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THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Mr. Charles Dalton, President. J. R. Burnett, Editor and Publisher. D. K. Currie, Associate Editor.

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1922.

THE BYE-ELECTIONS

We had expected that the Patriot would rejoice with exceeding great joy over the fact that the Bell government saved its face at Wednesday's bye-elections. It has done so and yesterday's issue fairly screams with hilarious joy. In its shouting, as might have been expected, it says many foolish things but, until it has recovered somewhat from its ecstatic condition, we shall not bother with these.

A certain politician who scored such a "victory" as the Bell government scored on this occasion when being congratulated on his success, remarked, "another such victory as that would spell annihilation!"

An analysis of the vote polled on Wednesday shows in the first place that the total vote polled was a very small one, amounting to only a fraction over 56 per cent of that polled in the general election of 1919. This means that probably not one half of the electors were sufficiently interested in the result to take the trouble to go to the polls. While we admit this is regrettable, that even for the sake of one session the electors should have turned out to vote, yet many did not think it worth while to do so; it appeared to many as an unnecessary expense with no definite purpose in view as even if all the opposition candidates were elected the Bell government would still have a working majority. Had it been a general election there is no doubt that the usual vote would have been polled, and there is little doubt either that in that case the Liberal candidates would have been snowed under.

When we take into consideration the number of persons directly employed by the government, the road masters, the tax collectors, the assessors, the hordes of workers specially employed on the roads for election purposes, the returning officers, constables, and poll clerks, it would appear that few outside of these took any stock in the election and that with out these the Bell government candidates would have had little or no chance of carrying a seat.

The total vote polled in this election was only 4,187 in all the constituencies combined, as against 6,350 in the general election of 1919.

In the First District of Prince the Liberal candidate, Mr. Blanchard, polled only 631 votes as against 1,089 polled by the late Hon. Benjamin Gallant. Here the total vote of both candidates amounted to 1,720 votes or only 42 votes more than was polled by the Hon. Benjamin Gallant alone and 385 votes less than was polled by the losing candidate at the general election.

In the Third District of Prince the largest percentage of votes was polled and here the two Conservative candidates were returned by increased majorities. From this it may safely be inferred that where the people turned out to vote they voted strongly against the Bell government.

In the Fifth District of Prince there was a falling off in the total vote of 213. Here the Liberal candidate was elected by the small majority of 29 votes, which would undoubtedly have vanished had a larger vote been polled.

In the Fourth district of Kings the Liberal candidate polled the smallest vote in the history of that constituency, numbering only 264. Besides the smallness of the vote the opposition to the government was divided by two candidates leaving Mr. Bonnell, the minority candidate in possession of the seat.

Had the election been a general one and the object to be attained

the overthrow of the Bell government there would have been a full er vote with consequences probably sealing the fate of the Bell government for all time.

COST OF LIVING

From time to time statistics are published to indicate the rise or fall in the cost of living. The figures are not always consoling and not always of much assistance to the consumer. Generally speaking the consumer finds that, whatever the index figures show, his weekly or monthly bills when deducted from his weekly or monthly salary, leave a margin that is not much to boast of. The latest statistics of this kind issued, place the index figures of the cost of living at 160 as compared with 150 at the beginning of the year and 100 before the war.

The comparison may or may not be correct; it probably is approximately, as the cost of living is unquestionably increasing. Some reductions in the necessities of life have taken place, some increases also and when an average is struck on the definite figures of actual income and actual necessary expenditure it will be found in the majority of cases that the difference even when favorable is growing beautifully less each year.

This is not given by way of information merely, as it is already well known to the majority of us, but the publication of this latest index figure recalls those happy days before the last federal election when in words of burning eloquence Liberal candidates and the Liberal leader, Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, explained to interested multitudes that the high cost of living was due to the grafters and the "interests" who combined and conspired to bleed the poor consumers, and told us with vehement declamation that they, the Liberals, would do these grafters and combiners when they came into their own. Well, they have come into their own or some one else's own and the cost of living has gone up, according to the aforesaid index figure, by ten points since the beginning of the present year and with indications that it will go up still higher before the end of the year.

We remember their denunciation of strikes and lock-outs which occurred during the previous regime and how they, the Liberals, would stop all that. Well, here they are in full power at Ottawa and the little strikes which occurred during the previous administration were but as Sunday school picnics compared with the Armageddon of strikes and lock-outs since they came in.

Nor are these things recalled for information merely, the majority of us know them by dear bought experience. They are recalled to remind us once more of the width of the "Gulf fixed" between pre-election promises and post-election performances. They may remind us also that there are some things that even politicians cannot control and that when they profess to have power to control the uncontrollable we should turn a deaf ear to them and treat them as imposters and criminals.

THE CANADIAN WEST

The monthly letter of the Royal Bank of Canada, always informative, gives among other things an interesting review of crop conditions in the Prairie provinces. They are our great competitors in agriculture, the farmers with which we have to compete not only in the markets of the world but in those of Canada.

With the exception of a few dis-

Notes By The Way

A salient feature of the bye-elections was the smallness of the vote recorded. The principal reason for this was that by grace of what has been called by its members "the best of all governments" the women voters were denied the right to take any part in the several contests. They quite naturally did not go to the polls and no doubt in many cases advised their husbands and brothers to stay at home and attend to the harvest.

The day was fine; there had been much cloudy and showery weather for weeks past. Some farmers had had a good deal of hay spoiled and the impulse to save the grain on so good a harvest day was naturally strong. Had the day been dull or rainy there would no doubt have been a larger turn-out of voters.

Then there was the vital fact that the fate of the Bell Government was not at stake. By no majority however large for the Opposition candidates could the Administration be defeated or compelled to resign. They would still go on levying doubled taxes quarrelling among themselves, borrowing and adding to the debt as they are doing, until next year and the Opposition be it larger or smaller would be powerless to prevent them.

The voters were powerless to get at and punish the chief offenders, the Honorables Bell, Johnston, Lea and Crosby or any of their fore-castle colleagues, or such benchmen as Messrs. LePage, Hessian and others who had made themselves specially obnoxious. They were not in the running! Had they been there and seeking votes for themselves the vote would have been much larger and very different. Next year they must be in the running or retired from public life.

Bye-elections are notoriously favorable to the party in power. It can concentrate its efforts and bring all its forces into play, its most plausible speakers, its road jobs, its promises of office or employment. This was done. In a general election members of the cabinet would be scattered, each trying to save himself in his own district. And otherwise the chance of the Opposition gaining power would go far to equalize the influence and the prospects of the opposed parties.

As it was, in the elections of Wednesday, and as a result of the conditions above noted, only 4,187 votes were polled for all of the eleven candidates, where in the general election of 1919, 6,350 votes were polled for ten candidates. This showed a decrease of 2,163 votes polled. The average vote per candidate was 635 in 1919 and only 381 in 1922, a falling off of nearly one-half. It seems reasonable to assume that the stay-at-home voters were largely those who were opposed to the government.

Immediately following the election comes the announcement, carefully concealed from the electors till after they had voted! that the Bell government has made a bond issue of \$175,000 payable 15 years hence and bearing interest at 5 1/2 per cent! This addition to the provincial debt carries with it an annual interest charge of \$9,625 or a total of \$144,375 for the fifteen years to come. Well, if the taxpayers like that sort of thing that is the sort of thing they like.

Splash-away, dash-away, spend the cash, is the word, and if the Opposition had carried all the five seats, it would have made no difference. However, before the close of thing they like.

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Wheat	297,781,000 Bu
Oats	304,869,000 "
Barley	45,384,000 "
Rye	35,073,000 "
Flax	4,360,000 "
Wheat	280,098,000 "
Oats	284,147,500 "
Barley	44,681,600 "
Rye	17,109,700 "
Flax	3,945,700 "

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.

Prince of Wales College

Sir.—In my last letter I dealt with the over-emphasis placed on the classics at Prince of Wales College at the expense of mathematics, science and modern languages. At all modern colleges and universities to-day the tendency is rather the other way. I pointed out how unfair this discrimination is to the student who has a mathematical or a scientific bent. And also how the people should proceed to get this remedied.

Now, I wish to proceed to point out the inequity of compelling students to make 65 per cent to make a pass.

Sixty five percent is a very high average and it is no wonder that so many fail who have to make this average especially when the number of subjects the amount of work in each subject and character of the instruction that this amount of work compels, is considered.

If you take the average age of the pupils into consideration together with the difference in the method of instruction that obtains at Prince of Wales College from what obtains in the schools they come from, the number of subjects and the amount of work in each, it dooms a large number of the pupils to failure especially where they are compelled to make 65 per cent in order to pass. It is true the "stars" attain and pass the goal, I am not pleading for them, but for the poor plodders, many of whom work hard, groping often in the dark, and after years hard, merciless and soulless grind come in as failures, which often is not deserved. It creates in some a rankling spirit at the unfair deal handed out to them, and in others a depression that causes them to throw up the abominable thing and go at something else.

Our young people on life average are as bright as their fathers and given a proper chance can attain to what they did. In the old days there was not the slaughter at Prince of Wales College that obtains there now. This slaughter is not due to degeneracy and failure in the race, but it is due to the system that obtains there, in over emphasis of some subjects on the course, too many subjects, which compels the instruction to be too hurried so that many of the pupils cannot take it in, and to crown all they are asked to make 65 per cent.

God help us! If we in order to get into Heaven were given such instructions as green herbs, or so many subjects, and were asked to make 65 per cent how many of us would get there? I am quite sure fewer on the average by far than now pass at Prince of Wales College.

P. W. C. EXAMINATIONS

Sir.—In your issue of August 30th there appeared a letter, signed "Educationalist" which offered some severe criticism of the staff of next session the Government must disclose the facts as to the financial condition of the Province, which, with the intent to deceive, they concealed from the voters at the bye-elections. A further issue of the pay-as-we-go bonds to be paid in the future without costing the taxpayers a cent must be made next year!

Whether the taxpayers are so easily hoodwinked and bluffed as the Honorable "Four Flushers" now imagine, or whether they are just being given rope enough with which to hang themselves remains to be seen. The general election of next year will tell the story. It will be a harder test than the bye-elections. In the meantime good Liberal supporters will pocket for one more session that \$50 indemnity which the Progressive Mr. Gillis was "after" but did not get.

It may be as safely deduced from the number who pass—that little time is not devoted to Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics.

Nor is too little attempted in these subjects, for here again the work meets University Matriculation requirements. There is much talk among unthinking people—or the usefulness of the "pure" sciences, as opposed to the usefulness of the "classics." Just how many graduates of P. W. C. use or need Physics, Chemistry, Algebra, or Geometry? I think very few. On the other hand the student proceeding to a University must comply with matriculation standards. These standards, to the marking, I think he misses an important point here. While it is true that many more marks are given for Latin than for chemistry, for example it is also true that much more time is devoted to Latin than to chemistry. Seven or eight hours each week throughout the whole year are given to Latin, while instruction in chemistry does not begin till after Christmas and then amounts to two or three hours each week. This being so, it is hardly reasonable to mark them equally. Again it must be remembered that "Latin" at P. W. C. comprises three subjects, viz: "Ancient History," "Latin Authors" and "Latin Grammar." It other provinces these subjects are distinct and are examined and marked separately.

"English" is also heavily "weighted" at P. W. C. But that subject can be divided with "History" or "English Literature." English authors and English essays." It is the same with every subject on the curriculum. The marks assigned to it are determined by the time spent on it, or at least are proportionate to the time so spent. It is clear, I think, that it is not a question of accentuating the marking on any one subject. It would be obviously absurd to spend seven hours a week on a subject round on a subject and then give it the same amount of marks as that given to one of which only three hours for one half year are spent.

It may now be argued that, if not too many marks, then too much time is given certain subjects. Let us see! From the number who, according to "Educationalist" fall in the "classics," too much time is not spent on that subject or group of subjects. Neither is too much work attempted in the subject, for the Latin, etc. at P. W. C. does no more than meet the ordinary University Matriculation requirements.

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and system of Prince of Wales College. With your permission, I should like to say a few words in reply to that criticism.

The question raised by "Educationalist" is why so many fail in the examinations at the college, and he had in mind, I think, the last year.

Of course they failed because they could not answer a sufficient number of questions on each paper. This, however, is no answer, why could they not answer them? I shall make no attempt to answer this, but I have something to say concerning the explanation offered by "Educationalist." He claims that too much weight is given the classics and not enough to mathematics, chemistry and physics in an important point here. While it is true that many more marks are given for Latin than for chemistry, for example it is also true that much more time is devoted to Latin than to chemistry. Seven or eight hours each week throughout the whole year are given to Latin, while instruction in chemistry does not begin till after Christmas and then amounts to two or three hours each week. This being so, it is hardly reasonable to mark them equally. Again it must be remembered that "Latin" at P. W. C. comprises three subjects, viz: "Ancient History," "Latin Authors" and "Latin Grammar." It other provinces these subjects are distinct and are examined and marked separately.

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It is a moot point just how a knowledge of quadratic equations is going to be of more benefit than a knowledge of Latin to a business man. He uses neither.

It is important to note that, he never so good in Latin, Greek and Ancient History, a student who fails to obtain 50% in Chemistry or Mathematics, must repeat this year.

I think, sir, that this explains some things that "Educationalist" —if he is sincere—did not know or overlooked. I have no desire to enter upon a debate.

This letter was prompted by a very deep respect for the staff at P. W. C. by memories of their untiring zeal, and by the knowledge that graduates of Prince of Wales College are to be found at the top of the list in our Canadian universities—surely not a result of a poor system or poor management.

Thanking you, Sir, for publishing this

I am Sir, etc.

VERITAS.

P. E. I. Films

Sir.—In your issue of this date, on page three, under the heading "Central Guardian" and the caption "Summerize Enthusiastic," I notice my name mentioned as one of the Directors of the Prince Edward Island Films, Limited, and that the statement was given out Friday night by Mr. Smallwood, Mr. Ernest Shipman's representative. This announcement is, to say the least, somewhat peculiar, inasmuch as I never consented to act as a Director in this proposed company. As Saturday last, 26th inst., that Mr. Smallwood was speaking with me regarding the matter, I would appreciate your having this explanation made in your

column at as early a date as possible.

I am, Sir, etc.

CREELMAN MCARTHUR, Summerize, Aug. 28.

Reply to Mr. R. W. Tufts

Sir.—In your paper of August 28th there appeared a letter signed R. W. Tufts, claiming to be a reply to a letter written June 10th by a gunner, signing himself "Fair Play." I do not know what was in the writer was, possibly Mr. Tufts did not wish your readers to remember what was in that letter, or he would not have waited from June 10th to August 28, before answering it. More likely it is another case where a drowning man will grasp at a straw, for it is a well known fact that the taxpayers of this country are asking our representatives what we are paying sixty thousand dollars a year for, at that was what it cost the taxpayers of Canada to enforce the Migratory-bird Treaty last year. Mr. Tufts questions "Fair Play's" statement that the geese are often in better condition in the spring than in the fall. I agree with "Fair Play" on this point. I have found the wild geese quite often to be in better condition when they come here in the spring than when they come here in autumn. To prove this point, Mr. Tufts quotes from one whom he styles a well known Summerize gunner, giving the impression that out of sixty geese killed, only eight were fit for table use. Surely Mr. Tufts does not expect people of ordinary common sense to swallow such rot, much less any one who has ever shot wild geese. The only case where that could be possible would be if the other 52 were kept till they became as rank as his statement. Let me assure Mr. Tufts, also his Summerize authority, that I have never yet tasted a wild goose that the ordinary man would not get for flavor to most of the meat we buy in the butcher shops, and with the exception of a rare old fellow that should have been shot some fifty years sooner, they are much tenderer than the best beef steak we can get, unless they have a different brand in Summerize than what we get here. Mr. Tufts next takes exception to "Fair Play's" statement that the United States gunners can shoot wild geese till the tenth of March. He states that in no part of the United States is shooting of these birds of any other species of migratory game birds allowed later than Jan. 31, following this

(Continued on Page 5)