

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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THE EVERLASTING PENDULUM

"From dearth to plenty and from death to life is Nature's progress," said one of the old poets. "Life is one darned thing after another," says the modern cynic. Somehow, we progress in alternate leaps forward and backward. There is no steady progression. Last summer our fair province basked for some happy months in the sunshine of an expected period of comparative freedom from taxation; today we are faced with taxation in its most acute form. In the immediate future there looms up a radical immunity from the taxation terror. And here we are thrown from one extreme to another. Let us not be mistaken. The everlasting pendulum swings from one extreme to another and the path of safety is indicated by the centre of gravity, midway between the two. Neither in extreme taxation nor in immunity from taxation lies the safety of the province. It is midway between and is measured only by the economic needs of the country. There is danger in revulsion and one of the crimes committed during the short regime of the Bell government is that in adopting an extreme measure it has already brought about a revulsion which is liable to drive people to the opposite extreme.

What we need is safe, sane, business leadership not alone from the politicians but from the sane, level headed people of the province. Let all extremes be avoided.

FARMERS WANT LABOR AS FEDERAL ALLY

As the Toronto "Globe" on behalf of the Liberals enthused over the tariff revision resolution of the independent Labor Party of Ontario, so has the "Grain Growers' Guide" on behalf of the Federal Farmers' party thrown open its arms to embrace the supporters of this policy. The Farmers and the Liberals, having repudiated free trade for something which will come as close to free trade as possible without being so labelled, would like nothing better than to convince labor that all are working for the same thing.

The demands of labor for lower duties on the necessities of life and tools and machinery used in production will attract a great deal of sympathy, but it has always been recognized that the interests of the workers lie in the adequate protection of those industries which could not otherwise exist in this country. Therefore, when avowed enemies of protection talk of the "Ontario Labor Party" as a "valuable ally" in the fight against the tariff the labor leaders had best look carefully to the motives for the welcome being so heartily extended.

The repudiation of free trade by the Liberals and the Farmers' party indicates that it is recognized that for political and economic reasons such a policy would be harmful to Canada. And yet if Labor combines its demands for tariff concessions with those of the other parties the joint platform will so closely approximate free trade that the chief difference will be in the name only.—Financial Post.

ENQUIRING TOURISTS

The following extracts from a letter received the other day in Charlottetown speak for themselves and incidentally show how this province is year after year deliberately missing one of the golden opportunities placed in the way of but few countries:

"A few of my friends in Upper Canada are coming to P. E. Island this summer and they wish to get suitable accommodation at some of the seaside hotels I am not in possession of the names of these hotels and I would appreciate very much if you would send me a list of the names and addresses of the different places where one could procure suitable accommodation for a couple of months during the summer. I cannot tell you how many I have met, both in Canada and the United States, who have asked me if there are any good places on the Island where they could procure accommodation for a few weeks, some of them a few months, but I could not give them any information except as to the hotels in Charlottetown and Summerside."

This letter indicates a condition that should not exist here. We have hotels at seaside places, good hotels, but evidently they are not sufficiently well known except during the time they are open in the summer, and, generally speaking, known only to those who are in the habit of spending their summer there. We also have dozens of farm and village homes along the seaside, just such homes as a great many of our summer visitors would desire and which if known to exist would induce many more visitors to spend their summers here.

Once upon a time there was a Tourist Association in Charlottetown, another in Summerside. These associations published lists of hotels and private homes prepared to accommodate visitors and through this means the tourist trade was greatly helped.

It is not yet too late to do this for the coming season. A few dollars would register all the hotels and private boarding houses in the province and afford the information necessary to bring hundreds of visitors to the province. Who will do it?

CURRENT COMMENT

Mr. Higgs, M. L. A. has a wonderful confidence in the capabilities of the "school boy." We all have, and reverently we say, God bless them, but we must also add to our prayer "God help them under the new Educational Act." They are the pride of our people and the hope of our country. Without teachers to instruct, or under poorly paid and cheap low grade tuition their powers of reduction and deduction will surely be weakened. But even our school boys, the very best of them, can not perform the miracles of addition and transformation which Mr. Higgs ascribed to them in his Market Hall speech. "Any school boy in the land" can, true enough, take two bushels of potatoes and two bushels of oats and make four bushels of the mass. But by no ingenuity can he make either four bushels of oats or four bushels of potatoes out of it. He might even include both in the same account, render it on the same bill head, and make payment by the same cheque or in the same funds, but it would be still and all through the same two bushels of oats and two of potatoes.

Now Mr. Higgs' brilliancy, and the power which he ascribes to "any school boy in the land" is in making a dollar and a half income tax and a half dollar of War and Health tax count as two dollars of income tax. If his political creed would have profited by the transaction, he could have reversed the process adding both together under the heading War and Health tax and solemnly declare that there was no income tax at all. Or he could add the new Poll tax and Income tax together and call the whole thing Poll tax. Isn't this so? All taxes are paid from the income of the taxpayer, if he has any. Why not let Mr. Higgs and the school boys call them all income tax, instead of Land tax, Poll tax, Dog and Bitch tax, Road tax, Income tax and so on ad infinitum.

And just one more correction of the emphatic city member. He is one of the acknowledged legal luminaries of the House. Quite frequently lay genius are a successful rival of those trained to the cult. It has been hinted that he has aspirations after the Attorney General's portfolio. We are not disposed to underestimate his abilities too much either legally or in his ordinary intelligence. In fact we must admit a kind of sneaking regard for him personally. But to excel in law he must be acquainted with the primaries. One of these is that a statute passed to operate for one year only, expires with the dying embers of that year. He should have "posted himself," as he claimed he did, before contradicting a citizen who informed him that "there is no War and Health tax now, it expired on 31st, of last December." And he should not have insisted that the "present income tax is 2 per cent, for it is not. It is only 1 1/2 per cent on all incomes large or small.

The Hon. Mr. Nash did not, it appears, under-rate the enthusiasm of the country over the TAXATION ACT, and of the popular reception of the Government in the arms and affections of the people. Why their gatherings of adulation (?) are already commenced and the process of a general demonstration fairly under way. Several delegations

Daily Selections Guardian Readers

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Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee. Isa. xxvi. 3

When on my day of life the night is falling,
And in the winds from unshined spaces blown
I hear far voices out of darkness calling
My feet to paths unknown—

Be near me when all else is from me drifting—
Earth, sky, home's pictures, day of shade and shine,
And kindly faces to my own up lifting
The love which answers mine.

Suffice it if — my good and ill unreckoned,
And both forgiven through Thy sounding grace
I find myself by hands familiar beckoned
Unto my fitting place;

There from the music round about me stealing
I fain would learn the new and holy song,
And find at last, beneath Thy trees of healing
The life for which I long. Amen.

J. F. WHITTIER.

HAPPENINGS OF THE WEEK

The King and Queen will hold two Courts in the ballroom of Buckingham Palace, in June, for ladies desirous of being presented, but mere attendances at these ceremonies is not desired. It will probably be found necessary to announce two Courts in July, for there is no official intention to limit the number attending these ceremonies, and there are certain to be thousands of applications. Feathered and trains have disappeared from full dress costumes. Men are to wear "full Court dress," which presumably means full dress uniform.

The mothers and daughters of the Methodist church had the novelty of being entertained by the men of the church at a delicious banquet Thursday evening. As it was one of the most interesting events of the week it is being pleasantly discussed by those fortunate enough to have been present.

The fashion forecast says that tailored lines, relieved by bits of brilliant color, in tiny plings or folds will be characteristic of the smartest street dresses for late spring.

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have already waited upon them with floral wreaths, or perchance bouquets of thorns and thistles to decorate their popular new horn prodigies. The good people of Peakes, have sent their tribute of to add piquancy to the jokes of the Royal Jester. At Centreville, constituency of Premier Bell and the Commissioner of Agriculture, something like an indignation meeting has been held, where garlands of roses were woven to adorn the brows of their dethroned idols. An immense mass meeting of citizens of Charlottetown voiced their sentiment in Market Hall, and a day later the Fox Breeders' association joined in the chorus. Surely the jests of the Hon. member for Bel- fast are blooming out into full fruition.

Mr. Speaker Duffy had not learned his lessons quite as well as his colleague, and the natural result was shown in very considerable floundering. The burden of his song was on the adaptability of the TAXATION ACT, for tripping up dishonest people. In a province like this it has always been assumed that our people, especially our merchants to whom he principally referred, were honest. It appears however, according to more Liberals than Mr. Duffy, that we are compelled to deal with a bigger percentage of the dishonest class than we dreamed of before. To catch these the Government has struck the cute expedient of the personal property tax. If we can't catch them on Income we'll get them on their personal estate. Pressed for an answer as to what he would do with a fox company that had no pups and had to pay out \$5000 expenses running the ranch, he hedged and evaded and finally claimed the Government had the option of leaving them alone, and that "no man will be asked to pay a tax when it can be shown that he has made no profit." Now the Speaker is a lawyer and has read the act, and he should know that there is no such option in or under the act. He further talks of dishonesty. What could be more barefaced than to give any government such an opportunity to play into the hands and pockets of its political friends? The Hon. Attorney General claimed as a prime feature of the law, that it treated all alike. Is it possible that loop holes are in the act to permit such questionable transactions?

When you hear some one shouting "stop thief" in public it is sound wisdom to watch your pockets. This is not without application even on a question of taxation. There is a class of individuals whose judgment of others is based upon a knowledge of themselves. There are old sayings such as "It takes a thief to catch a thief" and "An old smuggler makes a good customs officer" which are also to the point. To illustrate: The now proverbial honesty (?) of Liberals in their election campaign, the promises they made and the countless assurances given that there would be no further TAXATION. If Mr. Duffy was gauging the honesty of the business people by his own political record and that of those who are associated with him in political conference, doesn't it look as if his suspicions were well founded?

Another noticeable thing was that both the city members almost repudiated the Government in toto. Mr. Duffy emphasized most vigorously that he was not a member of the Executive, only a private member, and Mr. Higgs also claimed to be independent and to act as he considered right, but he was a Liberal and of course with a twitch of the head in the Government direction. That Bell combination must be a big load to carry.

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