

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1911.

THE BYE-ELECTIONS TOMORROW.

Seldom, if ever, has there existed a more general interest throughout the Province than is now apparent in the two contests which will end with the polling in Fort Augustus and Belfast districts tomorrow. This arises mainly from the fact that the life or death of the provincial Administration is involved. There is good evidence also that the electors in the two districts more immediately concerned are giving the situation a very thoughtful and intelligent consideration.

Ordinarily the two districts may be said to be pretty closely divided between the two political parties, with a slight preponderance of Liberal votes in recent provincial elections. The recent federal election, however, showed a Conservative majority in both districts on the national questions involved. Beyond question, too, the defeat of the Laurier Government has not been without some effect in raising the hopes of the local Opposition and diverting some strength to their side, while it has had a more or less depressing influence in the Government camp.

Again, the elections have been too long delayed, apparently in the hope that a sweeping Liberal victory, which was expected in the Dominion election, might make things easier for the candidates of the local Government. This delay was more than a tactical mistake. The leader of the Government when he vacated his seat to take the office of Attorney General should have lost no time in securing his re-election. The delay of five months between the issue of the writ and the polling was altogether inexcusable and out of accord with constitutional practice. It also had the effect of bringing the electoral campaign into the season of bad November weather, much to the inconvenience of all concerned.

The refusal of the Government to introduce the ballot in provincial elections has no doubt tended in past years to secure for Government candidates the votes of the numerous office holders, contractors and employ-

ees, both federal and provincial, but in the present contests, since the overturn at Ottawa and the close division of parties locally, will probably tend to the advantage of the Opposition. Besides, as Mr. Mathieson stands pledged to give the ballot to the electors when he shall succeed to office, the many friends of that enlightened measure in both parties may feel inclined tomorrow to give their last open vote in favor of the change.

We have not regarded it as of vital importance that the federal and provincial Governments should be of the same party stripe. But great stress has been laid by the Liberal leaders and their press for years past on this point, and no doubt it has served to convince some electors that it is in the best interest of the Province to have its Government in line with the Government at Ottawa. This advocacy now tends to the advantage of the Opposition. In this matter, as in regard to the ballot, some over-ardent party men have been metaphorically cutting whips for their own backs.

The party in power has had much to its credit at times in the past. More recently it has lacked progressiveness, has become hesitant, faint of heart and less efficient. Its press exponents have served it badly, by abuse of opponents, and a certain intolerance of criticism. In the meantime, the frightful loss of population, the unsatisfactory condition of our educational system and the grievances connected with our transportation have called for new and energetic measures of reform and progress both federal and local, which have not been forthcoming. It is for the electors of Fort Augustus and Belfast to decide whether the Province had better go on under the old regime in the old fashion or make a new departure at the present time. It seems desirable that both elections shall go either for or against the Government, but that also is a matter which the electors will decide in their own way.

ARE GOVERNMENTS POWERLESS?

The advocates of a change in our provincial Government to follow the change made at Ottawa, point out that in thirty years past the Province has lost some seventy thousand of its people, mostly within the past twenty years, and twenty-five thousand of these, including the natural increase, have been lost within the past ten years. In the period of twenty years we have lost one-third of our representation at Ottawa and are about to lose another member, making one half of our original quota. In that twenty years we have had one party in power in this Province and during fifteen years its protector and ally has held power at Ottawa.

do to promote general growth and progress, few will admit that Governments are wholly powerless in such matters. Great things have been claimed to be within the power of Governments, parties and policies to do. Why then do the above recited conditions exist? The Liberal leaders have had a long and fair trial with abundant opportunity to show what they can do. The results are before the country and are not wholly satisfactory to independents, or to many Liberals, and naturally are not to the liking of Conservatives. Strong party men on both sides will vote as they have voted before. In close elections it is the more independent electors who really have the deciding voice. Their weight thrown into one scale or the other will determine the result. It will be of great interest to learn what the attitude of these electors will be in the voting tomorrow.

Making due allowance for doubt as to what a Government can or cannot

THE GRUMBLERS.

An amusing article of Chronicle Grumblers appeared in The Patriot of last evening which article included the following passage:

"Charlottetown incurred quite a large debt to secure Water Works and Sewerage, and when these were

first talked of a few old fogies raised a howl of opposition, saying the city would be swamped with debt."

Those who remember the movement to establish a sewerage system in this city and the Patriot's bitter opposition thereto, will find it difficult to repress a smile as they read the above quoted paragraph.

Whether people ought to "grumble" or to rest satisfied with the past and present conditions in regard to transportation and passenger rates, the express and telegraph arrangements we leave a long-suffering public to judge, but we feel assured that a majority of our citizens have felt they had just cause of complaint in regard to one or other of these matters. Doubtless the opinion still prevails in a certain quarter that we should all wait in silence till the powers that be "get good and ready" to provide something better.

Pure Castile Soap has uses in the home which it alone can fill. We were lucky to receive 500 pounds of the very best from a leading mill in sunny France. You should buy a bar and cut it up yourself, \$1 a bar. The McKinnon Drug Co., Cor. St. George and Kent Sts., drfl.

"Taxi-is the new cure cut smoking tobacco. It is recommended as being cool and mild as well as economical. See it in new style tin, 10c. The McKinnon Drug Co., Cor. St. George and Kent Sts., drfl.

Superb Chocolates

We at all times have a large stock of Ganongs' and Cadbury's in boxes and Moir's Chocolates in bulk and boxes. We receive new lots every week or ten days. You will find ours in perfect condition.

Our Christmas line this year will be finest we have ever shown.

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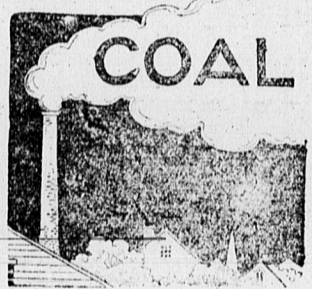
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Prices \$1.25 and \$1.50. These are guaranteed clocks.

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which ever way you go, you see evidence that we are alive and busy. The curling smoke, the heated furnace, the genial radiator, one and all proclaim the merits of

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from this yard. Don't be forgetful and let your supply run out, order ahead. We sell all kinds of Coal and Wood.

A. Pickard & Co. Phone 210.

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A splendid chance for a safe and liberal investment for the small investor. The Trustees of Zion Presbyterian Church, Charlottetown, are issuing a series of debentures in amounts from \$100.00 up to suit purchasers, redeemable in 10, 15 or 20 years. These debentures bear interest at 5 per cent payable 1st Dec. in each year at the Bank of Montreal or presentation of the proper coupon. For further particulars apply to MURDOCK McLEOD, Chairman of Trustees, 213 Richmond St., Charlottetown.

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All prices.

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What Company is the Best?

The company that gives absolute security at the lowest cost and makes the highest returns in profits to its Policyholders. The one Company in Canada doing this to-day, is the Great West Life Assurance Co of Winnipeg. This is the most popular institution of its kind, having written the largest Canadian business of any Company for the past four years. All enquiries cheerfully answered.

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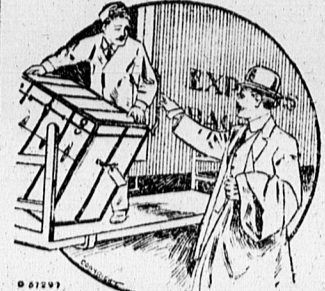
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Whooping Cough, Croup, Asthma, Coughs, Cold, Catarrh, Colds.

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