

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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AN INSPIRING CONVENTION.

The new leader of the Liberal Conservative party in the province, Mr. J. D. Stewart, K.C., has reason to be justly proud of the highly successful and inspiring convention held here yesterday.

Mr. J. M. B. Baxter, M. P., the leader of the New Brunswick Liberal Conservatives, who paid a surprise visit to the convention, declared he had received renewed inspiration through finding so many farmers from the length and breadth of the province, leaving their farms at this busy season to devote a day to the interests of party and country.

The meetings were not intended as political demonstrations; they were for purely business purposes. Notwithstanding such a spirit of optimism and enthusiasm prevailed that the speeches of the platform party and others who took part from the body of the hall were the occasion of frequent and enthusiastic applause.

A comprehensive and effective constitution for the provincial party was adopted and it now remains for the respective counties to complete the organization which it is intended they shall do forthwith. Dominion and local elections cannot now be long delayed, the former being due next year and the bye-elections for the local legislature are already overdue. It is therefore the part of wisdom for each county to heed the advice of the new leader and set its house in order with the least possible delay.

There was no mistaking the enthusiasm the party has for its federal leader, Premier Meighen. The announcement that he was likely to visit the province at an early date was greeted with delight, and the resolution of confidence in him was adopted by a rousing and upstanding vote. All the addresses were pitched on high note and that of Mr. Baxter especially touched an echoing chord in all hearts when he denounced extravagant and uneconomic expenditure on roads and other public works. A subsequent resolution called upon the federal government to take particular care to see that the money being expended upon so called permanent roads was not being largely thrown away.

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CHARLOTTETOWN'S GROWTH.

Charlottetown has grown some in the past ten years both in area and in population. Doubtless it will continue to grow as time goes on for it possesses many of the features which make for growth and improvement. It is ideally situated; it has a fine harbor, enterprising citizens, good schools, many churches, creditable streets and sidewalks, the best water in the world and, in short, everything necessary to make a flourishing city and the centre of a flourishing country.

There is one serious obstacle to any considerable extension of the city's boundaries, namely, the want of a street car service. Until such services is provided we cannot hope to see the city grow much beyond its present limits. With such a service there is no reason why it should not extend for miles into the country.

The city limits are now farther from the business centre than their occupants would like to have them. While residences are practically unobtainable within the city limits few people whose business is in the centre of the city—and that is where all the business is—would care to build in what is now the outskirts as they would require to keep either a horse and carriage or an automobile to take them to and from their business.

Some time ago a proposition was launched to inaugurate a motor car service using the streets, with- out rails. The project was generally hailed as the one thing needed but something happened and the thing was dropped.

Either the abandonment of the proposition or the manner of its inception was a misfortune. It is possible that the undertaking was unwisely conceived but this should not prevent the carrying out of a proposition similar with the unfavorable features eliminated. We have the business for a successful street car service; we have a city bursting its bounds and wanting to grow but cannot without such a service. Why cannot we have it? In granting a franchise for such an undertaking the City Council should not be too exacting; in seeking such a franchise the promoters should be willing to give and take. The whole city, we venture to say, would hail with pleasure the inauguration of such a service; it has paid elsewhere; it would pay here. Who will undertake it?

Current Comment

Under this most appropriate heading—"A Matter of Mud", the Moncton Transcript conducts an audible soliloquy upon the why's and wherefore's of the Hon. Rudolph Lemieux's skulking away from the judicial tests of his sincerity in the matter of charges made by him in the dying hours of the session by which he thought to splutter a good dose of "Mud" at the Government, to be implemented by further dashes of his dirt during the recess. Through the prompt action of Premier Meighen Mr. Lemieux's trap was immediately sprung upon himself and to his extreme disappointment he became himself the first and only victim. As is most natural, especially with Liberalism, the press of his party comes to his rescue, not because of his personal punishment, for unfeeling they concern themselves very little along the lines of human sympathy, but because this was a party scheme, probably concocted in caucus, in which the ex-Postmaster General was the cats-paw, and having in their interests got into the scrape they must do their bit to help their gall in his distress. Caught red-handed in the act there is no de-

logue then melts into vagaries of a dream in which such a change in procedure would have been in the nature of a rebuke to the Meighen and Borden (not to say also the Laurier) governments which more than any other government had the habit of shouldering responsibility upon Commissions of various sorts." We quote this poppy-cock only to show how ridiculous a newspaper can be when it tries hard enough.

In the Transcript's opinion "Mr. Lemieux's stand is logical enough, but it may well seem to the laymen that he attaches too much importance to procedure, as men of his profession are prone to do. Of course, a bad excuse is better than none at all and this is all that this pretends to be. When this Commission was announced in parliament there was no objection entered to the procedure either by Mr. Lemieux or any one else on his behalf, and even after its appointment was decided upon there was quite a jubilation in the Liberal press over the scene of devastation of the Government that Mr. Lemieux was going to create at its assembling. In fact he thought and prayed and hoped that the Minister of Justice would stay his hand and not hold the investigation, and not until he found himself up against the stern and solid fact of a judicial enquiry did he commence to squirm and flunk and shirk. That is all the "logic" there is in his action, and as for Mr. Lemieux "fighting for a principle" as the Transcript claims, the real truth at this stage is that he is fighting for nothing else now than to save his own political skin.

There is considerable of the taking of back-water in the Transcript's reluctant admission that, "Possibly the transaction to which Mr. Lemieux objects was perfectly legal, but it looks open to suspicion." The Moncton organ knows, not only that it is "perfectly legal," but also that it neither "looks" or is even open to a shadow of "suspicion." It asks why this "claim" presented in 1917, if good was not satisfied by the government (till 1921,—especially as men connected with the Parc St. Charles Company took an unusual part in the Yamas- ka election." The Transcript knows, or should know why. The case has been in the courts, resisted until 1921, and the final decision of the Supreme Court of Canada was only rendered in June, just a few weeks before the vote for payment was proposed in parliament, when the money had to be paid. Its attempt to draw in the Yamas- ka election as a factor is what makes it "A Matter of Mud", in the slinging of which Mr. Lemieux has found the backward rebound, and in which he together with his supporting press are now busy in the search for expedients to cover up their tracks, and to get their man out of the unhappy predicament into which he worked himself.

WOMAN POISONED BY CAN MARMALADE.—Mrs. John S. Johnson of Newcastle became seriously ill from an attack of ptomaine poisoning early today, caused by eating some marmalade which had been exposed to the air while still in the can container. All hope was given up for some time, but Mrs. Johnson rallied, and is feeling a little better. She is out of danger.

First British Citizen. The shifty Prime Minister has played the King on several occasions because he knows that notwithstanding what has happened to European royalty as a result of the war, the royal house of Britain was never more firmly established than at the present moment. Occasionally a writer like Wells suggests that it be abolished. Nobody pays any more attention to the idea than to the ravings of a Hyde Park orator. The King of England remains the first citizen of the Empire. His influence is the greatest. It is the influence of the Irish question, and we can hardly doubt that the moving words of His Majesty in opening the Belfast Parliament, when he urged Irishmen to get together, and to "forgive and forget" was one of the most powerful factors in bringing about the peace parleys.

The Throne Embarrassed. Mr. Wilson says that there were moments when the Throne was bound to be embarrassed, and when the Premier insisted upon drastic action. Princes who had taken the side of Germany were dispossessed of their British peerages and pensions and expelled from the House of Lords. Monarchs fighting against the Allies were struck from the Order of the Garter and their banners removed from St. George's Chapel, Windsor. The House of Hanover was renamed the House of Windsor, and seven highnesses were changed into marquises and earls. Thus was the royal family thoroughly anglicized, and purged of Teuton taint and tongue. Princess Patricia of Connaught became the wife of Captain Ramsay and renounced her royal titles, while the brother of the Queen of Spain married a daughter of the Earl of Lonsborough, whose peerage in that degree is one of the most recent.

Popular and Respected. Yet despite these great changes we find the King more influential than ever before. Nobody is better aware of this than the Prime Minister, who has been able more than once to strengthen his own position on this account. He appears to enjoy royal favor to an unprecedented honor paid him when on his return from the recent negotiations in Paris he was met at the railway station by the entire royal family. The friendship is said by Mr. Wilson to date from

Daily Selections for Guardian Readers

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

Each in His Own Tongue. A fire mist, and a planet, A crystal and a cell, A jellyfish and a saurin, And caves where the cave men dwell; Then a sense of law and beauty And a face turned from the clod; Some call it Evolution, And other call it God. A haze on the horizon, The infinite, tender sky, The ripe, rich tint of the corn fields, And the wild goose sailing high; And all over upland and lowland The charm of the goldenrod; Some of us call it Autumn, And others call it God. A picket frozen on duty, A mother starved for her brood; Socrates drinking the hemlock, And Jesus on the road; And millions who, humble and nameless, The straight, hard pathway trod— Some call it Consolation, And others call it God. William Herbert Carruth.

THE TRUE LIGHT

By R. W. Glider Through love to light! How wonderful the way That leads through darkness to the perfect day! Through darkness and through scrowls of the night To morning, that comes shining o'er the sea! Through love to light! Through light, O God to Thee! Who are the Love of love! The eternal Light of light!

Playing the King Lloyd George's Game

To an article written for the New York Times before the controversy between Lloyd George and Northcliffe, Mr. P. W. Wilson, American correspondent of a London newspaper and formerly a member of the House of Commons, applies an accidentally apt title, "Playing the King" he calls it, and the player is Lloyd George. Certainly the adroit Prime Minister never before played the King so effectively as in the Northcliffe dispute. Blunders gave him his opportunity. It was a blunder of Mr. Wickham Steed to give the interview in which he unwisely dramatized the interview between the King and the Premier. It was a blunder for this interview to appear in one of Lord Northcliffe's own papers as having been given by him. It is true Mr. Steed gave the interview with Lord Northcliffe's sanction as representing the Northcliffe point of view. It is also unfortunately true that after the interview appeared several days elapsed before Lord Northcliffe issued his denial. Lloyd George might have denied the correctness of the alleged interview, and no doubt the majority of people who read his statement would have believed him. But he saw an opportunity to crush Northcliffe, as he thought. So he played the King.

A Unique Incident

For the King to make such a statement is extremely rare. We cannot recall a similar case where royalty, as it were, rose to a question of privilege. The good taste of Lloyd George in suggesting such a course is questionable, but it gave him a chance to strike the publisher which overrode questions of taste. One can only speculate as to whether the desire for the King's desire, or whether it was the desire of his Prime Minister. The King is a constitutional monarch, but can hardly be expected to accept all advice of his ministers on personal matters. Yet King George can perform unconventional acts. We remember how he appealed to the law like any of his subjects to give him redress from a writer who had married the daughter of a naval officer. The standerer was sent to prison.

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Others' View Points

What the Public Wants. (From Forbes Magazine.) When the principal mercantile houses in Chicago petition their Washington representatives to oppose the high schedules in the Fordney tariff, it sought to convince even the most ardent protectionists that the Bill is calculated to enrage the rank and file of the American people. The House had gumption enough to kill the proposed levy on imports of oil and hides. There are other levies, and many of them which should and doubtless will receive similar treatment at the hands of the Senate. The truth is that consumers in this country fell none too friendly towards business interests, because of the wholesale grouping which was indulged in during and after the war, and because of the many revelations of extortion and graft in numerous trades and industries. The Administration will be wise if it gives first consideration to the interests of the public rather than the interests of that other powerful industry or group. Let tariff legislation wait until tax legislation of the brand demanded by the people has been enacted. The public will be better served by low taxation than a high tariff.

Quebec's Welcome.

(From the Quebec Telegraph.) Our country has been signally honored in the choice of the statesmen who have been selected from time to time to preside over its destinies, and many of whom, including Lords Dufferin, Lorne,

the death of King Edward, when after a few words of condolence the King is said to have remarked, "Mr. Lloyd George you are the first man who has said to me a human word." The Prime Minister knows however much he himself may be distrusted by certain groups, the King is revered by all. He is as popular with the Laborites as with the old Tories. Will Crooks, of Woolwich and Popular was a valued friend of both the King and the Queen. Of what the Prince of Wales has done to increase the affection and admiration which the British people feel for the House of Windsor it is unnecessary to speak. Lloyd George knows all these things and appreciates that the King is the strongest card he ever holds.

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