

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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CURRENT COMMENT

WHAT WILL THEY DO?

For any of the breaks made by the Bell Government since its election neither defense nor plausible reason has been offered. When the farmers in different sections of the province met and expressed their indignation at the manner in which they had been deceived and demanded the resignation of those who had deceived them, the government organ called them Bolsheviki and agitators. When the Guardian directed attention to the broken promises, to the callous neglect or worse which almost wrecked our education system, and to other acts of commission and omission by the Bell Government, the Government organ abused it, sneered at its alleged "sanity" and "jealousy" but never offered a sane argument or a plausible reason for its party's conduct. Broken promises were excused or flatly denied, incompetence and neglect, when absolutely indefensible, were studiously ignored or "the red herring" was drawn across the trail. In its defence and its palliation and its excuses the Patriot doubly damned what it tried to cover.

How will these men, once trusted, act when they come face to face with an accusing public? Will they still hang on to their \$500 indemnity and sacrifice the respect of the friends who trusted them? Will they "for the sake of a dollar," let principle go to the winds and go on until public indignation bursts its bounds and demands their resignation in a voice that cannot be resisted?

WHY THE DISTINCTION

The Druy government in Ontario, a distinctive farmers government, has introduced a bill in the legislature to make a forty-four hour working week compulsory in all industries "other than agriculture."

Another bill provides that "every employer of labor, whether a person, partnership or corporation engaged in carrying on any business establishment, hotel, restaurant or cafe, shall allow every person, except certain specified individuals, at least 24 consecutive hours of rest in every seven days."

A Toronto exchange remarks that "clearly farm employers do not come under this, although employees in business do," and asks "Why should different legal standards be applied to agricultural work than in other works?"

The Bell Government are now up against some perplexing difficulties. The repeated warnings and declarations of the Guardian, and opposition, against their wild and ill-considered TAXATION methods, have been impressed upon them as being most painfully true, and now like caged rats they are scurrying from corner to corner of the trap scratching most frantically for some loop-hole of escape. Despite all their increased salaries and indemnities, and their profligacy and waste in public expenditure, they have found the TRUTH STARING THEM IN THE FACE. THAT THEY HAVE OVERTAXED THE PEOPLE, AND IN THOSE PINCHING DAYS OF RECONSTRUCTION, HAVE SQUEEZED THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS FROM THE PEOPLE WHICH WAS NOT NEEDED FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE. And now if they do not do so voluntarily, they will be up against the stern demand for the removal of some of those obnoxious taxes, and their perplexity is, which can they remove without offending the other. Several times within the last month, through the medium of the Patriot, the Guardian has been adroitly appealed to "help them out of the difficulty. In fact its standing editorial heading for a time was a prayer to the opposition press to declare which tax it would abolish.

Likewise they are now hugging to their bosom the Hon. A. K. McLean, who not long ago they had pilloried amongst the same class of traitors and scoundrels, when he stood, as Mr. Gauthier is doing today, for his country in preference to his party. They are not calling him those choice and endearing names now. WHEN HE HAS ABANDONED THE CAUSE AND PARTY WHICH HE WAS ELECTED TO SUPPORT, AND HAS BECOME A "TURNCOAT" IN REALITY. It is because so large a number of Liberals have left their unpopular ranks to join the Government or Farmer forces that they have been able to conjure up excuses for making these attacks, while they are immensely safe from any "slap-back" for the reason that there has not been a solitary Conservative to travel in their direction which can be offered as a quid pro quo to their foul creations of slander. Moreover the Government have a policy and public record to talk about, and have ample employment attending to the business of the country, and therefore have neither disposition nor need to resort to personal slander and individual abuse to provide fill material for a policy vacated space.

More recently it has been feeling its way in the same direction, and in reply to the Guardian's strictures upon their perfidy in connection with Mr. Higgs and the city Poll Tax it cowardly hints that the Government may give "consideration" or reconsideration to this imposition. One of the influences which may move them in this Poll Tax matter is the sturdy stand taken by large bodies of young men in the country to resist this imposition to the last, and even after the Patriot's veiled threat to send the sheriff after them, there came the reflection of the scarcity of jail accommodation for the thousands whom in a case of emergency they might be compelled to find in board and lodging. And this to say nothing of the "come backs" after they had tried their Sheriff business. And so now if they can only make the Guardian the sponsor for their acts, to take the place of a scape-goat as it were to carry the sins of the Government in their retreat, and bowing to the gods of stern necessity and public demand they may perforce remove the Poll or some other tax, which if they had followed our advice they would never have imposed.

Unhappily for its cause the Patriot has gone into Scripture in search of a parallel, and strangely true, for one so little versed in this kind of literature, it has found one. It harks Mr. Gauthier to Joseph who was betrayed and sold by his brethren. What a solemn sober truth to utter, and to think of it, FROM THE EDITORIAL COLUMNS OF THE PATRIOT. But our evening friend did not

complete its simile. There is nothing so cold as a story half told, and this enticing old Bible incident is too pointed and rich in illustration to be given in the Patriot's mutilated form. True enough Mr. Gauthier was the favourite of his political father, the grand Old Chief, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who honored him with the coat of many colors, and assigned to him many important party duties as the trusted "messenger of the party." It is true again that in the father's absence the Liberal party betrayed and sold him, and that he is now in "no man's land" the simile of Pharaoh's prison, and that from this place he is INTERPRETING THE (MACKENZIE) KING'S DREAMS, with such accuracy and correctness that ere long he will be amongst the husbandmen of the Empire's business in the wisdom of ruling which is going to save the country from stagnation and starvation. Will the Patriot re-read this entrancing story and note how beautifully it describes this modern parallel?

Novel Condition At Vermont Jail

NEWFARE Vt., Feb. 28.—A prisoner's objecting to having another prisoner as his keeper has called attention to a novel condition at Newfaire jail. When Jailer H. M. Burke was taken to a hospital for treatment the institution was left without a head. John Corcoran, one of the prisoners sent word to a Brattleboro newspaper that Samuel Boyd, a fellow prisoner, had been placed in charge, and that prisoners had gone on strike to obtain food. High Sheriff F. L. Wellman, of Brattleboro, said today that while Boyd in the emergency had been given certain responsibilities, he was never in charge.

A substitute and later a successor to Burke have been on duty, the sheriff said, but he added that Boyd had performed duties of which he would not have approved. The prisoner was given the keys to the cells released and confined other prisoners, took them out on working parties and in other ways helped out. At one time the prisoner-keeper ordered prisoners working on the wood pile to turn to shovelling snow. They went on strike and were returned to other cells by Boyd, refusing to work for a time. This was probably the strike referred to by Corcoran.

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United States Steamer Steamship and United States Steamer Steamship being at the jail under a civil procedure and was the best man available to help out in the emergency.

Collision at Sea Off Pacific Coast

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—One naval enlisted man dead, fifteen missing, two injured; is the result of a collision yesterday between the United States Destroyer Woolsey

1,400 Persons Caught In New York Raid

NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—Prohibition agents raided sixty-four cafes and cabarets, many of them in the white light district, yesterday taking more than 1,400 persons and serving a large quantity of alcoholic beverages.

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Daily Selections Guardian Readers Furnished by W. S. Louson.

HAVE MORE FAITH As we go through this month, we are likely to experience many kinds of weather conditions. Let us however remember, that the sun is drawing nearer and spring time, with all its joy of resurrection in Gods out of doors is daily drawing nearer. Then too for many in our city and province whose hearts are lonely and sad by reason of bereavement, there is comfort in the anniversary of Easter tide. Let not your heart be troubled. Have faith in God. Have faith in our Country and Our King. Have faith in our friends and neighbors and in our selves. Above all else have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Iddy of the Valley, the Rose of Sharon, the bright and Morning Star. We all need more faith just now. We are all undergoing great changes in our lives. The world is at unrest.

My faith looks up to Thee Thou Lamb of Calvary, Saviour Divine. Now hear me while I pray Take all my guilt away. Oh, let me from this day Be wholly Thine.

Last October the writer planted a number of dry looking bulbs in pots of common earth. To day a number of these are in full bloom in my house, repaying one a thousand fold by their beauty and fragrance. Our Master invites us to consider the flowers, and that He cares for them and the little birds. How much more so for us, adding Oh ye of little faith. May well we pray Lord increase our faith.

Simply trusting every day, Trusting through a stormy way; Even when my faith is small Trusting Jesus, that is all. Trusting as the moments fly Trusting as the days go by Trusting Him whatever be, Trusting Jesus, that is all.

DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS

In February, 1920, another "show" was put up. A commission was appointed to report upon the condition of Falconwood Hospital. The Commission promptly reported they found conditions which the previous government had found and provided for. The "conditions" were described by the Patriot in capital letters and lurid adjectives, as an evidence of the "neglect" of the Arsenal government. It never mentioned the fact that THE MATERIAL NEEDED FOR THE REPAIRS HAD BEEN ON HAND IN THE BUILDING, SINCE THE PREVIOUS JUNE WHEN THEY WERE PURCHASED BY THE ARSENAL GOVERNMENT.

The commission's report, as was intended, created a temporary storm but when the deception was exposed by the Guardian, the storm swept back upon those who had raised it and they again became the victims of their own trickery.

At the last session of the legislature the minority report of the Public Accounts Committee was deliberately suppressed and for the first time in the history of the province, refused to be entered on the journals of the House—to further deceive the people.

This is the position of the Bell Government today. They have deceived some of the people some of the time but they have been found out and exposed in every instance. This is why the people whom they have deceived are looking anxiously forward to the coming session

THE WORLD'S FISHERIES

Statistics recently issued by the Department of Marine and Fisheries give the fish catch in the world's principal fisheries for 1919 and 1920. The catch for the latter year was very much greater than for many previous years.

The total value of fresh fish taken in Prince Edward Island last year was \$735,375. In Nova Scotia \$8763,000. Of the P. E. Island catch lobster accounted for \$497,248. The value of the lobster catch in Nova Scotia was \$2,355,735. The oyster crop of this province last year was valued at \$21,423, while that of Nova Scotia amounted to \$12,076.

P. E. Island smelts were valued at \$10,900 while Nova Scotia smelt crop amounted to \$50,821. It is worth noting that Nova Scotia derives a considerable revenue from varieties of fish which we do not make any use of although they are to be found in our waters. For instance, winkles to the value of \$1,915; muscles \$121; catfish \$427, are included in the Nova Scotia list.

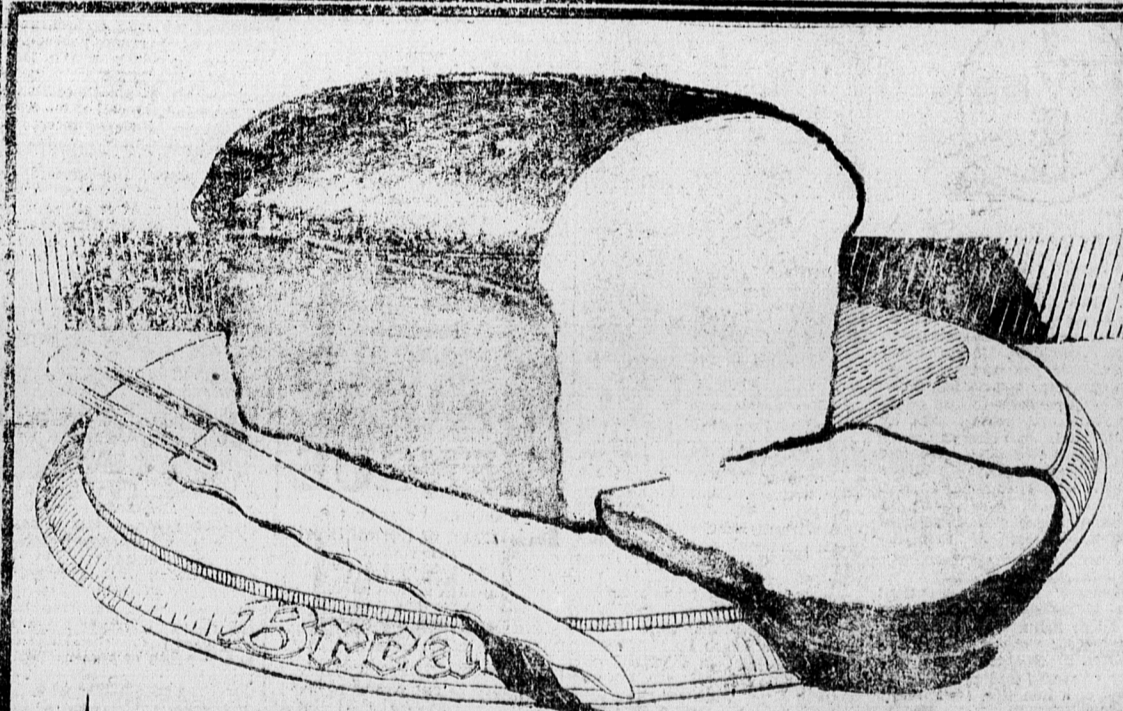
In Scotland, England, Ireland and Norway commanding some of the largest fishing fields in the world the catch was very much larger than in the previous year, a fact which accounts to some extent at least for the low price of fish compared with former years.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The editor of a certain journal when pressed for details regarding its circulation replied "This paper goes from Hudson Bay to the Gulf of Mexico; from the Pacific to the Atlantic. Only the fact that its editor works nights prevents it also going to Hades."

Of course they didn't like it. Too much like a man under sentence of death listening to the sawing and nail hammering of the men outside constructing the gallows for its execution. To him it is a cruel noise and to the Patriot the references of Current Comment to the funeral sermon preached in the House of Commons over the remains of Liberalism by Mr. L. J. Gauthier was equally cruel, and our evening friend in a long and wordy effusion is resenting this unwelcome thrust at its solar plexus. It is wonderful how our romantic friend can adapt identical acts to directly opposite purposes. When the Hon. A. K. McLean and Hon. W. S. Fielding left the party they WERE ELECTED TO SUPPORT, to seek their political fortunes in another camp, they became at once too pure and white for this life, in the opinion of the Patriot, and should at once be equipped with angel wings. But when Mr. Gauthier found himself in "no man's land," after his party had abandoned every principle of the Liberalism that had been his pleasure to support, there was nothing too mean add small for them to conjure up, insinuate and invent, to slander him because of his public spirited and manly determination to stand for the good of his country.

And the Patriot gets busy in cabuse of the Guardian for what it calls "DEPENDING THE TURNCOAT." Unfortunately the Conservative press have had a practical monopoly of defending those whom the Liberal press have made a specialty of attacking with this kind of slander. In the case of Mr. Gauthier, he has neither needed or commanded defense. Our article was more in sympathy with the unfortunate remnant of the Liberal forces, so mercilessly castigated and punished, by Mr. Gauthier, for their political heresies, than in offering anything in a so called defense of the "victim." But all the same we have been called upon too frequently to answer the charges of "Turncoat" and "Traitor" applied by the Liberal press to some of the most prominent, and in



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