

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

MONDAY, AUGUST 30, 1920

Max A. A. Bartlett, President. J. R. Burdett, Editor and Publisher. D. K. Currie, Associate Editor. Morning Daily (founded 1887) \$5.00 per year (delivered) in advance; \$4.00 per year (mailed) in advance in Canada, and \$4.50 for U. S. A.

THE RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

The deplorable accident near Sackville Saturday night, a report of which appears elsewhere, will no doubt be the subject of enquiry and until the facts are known the blame cannot be laid at the door of any individual or of the management. That there was blame, criminal blame, is certain, and it is hoped that such an example will be set as will lead to fewer such occurrences in future.

Railway accidents have become too frequent of late. This is the third on that or adjoining sections within a few weeks. In this case there was, miraculously, no loss of life but many were injured, some of them seriously and the property damage was very considerable to say nothing of the loss and inconvenience to passengers. There is a growing impression that under present conditions the management of railways whether government or private company, is not entirely free to exercise judgment in the employment or the discharge of employees, that there is too much direction and dictation from unions and other influences. These are matters in which the public are very properly becoming interested.

THE AXE MERRILY SWINGS

The political axe has again made a swoop and a widow and her soldier son have been sacrificed to make room for a hero, who won his distinction, not on the sodden fields of Flanders but on the bloodless Grit battlefield. The position is the janitorship of the Provincial Building. The Great War Veterans, who only fought in France and Flanders had made application on behalf of certain of their number for this position but they had evidently taken part in a campaign which does not entitle one to Grit political recognition and they were of course turned down. Naturally they are indignant over the turn down but they are becoming accustomed to this treatment. Before the election they had the distinct and solemn promise of Liberal candidates that any position in the gift of the government and for which they were qualified would be theirs for the asking.

How the present turn down will be explained, how it will be recorded with the pre-election promises we do not attempt to guess. The only explanation so far in sight is that the policy of the Liberal party is to do the exact opposite of what it has promised to do and as they made such elaborate and solemn promises to appoint soldiers to all positions available they were in Liberal-honor bound to give them to somebody else.

WHAT NEXT?

Hanging over the province like a nightmare is now the constant fear of what is going to happen next at the hands of those to whom in an evil hour our destinies have been entrusted. All they have so far touched appears to have been blasted as if by a curse. The education act is daily showing the marks of incompetence; the road act has given us roads that are a disgrace, the taxation act has aroused indignation that cannot be allayed. The loss to the province of the Superintendent of Education is now known to have been the deliberate act intentionally or negligently, of the government. No attempt was made to retain his services, no compromise was attempted; no attention whatever was paid to the matter. The Premier did not even take the trouble to consult his colleagues in the Executive. The Superintendent was simply allowed to go, frozen out by a party who probably wanted the position for somebody else.

It is very doubtful if in the whole province another man can be found to fill Col. Campbell's place as he filled it. There is certainly no man in the province who deserved more at the hands of his fellow Islanders than he. The work he did in connection with the recruiting of the 105th Battalion will never be forgotten; nor will it be forgotten that in order to do a man's part in the war, he voluntarily reverted from Colonel to Lieutenant and served in the ranks at a time of life when few men would or could undergo the hardships and privations of the battlefield. As Superintendent of Education he was an ideal official, a friend of the teachers and of the cause to which he devoted his life and his talents. He was prepared to remain at his post if only assured that his services were appreciated and that he had the sympathy and the assistance of the government in the present serious crisis in our educational system. As to salary, although lower than that of some who served under him, the men who were able to raise their own salaries by 150 per cent could not spare enough out of their newly increased revenue even to show their appreciation of what Colonel Campbell had done and was doing. The end of this is not yet. The whole province is indignant for it is felt that a serious injustice has been added to the long list of evidences of incompetence or worse of the unfortunate aggregation who have it in their power to bring loss and even disgrace upon the province. "What next?" It may well be asked and the general answer is let them get out or put them out.

CURRENT COMMENT

The Hon. MacKenzie King is travelling metaphorically from Dan to Beer Sheba preaching the new doctrine of a general election. Sophistry and argument are exercised to the full that the people may be convinced of the great need of an appeal to the people. But what if the Government should call his bluff and bring in a general election? Is he really so anxious to hand over the few seats which he now has to the Conservatives and Farmers? Yet present day experience points emphatically to this as the one possible result of an election. If he fails to find candidates for a single one of the bye-election seats under contest after his public declaration that every seat must be contested, what chance will he have in procuring, much less electing them in over two hundred constituencies all over Canada. As a melo-dramatic actor the Liberal leader might prove an excellent success, even in a game of professional bluff he might be able to score, but as a political tactician an absolute failure.

Our friend of the evening visions is again seeing things. The case is truly a sad one. Ghosts of imagination fostered by an accusing conscience are again "chasing" it and it shows fight. With "indignant" meetings upon the brain it declares that "the Tyne Valley meeting was not in any sense whatever an indignation meeting." Or course there was no "sense" of "indignation" in telling the sitting members that they must take the back seat hereafter. There was a sharp sarcasm from the Chairman in announcing that "it was not an indignation meeting, NOR WOULD THEY BROOK ANY ATTEMPT AT BREAKING THE MEETING UP" a la Sturgeon. It wasn't indignation, perhaps it was compassion; "in any sense" which induced them to "PROVIDE A REMEDY FOR PRESENT POLITICAL ills." So, says the Patriot "the attempt of the Guardian to construe the meeting into anything antagonistic to Mr. Saunders or Mr. Dennis the Liberal members is very far fetched indeed. "Yes, yes; telling them to take a back seat isn't antagonistic, it is a gratifying approval of them and the Government? They have been so accustomed to sledge hammer blows that they are beginning to greet these lighter indignities as compliments. Grasping at straws.

And the dreamer of dreams attempts to extract comfort from Premier Meighen's reply to the Farmers' resolution passed at Colchester which said "the corruption of the Unionist Government was a stench in the nostrils of the common people of Canada." To which Mr. Meighen replied, "the person who had penned this resolution was either ignorant of the Union Government or else wantonly defiled the English language." The man or body of men who would deliberately make such a statement, without a scintilla of evidence to support it, or the slightest fact to give it a foundation, be he Patriot, or Liberal or Farmer, is absolutely without principle and deserves amply more than Mr. Meighen gave to this one. It did not represent the opinion of the farmers of Canada, and was vigorously and scathingly denounced by Mr. Gilbert Allan, M. P., the Farmer member.

Daily Selections Guardian Readers

HE WHO SERVES (By Edgar A. Guest.) He has not served who gathers koid, Nor has he served, whose life is told In selfish battles he has won, Or deeds of skill that he has done, But he has served who now and then Has helped along his fellow men. The world needs many men today; Red-blooded men along life's way; With cheerful smiles and helping hands And with the faith that understands The beauty of the simple deed Which serves another's hour of need. Strong men to stand beside the weak, Kind men to hear what others speak, True men to keep our country's laws And guard its honor and its cause; Men who will bravely play life's game, Nor ask rewards of gold or fame. Teach me to do the best I can To help and cheer our fellow men; Teach me to lose my selfish need And glory in the largest deed Which smooths the road and lights the day For all who chance to come my way.

THE PUBLIC FORUM

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

The Patriot's False Report

Sir,—My attention has been called to the report published in the Patriot of the Sturgeon meeting which says that at the conclusion of Mr. Hessian's speech resolutions were passed commending the Bell Government and the Liberal representative for the Georgetown District, Mr. Hessian. It said further that a resolution was passed calling upon Mr. J. McIsaac to resign his seat in the House of Commons.

To say that such resolutions were passed is a deliberate falsehood. Not a single resolution was passed at the Sturgeon meeting. And I defy the Patriot to get any reputable man who was at the meeting to say that there was. Let the Patriot, if it can, publish the names of those men who moved and seconded these resolutions or admit that its report was absolutely untrue. I can furnish the names of a score of men who were at the meeting and who constitute the Board of Education. It was on the list of signatories to that document. This is significant and the people of the province should demand to know the hidden reason why this great loss is being imposed upon the educational affairs of the province.

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Sturgeon meeting who will tell the truth, and who can prove that the statements published in the Patriot are absolutely false. Now Mr. Patriot either put up the proof or stand convicted of deliberate misrepresentation. Come on Mr. Patriot. Speak the truth if you can't. Don't squawk because you are caught. Thanking you Mr. Editor for your valuable space. I am Sir, etc. RICHARD CREED. Many a young couple agree to marry, and that's the last thing they agree upon.



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