

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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Morning Daily (founded 1887) 25.00 per year (delivered) in advance. 22.00 per year (mailed) in advance in Canada and 24.50 to U. S. A.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1922

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

The scarcity of building lots in the city together with the high prices demanded for those that are available is urged as an argument against the city taking advantage of the federal government's offer. There is something in the argument but against it is the improbability of any one risking his money on the city risking a loan beyond the actual value of the property. Scarcity of building lots and excessive prices on lots will naturally prevent any extensive building undertakings.

It is quite possible as some claim that once it is known the city is going to assist in building operations, owners of lots will immediately increase their prices. As already stated this can only prevent building operations and leave the vacant lots on their owners' hands. Prices of building lots will be governed largely by their location and environment and no doubt the city will take this into consideration when advancing a loan. No doubt also the price asked for a building lot will be taken as the assessment value for municipal taxes and few owners will care to set an excessive price on their vacant lots on the uncertain prospect of making a sale and the certainty of being obliged to pay taxes on the excessive value. There are still many vacant lots in the city; some of them held for prices beyond their actual value a right which their owners undoubtedly have. These lots are no doubt assessed at the owners' valuation; if not they certainly ought to be. A few men will continue to pay taxes on fabulous values; they will sell on the first presentation of tax bills.

There are unsightly and fire-trap properties in the city which should be taxed on the value to which they would rise if properly utilized. Some of these eyesore properties are in the principal parts of the city and will remain eyesores as long as they are permitted to exist, excessive rents and pay municipal taxes. These eyesores need to be cleaned up or cleaned off and the most effective way to do it is to assess them at the value which their location and possibilities would enable them to attain to.

Charlottetown is pretty solidly built. The comparatively few remaining building lots are, generally speaking, beyond the reach of the average citizen who must borrow to buy or to build. For this reason we must creep gradually in to the suburbs and, in order to do this, city improvements must also creep gradually into the suburbs. The City should be much more populous than it is but it can grow only by extending its boundaries.

MIGRATORY GAME LAWS

According to a treaty entered into between the United States and Great Britain, Canada concerning in 1916 for the protection of migratory game birds it was agreed that open seasons should be observed as follows: In Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario and some of the western provinces, from September 1 to December 14; in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, September 15 to December 31.

In the United States, inland and west, September 1 to March 10; along the Atlantic Coast, north of Chesapeake Bay August 15 to February 1. As is well known the migratory birds, including geese, ducks, and brant go north in the spring to their nesting places, returning south in the late summer and fall. The intention of the treaty was to protect the mature birds on their way to their nesting places, and on return with their fully developed young in the autumn to permit the hunters to have a crack at

them. The intention was no doubt a good one; the slaughter of the mother birds on their way to their nests would, theoretically at least, eventually destroy the whole species. Practically however little damage was done by the fall shooting as the birds generally kept away from the shores. In the spring, by the aid of decoys specially constructed and shooting tubs camouflaged in the ice the hunters generally secured a small harvest, a few sportsmen being able to secure a sufficient number for the home market and possibly for export. In this province, practiced by the only goose shooting was in the spring. Our sportsmen there fore consider it a hardship to be absolutely forbidden to shoot geese, particularly in the spring and many of them are of the opinion that the Yankees put "one over on them" in reserving for themselves the right to shoot geese as early as March 10, while the birds are on their northward flight.

We understand our maritime sportsmen are taking steps to have an open season so adjusted as to at least conform to the close season in the United States. In Canada there are comparatively few sportsmen and they argue that the depletion they would cause in the goose population would be infinitesimal in comparison with that caused by the thousands of American sportsmen who take advantage of the spring shooting season.

While there is no desire to make an onslaught on the parent birds previous to the nesting season they consider the discrimination in favour of the Americans an unfair one. It would appear that an extension of a couple of weeks at least, in the spring would not materially affect the future of the race of wild geese. In any case there does not appear to be any justification for the difference in these seasons between the United States and Canada.

MR. WEBSTER'S EXPLANATION The explanation implied in yesterday's Patriot by Councillor Webster, Chairman of the Finance Committee, that it was to save expenses that the Financial Statement was not published as usual this year will scarcely satisfy the electors. If his explanation is to be taken as an intimation that the report is not to be published this year at all, it will scarcely be regarded as a compliment to the retiring council and we feel sure that they as well as the electors will resent it. The withholding of information cannot be regarded as economy; on the contrary it engenders suspicion and Councillor Webster as Chairman of the Finance Committee is assuming a grave responsibility. In digressing from a time honored custom. His reference to previous expenditures for election purposes is as undignified as it is irrelevant.

In this connection we may quote the following from a letter in the Patriot yesterday, signed Citizens: "It is well that more than ordinary interest is being taken in the Civic Elections to be held next week. As a result of the discussion so far in the Press certain facts appear to have been clearly established. They are:— "First, that the expenditure for the ordinary services of the City has increased year by year until now it is almost double what it was ten years ago. "Second, ordinary receipts are not sufficient to meet the ordinary expenditure, according to the statements published by the retiring Council for the last two years. In 1920 there was a deficit of \$275,000 and in 1921 a surplus of \$349,000 after crediting \$800,000 received from the sale of Pownall Wharf, which was not an ordinary receipt. "Third, the Civic Debentures Debt now stands at \$890,705.00. That is over \$73.00 per head for every man, woman and child in the City. "Fourth, that the annual outlay for interest and discount now amounts to over \$48,000.00 or \$4.00 per head of the population of the City. "In view of these established facts, it is not in my opinion any wonder that most of the candidates looking for civic honors at present promise to practise economy in future and some make a definite

Others' View Points

CUT TWO WAYS

(Marketing, Toronto) The folly of having something bad and advertising it as good is only equalled by the folly of having something good and not advertising it at all.

A MAN OF POWER

(Syracuse Post-Standard) Mr. George will go to the Geaon conference with the good will of Wirth of Germany, Lenin of Russia and Bonomi of Italy—a strangely assorted company, indeed, but a powerful. The French premier, whoever he may be, will not have the strength with his own people that the Welshman has, and he will not have the allies. Not in generations has the head of the British government held the power in Europe that Lloyd George holds today.

THE FAMILY PURSE

(London Advertiser) Once more a judge has stated his opinion as being that a woman is quite within her rights in asking money out of the pockets of her husband's trousers.

The pity is that women find it necessary at times to resort to such practices—likewise that men think it necessary to keep their money out of the wife's reach.

The family purse is a mutual affair, and is the property of us and our wife.

The sooner married people get away from the "hand-out" idea and policy, the better for them both. A man and wife who cannot sit down and plan the family budget and apportion the income are missing a lot of fun, and passing up the basis of a good working arrangement.

premise that they will not vote for an increase in the present rate of taxation but, having given the matter some consideration, it appears that it will be difficult enough to run the ordinary business of the City at the present rate. That brings up the question of permanent public works, therefore, as a most important question upon which the citizen should express a definite opinion and in this Civic Election that cannot be done because in very few cases do the candidates make any pledge either for or against the policy of issuing debentures for permanent works. It must be clear to everyone that we cannot have permanent work in future without the issue of additional debentures, which clearly means increasing our taxation. It is well that everybody should have a clear understanding of that matter and my object in writing letters is merely to merely to have the facts before the citizens and, so far as I was able, to insist that before further debentures are authorized or issued, a special plebiscite of the citizens should be taken on the question. That is that we should be able to have a satisfactory expression of opinion.

"The Civic Election in 1920 only cost \$800.00 and even if the expense of taking a plebiscite was no greater, it is my opinion that it would be in the interest of the citizens that such a plebiscite should be held. My motto is let the will of the majority be expressed and be given effect to and by person can then complain."

Before such an opinion can be expressed either at an election or by plebiscite it is necessary that the public accounts should be published. And notwithstanding anything Mr. Webster may say to the contrary the electors have a right to have these accounts published and not be dependent upon any statement of his regarding alleged individual savings effected during his regime.

Daily Selections for Guardian Readers

From the collection of the late Mr. W. S. Louson

WEAVING

Yes, I'm a weaver and each day The threads of life I spin. And, be the colors what they may, I still must weave them in. With morning light there comes the thought As I my task begin. My Lord to me new threads has brought. And bids me weave them in.

Sometimes He gives me threads of gold. To brighten up the day; Then somber tints, so bleak and cold. That change the gold to gray. And so my shuttle swiftly flies. With "reads" both gold and gray; And on a roll till daylight dies. And fades in night away.

O, when my day of toil is o'er, And I shall cease to spin He'll open wide my Father's door And bid me rest within. When safe at home in heavenly light.

How clearly I shall see That every thread, the dark, the bright— Each one has need to be! Author Unknown.

Notes By The Way

(From The Examiner.)

There is not now a single province under Conservative rule in Canada. Seven of them are under Liberal rule and two are under control of the organized Farmers. And the Liberal Patriot rises to remark upon what it calls "The Everlasting Problem." It says:—"In more than one of the provinces the everlasting problem of making revenue and expenditure meet is now the all-absorbing question."

The Patriot cites the province of New Brunswick as a case in point. It is one of the Liberal provinces. It has a revenue from increased taxation twice as great as the previous Conservative Government had. Yet it had last year a deficit of over half a million dollars, and has been going behind at such an increased rate since October 31st (the end of the fiscal year) that to quote the Patriot, "it means an even larger deficit next year." The case is really worse than that, but we prefer to take it from the Patriot's own words. We quote further:

"The half million deficit of last year and the anticipated greater deficit of this year can be cared for only in one way. They must be added to the public debt, and that means piling cost on cost. Last year the province used \$752,175 of its \$3,371,972 of revenue to pay its largest charges. Practically one-third of all the province rests from all sources goes out in interest."

That is the present financial position of New Brunswick under Liberal rule. New sources of revenue must be found, new taxation laid out! It is an open secret that the question of taking over the liquor traffic as a source of revenue, following the Liberal example of Quebec and British Columbia, has been considered. The Temperance Alliance has taken alarm and has issued its remonstrance in advance against making revenue out of the price of crime and blood, but the issue is still in the balance. A mad riot of expenditure has brought New Brunswick to this deplorable condition under Liberal rule.

But that was just what was to have been expected from what had already occurred here in our own province as before cited in these notes. From 1891 to 1911 we had continuous Liberal rule in Prince Edward Island, and there was a deficit every year. There was not a single exception. Year by year there was a deficit, on the whole making a total of over \$755,000, and the deficit was added to the debt and the interest thereon mounted up from year to year until we had a change of Government.

Well may the Patriot call it an "everlasting problem" to make revenue and expenditure meet under Liberal rule. But one province is doing it so far as we know, and that is Quebec. The Patriot says the Bell Government has solved the problem so far as Prince Edward Island is concerned. Well, we prefer to await the final accounting! The false promises by which the people were deceived before the last election, and the contradictory statements of different ministers and of their organs since that date are calculated to raise doubts on that point! No doubt an attempt will be made to how a "book-keeping" balance.

But a book-keeping balance, or even a real surplus, cannot solve the rank offence of having gained power by deceiving the people. That is the head and front of their offending. It was followed by treble taxation, imposed upon the people in violation of solemn pledges, without any mandate from the people, without notice to the people, and in known opposition to the wishes of the people. And where did the first fruits of the new taxes go? Into the pockets of the ministers and the pockets of their subservient followers in the House!

Before a dollar of the new taxation had gone into public use, to pay the public debt, or the interest thereon, or to provide any public service for the people they took their toll of \$300 apiece—enough to pay their own taxes, for sooth! Well, we are a church-going people. What would we think of the man taking up the usual collection in church who would take off the plate and put, in his own pocket the dollar, or fifty cents, or the quarter which he had a moment or two before ostentatiously contributed to the church funds? There have been such examples, but they are not held in very high respect. Does taking the money out before putting it in add anything to the merit of the transaction?

No! They may show a surplus, or a deficit, but it will not cure or

Ever a Prisoner's His Game Over

Set a Turk to catch a Turk and he will get him. This explains why Enver Pasha, former war lord of Turkey and the man whom the Supreme Council of the Allies described as the greatest criminal in the World War, and the Constantinople Government declared was the biggest rascal, the most despicable thief and the greatest murderer of all ages, is a prisoner after a three years' search. The Allies sought him to try him on the charges made against him, the Constantinople Government wanted him in order to hang him, it having already found him guilty in his absence and sentenced him to death. Says the New York Herald, "Neither the Allies nor the Sultan's Government could find him. But when Enver tried to play the Turkish Nationalists against the Moscow Soviet, Mustafa Kemal Pasha thought that it was time to end his shrewd political game and sent for him. Enver, according to the latest report is on his way to Ankara, the Nationalist capital."

An Empty Treasury

After the defeat of the Turkish army and the utter collapse of the Ottoman Government at the end of the war, Enver disappeared from Constantinople. He left an absolutely empty Turkish treasury. A Constantinople report said that he took away with him \$10,000,000 in national funds, and a sum as large amassed in war contracts and profiteering operations. The Allied authorities held him responsible among other crimes for the death of approximately 1,000,000 Armenians. The Constantinople Government charged him with this crime, with the murder of a Prince of the Sultanate house, with looting the Imperial treasury and with peculations during the war. Enver went first to Germany; he was heard of next at Moscow trying to ingratiate himself with the Soviet Government.

King of the Kurds.

In a short time he turned up as King of the warlike Kurds, chosen to the throne principally because his wife was a niece of the Sultan. He appeared at Ankara, but, embittered by the coolness of his reception, he returned to Kurdistan, and, with a force organized there, he overthrew the small republics of the Transcaucasian region and set up in each of them a Soviet Government under control of Moscow. His scheme, as the Turkish Nationalists understood it, was to join with Trotsky in the overthrow of Turkish Nationalism and the conversion of Anatolia to Bolshevism. Before he could bring his plans to fruition he was captured. He has started for Ankara, not a conqueror as he hoped, but a prisoner.

Au Amazing Adventurer.

These form the latest chapters in the most remarkable life story of modern Turkey. Enver was the

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condone the offences of the Bell Government. If it be a surplus, we know how it has been wrung from the pockets of the people without their consent and in violation of solemn pledges. If it be another deficit it will be added to the twenty successive deficits which previous Liberal Governments left as a legacy to their successors, and which was added to the public debt, swelling the annual interest charge.

Truly, it is an "everlasting problem" under a "Dash-away, splash-away" Liberal Government to make revenue and expenditure meet. It was "everlasting" so far as the late Liberal Government in this province was concerned. It lasted from the beginning to the end of their long term of power. Today we have the "everlasting" tax-collector always with us, taking everything tangible and intangible, taxing head and body, arms and hands, legs and feet in the poll tax; taxing lands, taxing income with taxes everlastingly rising as the people grow fewer from year to year. What will the end be?

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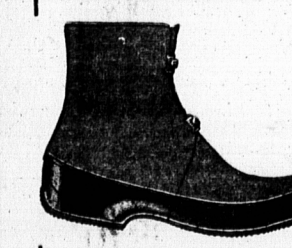
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