

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1927

A GREAT BUDGET

Never in the history of the Province was a greater or better budget speech than that delivered by Premier Stewart last evening. Those who had the privilege and pleasure of gaining admittance and hearing it will long remember the historic occasion. The House was crowded, and the universal opinion expressed after the Premier sat down was that it was a great effort, characterized by modesty, sincerity and truth. The Premier reviewed rapidly the progress of the Province since Confederation, and showed the development of our expenditure, and the crying necessity there has always been for more revenue to carry on the services of government.

The Liberal resource has invariably been "more taxes". The Conservative endeavor more subsidies from Ottawa to which we are entitled.

The Liberals never have had much faith in our claims at Ottawa—"chestnuts," the Leader of the Liberals called them; while he divided with Mr. Johnston claims to the dubious honor of being the "Father of the Taxation Act" which was to tax everything "tangible and intangible"; Mr. Lea trying to out-herd both, by asserting that the farmers should have their noses held and be made to take their taxation medicine.

The difference between the parties is measured by the success which has attended their efforts to make revenue and expenditure meet, and the means by which it has been accomplished.

Premier Mathieson had faith in our claims at Ottawa, presented them effectively, and obtained on account of these \$100,000 per annum for all time.

Premier Bell and his government were in office from 1919 to 1923, and all they did was to increase our liabilities by \$516,031, or at the rate of \$126,000 per annum, and to tax everything "tangible and intangible." No evidence was left of Mr. Bell and his government ever attempting to press our claims at Ottawa.

Premier Stewart came into office in 1923, and immediately abolished the obnoxious Poll-tax, and proceeded to press our claims at Ottawa. His success is now well known, and he had the happiness last evening of seeing how appreciative the people present were of his endeavours.

Our claims are still open and will be further prosecuted this coming summer with no doubt equal success by Premier Stewart.

The first consequence of this success is an all-round reduction in our taxes, with a promise of still further reductions next year should the Government, as it undoubtedly will, be returned to power.

The reductions in taxation immediately going into effect are as follows:

- LAND TAX: Reduced from 50c to 40c per \$100. INCOME TAX: All incomes of married persons under \$1000 exempt, unmarried \$750 exempt other salaries, tax based on these exemptions. Automobile Registration Fee reduced from \$5 to \$2.50. The Premier intimated there would be further considerable reductions next year.

This is a magnificent showing which will be appreciated by everyone. It must be borne in mind also, that these reductions are in addition to adequate provision being made for the various services of the Province.

Premier Stewart has earned the undying gratitude of the people, as he will find when he goes to them for re-election.

NOT FOUR SQUARE.

It has been said of Mr. Mackenzie King that he has never yet come out four square on any question of public policy. He can talk for hours at a time, but when he is through there is a vague impression left up on his audience that he had promised something, but no one could tell definitely what he had promised. When in this province during the last federal campaign this was the impression he left. There was nothing definite; the nearest to definiteness being a promise to complete the frost-proofing of the railway warehouse at Georgetown, and even that was bogged by a half-vetted condition that the Liberal candidate, Mr. J. J. Johnston, be elected. Mr. Johnston was not elected. Whether this was sufficient to satisfy Mr. Mackenzie King's conscience in breaking the promise he made, if he concluded that he had made it, it might be difficult to prove.

And now it appears that the Premier has a worthy double in indefiniteness in the Hon. Charles Dunning, Minister of Railways. He can talk by the hour or by the mile and when the noise is over his meaning is shrouded in mystery.

The Toronto Globe, once the Liberal bible, and now somewhat in the shade as an exponent of Liberal principles, remarked recently that the Hon. Mr. Dunning had spoken at great length on the Georgian Bay Canal Bill, and it asks, "But does anyone know yet where he stands on it?" For men posing as statesmen, at the head of the government of Canada, these qualifications are not those which Canadians who try to be proud of their country are looking for. It is doubtless an aid in the winning of an election or in holding on to office to be able to use words in such a way that they may mean anything or nothing but what the speaker does not do it. And yet the people, the majority of them, at least, evidently like to lose themselves in a wordy fog.

Parliament has agreed to limit speech-making to a maximum of forty minutes, except on special occasions. The exception will afford Mr. King and Mr. Dunning the indulgence of their special gifts in obscure oratory.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Approximately 1,000,000 miners in Great Britain mined 5,267,000 tons of coal in a recent week.

It has been well said that if this Dominion is to survive, if we are to realize the vision of the Fathers, it can only be by the exercise of a spirit of compromise and by a willingness on the part of each section to make some sacrifices for the well-being of all.

There are now more than 22,000,000 automobiles in the United States, or one for every six of the people. The revenue from auto registrations and licenses, last year, was \$288,282,352! People in the States will now have but little use for their legs.

L'Evenement, of Quebec, remarks that "the provision of old age pensions appears at first sight to be a very generous move, and plenty of people see no objection to them. It is nevertheless a dangerous principle and a step in the direction of Socialistic government. For if the State undertakes the obligation of looking after old people, families, parish organizations and societies will be relieved of the duty. Such being the case, Canadian life would cease to be what it was in the past, and what it should always be in the future. Filial devotion and private charity would disappear from the picture." More than that, the public provision for old age would tend to lessen the efforts of individuals to do so, to dull personal ambition, and to reduce the spirit of enterprise.

Notes by the Way

Which is preferable, a plebiscite or a general election in order to decide upon a temperance policy? There are those who contend that the electors should be left free to vote for the government and against its policy of government control, or to vote against the government and for its policy should the electors so desire. This contention is a debatable one, just as the contention that the earth is flat and not round is debatable.

The history of the prohibition movement may help us to a solution of the question. We were in New Brunswick when Mr. Tilley (better known as Sir Leonard Tilley since then) introduced the first liquor prohibition law in that province, which was also the first law of that nature in British America. We were here in Prince Edward Island when Premier Farquharson brought in the first provincial prohibitory liquor law here. In both these cases the leaders staked their political lives on the issue at general elections.

It was felt that the proposed change from a license law to prohibition was so great that it should not be attempted or made except by a government taking the full responsibility for the measure. Another reason was that it was a measure which largely affected the revenue of the province. That was the way prohibition was brought into force here. We think these precedents are of binding force here and now, when the Government has become convinced that an important change in the law has become necessary and desirable.

We fail to see how a government, so convinced, could take any other course than they did. Was it not their clear duty and the only conscientious course they could pursue to take the people into their confidence? What other course was open to them? Let us consider the matter calmly and dispassionately. It is notorious that in the strife of political parties each party has charged the other with not honestly trying to enforce the prohibitory law.

It is equally notorious that the difficulties of enforcement are very great in any province of Canada. The Dominion Government is in the liquor business up to its eyes. Under federal law they authorize brewers to brew and distillers to distill and wholesalers to import as much as they desire on the sole condition that these men shall pay into the Dominion treasury some \$14 per gallon in excise or customs duties for what alcoholic liquors they manufacture, or import. In this way liquors are sluiced into the country in millions upon millions of gallons lawfully, besides other millions of gallons that are smuggled in.

No provincial Government has power to prevent the brewing, distilling or importing of liquors. Those matters and the prevention of smuggling as well, are all under federal law and federal administration. It is this fact that has been the main cause why Six Canadian provinces out of nine have abandoned their prohibitory laws, and why people in the three so-called dry provinces have lost faith in prohibition and have largely lost any confidence that they once had that prohibition could be effectively enforced.

Now let us suppose that the Stewart Government, convinced as they were, that a change of policy is necessary had taken no action. Would they not be not only open to the charge of insincerity, but actually guilty of insincerity? Is it not true that with six provinces having tried and rejected prohibition it will be more difficult to enforce it here than it has been heretofore? We must remember that the provinces which have rejected prohibition contain eight millions of people while but one million live in the three provinces that now retain it.

It seems to be the duty of the Government to have a clear cut policy in regard to temperance legislation and to be prepared to stand or fall by it, whether the Opposition has a policy or not. The Government bill when it is submitted should be judged according to its merits. There are many different plans of so-called government control the best of which may be selected and improved upon. The people will then decide for themselves whether they think it a better policy than prohibition or not.

The Origins Of The War

1. Ich Suche die Wahrheit! Ein Buch zur Kriegsschuldfrage. Von Wilhelm Kronprinz. Stuttgart und Berlin: Cotta, 1925.

2. Isovsky and the World War, based on the Documents recently published by the German Foreign Office. By Friedrich Steve. Translated by E. W. Dickes. Allen & Unwin, 1926.

3. The Case for the Central Powers, an Impachment of the Versailles Verdict. By Count Max Montgelas. Translated by Constance Vesey. Allen & Unwin, 1925.

4. The Genesis of the World War, an Introduction to the Problem of War Guilt. By Harry Elmer Barnes. New York: Knopf, 1925.

5. Les Criminels. By Victor Margueritte. Paris: Flammarion, 1926.

And other books. Lord Grey in a recent speech uttered a warning against "propaganda and counter-propaganda" regarding the responsibility for the war, on the ground that it distracted attention from more vital matters. If, he said, we are to avoid similar wars in the future, we must aim at preventing a renewal of the political conditions out of which the war grew and, in particular, the division of Europe into two hostile groups of powers. It was a warning which was timely and necessary. The spirit of propaganda is not helpful to the attainment of truth.

It is not in this country that at this moment the warning is especially needed. There are few here who interest themselves in the current controversies on this subject. The spirit of the nation in this and in other matters is rather practical than argumentative. When the war began the question of responsibility was one of the most urgent practical importance, for on the answer given to it would depend largely the spirit and the energy with which the country would throw itself into the war. Had there been any reason to believe that Lord Grey and his colleagues had by secret and dishonest practices deliberately sought to bring about the war, this would have very largely undermined the confidence of the nation in the Government and would have produced an active difference of opinion such as that which in fact prevailed during the South African struggle. And even if there had been ground for thinking that our Allies, France and Russia, had with deliberate purpose engineered a great conspiracy against Germany, the effect would have been equally disastrous. The information available at the time seemed completely to exclude either of those hypotheses. There appeared to be an enormous preponderance of evidence to show that it was the spirit and the action of the German Government that was responsible for the great catastrophe. This being so, it was right and inevitable that those who specially occupied themselves with these matters should take every step to make known what they believed to be the truth.

Even at that period, however, it was obvious that there were many points of obscurity. To some extent, though not altogether, the acts of the German Government were patent; but, as must always be the case, their motives and objects were more difficult to understand. There was much on which enlightenment was necessary, but for that we should have to wait for quieter times when much which had been hidden would be revealed, and the matters which were then of the most acute political interest and importance might be re-investigated by historians working in a calmer atmosphere.

It might have been hoped that such times would have now arrived. If it was not, the responsibility, as must be recognized, lies largely with the Allies. By incorporating in the Treaty of Peace a forced confession by the Germans of their responsibility and by renewing and elaborating the charge in an official document, the covering letter to the Germans, they issued a challenge which must inevitably be taken up. When in subsequent speeches the leaders of the Allies stated that the terms of the treaty found their justification in the war guilt of Germany, how easy it was for the Germans to draw the conclusion that they could disprove the charge made against them, then the whole moral basis on which the treaty was built up would be cut away! Moreover, the very fact that an official pronouncement as made on a highly complicated historical and psychological problem will at once arouse a spirit of opposition in every independent mind. These things cannot be settled by an ex officio judgment issued ex cathedra, especially when the evidence available was necessarily very incomplete. Least of all would a judgment of this kind be accepted by a nation, such as the Germans, who are prone to controversy and have an unlimited supply of historical students searching for a subject to which they may devote their time and abilities. Whatever internal differences there might be among them, they could all join in attempting to disprove an accusation which they professed to believe was most dishonouring to their country. Let us say in passing that the point of dishonour is rather overdone; when we remember the methods by which Bismarck carefully engineered the war with Austria in 1866, we should scarcely expect the Germans to say that action of this kind in 1914 necessarily

And we hope the people may decide it rightly and in the true interests of sobriety, temperance and the public welfare.

Prohibition

The Prohibition Situation. The Department of Research and Education of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America. New York, 1925.

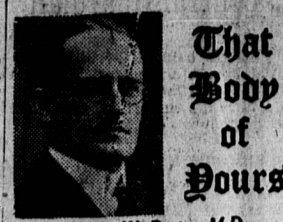
Much has been written about the prohibition of fermented and distilled beverages in the United States; but nothing so noteworthy, and nothing which has proved so sensational in the country of its origin, has been produced as is the Bulletin on the Prohibition Situation issued by the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America. This body represents just those elements in the religious life of the United States which helped the Anti-Saloon League in its campaign for prohibition; and it was therefore a matter of assumption that any publication on the question issued under its auspices would be a whole-hearted defence of the prohibitionist experiment. The assumption has proved wrong. Notwithstanding that those responsible for the Bulletin make a gallant effort to range themselves on the prohibitionist side, notwithstanding that every page is written from the standpoint of men who regard prohibition as a proper and even laudable form of legislation, their work turns out in fact to be a deadly criticism.

Before coming to the Council's survey of the present position it may be useful to recall the genesis of American prohibition. The degree of "nation-wide prohibition" at the end of 1919 was the fruit of many years of agitation. The title of Father of Prohibition has been conferred upon the famous Neal Dow, who founded the Maine Temperance Union in 1827. In 1846 the era of prohibition began with a prohibitory law in Oregon, which, however, only remained on the statute book for five years. In 1846 a similar law was enacted in Maine, and was repealed in 1856 and re-enacted in 1858. About this time, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont, also experimented with prohibition, though in some of these States it was either abandoned after a year or two or immediately vetoed. We must guard, therefore, against assuming that prohibition in America is an absolutely new thing. It was soon found, however, that the easiest road to State prohibition was the parochial form of it known as local option or local veto.

Kansas, for example, began with the milder form in 1866; but in 1880 it adopted full prohibition by way of a constitutional amendment. Other States—North Dakota and Iowa—during the second half of the 19th century made gains in prohibition, and yet others—Georgia and Oklahoma—in the early years of the present century. By 1914, nine states had adopted prohibition. By 1918 the number had grown to twenty-three out of forty-eight states. Then war-time prohibition over the whole Republic came into operation on June 30, 1919. But apart from the operation of this last named temporary measure, it was possible in the Prohibition States to buy the prohibited beverages by buying them from outside the State; and therefore, so long as any State remained free, prohibition was short of its completeness.

So we find a movement for forcing the whole public into prohibition, as far back as 1886; by the founding in Chicago in that year of a National Prohibition Party. But the body which rightly claims the chief credit for the enactment of "nation-wide" prohibition is the Anti-Saloon League, which came into being in 1893. Its somewhat obscure place of origin being the town of Oberlin in Ohio, this body began an agitation for an amendment of the Federal Constitution which would make the consumption of alcoholic beverages an offence against the Constitution. Written Constitutions are condemned as inelastic; but that of the United States, at any rate, is not as inflexible as it is often supposed. From the beginning it provided, in its fifth Article, for possible amendments. If two-thirds of both Houses of Congress deem it necessary, or the legislatures of two-thirds of the several States make application for an amendment of the Constitution, Congress must call a convention, and if the proposed amendment is ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the States, or by conventions in three-fourths of them, the amendment is incorporated in the Constitution. Seventeen such amendments had been made when the Anti-Saloon League demanded an eighteenth. (To be continued.)

dishonours the whole nation. And so we get a new mass of propagandist literature similar in character, and perhaps almost equal in amount, to that of the war-time days. There are in Germany dozens of societies, many of them obviously with considerable means at their disposal, issuing books and pamphlets which are distributed broadcast not only at home but in foreign countries. The centre of the movement is the monthly journal "Die Kriegsschuldfrage," which is entirely devoted to this subject; it is an invaluable guide to the whole literature; in it every new document, every particle of evidence, is analysed and discussed; but the writers have no discrimination, they never allow a single point, however unimportant, to be made against Germany. Their great fault as propagandists is that they always overstate their case and, in fact, many of the writers become so obsessed with their subject that they seem to have lost the power to think outside the prescribed groove. The spirit of the whole thing is really not historical investigation but political propaganda. The object is not to disentangle what really happened, but to make the best possible case for Germany with the avowed desire of undermining the authority of the Peace settlement. (To be continued.)



By James W. Barton, M.D.

COMMON SENSE TREATMENT

Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes once said "Science is a first rate piece of furniture for man's upper chamber, if he has common sense on the ground floor." Dr. L. G. Mackey of Birmingham writing in the British Medical Journal states that common sense is the big factor in treating any ailment. The first point to remember then is that Nature will do her best for the patient, but perhaps does not work fast enough for the patient and doctor.

Dr. Mackey tells us that treatment divides itself into two main classes (1) Removal of anything tending to tax the patient's strength and lessen his natural powers of recovery. (2) Adding something to the patient to give him more power to fight disease.

This means removal of dirt, pain, exertion, strain, worry and so forth. A big mistake in this connection is the visits of kind enquiring friends. The effort to speak to them, to be interested in what they are saying, is a tax on the strength of the patient. Noises and household cares must be avoided, where the patient is in his own home. While hospital treatment is usually the safest, there are times when the removal to hospital, the strangeness of it all, upsets the patient and saps his strength.

The big point from the common sense standpoint is to remember the old saying of treating the patient, not the ailment, and to regard every case from the patient's point of view. The mental factor enters into every sickness and must be considered. A patient may have a fear regarding doctors, hospitals, nurses, or perhaps some particular illness such as pneumonia or a heart condition, may have great terrors of a parochial form of it known as local option or local veto. Kansas, for example, began with the milder form in 1866; but in 1880 it adopted full prohibition by way of a constitutional amendment. Other States—North Dakota and Iowa—during the second half of the 19th century made gains in prohibition, and yet others—Georgia and Oklahoma—in the early years of the present century. By 1914, nine states had adopted prohibition. By 1918 the number had grown to twenty-three out of forty-eight states. Then war-time prohibition over the whole Republic came into operation on June 30, 1919. But apart from the operation of this last named temporary measure, it was possible in the Prohibition States to buy the prohibited beverages by buying them from outside the State; and therefore, so long as any State remained free, prohibition was short of its completeness.

FOR THE SCRAP BOOK

A SERIES OF LITERARY QUOTATIONS FOR BOOK LOVERS. Thursday March 31. PHILOSOPHY—a talisman of words wherewith one is enabled to convert the uncertain and dangerous drama of experience into the secure order of inevitable fate.—H. M. Kallen.

Consider how quickly all things vanish away—their bodily structure into the general substance of things; the very memory of them into that great gulf and abyss of past thoughts. Ah! 'tis on a tiny space of earth that thou art creeping through life—a pigmy soul carry- ing a dead body to its grave. Consider all this with thyself, and let nothing seem too great to thee.—Marcus Aurelius.

ENCHANTMENT

A pleasing land of drowsy-head it was; Of dreams that wave before the half-shut eye; And of gay castles in the clouds that pass, For ever flashing round a summer sky. There eke the soft delights, that wittingly Instill a wanton sweetness through the breast, And the calm pleasures, always hovered high. But what'er smacked of noyance or unrest, Was far, far off expelled from this delicious nest. Was naught around but images of rest; Sleep-soothing groves, and quiet lawns between; And flowery beds, that slumbrous influence keel, From poppies breathed; and beds of pleasant green, Where never yet was creeping creature seen. Meaningless unnumbered glittering streamlets played And hurried everywhere their waters' sheen; That, as they bickered through the sunny glade Though restless still themselves, a lulling murmur made. Near the pavilion where we slept, still ran Soft-tinkling streams, and dashing waters fell, And sobbing breezes sighed, and oft began (So worked the Wizard) wintry storms to swell, As heaven and earth they would together melt; At doors and windows, threatening, seemed to call The demons of the tempest, growling fell. Yet the least entrance found they none; at all, Whence sweeter grew our sleep.

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secure in massey hall. James Thomson (The Castle of Indolence). Daily Selections FOR Guardian Readers. March 31, 1927.

GENUINE BLESSEDNESS: Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. Psalm 32:1, 2. DON'T WORRY. It was Winter, and late in the day, I'd a big chill before me to climb, When I came on a cheery old chap by the way Who was wrinkled and wise as Old Time; I saw that he carried a burden and tarried To offer what help I could lend, But he said, "There's no hurry; my motto's 'Don't worry'; Things always come right in the end!"

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