

# THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

THURSDAY, MAY 6, 1920.

THE SCHOOL PROBLEM.

All the school trouble is not confined to Prince Edward Island; indeed conditions here appear to be much better than in some of our sister provinces. In the report of Hon. R. H. Grant, Superintendent of Education for Ontario we find the following significant paragraph:

"In 1919 there were 5,757 rural schools in Ontario. Out of this number five had an average attendance of one pupil, 12 an average of two; 32 an average of three; 64 an average of four; 79 an average of five; 542 an average of six, and 1,400 with an average attendance of less than ten." In half the rural schools in the province of Ontario the average attendance is from one to ten.

Ontario is one of the oldest and, in the matter of industrial and agricultural progress, the most prosperous province in Canada.

Consolidation of adjacent districts is recommended as a remedy. At best the remedy, the only logical one in sight, will be but a partial one. The cause of the trouble goes farther back than poor remuneration for teachers although that also is a very important factor. The shortage of children throughout the whole country is in itself a problem, an outcome of the growing commercial and luxury-living age. The trend of present day education is another. Education is being measured today by its ability to earn money. Children are sent to school not to be educated but to learn how best and quickest to make money.

As a result they go out into life uneducated, untrained, and only able to make money and the poorest man or woman in the whole universe is the one who by cunning or accident has amassed wealth and is ignorant of all that makes life really worth while. The idea of service for the sake of serving has become practically extinct and its place has been given to service for personal gain. Selfishness, commercialism, money-making are the ruling factors and a man's worth is measured by what wealth he has accumulated.

### "EVERYTHING TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE."

After the hysterical preliminaries that foretold the coming of the Taxation Act probably the resolution introducing the bill, as published in yesterday's Guardian would occasion little surprise. What other sensations it may have engendered or will yet engender remains to be seen. In any case the proposed taxation is out of all proportion to the present needs of the province. A reasonable addition had been expected, notwithstanding the promises made by Liberal members before the election that no additional taxation would be levied if they were elected. Now, according to the programme mapped out, they are going to far exceed even the fearsome infliction they had foretold during the election campaign would ensue if the Conservatives were returned to power.

According to their own statement the taxes they are proposing are far and away heavier than even the grossly exaggerated alleged taxes they falsely claimed would be imposed if the Arsenault government were returned to power.

If it had been shown, or could be shown, that such an infliction as the proposed tax was necessary we have no doubt the people would submit to it patiently and patriotically. It has not been so shown however; on the contrary the propaganda carried on since the election to show the need of extra taxation has been exposed as grossly exaggerated and misleading. A reasonable addition to our taxes would have been tolerated, was necessary in fact, to give either government a working latitude to make provision for needed improvements, for better schools, for better roads and for a better province every way, but we submit that the tax proposed under the new bill, added to the education tax and the road tax previously imposed is unreasonable and unjust.

Take the poll taxes alone. Many farmers have two or three sons over twenty-one years of age at home. On the farmer and his three sons, four in all there is the present provincial poll tax of \$3.—\$12; a road poll tax of \$2.50,—\$10; and education tax of not less than \$2 and not more than \$3, say \$2, a total for the four men of \$8. Here is a poll tax of \$30 alone besides the tax on the farm and the personal property which may easily add \$15 to \$60, or a total tax on an ordinary farm fortunate or unfortunate enough to have three sons and a father, of approximately \$100. A number of Liberal members put forward the argument that in many instances the grown up sons are either fishing or lumbering and consequently able to pay their own poll tax independent of the farm. This is a ridiculous argument and does not apply to one farmer out of a hundred. Anyway where it does apply, where the sons or any of them are making an independent living special provision could be made to secure their taxes.

The whole taxation scheme shows incompetence and worse on the part of the government. Having secured their election on flagrantly false pretences they have launched out upon a frenzied finance expedition which appears to have nothing behind it except the idea of revelling in an ocean of limitless opportunities for expenditure.

What discussion of the bill will bring forth and what excuses the independent Liberals, who boasted before the election that they could run the country without additional taxation, will put forward remains to be seen but the whole country is seething with indignation and we have no doubt there will be "wigs on the green" when the people realize how cold bloodedly they have been duped.

## CURRENT COMMENT

### Smuts Appeal For Racial Unity

The learned Dr. Johnson graved a cure for "Heads of which some sinate idea has obtained an unrea sonable and irregular possession." There is sore need of such a cure at provincial headquarters. For a long period the "single idea" con verged around cheap methods of government, a better service for less money, fewer employees, re duced salaries, less extravagance and LESS TAXATION. With a chance of occupation the old "idea" was scrapped and a new one hatch ed. Higher salaries and indemnities more employees, more expensive methods of government, bigger out lays in the public service and at greater costs and further TAXA TION OF "EVERYTHING CAP ABLE OF BEING TAXED." This second "idea" has produced a spec ies of mental aberration. Thunder claps have been heard from the country, and torped lightning plays havoc in the political air. Rumors hints that "idea" No. Two is in danger. The mouth of the waste basket may be entered. There are groups in the government follow ing who do not believe in taxation for purely spendthrift purpose. There are others who believe in those principles of honor which ac quate a man's conduct in private life, and that the promises made to the people upon which they were elected should be carried into ef fect.

And there seems to be severe kicking. The caucus is enormously in evidence. In fact this week there has been more caucus than house so far. To pacify and draw these recalcitrants into line is dif ficult. Then to get out of the seat created tangle a still more impos sible task. The one proper avenue of escape to submit their rever sed policy for the approval of the people at the polls—is fraught with too much danger. On the brink of dark cold waters, their blood already chilled by events to the freezing point they balk at the doctor's advice and fear to take the plunge. The internal difficulties are intense and "Whether to bear those ills we have, or fly to oth ers that we know not of" is the one new and absorbing "idea," the giant phantom of the persistent caucus.

If the Patriot could cut out its practice of exaggeration and argue from actual fact, while it would not have the same transient effect, the people would then place some little reliance upon its writings. In reply to our estimate of the prob able revenue for this year it com mences with the already exploded statement alleging "liabilities" of about \$1,200,000 which is effect ively disposed of in the Auditor's Report showing the actual gross liabilities to be exactly \$1,198, 832.31. This is just a stretch of \$17,000.00—in its features—there.

Then it commences the Prohibit ion receipts by estimating on the basis of the first half year of 1919. Why attempt to twist in this way? The editor knows, and the public know that in that six months the liquor profits went principally in the vendors pocket, but the last part of the year which has been purposely excluded from the pub lic accounts, the Government re ceived the full profits amounting to very close to \$40,000. We placed it a \$35,000 which is less than the ac

### Daily Selections Guardian Readers

Compiled by W. S. Louson (Found on the person of one of our Fallen Heroes)

#### THIS IS MY FRIEND

Let me tell you how I made His acquaintance. I heard much of Him but took no heed. He sent daily gifts and presents; but I never thanked Him. He often seemed to want my friendship, but I remained cold. I was homeless and wretched and starving, and in peril every hour, and He offered me shelter and com fort and food and safety, but I was ungrateful still. At last He crossed my path and with tears in His eyes He besought me, saying, "Come and abide with me." Let me tell you how He treats me now. He supplies all my wants. He gives me more than I dare ask. He anticipates my every need. He begs me to ask for more. He never reminds me of my past ingratitude. He never rebukes me for my past follies. Let me tell you further what I think of Him. He is as good as He is great. His love is as ardent as it is true. He is as lavish of His promises as He is faithful in keeping them. He is as jealous of my love as He is deserving of it. I am in all things His a debtor, but He bids me call Him Friend. From an old English Man's Epit.

By the appeal which he made recently in the Union Parliament in Capetown, for racial unity throughout South Africa, General Smuts added considerably to his reputation as a statesman and a leader, says the Christian Science Monitor. It is a reputation which already stands very high. For, during the past five years, the South African Premier has carved out for himself, in the regard of many people of many nations, a position curiously unique. Again and again, during the difficult days of the war, and during the even more difficult days which have followed the signing of the armistice, General Smuts has come to the rescue of idealism. He has never changed. In the dark days of 1917, when men and women of the allied nations were perhaps more willing than at any other time during the struggle to comfort and strengthen themselves with the ideal for which they were fighting, General Smuts always showed himself well in the van of thought. It was he who, in a memorable speech in London, shortly after the United States entered the war, sought to renew the faith of the Allies, not in their own growing battalions, but, as he put it simply, "In those great, silent invisible forces" which were fighting on their side. "In the end," he added, "it will be recognized that it was not so much our valor or the strength of our armies, but those deeper forces that carried us to victory."

#### Faithful To An Ideal

General Smuts has always remained faithful to this ideal. He has steadily refused to allow his vision to become clouded and those who know anything of the story of the first six months of the Peace Conference understand how strenuously he fought against that reinstatement of the old diplomatic methods which, today, seems so complete. It was this faithfulness which caused him to sign the Peace Treaty with Germany under protest, and yet enabled him to retain his hope of the future undimmed. The Peace Treaty, he declared frankly in his farewell address to the British people, as he was leaving for South Africa last sum mer, could not bring about "the lasting appeasement of the nations." And yet, it was their duty to go toward as those who had a great hope, for they had still the assurance of the grand fundamen tal gain of the war, "the victory of the spirit, of the moral over the material factors of life."

#### Three Fundamental Positions

It is this high, and yet eminently practical, idealism which General Smuts is today bringing to bear with such energy on the problems of South Africa, one of the great est of which is undoubtedly racial antagonism. General Smuts does not attempt the impossible. He does not ask either the Dutch element or the British element to renounce their identity. He asks them to find it. He does not ask the Dutch to become British, nor the British to become Dutch, but he points the way by which both may become South Africans. In his speech at Capetown, he asked for the recognition of "three funda mental positions." He asked that the people of South Africa should unite in recognizing the British connection, and that they should question it no longer; that they should accept as fundamental "the principle of frank, honest, whole-hearted cooperation between the white races"; and that they should recognize that the great task before them was no longer racial, but industrial.

#### British Connections

As to the British connection, General Smuts was nothing if not practical. His appeal was entirely for the present. The British League of Nations, to which they already belonged, and the new world system to which they would soon be long, he said, gave them ample scope as a free nation in their day and generation, when they would be occupied with other gigantic tasks. Let that be enough for them, if this were done, and if second "fundamental position," that of wholehearted cooperation, were recognized, General Smuts saw quite clearly how the racial question would already be in a fair way to solution through the gradual evolution of what he went on to describe as "a powerful sentiment of distinct South African nationhood." The growth of this great national sentiment and bond of union was, he insisted, what above all was required to insure the future stable progress of South Africa as a free nation. The public policy should be honestly based on that bedrock foundation. General Smuts, how ever, could not leave the matter even on this broad national basis. South Africa, like every other country, he saw clearly, had a duty to perform to the world. And so he urged, in his "third position," that the great task before the country was no longer racial but industrial, it was because he recog nized that the world, no less than South Africa, herself, had need of South Africa's united industrial ef fort.

#### AN OBJECT LESSON

(The Quebec Telegraph) An object lesson of the ultimate result of strikes comes from Win nipeg, where the cost of living has become so desperate because of the reduced net wage owing to strikes and lay offs that savings are being gradually exhausted and visions of actual hardship in the near future are becoming clearer. As a result of the class who typify it, almost wholly responsible for the present conditions of education in this province. You have considered nothing too sacred to be given into your political marketplace. You haven't even made an exception of educa tion which above every other ques tion should be outside the domain of controversial politics. You have made a football of it to be punted back and forth to suit the exigencies of your political designs. You find fault with me because I didn't write this letter to the Legis lature three or four years ago. I am not aware of having made any great disclosure. I merely emphasized a

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### The Reason Why

#### THE BIRCH TREES

(The Boston Transcript) They stand in the woods alone, often in groups like a snuggling party, of debutantes, waiting the coming of admirers. The light that falls properly upon them accentuates their slim beauty and their girlishness. By the side of lonely lakes and rivers with the wind blowing upon them they have graces as of beautiful dancers. In still hours they look down on calm waters and reflected in the mirror thereof, seems like slender marble columns in parian palaces. They are the loveliest things among the forest trees, not so stately as the elm, nor so rugged, sombre and mysterious as the pine, but more mystical. The Roman fasces were of birch and, from them it passed as the sceptre of the schoolmaster. It has exceeding toughness of twigs and exceed ing pugnacity in its cut; as well as a singing noise as it descends on the protruberant portion of a boy. These broad leaved and hardy trees have forced the pine, that is grasping and exclusive, from many habitats. The birch is like the willow, it has a power to eke out a life under the most adverse circumstances. Most of the birches love moist woods and river meadows, but the white birch, which is also called the "canoe birch," lives almost wholly in New Eng land and chiefly in lonely places on elevations away from the sea. In green pastures, beside the still waters, there is rest for the soul, even of the tree. Here grows the river birch whose gage has won for her the name of "the lady of the woods."

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## There's No Denying the Charm of Paton's Suits

EXHIBITING A NOVELTY IN STYLING. A QUALITY IN FABRIC AND A FINISHED PRECISION IN TAILORING UNEXCELLED in Tweeds, covert cloths, tricotine and very fine serges, Sand, navy and black. Several distinctive styles to choose from in plain or belted models. Beautifully lined with silks to match. Sizes for women 36 to 44. Priced from \$27 to \$98.

### Come to Patons for Your Spring Dress

whether it be a lovely confection in silk, satin or combination silk and georgettes, it's here. Our tailored serge or jersey dresses from \$19 to \$50 are ready to make you the best dressed person in Charlottetown.

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You should not fail to see these, as they are duplicates of master models created by world-renowned designers for women in serge and covert. They radiate that atmosphere of class which is so much appreciated by particular dressers. Priced from \$21 to \$67.

### Express the Springtime Indoors with New Draperies

Nothing brightens up a room or brings it a more cheery Springlike atmosphere than fresh new hangings of printed chintz and flower patterned cretonnes. We have all these desirable drapery fabrics in plenty of harmonious coloring and tasteful designs.

### New Pullover Sweaters

A host of new colors to select from, made in dainty slipover styles, full sleeves and pretty tie sash.

# Patons Patons

### 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.

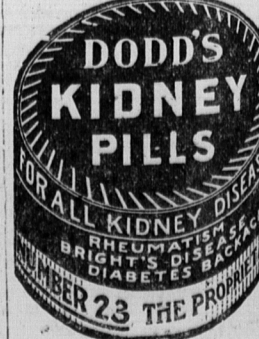
### Our Education Question

The following letter copied from the Patriot, is a reply to "Up West" in a recent issue of that paper: Charlottetown, May 3, 1920.

Dear "Up West," I am not replying to your letter in any retaliatory spirit, I don't feel the least personal resentment to wards you, but I do feel a certain legitimate anger. Your letter has revealed the very political code that has always been the bane of our Island politics. I haven't enquired for your name because it doesn't interest me. I know you, however, only too well as the partisan politician. I know you as the representative of that class, whose participation in politics is not inspired by any motive of service, but by their own personal interest and aggrandizement. I know you as the man who considers politics merely a game, and the electors mere pawns to be moved back and forth for their own selfish purposes. I know you as the opportunist who would unscrupulously sacrifice everything on the altar of political expediency. The class you typify is almost wholly responsible for the present conditions of education in this province. You have considered nothing too sacred to be given into your political marketplace. You haven't even made an exception of educa tion which above every other ques tion should be outside the domain of controversial politics. You have made a football of it to be punted back and forth to suit the exigencies of your political designs. You find fault with me because I didn't write this letter to the Legis lature three or four years ago. I am not aware of having made any great disclosure. I merely emphasized a

### THE PATRIOT AND THE TEACHERS

Sir, I notice in the Patriot of today the following statement: "Upward of \$100,000 additional will be necessary to provide the teachers of the province with the salaries asked for an agreed to be between them and the government of December of last year." In a statement giving the details published in both the Guardian and Patriot, it showed that the additional amount to be furnished by the government under the first scale would be \$54,890, and under the last scale if the districts were regarded to raise \$200, \$150 and \$100 according to class of license, the Government expenditure would be only \$98,642 more than was ex pended last year. To provide the larger scale would require only about \$120,000 more government and districts combined than was spent by both last year. Exaggerated notions as to the amount required, are sometimes the cause of the defeat of a worthy cause. If the government is providing for an expenditure of upwards of \$100,000 for teachers' salaries they could lessen considerably the amount that I have suggested to be raised by the districts and at the same time adopt the larger scale asked for. I am Sir, etc., J. D. SEAMAN. May 5, 1920.



LEF JELLAGAN.