

**Today's Probabilities.**  
 Toronto, Jan. 29.—(Special)—Strong winds and gales, southeast and southwest occasional rain.  
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**THE MORNING GUARDIAN**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 1903.

**THE EXAMINER AND THE CONFERENCE**

In view of the Liberal Conservative Conference to be held in this city today, The Examiner follows The Guardian in urging the adoption of a "popular, progressive, distinctive policy, for which the young men the old men and the press could fight." But our contemporary speaks against the municipal system "with the additional cost that it would involve" because of our small population. We leave this point for the moment to follow what the party organ has outlined as a suitable platform. It accepts this journal's suggestion of the ballot in provincial elections, and adds a few minor points—improving the public book-keeping, reforming the school system in some indefinite way, and reforming the road system by having the road-tax expended where it is paid. It must be obvious to the most casual reader that this is what the late Sir John Macdonald would have characterized as "a laudan bill of fare." There is not enough in it to make up what even The Examiner admits is a necessity of the hour, "a popular progressive and distinctive policy," which young and old and the press could fight for. If the Conservative party wishes to challenge the attention and support of the country it

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must have a much broader, more comprehensive and distinctive policy than The Examiner has laid down. They must have something which will compare in originality and boldness with that of the party in power, which had the courage to pass the Prohibitory Act, the Road Act, the Hillsboro Bridge Act and the Farmer's Institute Act, to say nothing of other measures of lesser consequence. And we must join issue with The Examiner in the reflections which it casts upon the municipal system. It is the cheapest, most effective and most satisfactory system of local self-government which our modern civilization has devised. It embodies the very principle which The Examiner would introduce into the Road Act, of having the taxes expended where they are paid, among the people who pay them. Let the people tax themselves in the several counties instead of being taxed by the central Government. There is no such thing as a provincial tax on property or income known in Nova Scotia or New Brunswick and no such thing should be known here or would be if we had the municipal system. Let Queens, Kings and Prince Counties tax themselves according to their needs, pay the taxes into their respective County treasuries and disburse the same for their local services instead of sending the money to Charlottetown to form a Provincial grab-bag which only the partisans and favorites can get near enough to touch. That is the whole story in a nutshell. The municipal system is non-political. It enables the people in large measure by their elective councils to regulate the amount of their own taxes and to have the money expended among themselves. Their affairs are managed as a dairy company manages the corporate affairs of the patrons. The waste is reduced to a minimum, and is not a tenth part of the waste which our present system of party-political control of local affairs involves. The existing waste is notorious. The county councils in New Brunswick, of one of which the writer was for years a member, are models of economy. That is why we affirm with full knowledge and some experience that the municipal system is the cheapest as well as the most satisfactory of any known to our modern civilization. Under it the people pay only for what they get and get what they pay for. It is true that our Island is small, and not more populous than some single municipalities in Ontario. But that affords no argument at all against the adoption of the system here. We are well acquainted with one or two New Brunswick counties for instance, of from seven to ten thousand inhabitants, whose affairs are governed by county councils, and the system is just as economical and is valued as highly there as in the counties with a hundred thousand people. Our people hesitate to adopt the system here only because they do not quite understand it. But it is inevitable that it will yet be adopted and in no part of Canada will it be more valued than here when once it is tried. Does not Charlottetown need a City Council in the same way that Montreal needs a City Council, although the population of the latter is twenty-five times as great as that of the Island capital? We feel assured that the Conservative party will lose a golden opportunity if they take The Examiner's counsel and decline to adopt the municipal system as a plank in their platform along with the ballot. A correspondent of The Examiner want to know why he should be charged four dollars (really three dollars) a year for a local daily paper when he can get a larger, and as he thinks a better daily paper from Montreal for a dollar. The answer is easy. The great value of a newspaper is in the fresh news it contains. Nothing is so perishable as news. The Montreal paper when it reaches Prince Edward Island is anywhere from two days to a week old. Hence on that account it is of very much less value to an Island reader than to a Montreal reader. But the Montreal paper also con-

tains much local news and gossip of that city which is of interest and value to readers there but of comparatively little interest or value here, and the Montreal paper does not contain the local happenings of our City and Province. For that reason it is sold for a dollar here, while the Montreal reader must pay three to five times as much for it. The Island paper, whose telegraphic news is fresh, and its local news full and up to date, is easily worth three times as much to an Island reader as is a larger Montreal paper two or three days old. But all this affords no reason that we can see why gas such as is sold in Toronto for 80 cents should cost us \$2.20 in Charlottetown.

**THE EXHIBITION ASSOCIATION MEETING**

(Continued from First Page.)  
 JOHN J. DAVIES,  
 C. R. SMALLWOOD,  
 Secretary-Treasurer

The Secretary Treasurer submitted the financial statement. It showed the receipts to be \$11,830.21, the expenditure \$8542.00 leaving a balance after paying dividends for 1901 and 1902 at the rate of 3% of \$1544.81. For exhibition purposes solely the expenditure by the Association was \$2280.49 in excess of the Government grant of \$4900. In moving the adoption of the report the President referred to its different recommendations. The government had offered to inaugurate a show of seed grains of all kinds in the province in order to improve the seeds. It was also suggested that a portion of the profits be expended in additions to the prize list. In regard to the question of turnstiles it was stated that turnstiles were an absolute necessity. In former times the directors had to sell tickets themselves. The cost will be from \$800 to \$900. The question was discussed by S. W. Crabbe, Major Weeks and others, after which the report was unanimously adopted. Before the re-election of directors C. C. Gardiner asked that he be not again balloted for, having served for thirty years. The President and G. E. Hughes referred to the great standing that Mr. Gardiner had been for a large number of years. He had been one of the chief promoters of the Provincial Exhibitions. Judge Fitzgerald referred to the great loss sustained by the resignation of Mr. Gardiner, whose place could not be filled. The following resolution—carried unanimously—was moved by Judge Fitzgerald and Judge Warburton and ordered to be engrossed and handed to Mr. Gardiner signed by the President and Secretary. Resolved that the shareholders of this association on their own behalf and as representing the agricultural interests of this Province desire to put on record their high appreciation of the services of C. C. Gardiner as one of its directors for the past 8 or 10 years. It is their wish also to express to him on his retirement from the board their sense of the great benefit this Province has derived from his ever willing and invaluable labor during the past thirty years. It is well recognized that he was the principal originator of this institution, and we are as well aware that its success has in a large measure been due to his able and untiring efforts. We desire to express the hope that in the future, though relieved from the active duties of a Director, he will yet give a helping hand in the Company's interest, and for those whose welfare it represents. In thanking the shareholders Mr. Gardiner referred to the first Exhibition held in Holland Grove on Upper Prince Street thirty years ago with only two or three cows and horses, and the great strides since. He pointed out that the great success of stock raising in England was owing to their Exhibitions. A vote of thanks was unanimously tendered the Directors. John Newson and others suggested that the Government take action in preventing the importation of impure seed by Farmers' Institutes and other buyers throughout the Province. The bad seed imported last year would do inestimable damage to the Province. The wild mustard especially had done much harm. The election of officers resulted as follows:—F. L. Haszard, F. H. Beer, Judge Fitzgerald, Geo. E. Hughes, J. J. Davies, Judge Warburton, Robert E. Longworth.



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