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## THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1920  
 AN APPRECIATED CONCESSION

Everyone will rejoice with great rejoicing at the intimation of the abolition of the Luxury Tax. Undoubtedly this tax was a means of considerable revenue to the dominion treasury, and the double purpose it was intended to serve has, in a measure, been accomplished, viz: to raise revenue, and make people realize that they must economize in some shape or form. Where the tax erred was in not distinguishing between what is actually a luxury and what a necessity. The old saying that "What is one man's food is another man's poison," is applicable in this case; what is one man's necessity is another man's luxury. Take for instance, furs. No one in this country can for a moment believe that furs are a luxury; for the greater part of the population they are a necessity, yet for revenue purposes the Finance Minister included them in his list for the Luxury Tax. Another great objection to the tax was, compelling the retail merchants all over the country to become tax gatherers for the government. From early Biblical times the tax gatherers, or "Publican" as he was then called, has not stood in high repute with the people; and certainly no one who has an eye to develop his business along the lines of least resistance, will attempt to combine tax-gathering with his ordinary avocation. The retail merchants all over Canada resented being made the medium through which the government acquired its revenue, and no one will be better pleased than they at the determination to put a period to the practice. The abolition of the Luxury Tax will prove a great boon to the consumer, and coming especially at this gift-giving time will be greatly appreciated both by sellers and buyers alike.

### "CONCERTED ACTION" OF THE PEOPLE

The Patriot in its yesterday's issue, claims that the Federal Government is not entitled to any credit for the abolition of the Luxury Tax. "IT WAS FORCED" it says, "TO ABOLISH IT BY THE CONCERTED ACTION OF THE BUSINESS MEN AND OTHERS INTERESTED - ALL OVER THE COUNTRY". Is not this a matter for credit in itself? The Meighen Government, unlike the Bell Government, recognizes that it is the representative of a democracy, the voice of the people rules and must rule. When the voice of the people made itself heard at Ottawa against the Luxury Tax, the Meighen Government immediately submitted to the will of the people and abolished the tax. But what about the Bell Government and the voice of the people? All over the province the people are bringing concerted action to bear against the Bell Government and calling upon it to resign. Why does not the Bell Government follow the example of the Meighen Government and submit to the will of the people? Now that the Liberal organ sees the light in this matter there is absolutely no excuse for the Bell Government holding on longer to the reins of office. "The concerted action" of the people all over the province demands its resignation; therefore to be consistent, it must perform, resign.

### A DIFFICULT UNDERTAKING

If the Patriot can persuade itself that the people of Kelly's Cross who signed that resolution of protest against the government, are all Bolsheviks and that their resolution was a "tissue of falsehoods and misrepresentations" as it declared was the case in Stanchel, it will have gone a long way to make the rest of the people as contented with conditions as it claims they are. The trouble however is that he feelings prevailing at Kelly's Cross, Stanchel, Green Bay, Bedeque and other places that have already reported, are very generally shared throughout the province and are likely to be similarly expressed in the near future. Of course the exercise keeps the Patriot in good condition to meet the darker days yet to come; it has played the game of bluff with more persistence than honesty and it is now up against the hardest proposition of its journalistic life, namely, to persuade the electors of the province that they are mistaken in their discontent, that they are simply lying when they declare the Bell government has broken every promise it made before election. Nothing can be more difficult than to persuade the people that they are lying. It is a comparatively easy matter to persuade some people that others are lying but it will require more genius than the Patriot can bring to bear upon it to convince people that they are lying themselves.

### CURRENT COMMENT

Truth will out, often when least expected. When we charged the Bell Government with negligence and apathy in the management of public business we never looked even for an indirect confirmation of it in their own press, not at least if they knew it, and more particularly in matters of finance. Silence and suppression was the only thing their previous deportment had led us to look for in relation to the public accounts, and camouflage in such features as they were willing to enter into. In the earliest days of their admission to office they advertised for all accounts against the Government, raked in every possible corner, and, if by so doing they could have

previous year, which, if their departmental reports were not false, had been already settled, how many years will it take to straighten and settle up the mixed and muddled affairs of their own period?

The Patriot in getting after Mr. J. A. Dewar, purposely or otherwise, leaves an impression too serious not to call for a passing notice. Mr. Dewar contested the Cardigan District as an Independent Conservative, and inas-far as he adhered to that platform he did justice to his constituents regardless of their political stripe. To the extent that he wandered away from his own platform, accepting the leadership of an entirely different party, he is open to criticism and as an honest man should at once resign and give those who elected him, whether Liberal or Conservative, the privilege of approving or condemning his action. But the Patriot goes further with a veiled hint at pre-election collusion between Mr. Dewar and the Liberal party. It says, "WE ARE DISAPPOINTED IN MR. DEWAR. HE OWE HIS ELECTION TO THE LIBERAL PARTY." If this does not mean that they had reason to expect his support as a party hireling we fail to understand the language of suggestion. If Mr. Dewar was not under such a secret compact to deceive Conservatives and other electors, in consideration of receiving Liberal support, how in the name of common sense could the Liberals or their organ feel chagrined and "disappointed?"

Candor in public life is a popular virtue and should be insisted upon in connection with all deliberative assemblies dealing with or pretending to deal with national affairs. The political party which is afraid to take the public into their confidence in all questions concerning the interests of the country should not be trusted by the electorate. The hole-and-corner meeting has done its damage in the past and because of its evil influences has been tabooed by the better thinking people of every class. Strongest amongst those who denounced it in the past has been the farmers of the country. But troubles arose in Ontario, between the United Farmers and the United Farmers Government. Premier Drury had the advantage of possession of the offices of state, and, as the custom is with certain loud talking politicians when they attain to power, he pursued his own sweet course without regard to those who elected him, and whose views he expected to adopt. This created an open breach, and a conference was called which was "HELD BEHIND CLOSED DOORS AND THOSE PRESENT WERE CAUTIONED TO SAY AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE CONCERNING THE PROCEEDINGS." But it is announced that as a result the "troubles have been patched up," harmony has, for a time at least, been again restored and Premier Drury to all appearances has won out, and the United Farmers outside must take a back seat.

It is said that an open confession is good for the soul. The Moncton Transcript, quoting the Quebec Telegraph, in its worries over the changing situation in Quebec, unloads itself of this truth, that, "It is thought that MacKenzie King, being a new leader, DID NOT SHOW UP TO ADVANTAGE in an aggressive attack upon the government during the last session." But in view of the many complaints of his weak leadership, and in the hope of pacifying his French Canadian supporters, who apparently would like to throw him over board as a failure, the Telegraph is promising that "This attitude will be changed and he will assume a MORE FORMIDABLE ROLE as leader." But even then, when like the proverbial don key he clothes himself with the lion's skin his apologist is somewhat fearful of the prospects of success. In its highest hope it says "IT IS JUST POSSIBLE THAT THE GOVERNMENT MAY NOT BE ABLE TO DEFEND ITSELF, and in the onslaught no one can tell what will occur." The gravest fear on the other hand, of both the Transcript and the Telegraph, is that from beneath the lion's skin, when parliament meets, they may still hear the old familiar braying.

The wicked feeb when none pursue, and the Liberal party leaders in Quebec are kept busy dodging shadows, but alternately trying to catch them as they pass. Some way of accounting for the marvellous change of political feeling, and of the admitted "dissention in the Liberal ranks", either a scape-goat or a plausible excuse must be found to give up the faithful, and proclaim to the outside world And who better than Mr. Bourassa for the goal, or a revival of the old time

# I Wonder if He Would Like it

How often that question has been put to us at the Xmas season in the past and now we hear it again. But we hear also that "the Muffler I gave him last year is wearing splendid and he always liked it," or "those Ties at \$1.50 are holding their shape awfully good." This season we have one of the largest stocks we ever had the pleasure of showing you.



Our Ties range in price from \$1.00 to \$2.75, and at \$1.50 you buy something particularly nice in a heavy Swiss silk. Any one of those ties will be put in a Xmas Box with card.

Our Mufflers come in the heavy wool for extra cold weather and the fine knitted and plain silks, in all the best shades. Priced from \$2.00 to \$6.50.

Gloves in Unlined, Silk lined, Wool lined, or Fur lined. Priced from \$1.75 to \$5.50.

Fine Australian Wool Coat Sweaters at from \$10.00 to \$15.00. Cheaper grades from \$2.75 up.

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We have many other articles in Men's wear, such as Lounging Robes, Smoking Jackets, Cuff Links, Arm-Bands, Garters, Silk, Cashmere and Heather Wool Hosiery, any one of which would make a suitable Xmas gift.

Don't leave your shopping until the last day. Choose now, when we have lots to show you. No luxury tax on our goods.

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Nationalist-Tory alliance story, as a tangible excuse. Leastways they are resorting to it and his newspaper, Le Devoir is being severely criticized and blamed for the defection of the people from the Liberal ranks. There is sometimes a "sound method in madness" but in this case the method seems to be more in stupidity. After their experience with this game in 1911 they should have sufficient sense left not to again play with this same kind of fire, but without policy and dependent on scandal they play the game.

The Patriot has dished its political poison out to Mr. Dewar, who, if he has proved false to any compact with them, it was of a secret character, but what about Mr. Peter Brodie, M. L. A., for Fort Augustus, who is as much in the limelight, and perhaps more so, than the gentleman it has attacked. He too was not only elected by Liberal votes but was the official nominee of the party convention, and elected as a straight supporter of the Government. Yet openly he opposed their indemnity increase, refused to accept more than \$100, of that increase himself, and now he makes no secret of his withdrawal from the party, and his identification with the farmers party. While the evening organ's right to call Mr. Dewar down might be open to question, it surely is in a position to discipline this recalcitrant member. What has it to say about Mr. Brodie?

### Daily Selections Guardian Readers

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

### THE ART OF GIVING

Giving can be as false and artificial as anything in human experience. It may be the expression of very low and vile motives; it may be the price of sin and shame; it may be the reward of corruption and treachery, or, it may come from the impulse that awakens and stimulates the soul; it may be the strong, brave word of encouragement, the kindly token of interest that sends us rejoicing into a new life with fresh hope and strengthened purpose.

So many tender memories and innocent hopes are bound up with giving, so many day dreams and night visions and heart-flutterings are bound up with the Christmas season and its hallowed customs, that one hesitates to say anything that would suggest unwise giving; yet it is true that Christmas may be hurt and its purposes defeated if it is turned into nothing but a gift-receiving day; the true spirit of it would evaporate and leave behind the dry dust of materialism. It is nevertheless, beautiful to think of making people happy, of bestowing a genuine good time upon those who suffer, of remembering the lonely, of ministering to the needy, of bringing a bright tinge of color to the pallid cheek of the crippled child, of acting the part of the good genius to those who have but fitful and rare gleams of sunshine in their lives, but let it be wise and helpful and timely.

After all, it is the aroma of love and kindly remembrance that consecrates the gifts to the receiver. It is the personal touch, the heart contact, the self-forgetful movement that makes the gift of value and hallows the occasion, and the real pleasure and satisfaction is measured by the extent that we lose sight of self in our act of helpfulness, kindness, service and love.

### 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.

### MILITARY FUNERALS

Sir,—The sympathy of the whole community is, I am sure, given to the family of our respected townsman, Mr. John McLeod, a family practically unique in respect to the numbers contributed to the war, in the loss which has come to it in the passing away of the son Keith. It is one more added to the long list of those who paid war's stult price in the great war.

The funeral last Thursday was a very fine tribute to the deceased. It was especially pleasing to see so many of the G. W. V. A. who did the best possible to honor the memory of their comrade. My purpose in writing is to say that the departed hero should have been accorded a Military Funeral, gun carriage, band and firing squad etc.

If matters are such in this Province, with its splendid military and war record, that such a funeral could not be arranged then steps should be taken to establish an office here from which, upon requisition, everything necessary could be granted. Hoping that there will be no occasion for such a funeral for many years to come, and that should such unfortunately occur, a fitting reward in the way of a Military Funeral will be forthcoming.

I am Sir, etc.  
 T. F. FULLERTON

### From Bad To Worse

Sir,—The state of affairs in the country at present is beyond description. Last summer, when overseers were appointed and could not get teams in their own district, they went to other districts and hired, and some who paid their taxes by work with their teams

were also hired to work in place of others who would not do so. Now these men demanded the pay from the man who hired them. He says he sent their bills to the government but did not receive any money. They have been billed by the government for their tax but they cannot get what is due them for their work. Now, sir, I suppose you can explain the matter to the public, for it is very important. Some men have been billed for their taxes at \$3.00 for Poll Tax besides; others have not been billed at all. Some have had their taxes raised from \$3.00 to \$10.00. What the collector says to know is, will the government compel a man to pay Land and \$3.00 Poll Tax besides? Would you please explain this to the benefit of the public. I am a collector yesterday who said some paid their \$3.00, as others had not been billed for so the collector said for so the man who bungled that he was "pitch the whole thing back to the bunglers."

I am Sir, etc.  
 W. B.

### Screening Potatoes

Sir,—Some potato shippers complain about the quality of the potatoes they are receiving. Being farmer and not a potato buyer, take the stand that the fault, very largely, if not altogether, is the potato buyer. Many of the buyers are working on a five to eight cents commission per bag. They do not put the potatoes over a screen to separate them from the clay and see if there are small or rotten ones among them. Instead, they tribute the bags among the farmers, purchasing the potatoes without seeing a potato go into a bag and in many cases not even seeing the bag weighed. No farmer can pick and bag in one evening from fifty to one hundred bushels of potatoes and do it right. If the potatoes are put over a screen, the keenest eye in daylight will not all the rotten potatoes, to say nothing of picking from fifty to one hundred bushels in one evening with the aid of a lantern. Who does the buyer care? The sooner the potatoes are in the bag, the sooner he gets his commission.

(Continued on page 2)

## The Popular Verdict

It is sometimes advisable to "follow the crowd"—to accept the popular verdict. In respect to Life Insurance, for example, it is clear that very strong reasons must have influenced the numerous persons whose applications for protection have, for thirteen successive years, given the Great-West Life the largest Canadian Business of all the Canadian Companies. Low rates—high profits—liberal policy conditions—have been the reasons.

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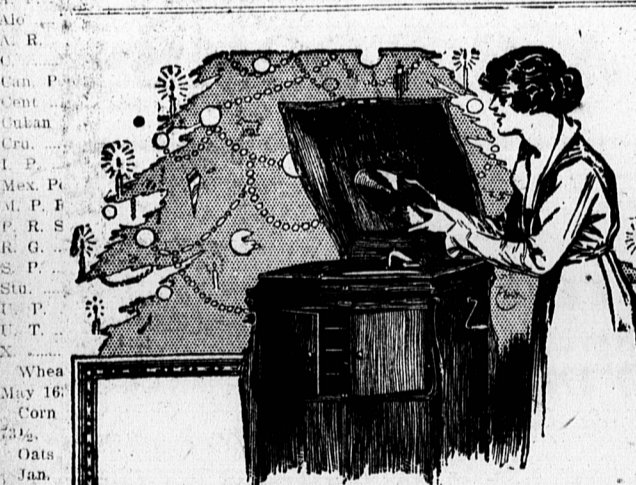
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