

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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The Vital Issue

To-morrow the electors throughout the Province will go to the polls and cast their ballots for or against the Government now in power.

As guarantee of their sincerity, the Conservatives point to the fact that the Stewart Government implemented its 1923 platform to the letter.

The attempt of the Liberal candidates to inject Dominion issues into the campaign—while remaining silent on the Beauharnois scandal—is significant evidence of their lack of confidence in the strength of their case.

The vital issue in the campaign is undoubtedly the question of taxation. If the people do not wish to pay additional taxation we must get more money from Ottawa.

As the campaign has developed, this important issue has come more and more to the front. From every constituency has come increasingly favorable reports from the Conservative standpoint and the final returns on election night will be awaited by the Conservative leader, his party candidates and supporters, with assurance and confidence.

Reform Senators

In the Mail and Empire of recent date there appears under the caption "Senate Reform under Mr. Mackenzie King" the following: "Some years ago, while Prime Minister, Mr. Mackenzie King assured the House of Commons and the country that he was going to bring about Senate reform. He would, he declared, reform the Upper House by appointing to it men committed to his own way of thinking—men committed to the pursuit of Liberal principles and ideas.

Well and faithfully did Mr. Mackenzie King carry out his pledge. He reformed the Senate—there can be no doubt about that. He appointed: Senator Wilfrid Laurier McDougald.

Senator Donat Raymond, Senator Andrew Haydon, and a few others. Senator Wilfrid Laurier McDougald often referred to as a "bosom friend" of Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, was appointed chairman of the Montreal Harbour Board, and a member of the National Advisory Committee on the St. Lawrence waterways. Two lucrative positions.

At the recent Beauharnois scandal investigation Mr. R. O. Sweezy acknowledged that he contributed personally to the Liberal party "somewhere around \$600,000 to \$700,000." And the investigating committee report "This large sum was paid to Senators Haydon and Raymond."

approval of its application by the Governor-in-Council. Mr. Sweezy in his evidence stated that Senator Raymond had received from him some \$200,000 of campaign funds for the Liberal party. The investigation revealed the fact that by an investment in the Beauharnois concern he realized as of the 17th December, 1929, \$529,600 profit and 14,040 shares of class A stock.

The Mail and Empire quotes the committee report:—Senator McDougald "cannot be too strongly condemned." Senator Haydon accused of "betraying his senatorial oath," and Senator Raymond "not candid."

The White Feather

The prerogative of Parliament yesterday was accompanied by the usual formal display. The session was one of the most important held in Canadian history, as evidenced by the many progressive measures outlined in the Throne speech published in yesterday's Guardian.

It is significant to note that while the Conservative representatives of this Province remained at Ottawa attending to their parliamentary duties to the very last, the Liberal representative for Prince County, Mr. A. E. MacLean, quitted the duties for which he is paid by the taxpayers and hurried, several days in advance of prorogation, to the assistance of his distressed political colleagues in this Province.

Doubtless the demand for Mr. MacLean's services was pressing! The Leas Government, on its last legs, was in need of all the support that could be mustered. Nevertheless, Mr. MacLean would have been well advised had he placed his own responsibilities and duties first. The fact that he left Ottawa in the midst of the Beauharnois revelations, at a time when, according to his own party leader, the Liberal party was "in the valley of Humiliation," is not to his credit.

Why did Mr. MacLean show the white feather by leaving his leader in the lurch? If there ever was a time when Mr. Mackenzie King needed the support of his friends it was during the humiliating days of last week, when he underwent a scathing indictment such as few politicians have had to face. It is significant also that Mr. MacLean, though he persisted in injecting Dominion politics into his speeches in support of the Leas Government candidates, gave the Beauharnois scandal a wide berth! The one federal subject in which the electors are most keenly interested at the present time was the subject about which Mr. MacLean apparently had nothing to say!

A Flimsy Excuse

Premier Leas endeavor to sidestep all responsibility for the "cranberry pledge" in his 1927 platform on the ground that the platform was drafted by Ex-Premier Saunders, is a sophistry which will not fool the electors. It does not tally with Mr. Leas' domineering attitude towards his former leader, whose advice he was wont to ignore even in legal matters, and who would certainly not have drafted the agricultural planks in his election platform without consulting his first lieutenant and prospective Minister of Agriculture.

Premier Leas flouted Mr. Saunders on many occasions—notably when he published under his own name an entirely different schedule of subsidy claims on the very day on which his leader filed his brief at Ottawa—but there is no evidence or record of Mr. Saunders ever having flouted Mr. Leas.

Premier Leas' ingratitude towards his former party leader is scarcely likely to win him any votes among orthodox Liberals. Among the independent electors, his repudiation of one of the important agricultural planks in his election platform of a general reduction in taxation!

1927 and his belated attempt to "pass the buck" to Mr. Saunders will be received with nothing but contempt.

Vote Them Out!

The Arsenault Government's proposal to take advantage of the Dominion Highways grant in 1919 was denounced by the Liberal press and politicians as "an infernal scheme." The Bell Government was elected on that campaign of abuse and misrepresentation. Premier Leas was first lieutenant, Provincial Secretary-Treasurer and Minister of Agriculture in the Bell Government. Hon. J. P. MacIntyre was a supporter of the same administration, and won his election in 1919 on the same unscrupulous campaign. What do our farmers and motorists, who have had their gasoline taxes boosted 100 per cent by the Leas Government in order to build costly election highways, think of the campaign against improved roads that was adopted by the Patriot to defeat the Arsenault Government for the benefit of the gentlemen now in power?

The electors tomorrow have the opportunity of hoisting the Leas-McIntyre aggregation with their own petard.

A Bedraggled Banner

"And now what about the beautiful white banner that was unfurled on that memorable Sunday evening in the town of Summerside, almost four years ago? Can you find that banner now? If you did find it, what would it look like? Not pure white any more, but soiled and dirty and rum soaked. That is the banner which this Government must present for the inspection of the voters; that once white, Liberal banner of Temperance, of Prohibition, dragged through the mire and the mud by the bootleggers for the last four years until, if you looked at it now, you would not know what to call it. An emblem no longer of purity but of shame and corruption. And so we shall leave them to be judged by the people whom they have misled and deceived."—Dr. W. J. P. MacMillan in the Provincial Legislature.

The Tax Boosters

With \$300,000 more revenue annually than any previous Government enjoyed—revenue which they obtained largely through the successful efforts of the preceding Stewart Government in pressing our subsidy claims—the Leas-McIntyre aggregation have borrowed and squandered to such an extent that they have placed an increased debt of \$8.60 per head on every man, woman and child in the Province.

These are the gentlemen who are now running on their "R.O.P."—asking for a further lease of power, untrammelled by platform or policy, in order to plunge the Province into further debt and taxation.

Editorial Notes

"No plank, no vote!"

The Liberal "July frost" at the Capitol Theatre was only a forerunner of what will happen tomorrow.

Monday's list of drunks at the Police Court was too much for our garbling contemporary which adopted its usual procedure when in difficulty—and suppressed the news!

Today the Leas Government is taking more money out of the pockets of the people than any government in the history of the Province. Its Public Works Department alone is costing as much as the whole available revenue under the Stewart Government; it has boosted the gasoline tax 100 per cent and it has taken the power to raise this tax still further by Order-in-Council.

This is the Government that was elected on the specific promise of a general reduction in taxation!

NOTES BY THE WAY

Short, indeed are the passions of fifteen years ago, Ramsay MacDonald himself was an outcast, a pariah. Ousted from his own Scottish golf club, hounded by the press and other politicians, in constant danger from mobs, it looked like the end of his career. Yet six years after the Armistice, MacDonald became Britain's Prime Minister.

It is all a striking illustration of the folly of war, of its pity and futility. For war-cries that seem tremendous at the time, thousands die, and there is misery and anguish, but when the blood-letting is over, and bones bleach on foreign lands, the combatants make up, and the brave words during conflict are forgotten. Truly, it ought to take a mighty principle or cause to make men march to war again during the present generation.

The squandered public money—public in the sense that the public must eventually pay it in its electric light bills, in its power costs and in other ways—that has come to light in the Beauharnois case should not be allowed to continue to enrich men whose moral claim to it utterly fails to impress the sense of justice of the community. Nor can so gigantic an enterprise be left in such hands. Nor can it be allowed to collapse to the swift ruin of many innocent people. Parliament must take plenty of time.

It is when liberty is perverted into licence that democracy falls an easy prey to some strong man, who will impose upon it the order and the discipline which it could not achieve for itself. The full-blooded "rule by the people" which we know in this country today is still in its infancy; with centuries of political training to reinforce the native good sense of the British character, we still believe that our democracy will reach a healthy adolescence and triumph over the follies that have destroyed so many of its predecessors. But the descent is so facile that neither leaders nor followers can afford to take risks. We live in a testing time, which may make or mar our young democracy; let the nation brace itself up here an now.

How far back can you remember? If there is ever any need to give up a party that question will do it. Until they have tried, few people know what a store of forgotten pictures and impressions—floating, nebulous, half unreal—they can raise to the surface of their consciousness. It is a fascinating exercise, this groping back into the earliest years of infancy and tracing one's life and its happenings step by step from then till now.

When public money is spent, for the purpose of relieving unemployment or otherwise, it should be for some purpose useful now or in the more or less immediate future. Otherwise it is wasted, wholly or to a large extent. Public buildings and works of various kinds may be speeded up to meet the present emergency but they must not be undertaken without the giving of due consideration to their usefulness. It is obvious that no government can decide in advance what money is to be spent, or where or for what purpose. The government of Canada must meet every demand as it comes and be judged by results.

Politicians, representing agricultural Counties in the Federal and Provincial House have unknowingly been given a great aid in the government's census ruling which classifies a farm as a single acre (or more) producing foodstuffs valued at or more than the fixed minimum. All a politician has to do now is to fix up a vegetable garden not less than an acre in size, make her produce the specified minimum and then when election time comes around ballyhoo in the country district about being a farmer and capture a goodly portion of the rural vote!

The reassuring thing is that the administration of the Dominion is in the hands of an exceptionally capable Prime Minister, who has already laid the basis for a new era of prosperity and who may be depended upon to carry through a far-reaching program to a successful conclusion. His task will be facilitated if party politics are dropped for the time being and if the whole nation unites in the common task of boosting the Dominion.

LEG SCRATCH COST \$10

MARION, Va., Aug. 4.—(U. P.)—Charged with scratching the wrong town for repairs. This goes to show that the Conservatives intend to look out and get all they can for Vernon said he thought he was scratching his own extremity, but a young woman neighbor, who made the complaint, testified otherwise.

Rakes' Progress Of Leas Gov't Exposed In Public Accounts

Garbling and misrepresenting the figures in their own Public Accounts, Leas Government apologists have denied Hon. J. D. Stewart's statement that in three years the Government piled up liabilities of over \$758,933, as against the Conservative increase in four years of \$413,203. That these figures are absolutely correct was shown by Mr. H. D. McLean during the debate on the Budget at the last session of the Legislature. Mr. McLean's figures were taken exclusively from the blue books, and are as follows:

PROVINCIAL AUDITOR'S STATEMENT of the Liabilities of the Province at December 31, 1930. Table with columns for Debentures Ordinary, Debentures Highway, Less Sinking Fund, Due Banks, Due Loans, Total Liabilities, and a comparison with figures from August 12, 1927.

Table showing the DEBT INCREASE DURING CONSERVATIVE PERIOD from Sept. 5, 1923 to Aug. 12, 1927. It compares liabilities at those two dates, showing a significant increase.

THE DEBT INCREASE DURING CONSERVATIVE PERIOD

Table showing the INCREASE IN DEBT IN 4 YRS. UNDER CONSERVATIVES \$ 413,203.86. It details the increase in debt from August 12, 1927 to September 5, 1931, broken down by Debentures Ordinary, Debentures Highway, Due Loans, and Due Bank.

The Public Forum

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. This Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

VOICE OF LABOUR

Sir:—The time has arrived when Labour must vote to remedy the present conditions of depression. Our Province has never had so much unemployment at this particular season. I feel sure that by electing a Conservative Government for this Province much more help will come from the Bennett Government at Ottawa. The Liberal speakers have been preaching for the past four years, "that there was no unemployment in this Province" and still they expect to receive help from the Federal unemployment fund. Could anything be more inconsistent.

We now have representing us at Ottawa three members and each of them have been close friends and colleagues of Hon. J. D. Stewart in the Provincial Legislature. This alone would be sufficient proof that they will use all their influence at Ottawa to secure any reasonable request that the Stewart Government would ask for.

The Liberals are not sincere about the unemployment question or else instead of spending \$90,000 in road machinery, they would have spent it on labour, until such time as conditions would improve. Charlottetown is the great labor centre of the Province and the workingman should make sure by their votes that the Conservative candidates are elected and then they will have their own representatives to appeal to both at home and at Ottawa.

sation Act and on each occasion the request was ignored. It looks as though this much needed legislation will have to be passed by a Conservative administration.

The Provincial Liberals are continually knocking Mr. Bennett and his Government and we know that knickers get nothing. What we want is a local Government that is friendly with the Federal authorities, for after all the big expenditures that will help Labour must come from Ottawa.

Let the workmen show by their votes that they are through with Liberal autocracy. The Liberals had their chance and they failed to make good. Let us elect a good Conservative Government that has always upheld the principles of Labour.

LABOUR

PORTAGE MEETING

Sir:—Please allow me a space in your columns to correct some of the many mistakes made in the Pioneer of July 25th. The Pioneer states "Word from the western section of the country points to a sweeping victory on Aug. 6th. Thursday night at Portage, the Liberal speakers were given a splendid hearing and a western resident who was present at the meeting stated that the Conservative speakers had considerable difficulty in obtaining a hearing. One gentleman from O'Leary became greatly confused."

This statement is utterly false for Jack was no ways confused. When his time came to speak he rose to face some hundreds of people. The Portage hall was packed to the doors, with a large crowd outside, looking in at the open windows. As Jack stood facing the large audience he had a smile on his face and you could see a mile and received one of the loudest and heartiest cheers that was ever given to any public speaker in this Province; and when he began his speech he got as good a hearing as he got a welcome. As the old saying is "you could hear a pin drop." As Jack proceeded, and stuck to local politics and outlined the misrepresenta-

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tion by the Saunders-Leas candidates go far if he remains in political life. There are those who say that a few years hence he might succeed the present Premier. A sound lawyer, an impressive speaker, a man of good temper and broad outlook, he is certainly a find for the Conservative party. To the qualities enumerated he has those of great industry and quiet driving power. His conduct of the Beauharnois investigation was beyond criticism. When he occasionally took over the examination of witnesses he usually got somewhere, and it is not to be wondered at that he was so laboriously written out the whole Beauharnois report with his own hand before having it typewritten and submitted to the rest of the committee for approval before presentation to the House.

An Able Minister (Toronto Mail - Empire) The Beauharnois investigation has brought Honorable W. A. Gordon, Minister of Immigration, into the limelight as he never has been brought before those who listened to the proceedings of the Beauharnois Committee could not but be impressed with the fact that one man dominated the scene. That man was the chairman. His personality and his judicial temperament gave him an easy command and it was borne in upon all observers that here was a natural born leader of men. It is known that the Prime Minister thinks very highly of him and, as he is still a young man only forty-seven years of age, he is bound to

The Poet's Corner A NIGHT SCENE The mountains heave into the night, The moon is swinging low; The black pines rear their stately crests Athwart her silver bow.

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