

The Charlottetown Guardian

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Feathering Their Nests

An inspection of the Public Accounts of the Province for the past year indicates pretty clearly that the Campbell Government have no intention of "staring at home" in implementing their budget-balancing pledges.

Take Premier Campbell for example. As Attorney General he receives \$2,000 (\$500 more than his predecessor). As Premier, \$1,000. As Provincial Secretary-Treasurer, \$500.

Coming to Hon. Mr. LePage, we recall it was the proud boast of that gentleman in the last election that he got nothing out of politics but his sessional indemnity.

Hon. Mr. McIntyre, in addition to his indemnity and his \$2,000 as Public Works Minister and \$450 travelling expenses, plus his new car provided by the taxpayers, received another \$275 for travelling to Ottawa.

Coming to Hon. Mr. Dennis' department, the first thing we notice is that instead of the estimated \$2,800 transportation expenses for his officials, \$3,600 was expended last year.

The Minister himself has had his salary increased—apparently without any legislative authority—from \$1,500 to \$2,000.

It will be recalled that at the September 1935 session, Mr. Dennis reminded his colleagues that they had promised to abolish the portfolio of Public Health.

Hon. Mr. Campbell explained to the House at that time that the Government contemplated attaching the Public Health portfolio to another portfolio without additional remuneration.

In the 1936 Accounts we note that while Hon. Mr. McGuigan received the former salary of \$1,000 as Minister of Education, plus \$250 travelling expenses, he also received \$521.00 as Minister of Public Health.

Travelling expenses in the Public Health Department exceeded the estimates by \$1,465. Another case of Liberal "economy" in abolishing officials' motor cars, apparently.

Altogether, it would seem that our "budget balancers" are doing pretty well by themselves, however tardy they may be in implementing their election pledges.

Liberalism In Ontario

As a commentary on "the decay of Liberal idealism" a Toronto paper cites the passage through the Ontario Legislature of Bill 110.

"Bill 110 had an innocuous enough label. It was an act to amend the Ontario Securities Act. But this mantle of gentility covered an ogre.

"Such a bill should have shaken the legislative building to their foundations. The statutes of great reformers should have turned in alarm.

"None of these things happened. The bill went through like an act to permit the diversion of Smith's Creek.

"So little does personal liberty mean in these days of the omniscient state, of regimented business, of disciplined thinking, of the persecution of individualism and rewarding of indolence!"

Editorial Notes

Consumer goods, President Roosevelt says, are too high in price; and he describes these as food stuffs, wearing apparel and tobacco.

It would seem as though Coronation visitors to London must take their own autos with them. The bus strike, if it materializes, would be quickly followed by a taxi strike.

This is the eighty-fourth birthday of the Hon. George E. Hughes who will be receiving congratulations from a host of friends and admirers.

President Roosevelt "broke" the stock gambling racket by merely telling the powers-that-be his Government was done with steel bridges and such like for sometime.

In attempting to control the manufacture and sale of war materials to prevent undue private profit, the Government has succeeded in putting into the control of the Government the greatest patronage ever.

An inquiry came from Montreal the other day for two cars of potatoes. The price quoted here was considered too high, and the Montrealer wired Fredericton, N.B., with the result that New Brunswick got the order not only for the two cars, but to cars additional later.

It is reported that the King Government intend resuscitating the Biological Board of Canada under the name of the Fisheries Research Board. It is further reported that it will be divisional in its operations, the three Maritimes to be one division.

According to the King Government the flag to be flown in London as that of Canada is the Coat of Arms with the Royal Crown at the top. It will be the same Coat of Arms as used on the Red Ensign.

Mr. Pierre Gauthier, M.P., for Portneuf, has been informed in the House of Commons that the present population, as officially estimated, is 11,100,000, quite a respectable number.

Saint John, N.B., has been having its own police troubles during the past eighteen months and apparently they are not over yet.

Mr. G. G. McGeer, M.P., succeeds in keeping in the limelight, notwithstanding Prime Minister King's well intentioned efforts to suppress him.

Britain has, in the years since the Great War, made two gestures towards peace. At first, by precept and example, she worked for disarmament, directly. The plan failed.

Notes By The Way

There is hardly any holder of the eyes of man more binding than the visible, the more sight of a thing:—A primrose by the river's brim, A yellow primrose was to him, And it was nothing more.

England is the place where a King-Empress may abdicate a most overnight, but by and large England the place which uses by its public men with least speed.

Modern art has hit its stride at New York. The latest in what is known as surrealism, brought within the plane of average understanding, it comprises such subjects as dreams.

"Believe us," said Sears, Roebuck employees in Paducah, Ky., in a "quicker-than-a-wink" presentation when the company presented each employee with a check to cover their personal losses occasioned by flood water in our homes.

The roads have not kept pace with the growth of motor traffic since 1930. That growth has been phenomenal, and was not even interrupted by the great depression of 1931.

Rt. Hon. Stanley Baldwin seems to have renounced the old proverb that it now reads "Where there is hope, there is hope."

This notion, as it were, of trying kindness in Great Britain seems to be the sensible thing. "Road sense"—that is a useful word of Sir John Simon's—is no doubt mainly a matter of native intelligence.

If a man were to bet \$17,000,000 against \$1 that he could toss a booklet into the air, and catch it as it falls, he certainly would be thought to be foolish.

In the speech he shouted at his Fascist followers at Rome on Tuesday, Premier Benito Mussolini is reported to have said: "To the bad faith of others, we shall oppose our indestructible will; to the castles of lies of others, the gusts of our impetuous and tempestuous truth; to the blind nature of others, our conscious contempt."

Having worked for three days with a dislocated neck, an Australian doctor had the dislocation pushed back into position when he was flung six feet after receiving a 11,000 volt shock from an x-ray machine.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

SINKING FUND DEFICITS

Table with columns: Issue, Maturity, Amount, S.F. Provided, S.F. Shortage. Rows include dates from 1st May 1933 to 1st Nov 1927.

That is to say, no less a sum than \$17,750 is being short provided annually as sinking fund for to meet the several bond issues at maturity, i.e., \$152,465 instead of \$331,205.

The Provincial Auditor's certificate to the sinking fund statement details all contributions during the period have been made in accord with the various statutes in force.

provision of sinking fund. Another bond issue of \$175,000 on 1st Sept., 1922 for 15 years matures on 1st Sept., 1937, for the repayment of which sinking fund of 4% was provided instead of 4% with the result that the accumulated sinking fund at the 31st Dec. 1936, amounted to only \$74,068.81 to meet \$175,000 becoming due on the 1st Sept. 1937.

Many of the issues falling due in future years are similarly being insufficiently provided in the sinking fund, as follows:

Table with columns: Amount, S.F. Provided, S.F. Shortage. Rows include amounts from \$250,000 to \$60,000.

That is to say, no less a sum than \$17,750 is being short provided annually as sinking fund for to meet the several bond issues at maturity, i.e., \$152,465 instead of \$331,205.

I am, Sir, etc., PRO BONO PUBLICO.

PROHIBITION

Sir,—What are the temperance forces doing, or propose to do, to cope with deplorable conditions, and meet emergency? The warnings have been sounded often enough, and they must be blind if they fail to see what is in prospect.

A tender hearted farm wife, when about to kill a chicken, would soothe it with words and smoothing of feathers,—"poor little chickie, dear little chickie," then off comes its head.

That has been the method of Liberal decapitation of our Prohibition Act, and with soft words they hull temperance people, while move by move they work destruction to our oft confirmed anti-liquor laws.

With facts before us so plainly, imbedded into our reason, with a force that even stupidity cannot resist, of prostituting the temperance laws to the raising of revenues, with its consequent debauchment of raising generations, is there any justification for the apathy of those who have undertaken leadership in stemming the tide of liquor traffic encroachments?

Some ask the question,—What can we do? We are supposed to be under constitutional government. People's rights have to be protected. They are constitutional methods that can be employed.

First, indignation meetings demanding resignation of a party, who have proven false to election promises. Then, the country having by many repeated votes established prohibition as provincial law, application to the courts high establish it as compellable to the absent of the people, to abrogate those laws. Otherwise responsible government is a farce.

Other remedies have been employed in the past. Cromwell gave a lesson to a parliament opposing the will of the people. The famed "Tenant League" in our own province brought recalcitrant public men to their senses when they compelled settlement of the land in our more enlightened age, but men should be taught to respect their pledges and to recognize the public's right to rule.

I am, Sir, etc. PROHIBITIONIST. COMMON-SENSE SCHOOL STUDIES

Sir,—Permit another comment on this topic. Some careful reader might think that the Guardian's Friday editorial, "Why Latin?" was an argument against the farmer's plea for eliminating certain useless subjects from the common-school course.

Again, while Latin has entered into the structure of the romance languages, as Butler said, and therefore will help those going on to the study of them, to force it upon our younger pupils is to take the "romance" out of school and study, and the doctor continued his work. While he was assisting with the x-ray machine the doctor's head made contact between the side of the transmitting valve and the steel casing of the machine.

with the various statutes in force. Surely the statutes should provide for adequate sinking fund to meet the bond issues at maturity instead of the absurdly inadequate provision at present being made.

I am, Sir, etc., PRO BONO PUBLICO.

Cathedral with the jerry-built apartment house, does not touch the condition of the average citizen who will never be able to build the cathedral and does not want an apartment-house. He would clearly like an attractive and comfortable cottage which indeed ought to be within his reach.

Lastly, the plea of the farmers and their supporters is not for a "dollars-and-cents" course as contrasted with cultural studies. Their real objection is that the present course is not cultural in any sense of the word. It makes real culture impossible. It fails to give access to any foreign literature, and it prevents mastery of our own. From private correspondence as well as from letters in the press, it is evident that a large body of professional thought supports the farmers' plea for a common-sense curriculum.

Let the educational authorities give a chance to our youth through the medium of our native tongue to explore the world in which we live, its structure, processes, development, resources, and trace the progress of the society to which we belong. Its achievements in mechanical invention, economic enterprise, political organization, and artistic and literary expression, as an aid to making the most of their lives, and giving their fullest contribution to the community. That would be real culture. A poor smattering of a foreign language, all forgotten in a few years, is a sorry substitute for the reality—and the farmers and wage-earners of today know it. They will soon open the eyes of parsons, priests, pedagogues, professional politicians, and plutocrats. Sham culture has had its day!

I am, Sir, etc. J. W. A. NICHOLSON, North Bedouque.

CLAIMS STUDENT SAVED INDUSTRY

Kentville, N. S. April 4—(CP)—The "Danke Herald," a Danish paper, published here, gives credit to Thorbjørn Thorsen, graduate in fisheries from Dalhousie University, Halifax; for saving the Iceland fishing industry.

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Behind The Headlines At Ottawa

By Dean Wilson

It was revealed in this column last week that a momentous agreement was being completed between the Governments of United States, Great Britain and Canada and which directly involves the interests of the whole British Empire.

Everyone concerned in these historical manoeuvres have exercised unusual care in keeping these negotiations a secret as possible but in face of the fact that only a mere handful of naval and diplomatic experts have possessed the details of this gigantic union of forces between these Anglo-Saxon people, yet it has been possible to infer from certain proven facts that just such a scheme was being concocted by the various Governments.

It is no exaggeration to state that Canada is playing one of the main roles in this international drama, and it is not a case of sentiment only in so far as the Dominion Government is concerned, because it may mean that the country may save many millions as a direct result of these vital negotiations between these two great nations.

When the coronation ceremonies are completed in May, an important and history-making Imperial Conference will take place in London, and one of the momentous subjects that will be discussed by the representatives of the various Dominions will be that of defence in the event of any future war, and it is certain that the Government of the United Kingdom will ask the Dominions to contribute to the upkeep of certain armed forces of the Empire.

According to reliable reports, there is a movement on foot to revive a plan for the defence of the Empire as outlined by the late Lord Jellicoe in 1919, who recommended that each Dominion should contribute a share of the costs and expenses of the upkeep of the forces for the defence of the Empire proportionate as to population and to value of its foreign trade. Thus, the rate of contributions would be: United Kingdom, 74.12 per cent; Australia, 7.74 per cent; New Zealand, 2.02 per cent; South Africa, 3.82 per cent; and the Dominion of Canada, 12.30 per cent.

Defence experts have asserted that the Dominions must realize that the seaborne trade and commerce of all sections of the British Empire has increased to a

considerable extent, and consequently this has increased the demands on the navy and other forces which guard the safe transport of the vessels which carry the wares of the Dominions to the numerous world markets.

But how does Canada enter the scene? Canada has sought to take full advantage of her geographical position as an argument to lower her share or contribution to any defence plan of the British Empire, and that really explains a momentous negotiations between United States, Great Britain, and the Dominion of Canada, which incidentally may lead to a union of all defence forces of the British Empire and the United States of America.

Since our country lies under the very shadow of the American navy and our neighbouring country will always uphold the famous Monroe Doctrine, it is the intention of the Dominion Government to present these arguments at the Imperial Conference as good reasons for a smaller proportionate share by the Dominion for the upkeep of the Imperial fleet or other forces of defence.

When the reader realizes that the new defence estimates of the Empire will require a definite contribution from each Dominion according to the famous Jellicoe plan, and that the outlay will reach the sum of \$350,000,000 as a minimum estimate, with an annual upkeep cost of \$60,000,000, and that the Dominion Government will be asked to pay at least 12 per cent of this amount, then it is not difficult to understand why Premier King and other members of the Federal Government have occupied themselves with this serious problem.

That is the real story behind the busy days of certain Governmental officials in Ottawa, Washington, and London, during the past couple of months, and when the representatives of the various Dominions gather in London for the Imperial Conference after the coronation ceremonies, it is likely to be disclosed in fullest detail.

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