlottetown Driving Park and Provincial Exhibition Association was held Wednesday night. President Hertz occupied the chair and the Directors' report was as follows:

The Directors, in submitting their annual report for the year 1915, congratulate the Shareholders on the success of the Exhibition open to all Canada held on their grounds last September. Early last spring communications were received from the Dominion Live Stock Department wherein it was stated that all Exhibitions which would make their classes open to all Canada and which had paid out the preceding year not less than \$5,000.00 in prizes in horses, cattle, sheep, swine and poultry, would be entitled to a grant from that Department of fifty per cent. of the money paid out in the above classes.

Our Association had paid out but about \$4,200.00 in such prizes the preceding year, and therefore, could not come under the rule. Efforts were made, however, and on our undertaking to increase the prizes offered in our prize list in such classes fifty per cent., a grant of \$2,500.00 was given.

This year, as we paid out over \$8,000.00 in the above named classes, we will be entitled to at least \$3,000.00 from that source without increasing our prize list further.

An audited statement has been forwarded to Ottawa, and application made for such grant, and we have every reason to expect such a grant will be given.

An exhibition was held on our grounds open to all Canada in September last. The entries in all classes were fully up to those of former years.

There were three days horse racing. All classes were well filled, and there was very fine racing.

The attendance was not nearly so good as usual, owing, wholly, your Directors believe, to bad weather. On two of the three race days it was raining in the morning, and this hindered very many people (who had made every preparation to come and were actually at the different stations on the railway line) from coming.

It will be seen by the Secretary's Report, though the receipts were not so large as in the past, a dividend of three per cent. was paid to the shareholders.

During the year Mr. John Richards, who was one of your directors for many years, resigned from the Board, and your directors appointed Mr. Hammond Kelly in his place. Mr. Kelly is a practical farmer, and also has been very successful in horse racing. With his experience in both these lines, your directors believe he will be able to render valuable assistance to your directors.

Four directors expect the usual grant from the local Government and the Council of Charlottetown, and also a grant of at least \$3,000.00 from the Live Stock Department at Ottawa. With these grants and fine weather a successful year is anticipated.

Our Exhibition will be held this year from the 26th to the 29th of September.

Directors think it advisable to again this year, hold the races on the King's birthday, the 3rd of June, with the same classes and purses as last year.

Frank R. Hertz, President.  
 Directors:—John J. Davies, G. E. Hughes, John McLean, James Paton, Frank P. Bell, Hammond Kelly.  
 G. R. Smallwood, Secretary-Treasurer.

After the usual business was transacted, the same Board of Directors was re-elected for the ensuing year.

At a meeting of the new Board held immediately after the annual meeting, Mr. Frank R. Hertz was re-elected President, and C. R. Smallwood appointed Secretary-Treasurer.

It was decided by the new Board to hold races on the 3rd of June, (King's Birthday) the classes and purses of which will be announced shortly.

The Exhibition dates this year from September 26th to 29th, when there will be three days racing, with eight classes particular of which will also be published shortly.

**BOGUS COLLECTION FOR THE BELGIANS**  
 OTTAWA, April 11.—The Post Office Department announces that chain letters are being received in Canada requesting a subscription to be sent in aid of Belgian orphans to Miss Beatty, care Rear Admiral Beatty, London, England, via New York. Other letters give the address of Rear Admiral Beatty as Portsmouth, England.

Equality has shown that there is no such person as Miss Beatty connected with Rear Admiral Beatty's household, and the public are therefore warned against having anything to do with the scheme.

**DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS**  
 Furnished by W. S. Lousch.

**THE VEILED FUTURE.**  
 By Walt Mason.  
 We know not what a day shall bring what brand of weal or woe; so let us smile and let us sing, and trip fantastically. We may feel sure to-morrow's sun will hide, the whole day long; and when all things are said and done, our guesses will be wrong. We may in fact, that dark green, grief to-morrow's brow will wear; and yet the dawn may bring relief from all the woes we bear. No man should look ahead and say, "Tomorrow is a frost, so I shall wall around today, and weep, and blame the cost." And so, as I have often said, in dirges fierce but brief, it's foolishness to look ahead for further stores of grief. It's vain to read our hearts to say, "Tomorrow's charged with fate;" far better to enjoy today, before it pulls its freight. This day is ours, this cheerful morn; all yesterday's are dead; all other days are yet unborn, the stretch of days ahead. This day is ours, the dear, sweet thing, unblissed; so let us dance and let us sing, and throw our hats on high.

## Proceedings in Provincial Legislature

THURSDAY, APRIL 13.

The House resumed at 11.15 a.m., Mr Speaker Martin in the chair.  
 Hon. A. E. Arsenault led the House in the absence of the Premier.

### PATRIOT CORRECTED.

The SPEAKER said: It has been brought to my attention that the Patriot newspaper yesterday published a report that I had stated that the hon. member from Bradshaw had apologized to the hon. junior member from Cardigan. This is incorrect. What I did say was that the hon. member from Bradshaw had consented to modify his statement.

The Commissioner of Public Works laid over information asked in a number of questions. Other questions directed to the Leader of the House were held over as being in the course of preparation.

Mr HUGHES wished to know whether the minutes of Council referred to in question 4 had been brought down.

Hon. Mr ARSENAULT said there was no minute of Council such as was referred to in the question.

Mr BELL said he understood that there was such a minute which had been cancelled.

Mr ARSENAULT said he understood the Premier to say that there was no such minute, but that there was, in another connection, an order-in-Council, which if Mr Hughes desired, must be asked for in the ordinary way.

The bill to incorporate Paton's Ltd., was passed through committee and reported to the House. Mr McEwen moved that it be read a third time to-morrow.

The Savage Harbour Packing Co. incorporation bill was similarly dealt with.

On the motion to go into committee on the drainage bill, Mr Johnston suggested that the Government should defer further consideration of the drainage scheme until after the war.

Mr KENNEDY: You are opposed to the bill?  
 Mr JOHNSTON said he was not opposed to the principle of drainage, but thought the present was not an opportune time to introduce it.

Mr JOHNSTON was still speaking at the luncheon adjournment, and when the House resumed in the afternoon he produced a volume of the Encyclopaedia Britannica, from which he quoted at length an article on drainage. He subsequently read an interesting pamphlet on the subject and concluded his remarks at five o'clock.

Mr Dennis, Mr Lea, Mr Howatt, Mr McMillan, Mr A. E. McLean and Mr Hughes followed in essential points.

Mr Hughes was still speaking when the House adjourned till eight o'clock.

### EVENING SESSION.

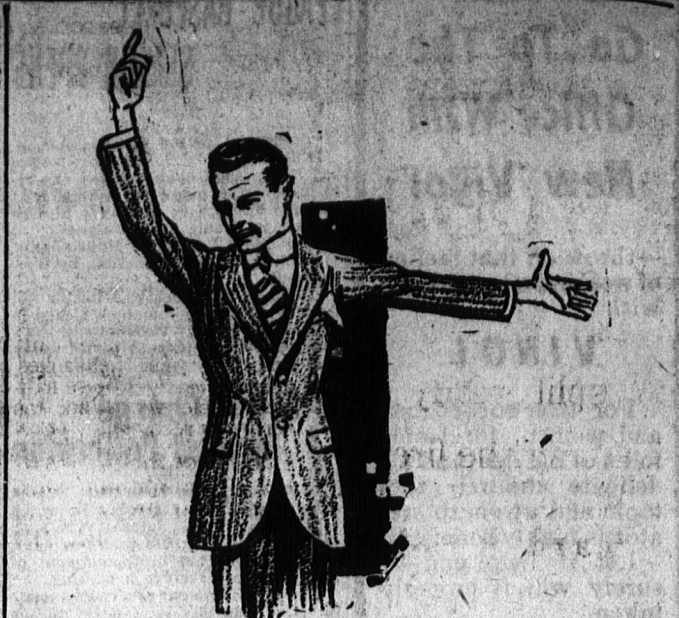
At the evening session Mr Hughes concluded his speech, and was followed by Mr Gallant, Mr Saunders and Mr Bell.

Mr McKINNON briefly replied on behalf of the Government, and as the hour was late, withdrew his motion to go into committee.

Mr BELL wished to go back to questions in order to interrogate the Premier.

The PREMIER objected, as such proceedings would be entirely out of order.

Mr BELL complained that the Premier was not in his place at the morning session, and wanted an undertaking that he would be there in the morning.



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