

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 1923

CIVIC UNEMPLOYMENT

Snowdrifts still line the city's sidewalks to a depth ranging from the level to seven or eight feet in height. At present they do little harm other than making a sloping sidewalk by day and a skating rink at night. While no doubt, if we exercise patience, these snowdrifts will eventually disappear without any assistance from the city, yet their departure could be materially accelerated by a little inexpensive effort on our part.

It quite frequently happens that men whose families are receiving charity think it unnecessary to accept work when it is offered, preferring to lead a life of idleness and dissipation while the city looks after their families. If there are any such in Charlottetown there should be some effective way of dealing with them. Their families cannot be allowed to starve for food or coal or clothing but any able bodied man who refuses work when it is offered, leaving his family to be supported by charity, should be arrested as a vagrant and either locked up or be compelled to work. Charity is intended only for the really needy and it is their due, willingly given by our generous citizens, but to support a man in wilful idleness is only to participate in his guilt.

WHERE ARE WE AT?

There are many things we need in this province and perhaps our greatest need is to know what we need. We have a demoralizing population; our public health record, for an ideally healthy country climatically, is not what it ought to be; other matters might be placed in the category, but these will serve as a starter. Why is our population diminishing? Have we tried to find out? We know, or think we know, why it would be to the advantage of a young farmer to remain in this province with its never failing crops and its moderate climate, to going west or south to play the gambler's game with untimely frosts, draughts, hailstorms and other untoward uncertainties. But we do not know why he goes.

We know this province would be one of the most desirable, if not the most desirable, provinces in Canada for immigrants to settle in but—well, we know why they don't come—they don't. We know that we have the healthiest country in Canada, but we don't know why we should have so much tuberculosis here; we don't know why it should be necessary to add to the accommodation at Falconwood.

Some of this very desirable, though lacking, information is available without much investigation; much of it requires study and possibly some expenditures. Probably the young farmer who leaves here to go farming elsewhere does not know the conditions here or elsewhere. What are we doing to enlighten him? What are we doing to induce him to remain at home? Absolutely nothing. He wants to settle on a farm of his own; he wants stock and implements. If he had them he could make the farm pay. Not having them he leaves and the province loses him and his family, loses his help for the school

and the church, for the store and the provincial revenue. How many thousand dollars loss to the province is represented in the departure of every man who leaves? A man or woman dies of tuberculosis. Do we know where the disease originated? Do we know whether it is ended by the taking of that one life? We ought to know. If a man or woman breaks down mentally do we know why? Is the trouble hereditary. Has the consanguinity of parents anything to do with it? Is the original stock deteriorating?

The vital statistics are taken yearly, giving, no doubt correctly, the number of births, marriages and deaths. The figures, for figures only they are, may be interesting but until we learn from year to year the causes of deaths and breakdowns, they will be of little value in prevention. The history of every case of tuberculosis and of every mental breakdown should be ascertained and made public in an annual report. In other words we should have at least an occasional survey with a view to definitely ascertaining causes and so arriving at means of prevention.

DR. GRANT WARNS MR. KING

Is the Prime Minister's sense of hearing what it should be? Tens of thousands of voices throughout the Dominion echo the warning of Dr. W. L. Grant, principal of Upper Canada College, as to what is in store for the Government that dares to restore the public service to Canada to the spoils system. Is he deaf to them? No occasion exists to debate again the relative merits of the present Civil Service system and the old patronage system. The present system is not perfect; it may go somewhat too far in denying the Government control over the service. But at its worst it is impossible that it should not be superior to the system under which qualification for the service is assistance to politicians or parties in elections.

That is established, if in face of it Mr. King still gives consideration to the effort of his followers to wreck the Civil Service reform of the Borden Government then the point for him to weigh is whether what he will gain by turning the public service over to his supporters in Parliament will be more than he will lose by the anger of the country at large—the anger that, as Dr. Grant declares, will undoubtedly be visited on him. Political expediency for the King government will not be served by the surrender of the service to the spoils system.—Ottawa Journal.

NEAR EAST SITUATION

The withdrawal of British warships from Smyrna Harbor was in no way connected with the Turkish ultimatum ordering their withdrawal within a specified time. The ships remained far beyond the specified time and nothing happened. Nor would anything have happened had they remained longer. The Turks knew better than to start anything with these. They were withdrawn at the request of Kemal Pasha who now really wishes to avoid war, and in the belief that their withdrawal would help to bring about a settlement. The Turks have so often changed their minds on the question of settlement that it is useless to try to follow the changes and no more is known of the situation than was known a month ago.

Turkish newspapers in Constantinople are publishing dispatches from Angora announcing that a majority in the Grand National Assembly, supported by the military, demand the rejection of the Lausanne peace treaty. The dispatch adds that the extremists are gaining ground.

Notes By The Way

The bye-election in North Essex, Ont., now close at hand, has several features of interest. The vacancy was caused by the death of Hon. W. C. Kennedy, late Minister of Railways in the King Government. In December 1921, Mr. Kennedy was elected by a majority of 7,195 over his Conservative opponent, who made so poor a showing that he lost his deposit. Under such circumstances it was quite naturally expected that the bye-election would go to the Liberal candidate by default. He is Mr. A. F. Healy, a barrister and journalist of Windsor, and was nominated about a month ago. Just on the eve of nomination day the Conservative Convention nominated Col. S. C. Robinson, a retired business man of Walkerton.

Quite a lively campaign had been put on for some weeks by the Liberal candidate, supported by Cabinet Ministers and members of Parliament. Since the nomination Premier Meighen has taken a hand in the fight and Premier King was announced to speak at several meetings, but owing to his having a bad cold Hon. Mr. Fielding was sent in his stead. On the eve of the polling which took place yesterday the general opinion was that the Government candidate would be elected, while Conservatives hoped and Liberals feared that it would be by a decreased majority.

Manitoba's Progressive Government under the leadership of Premier Bracken has been playing in rather hard luck since it came to power some six or eight months ago. The deficit for 1922, in part a legacy from the Liberal predecessors in office is considerably over a million dollars. Business has been depressed, and unemployment has been widespread. New taxes are to be imposed, and this when done by inexperienced and untried men is always a risky venture. Under such circumstances costly mistakes are almost inevitable. The art of ruling wisely and prudently is not learned in a day, as we know to our sorrow here in Prince Edward Island!

The Drury Government in Ontario are putting up the bluff of claiming a surplus for last year. That is an ordinary expenditure. But there was a capital expenditure of \$1,855,000 which compelled the government to float loans amounting to eighty millions of dollars, and hoisted the provincial debt to \$230,000,000. And in three years the ordinary annual expenditure of the province has been increased from \$200,000,000 as it was when the Drury Administration came in to \$374,420,000! This is a record in provincial extravagance. But, like our own Bell Government here, the United Farmers of Ontario conducted their election campaign of 1919 with doleful dirges of the Hearst Government's extravagance, mixed with loud professions of economy. Of course Ontario is a rich and populous province with increasing population while here some things are different.

A fine specimen of Liberal economy has just now been put on by the King Government at Ottawa. There is a large massive structure there which houses the Printing Bureau and has done so for years past. We were told months ago of some hundreds of employees being dismissed from this bureau which does the printing for Parliament. And surely a much smaller staff is needed in this and other departments than was needed in war times. But the estimates brought down by Mr. Fielding contain an item of half a million dollars towards a new building for the Printing Bureau. That is for one-year's outlay in erecting a new building estimated to cost \$2,000,000! Another bill to be added to the galleries of Parliament Hill. That's the way the money goes in these days of economy.

Some think we want another winter steamer, and others would like to have the National Railway lines to Souris, Georgetown, Montague and Murray Harbor standardized this year. Very likely some of the good people of King's County would like to have the Elmir Branch shoveled out. But these must wait. Money is scarce and we must be patient, we are told. Only the most urgent demands for new expenditures can be allowed. And the most urgent demand of the hour is for a new two-million-dollar building in Ottawa. Our soldiers will not come, so they are voting the money with eager haste.

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.

Are Missions Worth While?

Sir,—While reading with deep interest your report of Major Genge's able lecture on Christianity and Mohammedanism I argued to myself "that he is right, 't is true; 't is pity, 't is 't is true." Why should we be called upon to support missions. Major Genge who has recently returned from a prolonged stay in the East is perfectly satisfied from his personal observations that Christianity is unloved to the East, notwithstanding that it had its origin there. He tells us who contribute largely to missionary enterprises, that we are throwing away our money, that personally he had never seen a truly christianized Hindoo or Mohammedan and that any who professed to be Christian merely did so in order to get government jobs or to learn English at the Mission schools. In other words there are no converts only hypocrites. This is a terrible indictment of our missionary enterprises to be launched in one of our churches foremost in the support of missions. Are there any others here who can at first hand substantiate Major Genge's allegations, or contradict them? The matter surely cannot rest where it is. I am Sir, etc., CHURCH WORKER.

The Shift System

Sir,—Kindly permit me space in your valuable paper to endorse the recent letters of Mr. S. F. Tarbush and the Rev. Mr. MacPherson of Hampton, re our winter roads and method of travelling. As this is my first winter upon this Island I was frequently told during the course of last fall that there would be times when in the winter I would not be able to get over the road at all. I thought that these kind friends were just indulging in a bit of good natured banter and that they perhaps regarded me more or less as a tenderfoot and of course I always made up my mind that they were in for a few surprises when winter came. You see I was banking on my experience, for having spent eight years in the neighboring province of N.B., and I believe that it is cold enough there to suit even the most fastidious, but alas, instead of my friends being disillusioned, as I had quietly made up my mind that they would be, they were right in their prognostications and it was impossible to keep my appointments, cold; it rarely was but that was not the reason. No, Sir, the reason was I was not fully equipped for an Island winter. I could steer a dog team (so that I could avoid the necessity of looking for a trail which some people persist in calling by the dignified name of Road) or a flying machine so that I could ascend high above what some people persist in calling a road, but which to me has no resemblance of a road, but is more like a cattle track. To start out on a journey today means that you are most of the time travelling two ways at once, and when you are not travelling two ways at once you are going up and down over pitches like some mountain railway. I must confess that in two weeks I received more shaking and inconvenience than I received in N.B. in eight years of experience of winter roads.

Now, Sir, it has been a matter of great surprise to me to find such an antiquated system of trying to make and keep a winter road, as there is in existence on this Island. In the first place, the method adopted is but a relic of the antiquarian period for I maintain that it is impossible to make a road worthy of that name by the system adopted by our road masters viz—by the driving of a light wood sledge over the road, particularly after a heavy storm. Such an experience, in January, such action leaves the centre of the road full of holes, and where from 12 to 18 feet deep. The result is that the next horse that comes along finds himself feeling for those holes and when those holes get broken and it is impossible to drive a horse faster than a walk, the result is that under the present system, our public men, doctors and mill owners are compelled to spend twice the amount of time upon the road that they normally should. Think what that means.

I must confess that to me it is a mystery how we should try to go through the winter with such an unsatisfactory way of travelling. Wherein lies the remedy? The remedy lies in the adoption of what is known as the shift system, as practised in the Sister provinces of the Dominion. I do not think that I need trespass further on your space to explain that system as that was fully done by the letter of Mr. Tarbush and by the Rev. Mr. MacPherson. Since winter began I have not ceased to explain the disadvantages of our winter road system and I have been impressed by the patient and interested hearing which I have always received, an interest which is suggestive of one thing and that is that if there is any change in the making and the maintenance of winter roads, any change in the method of travelling thereon, it must be for the

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better as they could not possibly be worse than under the present conditions. I am Sir, etc., (REV.) THOS PALETHORPE Mount Stewart.

Citizen A swears

Sir,—In eager anxiety for some show of whitening to brighten up the picture of the booze traffic its votaries ravenously grasp at any and every shred of comfort scattered by the wayside, regardless of the soundness of the argument or accuracy of the utterance. "Citizen" in Wednesday's Guardian quotes at length from one of these, the "Boston News Bureau," what he calls a "convincing article," as it surely is to the bird easily caught with chaff. One of the absurdities of its reasonings is the claim that the "fleet of (just exactly) thirty ships outside New York Harbour," etc., held outside the three mile limit which measured from head land to head land, where the thirty might have to sail over a hundred miles to get a drink, is more conducive to drunkenness than the saloons were everywhere open by the wayside.

It next places some statistics to pervert fact, fixable as in a paper which had its correct state statistics easily within reach. The one crumb of questionable comfort it derived was in an increase of prisoners in Massachusetts jails and prisons in 1922 over that of 1920. If carefully avoided the fact that jails and prisons constitute only a minority of the corrective institutions of the State, that the increase is wholly in offenses against property, due first to the crime wave and secondly to a reorganization of the police system under which the offenders were more rigidly gathered in. It also carefully conceals the fact that all over the country this increase of prisoners was everywhere more pronounced and greater in the "wet" than in the "dry" localities.

I am not going to newspaper scraps for my information, but to the fountain head of facts for my figures and I have the official records at hand with the detailed statements of every corrective department. From the report of the Boston Police Commissioner I learn that the average of arrests for drunkenness in the "wet" years, 1912 to 1919 were 59,308 persons, in the two Prohibition years, 1920-1921, only 26,399 making a decrease of 55 per cent. From the Massachusetts Department of Corrections' Report the total average of drunks arrested in the whole State in the six year years 1913-18 was 98,328; while under Prohibition in the two years 1920-1921 the state arrests were 44,333, making the same ratio of decrease as in Boston, that is 55 per cent.

Let me now give a quotation from the Massachusetts Director of Prisons, Annual Report 1919, page 9, "Not since prison statistics in this state have been compiled have there been so few commitments to the penal institutions of the Commonwealth. War time prohibition put into effect last July added another cause to those already existing for our low (prison) population. It is doubtful with prohibition in effect if we will ever see a very great increase in the number of commitments for many years to come." "The task of dealing with offenders is made easier by the withdrawal from consideration of those offenders whose crimes were due to the excessive use of intoxicants. We may expect the continued low number of commitments of these offenders prostitution which

was due in a large measure to the liquor dispensing cafe, is considerably on the wane."

By heavy odds minor crimes and delinquencies in Massachusetts are dealt with in Reformatories, Houses of Correction, State Farms and similar houses of correction, which much more correctly indicate the influence of prohibition in matters of vagrancy and crime than does the prison or jail for hardened criminals. Of 209,116 arrests for all causes in 1917 only 5,239 went to jail or prison, the remainder, out of 121,210 convicted being diverted to these Houses of Correction. What is the official record of these? One jail was closed in 1919. Five were closed in 1920 and two others though not officially closed were empty."

The Department of Corrections Report shows a falling off in the arrests of women for drunkenness in the state, under prohibition, of 59 per cent; a decrease of women commitments to reformatories of 83 per cent; a decrease of men commitments of 94 per cent, and of state farm commitments of 86 per cent for drunkenness. In the Juvenile Court of Boston there was a decrease of 13 per cent of cases on trial and the heavy increase of 52 per cent in the number of Neglected Children. In the State Report there was a falling off of actions for non support of 31 per cent under prohibition. And this is the story that I might continue with unanswerable proofs, which I have in hand, touching every species of criminal activity of state and national charity.

On the economic question let me quote from "The Banker and Tradesman" an authority that takes no second place to the "News Bureau" (Boston, Dec. 31, 1921).—"Burying has been unexpectedly heavy during the holiday season; savings accounts in the banks are steadily on the increase, all this in spite of unemployment and other troubles. Looks as though prohibition has made a lot of money available for the above purposes that formerly went into booze.

These that I have referred to are substantial facts, taken from public documents, of which I could give in much more abundance, and not of the wayward gossip and roadside scraps picked up by "citizen" and others in their efforts to keep above water the delirium of the discredited traffic. Nor is it of the hearsay flimsy character so frequently dished out by the Beacon Street liquor clerk (John D. McIntyre) from whose statements of fact (?) if you ran a mile of them through a fine hair cloth sieve it would puzzle you to extract a syllable of damaging truth. I am Sir, etc. PROHIBITIONIST

Practically Hands Money to the French

BERLIN, March 1.—The Reichsbank today practically presented the French with 12,900,000,000 paper marks by shipping them to Cologne on a train certain to be searched. The money was sent in a third-class carriage guarded by two employees. The French customs officials on the frontier between occupied and unoccupied easily discovered it. The money seized is only about one-fifth of the daily output, but as the French also seized plates of the new 50,000 and 100,000 mark issues, newspapers naively express fear the French will counteract marks.

Daily Selections For Guardian Readers

From the W. S. Luson collection

RADIO VOICES

Their course they sweep through trackless air. True as the homing pigeon flight; Through sun and shadow calm and storm. At brilliant noon a deep of night. O'er mountain, cañon, land and sea. At silent call, they come to me. They come to me. Sweet voices come. And blended melodies and song. The happy lilt of mythic rhymes and strains. I speak the ancient "Besame" And swift they come, they come to me! In the warm glow of lamp and fire I sit at ease and hold communion With unseen friends: 'tis but by quired That with them I shall be in tune. Enchanted hour! I turn the key And lo, they come they come to me!

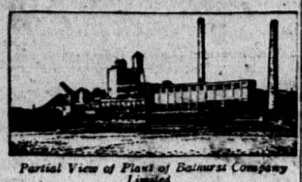
More wondrous than Aladdin's dream. This triumphing o'er time and space! No more can hours or leagues divide. Though face may never look on face, Thought, riding on the upper air, Unites earth's peoples everywhere. Beatrice Clayton

Be always at leisure to do good—never make business an excuse to decline the offices of humanity. Without content, we shall find almost as difficult to please others as ourselves.



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Robbed of \$100,000 Worth of Diamonds

CHICAGO, Feb. 28.—Henry C. Hart, a New York diamond salesman, who gave his address as 87 Nassau Street, reported to the police today that he had been robbed by two armed men of \$100,000 worth of diamonds in a downtown building. The robbers threw the elevator operator from the cage at the sixth floor, he told the police, and with Hart a prisoner, mounted several floors higher in the building at 130 North State Street. They stopped the elevator and, menacing him with their revolvers, took his pouch of diamonds. Hart said, and left him on an upper floor.

