

THE Charlottetown Guardian

President A. A. Bartlett
Managing Editor J. R. Burnett

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GRIT CONTROVERSIAL METHODS

The polling takes place to-day in the First District of Kings for the vacancy in the Legislature caused by the appointment of the Hon. John McLean to the Senate. The candidates are Mr Harry D. McLean, Conservative, and Mr Lauchlan Macdonald, Liberal. The First District will make no mistake in returning Mr McLean as its representative. He is intimately connected with its interests, agricultural, fishing and commercial, and socially is popular with all classes. Left to itself, the First District would have returned Mr McLean by acclamation. There was no necessity for a contest. At the general election in September the District returned two Conservatives by large majorities, and according to the "truce," of which we heard so much from the Patriot prior to this vacancy, the Conservative nominee should have been returned without opposition. But a "truce" is "a scrap of paper" so far as the present Liberal leaders are concerned. They have no regard for political ethics or moral principles when they think they see an opportunity of gaining their ends—which is office and the control of the treasury to do with it as they did in the twenty years they were in office. The new Liberal leaders saw they had no chance of winning the seat by fair means, so they resorted to characteristically shady tactics. At the general election a similar policy was pursued. The Grit machine knew they had no chance of defeating the Government on its record, and they straightway manufactured the overseas oats scandal. They knew there was not a scintilla of truth in the charges made, yet they made them and repeated them on every platform from which they addressed the electors. Then when they had served their purpose they dropped them, and to-day the Oats Scandal is as dead as Queen Anne. In its place we have been furnished with the Arsenault Affidavit, which is now the subject of a prosecution for perjury and into the merits of which we shall not now enter. But this affidavit was sprung upon the electors of Souris at the last moment when it was impossible to investigate it by the Law Courts, commission or other formal tribunal. The Grit leaders knew this and traded upon it accordingly. It is an easy thing to start a scandal; it is another thing to overtake it and crush it. Being past masters in the art of shady electioneering the new Grit Leaders adopted the measures with which they are most familiar, and got in their dirty work before it was possible for the Commissioner of Public Works to take action to defend his reputation. They may have succeeded in misleading some of the electors in the Souris District, as there are always those ready to believe the worst about a public man or a government, but we feel satisfied the vast majority of the electors will have nothing but loathing for a party which could descend to such depths to serve a political end. The Patriot, which has done much blackguardly work of the kind in the past fairly revelled in misrepresentations on this affair. It first definitely charged the Commissioner of Public Works with persuading the Arsenault brothers to take public money to which they were not entitled; next it denied that it cast any blame upon the Commissioner, the Government, or any other body; on Monday it deliberately repeated that the Commissioner and the Government were to blame; while yesterday, on the eve of the election, when its disclaimer was too late to have any effect on the electorate, it calmly asserted the Liberals did not "charge the Government with guilt." We ask our readers and all fairminded people whether this be fair controversy or honest criticism. We feel confident that the vast majority of the people of the province have nothing but the greatest contempt for such political expediency and that the electors of the First District of Kings will show it by their votes to-day.

We are told in yesterday's Patriot that "the Liberal Leader, the Liberal party and the Patriot intend to follow this (the Arsenault affidavit) to the bitter end." Does it not sound ludicrous to have such "determination" expressed when not a syllable is published in the Patriot about the perjury proceedings instituted by Mr McNeill? We know exactly how much confidence to place in its protestations of having the public interest at heart. The Patriot has no use for the public interest or welfare when it runs contrary to the interests of the Patriot office-seekers. False statements about oats are made to do duty at the general election, and false statements about the Commissioner of Public Works at a by-election. Not only so, but it prates about publishing "the truth," when what it really means is fabricating and circulating gross misrepresentations for party ends. Respectable politicians and a responsible party must be ashamed to be represented by a paper so lost to all sense of honesty and fair play in public controversy.

PARTY POLITICS

An esteemed contributor sends us an editorial on the "Decline of Party Politics" from the Montreal Evening News, with the suggestion we should pass it on. We give the editorial first and will give our comments at the end:

"This war is producing or is going to produce

some drastic changes in certain phases of life, and one of these will undoubtedly be an increase in the interest taken in politics—not party politics, but the real thing. It is becoming more and more apparent that the average sensible man objects to tie himself entirely to any party. Modern politics, or in other words, the affairs of the nation, are growing more and more complex. Broadly, the country has two great parties, each of which takes up a definite position in regard to every problem of national life. Assuming that the two parties disappeared, and each voter made up his mind for himself, how many, after they had done so, could honestly subscribe to either of the present parties?

"The fact is that adherence to political parties is rarely a matter of conviction. It is dictated by heredity or environment or something else, but seldom by reason. That is what makes it so futile for men to say that politics are 'not fit for women.' They mean party politics of course, and in that sense, politics are not fit for any sensible human being. Why is it that at the first sign of national danger, the ranks close up and party disappears? Is it not because the people of the country know they cannot afford a luxury of such doubtful value and such dangerous possibilities in time of war? And is it not reasonable to claim that the argument applies also in time of peace?"

"But anyone can be destructive. Those who pull down must be prepared to rebuild. Many people admit that party politics are the curse of modern life, but they cannot devise a substitute. There is one right to hand. Let all national questions coming before Parliament for consideration be debated on their merits only, without regard to the shibboleths, and red tape of party affiliations. The suggestion may be drastic, but that is not necessarily a fault. The first man who carried an umbrella in the street was fined for creating an obstruction. The first postage stamps in the British Empire were received with derision, and an angry growl that 'those who wished to lick the Queen's back could do so.' The list might be extended almost indefinitely.

"Over in Britain, that land of inconsistencies, they are discussing the abolition of party politics and it is actually proposed to found a party to 'carry it into effect! That course is not suggested for this country, but it may be safely asserted that national problems should be considered on their merit only, and should receive the personal and considered opinion of each member of Parliament instead of two flocks of sheep, that it probably voices the convictions of a great many thoughtful people."

Our contemporary gives utterance to the wish of philosophic idealists. There always has been, and always will be, party politics so long as there are two men of diverse opinions who wish the support of a third. What our contemporary means, however, is not party politics, but the "party machine." In the old days members were returned to the legislature pledged to support the principles enunciated by the party, but were left free and untrammelled regarding details. In the old country, for instance, a man might be a Free Trade Liberal, but unpledged on the question of disestablishment and disendowment, and it would have been no breach of party discipline to oppose the introduction of any measure on that subject. But with the introduction of independent parties in the House of Commons, little hands of men who sought freedom within the party, it was found necessary to resort to party discipline. A Government, if it intended to do any progressive work, had to know beforehand how it stood as regards support in the House. This resulted in the appointment of whips, whose duty it was to report to the Government the state of the feeling of the party towards the policies of the ministry. If the great majority of the party favoured these policies, it was the duty of the whips to bring the minority to the same way of thinking, or at least voting. This gradually developed until no candidate was allowed to be accepted by the party organization in the constituencies unless he were prepared to respond on all occasions to the party whip. By this means Governments are assured that on all their principal measures they can count upon their followers to a man. Were this not so the general usefulness of a government would be gone. The "machine," of course, sometimes works oppressively, but in this respect the party has in view the greatest good of the greatest number, so far as its light goes.

Our contemporary in citing the agitation for a business government in the Old Country, only proves that party politics are necessary. A business government postulates a business party in the House. Names count for nothing in politics. The parties may be named Agricultural, as in Germany, Socialist, as in Australia, Liberal or Conservative, the aim and object are the same. In order to have things done there must be a majority of representatives in the Legislature prepared to support the leaders or government in any policy or measure they may seek to carry into effect, and that very fact constitutes party politics.

Party politics may be carried to extremes, of course. A party may be so obsessed with the greed for power and office that its leaders may drag the whole organization down in the mire. But that is party politics run riot.

On the other hand, we may find a section, or an individual, in a party declaring their independence. The cause, if minutely enquired into, will more often than not prove that it pays that section, or individual, better to throw off the party yoke than to follow in its train. They have an axe to grind, and wish to curry favour with both parties, or are open to the highest bidder. A government dependent for its support upon such uncertain quantities would be worse than useless, it would be a menace to the commonwealth. The only independence possible is to keep out of politics.

Therefore, taking all things into consideration, there are worse things than party government, and not the least is bastard independence.

"BEST LOOKING AND SMARTEST"

Letter From Horseshoe

Mrs. John McTavish, Eldon, who has two sons with the Second Siege Battery at Hornum, has received an interesting letter from Harry, dated from Roffey Camp, Dec. 12, 1915. He says:

"This is quite a place. The city is nearly all dark; every second light is out and the shades are all down on the windows. This is all done so the enemy can't get a range on it from a Zeppelin. The weather is very warm here now and the fields are as green as they would be home in June; big fields of cabbage growing and the sheep grazing out on the hills. All the young men who were here previously, are away to the war, none to be seen around town. All the island boys are well and, believe me, they are the best looking

and smartest battery here. The P. E. Island No. 2 Battery stands first out. I only hope some more lads from around home will come over and help us to save the colours, as it is their flag as well as ours. And the cause is a good one. I don't see that some of those lads have got such big interests at home to detain them. We will be leaving here in five weeks for Kansas and from there to the firing line. This soldiering is some life. We drill here if it rains or shines and take some very long marches. But 'We'll Never Let the Old Flag Fall.' I often think of the good old times we had in Charlottetown and how kind the people were to us. They certainly used the soldiers well. There are none like the Canadians after all.

ADMIT THE LOSS OF GLOUCESTER FISHING CRAFT

ELLA M. DOUGHTY, WITH HER CREW OF SIX, ONE AN ISLANDER, BELIEVED SUNK IN STORM

GLOUCESTER, Dec. 25.—The fishing schooner Ella M. Doughty, missing eight weeks, was today given up for lost with her crew of six men. No wreckage of any kind from the schooner has been sighted, but it is believed that she went down in a severe gale about 100 miles from this port. The Doughty was owned by the Gloucester Fisheries Company, and was commanded by Capt. Robert Diggins. A schooner was purchased about a year ago from persons in Maine, the left Gloucester Nov. 3 for the Bay of Islands, Newfoundland, to get a cargo of herring. The usual time for such a trip is two weeks, but the Doughty was old and slow, and her owners were not alarmed when nothing was heard of her for three weeks.

Today marked the eighth week, and the Doughty was officially given up for lost. In many respects the loss of the Doughty resembles that of the Ella M. Goodwin, which sailed from the Bay of Islands to Gloucester five years ago and was never heard from again.

Three days after the Doughty left port a severe storm struck the coast and it is believed that she foundered about 100 miles from Gloucester. The Doughty was 90 feet long and was built in Kennebunk, Me. She was of 75 tons.

The crew was small, for at this time of the year there is no fishing to be done and the men have only to guide the schooner to and from Newfoundland. The herring are landed at Bay of Islands, and when they are brought here are placed in cold storage.

Capt. Diggins was 54 years old and lived at 9 Millet Street. He was married, and is survived by his widow and two children.

Neils Johnson, 23, a fisherman for 12 years lived at 332 Main street. Joseph Beaton, 18, the youngest member of the crew, came from Ingonish, C. B., and had lived here three years, working as a fisherman. Plus McPhee, the cook, 47 years old, came from Prince Edward Island and lived at 28 1/2 Millet Street. Two sisters and three brothers survive him. Oliveira Pent, 26, and Manuel Silva, 32, natives of Portugal, completed the crew.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louison.

A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

By David Cory

God grant that I the new year through
May strive with heart and soul to do
Those things which are most good
and true.

God grant that I each morning start
My duties with a cheerful heart,
And cheerfully perform my part.

To wear a smile all through the day,
To banish thoughts unkind away;
And when my bedtime comes, to pray

To say my prayers with folded hands
As night comes softly o'er the lands,
To Him, who always understands.

And when the bells on New Year's
Proclaim the bright New Year is born
And I awake on New Year's morn.

I pray Him whisper, low and sweet,
To help me guide my wayward feet,
Lest I forget my prayer to meet.

"Here the newest and most scientific methods of rapidly and accurately filling prescriptions are practised—our department is presided over by an expert pharmacist—we use only pure fresh, full-strength drugs. You are sure of satisfaction when you leave your prescription here. The Two Maes, 149 Great George Street, Mt.

IMPORTANT

Relatives of soldiers returning from the front are asked to communicate with the Secretary of the Provincial Committee of Wounded Soldiers' Commission, Miss Nellie Gillespie, Charlottetown, in making the date of expected arrival, cause of return and any other particulars, in order that preparation may be made for a fitting reception.

RECRUITS JOINING 105TH HIGHLAND REGIMENT

Recruits for the 105th Battalion have been coming in lively during the last few days. The following have been added to the strength:

- F. Cheverie, New Zealand.
- Dalis Villard, New Zealand
- Isiah J. Horne, Souris
- Wm. Somers
- Arthur Coffin, Mt. Stewart
- Robt. Macklin, Mt. Stewart
- Andrew McEachern, Hermanville.
- Freeman McEwen, Midgill
- Patrick Barry, St. Peter's Bay
- Fred Cobb, Milburn
- Duncan Buchanan, New Dominion
- James M. McDonald, Kinross
- Herbert McDougall, Rose Valley
- Emmet Pierce, Souris
- Peter McPhee, Souris
- Chester Cobb, Fortune Bridge
- Donald McIntyre, Baltic
- Austin McDonald, Fortune Bridge
- Aeneas H. Campbell, Campbell's Cove.
- Archie Hume, Montague Bridge
- Leslie Leode, Long River
- George Johnson, Bloomfield
- Stanley Steele, City
- Gordon A. Murray, Ten Mile House
- Purdy Scott, Cornwall
- John G. McLean, Canoe Cove
- Lester Henderson, Long Creek
- Joseph Crokin, City
- Alex. Murray, Clyde River
- John P. Simmonds, Dunstaffnage
- Harold Coughlin, Darnley
- John T. Devine, Hunter River
- Wm. Chaisson, Rollo Bay
- Thos. Clair, Montague
- Harry Dele, Montague
- Earl McKay, French River
- John A. McDonald, Cable Head
- John J. McDonald, South Lake
- Edward D. McPhail, Clyde River
- George Gallant, Alberton
- Emmanuel McDonald, Armadale
- Simon A. Young, Georgetown
- William David, Georgetown
- Nelson McLaughlin, Clyde River
- Ernest P. Cairns, Murray Harbor.
- Dewey Irving, Cape Traverse
- Peter McKinnon, Annandale
- Wilfrid Hunter, Georgetown
- James White, Georgetown
- John Fitzgerald, Georgetown
- Augustus Howe, Coleman
- Maurice Perry, Alberton

MR. EDGAR CLEARS PREVAILING DOUBT

Reports That Not a Pound of Food For Belgians Goes To The Germans

NEW YORK, Jan. 4.—Not infrequently since the big shipments of wheat, flour and clothing were made from Canada last spring a doubt has assailed many people as to whether this food reached the Belgians, for whom it was intended, or was seized at least in part by the German invaders. This has been thoroughly cleared up now, however, through the investigation conducted by Mr. William Edgar. Mr. Edgar has returned from Belgium and he makes the unqualified statement that not a pound of food given to the Belgians, if sent through the Belgian Relief Commission, goes to the Germans.

As a safeguard against such a condition it is pointed out the Canadian and English friends of the Belgians have conducted all their distribution work through a committee of neutrals headed by Mr. Herbert Hoover, who has the assistance and co-operation of Mr. Brand Whitlock, the American minister, and thus as far as the possibilities of seizure by the Germans is concerned the food would not be safer if it were in the United States.

Mr. Edgar, who was in charge of a single gift of half a million dollars in value, adds that he would not hesitate to entrust five million dollars worth of materials to the committee and feel assured that the distribution could be accounted for to the last cent's worth. While there are many branches of the Belgian Relief work in the states there is one in Canada, the Belgian Relief Committee at 59 St. Peter Street, Montreal, and all these organizations distribute through the one commission in Belgium.

"We want you to come in and see the largest and best range of Overcoats in the City and we want you to see how much cheaper we can sell you a good Overcoat than you can buy anywhere else. Paton & Co. 6378.

A Fortunate Purchase

Paton's have secured from a leading Clothing Manufacturer at the close of the Season a big shipment of MEN'S OVERCOATS all leading styles and made from the very latest materials in the most wanted kinds. These Coats are excellent value and were bought at a great saving, some of them were made to sell at \$10.00 they are here for you at \$7.50, other \$12.00 values go at \$9.00, and \$15.00 Coats go at \$10.00 also a lot of \$18.00 values at \$12.00.

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Ladies Last Year's Coats
about 25 in all, regular sizes, were splendid value from \$12.50 to 25.00, clearing at \$9.98.
6 Men's Coats values up to \$15.00, choice for \$8.50 each.

PATON'S

CANADIAN CIVIC LEAGUE CONFERENCE AT OTTAWA

OTTAWA, Dec. 25.—Notice has been given of a conference to be held in Ottawa on January 20 looking toward the formation of a Canadian Civic Improvement League. Sir John Willison, chairman of the Provisional Committee of the league, will preside and there will be addresses by public men and discussion on the probable after effects of the war on Canadian municipal life and social conditions generally.

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