

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

THE BUDGET DEBATE

The manner in which the Opposition "peered out" in the Budget debate, and failed to put any speaker forward in answer to Mr. Thomas Wigmore, came as something of a surprise and certainly will be regarded as a fatal confession of weakness by the electorate. Premier MacMillan had placed the Opposition on the defensive in his Budget speech by comparing the respective liabilities under both Liberal and Conservative governments, and showing that apart from replacing Falconwood Hospital and Prince of Wales College, and contributing to unemployment relief—expenditures which the Government did not have to incur—the Conservative increase in debt was only \$115,000 as against a Liberal increase, for the years 1929 and 1930, of \$441,000 and a further increase of \$544,000 in the last eight months of Mr. Lea's administration. He showed also that last year the Government has expended \$13,000 less than their total estimates and challenged the Opposition to produce evidence of similar economy under Liberal regime. Mr. Lea did not take up the Premier's challenge, but he endeavored to show that Liberal capital expenditures on ferries, bridges, and road travelling should be excluded in the comparison of liabilities in the same manner as the Conservative expenditures embracing Falconwood and Prince of Wales College. He ignored the fact that such expenditures also had been incurred by the Conservatives, and that these items could not fairly be excluded in one case and included in the other; so that his argument remained, as the Premier had shown it to be in the first place, a biased and partisan one, incapable altogether of supporting the sweeping charges of "extravagance" which the Opposition attack had opened in the early stages of the session. Mr. Lea had nothing to say in criticism of the Public Works Department in his speech on the Budget. His criticism of this department in the Draft Address had already been answered by Hon. Mr. Sharp, and it was expected that Mr. J. P. McIntyre, the Liberal ex-Minister, would renew the offensive, when the opportunity came Wednesday evening of following Mr. Wigmore at the debate. This evidently did not suit the policy of the Opposition, and they allowed the case to go by default rather than risk a further trial of strength with the Government protagonists.

A POOR ALIBI!

The Opposition alibi for defaulting the Budget debate "go by default" appears in yesterday's Liberal organ. It reads as follows: "In the past it has always been the custom for the Minister of Public Works to take the floor at an early date in the debate, usually after the leader of the Opposition. It is quite obvious that the members of the House are not in a position to intelligently discuss the administration of the great spending department of the Government until the Minister has given a full and detailed explanation of the various expenditures." A check-up of the files of 1931—the last session year of the Lea Government—has been made to ascertain how much truth there is in our contemporary's statement. Here are the speakers in the order in which they spoke, who preceded the then Minister of Public Works: Hon. Mr. Lea, Hon. Mr. Stewart, Hon. Mr. LePage, Mr. L. R. Allen, Mr. G. Shelton Sharp, Dr. McNeill, Mr. H. A. Darby, Mr. A. F. Arsenault, Mr. Peter Sinclair, Hon. Mr. McIntyre. At that time, instead of taking the floor "immediately after the Opposition leader," as the Liberal organ says has been the custom, the Liberal Minister of Public Works waited until seven other members had spoken before he replied. The Conservative Opposition was outnumbered six to one in 1931. Six half of their number had to speak on the Budget, before Mr. McIntyre condescended to place the House in a position, according to our contemporary, "to intelligently discuss the administration of the great spending department of the Government." On the present occasion, only two Opposition members spoke, and there would have been nine Opposition speakers left had one of their number undertaken to reply to Mr. Wigmore. Moreover, whatever were the cir-

Notes By The Way

Herr Schmitt, the German minister of economics for the Reich, has submitted a plan for the "organic reconstruction of German industry." Experts said its effects will be the death of the Reich. A. Berlin cable, by the United Press says Schmitt is dividing industry into twelve main classes, each with a chief responsible to the ministry of economics. The idea, as he explained is to synchronize production "in the interest of all." Every undertaking in the Reich must join in this recovery program, signing up with the respective branches of the organization.

C. P. R. GUARANTEE

Letting in the light of day on matters of public interest is characteristic Conservative policy, and is being followed both in the Federal Parliament and in the local legislature. There is no such thing as smothering, or slithering over, unpalatable details of administration or financing in the practice of either the Dominion or Provincial administrations. The facts and figures are submitted and the public allowed to judge for themselves whether the respective administration has acted wisely and judiciously in the circumstances. The C.P.R. Loan Guarantee is a case in point. Notwithstanding that the Bennett Government would have been quite within its rights in withholding details of the transaction, permission was given to the Committee on Banking to call witnesses and have them examined as to the why and the wherefore of the guarantee. The Opposition, finding the Government laying all the necessary information on the table, leaving nothing in doubt, tried at the eleventh hour to make a little political capital by demanding that special counsel be retained by the committee to probe further. The majority of the committee rightly refused to waste public money and time by such unnecessary procedure. It is sufficient for most people to have the assurance on the information divulged that the guarantee in question was considered absolutely necessary in the interests of the greatest commercial institutions of Canada and of Canada itself. To have allowed the C.P.R. to default for lack of guarantee would have been criminal in the most accentuated degree.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Mr. W. M. Lea's confessed inability to "get away with it" in the Legislature this year seems to have had a chilling effect on his party followers. Their own laboriously accumulated ammunition is none too dry! Mr. Lea, in the Budget debate, commended the Federal Government for moving to establish a Marketing Board, but said this Province should follow suit. Hon. Mr. MacNutt was able to show that in the matter of hog and sheep marketing, this was precisely what the local Department of Agriculture had assisted in doing last summer. Hon. Mr. MacNutt's able review of the agricultural situation in the Legislature showed that his department has been exceptionally active during the past year, and that the farm industry generally, both as regards improved quality standards and price increases, is steadily on the upgrade. There was nothing controversial in the Agricultural Minister's speech, but much that was informative and encouraging. Dr. J. F. MacNeill, the only Opposition speaker outside of Mr. Lea who participated in the Budget debate, spoke severely about giving headline publicity to lawbreakers for the purpose of reflecting discredit on the administration of Justice. He evidently believes, as most sensible people do, that the attack by Messrs. McIntyre and LePage on the reputation of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police was quite uncalled for. The building of small pleasure boats and canoes is most highly developed in Ontario, the distribution of establishment by provinces being as follows: Ontario 53, British Columbia 25, Nova Scotia 17, Quebec 11, New Brunswick 3, Alberta 1 and Prince Edward Island 1. The firms included in this industry were engaged primarily in the manufacture of small boats of less than five gross tons. Some of the operators turn out an occasional larger vessel in addition to the smaller craft. The most important class of small craft made in 1932 was that of motorboats, of which 253 were manufactured and valued at \$229,015.

That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D. PRESERVING THE INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF THE TEETH Perhaps you find it hard to understand why some old person who has never used a toothbrush has fine strong teeth and so many others who have been using a toothbrush since childhood have just half their teeth at the age of forty. The explanation is not simple; but most cases of strong teeth despite lack of care, and those with poor teeth who have exercised every care, are likely due to an inherited tendency towards good and bad teeth, and to the different kinds of food eaten by each class. The dentist's advice is to brush the teeth with the good tooth paste, and to use a toothbrush which is always clean, and to eat plenty of fruit, vegetables, and eggs, chewed his meat well and consumed considerable milk daily. Building up the structure of the teeth and the lining of the mouth not only about the teeth and the particles of decayed food get into any tiny crevice or cavity in the enamel and may work through to the inner side of the tooth and cause decay. The point then is that while brushing is absolutely necessary it is not all that is needed to preserve the teeth. A rather humorous poem by Edith Dillingham Brown in Hygeia, part of which I quote, expresses this thought. "But milk is only babies' food! Nor can I drink, in any mood, Just water plain. And I confess, Slight love for salads green, and less For fruit. Hard foods take time to chew. And gum massage is tiresome too; To my poor teeth—a beastly foe I brush my teeth! It seems unfair They won't respond to my good care."

THE SUNNY SOUTH

Mr. — I finished my last by telling of the torrential rain which deluged St. Petersburg. The next day (Sunday) the weather became extremely cold (about 43 degrees above zero) and certainly as much to be felt by northern visitors as our northern climates. Very few were to be seen on the streets without top coats, but by Tuesday the weather had settled to Friday normalcy. The churches were well attended and the congregations took part heartily in the singing and services. A peculiarity which is foreign to the days of Moses is that the conversation carried on all over the auditorium in ordinary tone by the congregation before the service begins. When a thousand or more people engage in conversation in a very audible tone it is sure to be some noise. With us in Canada there is a stillness which can be felt when one enters the sanctuary. I don't think it is a lack of reverence on the part of our neighbors, but merely the result of custom. The parks and green benches were pretty well deserted on this particular Sunday on account of the cold snap, but I imagine the club buildings were as fully patronized as on warm days. The band discoursed good music in the afternoon as usual—the greater proportion of the numbers being sacred pieces. One of the outdoor sports that is greatly patronized by Canadians is lawn bowling. We devote an afternoon item in a local paper that "Canadian bowlers maintained their prestige by winning all three trophies at the annual winter lawn bowling tournament here in February. There are no less than twenty-one bowling courts here with 303 members, but Shuffelboard holds the palm for patronage, there being no less than 3,500 members with American generally being the more popular of the two. Base Ball engages their attention more than any other sport. With them after reading the front page headings in the papers they turn to the sport pages to find the latest news of "Base Ruth" or whatever favorite they prefer. But "Babe" is still the idol. Next week the 3-4 Century Club will take part in a frolic on the forum stage in Williams Park. The club members—male and female—of seventy-five years of age and over belonging to different States and Canada. This is looked forward to with great anticipation and will no doubt be very largely patronized. Whatever regalia are derived from these entertainments are devoted to charitable purposes. The great event for spring will be the annual States parade on April 4th, and unless as yet to describe its features, but there will be floats and representations depicting the products of the different States, and comic features, probably resembling somewhat "Mardi Gras," so popular in the South. I am, Sir, etc. B. B. St. Petersburg, Fla.

The Poet's Corner FROM A THRENODY. But O! when the bloom of light, With breathless glow, Along the tops of snow Tells out to all the valleys night is one.

DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS. BACKACHE, BLADDER TROUBLES, RHEUMATISM, GRAVEL, NEURALGIA, MIGRAINE, HEADACHE, BRUISES, SWELLINGS, SPRAINS, AND ALL KIDNEY DISEASES. 1087 THE PHARMACY.

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PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not assume responsibility for the opinions of correspondents.

THE DIFFERENCE

Sir,—A fledgling in the Liberal party, signed "Hard Facts," tries to dodge responsibility by their familiar method of truth twisting. In 1930 the Guardian correctly announced Hon. R. B. Bennett's well known pledge that—"One of the planks in the Conservative Platform is to establish a national highway system." To this the Guardian added some comments, not inconsistent with above, nor in any way justifying the Patriot's misrepresentation, which I protested against so vigorously, as deliberately false and a contemptible slander. The difference is that the Conservative paper published a plain truth, and commented upon it. The Liberal organ deliberately charged Hon. Mr. Bennett with "blatant lies" and language to which he never gave utterance. Such as building highways "from Tignish to Souris and Georgetown." "The 'blatant lies' with its 'blistering' and 'scorching' hotter than the severest scaldings in the conceptions of Dante's Inferno, has been too much for 'Hard Facts' and the slanderer and he squeals worse than a stuck pig. I am, Sir, etc. STICK TO TRUTH.

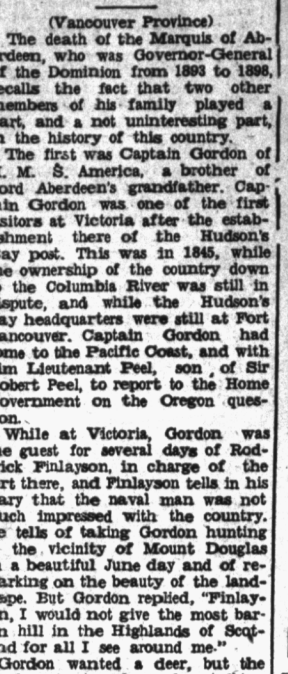
TWO GORDONS IN CANADA

(Vancouver Province). The death of the Marquis of Aberdeen, who was Governor-General of the Dominion from 1893 to 1898, recalls the fact that two other members of his family played a part, and a not uninteresting part, in the history of this country. The first was Captain Gordon of H. M. S. America, a brother of Lord Aberdeen's grandfather. Captain Gordon was one of the first visitors at Victoria after the establishment there of the Hudson's Bay post. This was in 1845, while the ownership of the country down to the Columbia River was still in dispute, and while the Hudson's Bay headquarters were still at Fort Vancouver. Captain Gordon had come to the Pacific Coast, and with him Lieutenant Peel, son of Sir Robert Peel, to report to the Home Government on the Oregon question. While at Victoria, Gordon was the guest for several days of Rodrick Finlayson in charge of the fort there, and Finlayson tells in his diary that the naval man was not much impressed with the country. He tells of taking Gordon hunting in the vicinity of Mount Douglas on a beautiful June day and of marking out the beauty of the landscape. But Gordon replied, "Finlayson, I would not give the most barren hill in the Highlands of Scotland for all I see around me." Gordon wanted a deer, but the woods were too dense for stalking in the Scottish manner. He wanted a salmon, but the fish wouldn't rise to his fly. Finlayson showed him how to use a troll, but the reply was that this was an awful way in which to treat so lovely a fish. Altogether, Gordon was quite disgusted, and the story goes that he reported to his brother, then foreign minister in the Peel cabinet, that the country was not worth retaining. Historians smile at the story in superior fashion. The salmon and the deer, they say, had nothing to do with the decision of the Oregon boundary question. But the tale persists. The other member of the Aberdeen family concerned with Canada was Sir Alexander Hamilton Gordon, brother of the Marquis' father. After serving as private secretary to Gladstone, he became Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick from 1861 to 1866, the years of the agitation for Confederation. As is well known, it was intended at first to have merely a Maritime federation, but the delegates from the two Canadas, who had asked permission to attend the Charlottetown Conference, carried the day for a large union. Gordon was quite enthusiastic for Maritime union, but both he and Lieutenant-Governor MacDonald of Nova Scotia did not favor the idea of taking in the Canadas. The Home Government, however, wanted a union of all the British North American colonies. It removed MacDonald to Hongkong and called Gordon to London for a consultation. After his return to New Brunswick he was just as strong for the large union as he had been previously for the smaller, and in fact, showed such enthusiasm that his government, which was by no means a unit on the issue, resigned. Gordon did some excellent work in New Brunswick in organizing the militia at the time of the war scare which followed the Trent Affair. He was drunk on this island, how could any one be sober if they drank their fair share. I can't see everybody drunk, look sober to me. Perhaps I'm too fuddled to know the difference, and the other drinks look sober to my dear eyes. Do try and riddle me the riddle, Sir, and ease my puzzled mind. I am, Sir, etc. RIF VAN WINKLE.

THE RIDDLE OF THE SPHINX

Sir,—I'm in trouble. Can you help me? I've been the Sphinx, silent, and like the little old woman of nursery fame wondering whether this is I. Haven't tasted a snip of booze since the Mounties took charge. "Babe Ruth" has an I mistaken, have I been doped all this time, so drunk that I only thought I was sober? Can you riddle me the riddle? Hon. Mr. LePage and Hon. the dear old big Jim have given me a jolt. Was it D. T.'s and did I only think I wasn't drunk. Do help me out, Sir. You know these two gentlemen are in Parliament and the Bullies say they are all honorable and we must take their word. I've got to follow the rules. That's what puts me in the soup. I haven't figured out just yet how much liquor has been landed by smugglers. Didn't have schooling enough to get around big figures. Fractions knock me cold. What those two champions of temperance told about gallons and teds and cases and barrels landed in rivers and coves, under the noses of the Mounties, with the greater cargoes landed behind their backs, would flood the old dry "Sahara," and when they add the Vendor's contribution looks like enough to keep the United States wet. I pray till the Volstead Act gets back again. If all that LePage-McIntyre

WRIGLEY'S



attributed to Tom Hood, the poet. "Do you see anything ridiculous in my hat, Sir?" "Nothing but your head, Sir." It seems (once more) that you are those spacious days of dignity when row upon row of members faced each other to right and left of Mr. Speaker at Westminster, in all the regiments of authority of the frock coat and the top hat. There was a time, in a top-hatted House, when the front Government seat sat bare-headed, all except the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Nobody seems to know why the finance minister had to be that way. Tradition would be enough to explain it—tradition itself being plain-bleat—but perhaps the man who had to find the ways and means of revenue was always inclined to baldness. It is recalled that Mr. Gladstone did not wear his hat in the House. An old press gallery man says that the custom of wearing hats in the House went out when Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman and his laborers came in. In 1906, bringing a custom of wearing top hats in the House. We say "seems" and "supposed" because, while there are evidences in the newspapers of the day, it is so lively that hardly anybody we have seen takes the subject with a becoming seriousness. Even the Times does not hesitate to revive the famous retort had.

HATS OFF PLEASE

(Vancouver Province). It seems there is a Top Hat Club in the British House of Commons, the members of which are popularly supposed to devote a portion of their statesmanship to the project of reviving the almost moribund custom of wearing top hats in the House. We say "seems" and "supposed" because, while there are evidences in the newspapers of the day, it is so lively that hardly anybody we have seen takes the subject with a becoming seriousness. Even the Times does not hesitate to revive the famous retort had.

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