

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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MONDAY, MAY 14, 1923

THE BUDGET

The Fielding budget, a synopsis of which was published in Saturday's Guardian, is remarkable for at least one thing, that is, the steady adherence of the Liberal party to the National Policy which for over forty years they have steadily denounced. It is remarkable also in its demonstration of the wisdom and foresight of the Conservative Opposition, whose criticisms and suggestions are plainly evident in the few changes made in the tariff.

The delay in bringing down the budget, the postponement from date to date is easily understood. Conflicting interests had to be reckoned with, demands and counter demands had to be met, high tariff and low tariff and no tariff at all advocates had to be satisfied and the result has been that practically no changes have been made. There is a slight reduction in the duty on refined sugar of one half cent per pound and forty cents per hundred pounds on raw sugar. A curious feature is the reduction of the duty on cigarettes to the figure obtaining under the late government. Last year the Liberal government out-heroded the protectionist Herod by increasing the duty on cigarettes by \$1.50. The effect of this reversion to high protection was to cut down the revenue from this source by something over a million dollars for the year and, to induce a flood of cigarette smuggling from the United States. The plunge into high protectionism was a conspicuous failure and the duty was reduced as stated. The effect no doubt will be to reduce the price of cigarettes and to encourage the manufacture of cigarettes in Canada. The duty on soft drinks has been changed by placing a duty of one cent per pound on carbonic acid gas. It was decided that, the Liberal platform of 1919 and the demand of a wing of the Progressive party to the contrary notwithstanding, that there should be no reduction in the duty on foodstuffs and that no further protection be afforded the Canadian farmers by increasing the duty on American imports of farm products. These items remain as they were under the previous government and before the American government closed their doors against Canadian products. One commendable change has been made, thanks to the storm of indignation aroused throughout the country and the suggestions of the Opposition, the sales tax will now be imposed at the source. This tax will in future be six per cent. on the duty paid value of goods or on the manufactured cost of home made goods. This change will be a welcome one to the retail trade to which since its imposition it has been a veritable millstone.

From the sales tax last year, increased as it was by fifty per cent., the government derived an additional revenue of thirty millions. The total revenue shows an increase of fifty millions as compared with the previous year. Imports were larger and receipts from customs increased by fifteen millions. Notwithstanding the increased revenue there has been an increase of forty five millions in the public debt, due to advances on railway account. As it is anticipated that there shall be a betterment in the operating expenses of the railway, there is room to hope that in the not distant future, the increased revenue through higher taxation may produce a surplus that can be applied to the reduction of the public debt.

The personal appeal to President Harding to use his good offices in inducing his government to show some leniency to Canada in the matter of import duties on Canadian products, is to be regretted. Canada wants no favors, personal

or otherwise from the United States or its president. She wants a square business deal and nothing more. If the United States wants to build a tariff wall between her and Canada, she has a perfect right to do so; Canada has a similar right on her side of the border and will serve her own interests better by building such a wall than by begging the president to go slowly on wall building. The president of the United States has nothing to do with the tariff, it is a matter for his government. Mr. Fielding's budget speech would have looked infinitely more dignified and more Canadian without that resolution.

CAUSES OF UNREST

The agitator named, or rather misnamed, Malcolm Bruce whose recent seditious utterances in Sydney, if as alleged made him liable to two years imprisonment, made his get-away. The provincial authorities got after him and the cowardly agitator who would pull down the British flag and raise the Red flag of Bolshevism in Canada, got out of the way. The Attorney General of Nova Scotia who ordered his immediate arrest is to be commended on his prompt action, and it is to be regretted that the fellow succeeded in getting away. He is still in Canada, however, and if the federal authorities do their duty, he shall yet be placed on trial. His co-worker who presided at the meeting in Sydney denies that Bruce made the statement attributed to him, but such evidence, given after the officers of the law had got after him, is worthless. There were other witnesses, and the matter is one for the courts to settle.

Within the past two years, the Red flag has been by far too prominent in Canada. Parades headed openly by the Red flag have been held in different parts of the country; Sovietism and Bolshevism have been openly preached and the authorities have not raised a hand to prevent it. Not only have they not tried to prevent it, but members of the Mackenzie King government have taken opposite sides in disputes that have arisen. When MacLachlan issued an order to the miners to "loaf on the job," Mr. Murdoch, Minister of Labor, declared that the Conciliation Board would not be reconstituted until MacLachlan's order was revoked. The Hon. W. S. Fielding, declared that the Board would be reconstituted without imposing any condition upon MacLachlan, the Prime Minister, the Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, took sides with Mr. Fielding and the man whose duty it was to look after the interests of Labor was obliged to take a back seat, while the agitator MacLachlan had his own sweet way! This was part of the beginning of the labor troubles in Cape Breton; the Red parade of May Day and Malcolm Bruce's seditious utterances were an evolution and the end is not yet.

These are some of the causes of unrest and Bolshevism in Canada. We have no government at Ottawa, what is masquerading there as a government is made up of fragmentary sections none of which can move less than the others jump on it.

The delivery of the budget speech in Parliament is almost always followed by a prolonged debate and this is likely now to be repeated. Even the modest tariff changes now proposed by Mr. Fielding will not pass unchallenged. Some reductions and some increase of rates are made. There is no question on which there are more differences of opinion than the customs tariff and many of the 235 members will want to air their views upon it. Mr. Fielding honestly admits a large deficit for the past year, and expects another during the current year, but takes such comfort as he can from the fact that the yearly deficits and additions to the public debt are slowly being decreased.

He does not yet propose to "make both ends meet," as our local Government wisecracks boast that they do and were forced to do at one jump. He expresses some regard for over-burdened taxpayers that the Bell Government neither felt nor expressed. He has even reduced some federal taxes, but the Bell government continues to exact the last cent of the doubled

Opposition leadership is always difficult, and no matter how able the statesmanship, or how brilliant the generalship, there are usually mutterings of dissatisfaction. Even such consummate leaders as Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir Wilfrid Laurier faced at times this situation. Mr. Meighen is fortunate today in having behind him a united party. There is no question of any other leader, for the reason that he possesses to an unusual degree the qualifications of statesmanship—London Free Press

Notes by the Way

Hereafter the express business of the Canadian National Railways will be controlled by the railway authorities instead of by companies as heretofore. This, we are told follows British practice in such matters. It may be objected that this will create a monopoly in the express service where before we had the advantage of competition. But the advantage derived from the competition was small. There were loud and general complaints that express rates, like the ordinary railway freight rates were exorbitantly high. There will be but little complaint if hereafter the people are given an efficient express service at fair rates. The postal service is a government monopoly in almost all civilized countries, but it is quite as efficient and supplied at as small comparative cost as any other.

The rule of the road—whether to turn to the left or right—was not dealt with by the Legislature at its recent session. And yet it was a matter urgently requiring attention. In the United States the rule has long been that teams and motor cars should turn to the right when they meet. The Western Provinces of Canada adopted the same rule. Down to last year all the three Maritime Provinces adhered to the British practice of turning to the left, but have since fallen in with what has thus become the almost universal plan in America. Prince Edward Island stands alone for the left turn and no power but that of the Legislature can change or repeal the existing law. What will happen when American or Canadian visitors come to visit us in motor cars during the coming summer? They will naturally want to turn to the right. Our car drivers and horse drivers as well as the horses will instinctively turn in the opposite direction and serious trouble and danger may arise.

Hon. Mr. Fielding has at length made his budget speech after long delay. It is quite remarkable that this is his seventeenth effort in that line. In 21 years of power since the Dominion was formed, the Liberal party has had but two Ministers of Finance, Sir Richard Cartwright and Hon. W. S. Fielding. In its much longer term of 37 years, the Conservative party, rich in men of financial ability, has had as successive Ministers of Finance, Sir Alexander Galt, Sir John Rose, Sir Francis Hincks, Sir Leonard Tilley, Hon. A. W. McLellan, Sir Charles Tupper, Sir George Foster, Sir Thomas White and Sir Henry Drayton, nine in all.

In Premiers, the contrast of numbers has been also great. The Liberal Prime Ministers have been three, Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King. The Conservative Premiers, Sir John Macdonald, Sir John Abbott, Sir John Thompson, Sir Mackenzie Bowell, Sir Charles Tupper, Sir Robert Borden and Right Hon. Arthur Meighen, numbered seven. There are no positions in a Canadian government of higher honor and responsibility than of the leadership of the dominant party and the care and control of the finances of the country. The number of persons qualified to hold either of these positions is relatively small. It may therefore be regarded as worthy of note that for these two important posts, the Conservative party has produced sixteen men and the Liberal party five who in their respective judgments measured up to the proper standard.

BySTANDER.

Church Union

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The Public Forum

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest to the Charlottetown Guardian. The opinion expressed by its correspondents.

Church Union Expenditure

Sir,—We are informed that a Canadian Press despatch appeared in your paper stating that thirty-two million dollars had been expended on Church Union by the Presbyterian church in the last twenty years. I have enquired at the Canadian Press office and they state that they did not send out this figure. Kindly make correction. The amount expended for the Union Committee during the past twenty years is \$32,853. The item shortly here reads as follows:—Acting under special instructions from the General Board of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, Rev. Dr. Robt. Laird, treasurer of that Church, has issued a statement emphatically denying the charge made by anti-Unionists that the church's funds were being used for Unionist propaganda. Covering a period of twenty years Dr. Laird states that a total of \$32,853 has been spent by the Union Committee under specific authority of the General Assembly. This amount includes the travelling expenses of all members of the Union Committee during the twenty years period, also expenditures for printing, voting papers, draft bills, legal counsel fees, postage, stationery, etc. This amount constitutes the sole expenditure from the funds of the Church in connection with Church Union, states Dr. Laird.

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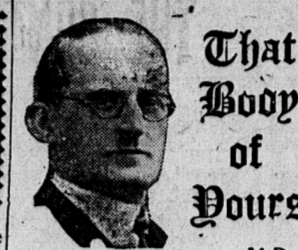
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By James W. Barton, M.D.

IS YOUR BLOOD THIN?

Your answer to this question would be: How do I know? Well, if you are a young person of the feminine gender and notice that you are getting even lazier than usual, that sometimes you seem to have a good appetite and other days you haven't, but that you are constipated all the time, and that your skin is puffy with a yellow greenish tinge, the chances are that your blood is thin.

What do I mean by thin blood? Just that it hasn't the rich life giving elements in it that constitute good blood.

What has caused this? It's hard to say. Often poor ventilation, the wrong kind of food, emotional disturbances and persistent constipation are really the underlying causes. The number of little red cells is reduced over 50 at times. The treatment is self evident, lots of the outdoors, plain, well cooked food and freedom from worry will tide over the condition for you.

Perhaps you are not young any more, are on past middle age, and perhaps also of the masculine gender. The thinning of the blood at this age is a different matter.

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DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS. About one-third of the membership on the strength of this one-third membership, the Unionist leaders are proceeding to organize a Union church, to be called the Union Church of Canada, and to abolish the Presbyterian Church in Canada, her polity and name.

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MY LITTLE FLOWER. So long I waited for your little hand.

So long I waited that beneath my smile A misery was hidden for a while; A misery whose shadow sofly lies Within the wistful beauty of your eyes.

NAN TERRELL REED