THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

FRIDAY, FEB. 2, 1923

PARLIAMENT IN SESSION

The session of parliament now open is not exciting much interest. The last session—the first of the King regime—produced nothing except additional taxation, additional expenditure and an increased public debt. The recess since has produced more protests, more dissatisfaction and more political disappointment probably than any other period in the history of Canada. Just what the government will do to extricate itself from the many pitfalls in which it is floundering may be interesting as a study in political deception, may be interesting to students of diplomacy, but the rank and file of the electorate throughout Canada will expect little more than a repetition of the last fruitless session. To them the history of the King regime is a history of broken promises, of disappointment and injurious trade policies. From the present session they will expect little more than they received from the last. Still, as already stated, ingenuity is always more or less interesting and it cannot be denied that the party now in power is ingenious. We can admire the gall of the party that can invent a policy which may be taken up or laid down, which may be upheld or denounced according to the locality in which it is being promulgated. "Isn't that so George?" "Well, if that is your policy I didn't take that stand in my constituency!" This will henceforth be a political classsic.

"BOOK-KEEPING DEFICIT"

The Government of New Brunswick has issued a financial statement showing a "surplus" of $70,576.62. There is also shown in a postscript a deficit of $260,088.04 in the operating expenses of the St. John and Quebec Railway. Taking this into consideration there is a deficit of something like $190,000 on the year's business, instead of a surplus.

The Liberal method of creating surpluses appears to possess a sort of inter-provincial conformity. The Bell Government in this province had the same kind of surplus at the end of each year since it came into power, that is, by leaving enough of the expenditures unaccounted for to leave a surplus. Surpluses of any required size can thus be put up. This year, in this province, we may look for a startlingly large surplus as it will be a good implement to go to the country with next summer. The accounts of course will be scanned and the surplus will be shown to be a "book-keeping" one, big or little, but such exposures will not prevent the use of the surplus implement during the campaign.

There are other characteristics in the New Brunswick financial statement which "remind us of home." There was a large revenue; some of it came from taxation, some from the liquor business, the latter being especially remunerative, but the expenditures apparently ran wild.

Because of or coincident with the financial situation, the Premier of New Brunswick has resigned. Is this also to be paralleled in our case?

RESEARCH WORK

Arrangements are being made for the holding of a scientific and industrial research conference in Ottawa on the 20th to the 22nd of February. All the Canadian universities and others who are conducting research work have accepted invitations to be present and it is expected that valuable information will be elicited on matters pertaining not only to the development of Canada's natural resources but on the improvement of present industrial methods.

Canada possesses unlimited natural resources which are as yet practically untouched and unknown. Scientists are constantly engaged on these and new discoveries are almost continually being made. Generally speaking this work is being carried on individually. The idea of the conference is to assemble as far as possible the discoveries already made and to further extend the search into regions yet unknown. Honest effort in these directions cannot fail to further the general prosperity of the country.

It is only by combined effort that the world's work can be successfully carried on. The advance in medical science within the past fifty years is due solely to combined effort and is perhaps the best example the world can produce today of mutual, unselfish effort. The ethics of medical science demand that any discovery made by a doctor of medicine or surgery shall be revealed to his medical brethren. Any doctor who patents his discovery for his own emolument is denied recognition by the medical faculty.

Interchange of ideas, conference on ways and means, sincere and earnest coming together for mutual benefit and for greater service is the secret of advancement not only in world progress but in community progress and we in our little community here might well learn a lesson from the methods of those in the larger field of science. In this province we have resources the value of which is as yet undreamed of. Efforts have been made from time to time to develop some of these, for example our sand for the manufacture of glass, the manufacture of pottery, the preparation of our seaweeds, the development of our blueberry barrens, the enlargement of our fisheries and so on. Nothing came of these and they are still waiting for development. Enquiry and well-directed effort along some of these lines might mean much for the province. Even in our ordinary agricultural work conference and the interchange of ideas as to methods is of incalculable value and should be encouraged.

It is worth while to watch the results of all research conferences and we have no doubt that the one to be held in Ottawa will have far-reaching consequences. One effect, we trust, will be the encouragement of further research including investigations in our own province.

AGENCIES OF EDUCATION

The agencies of education here as elsewhere are, the home, the school, the church, the press, the stage. Each of these plays its part in the making or unmaking of the nation. If one fails, although the others do their duty, the nation falls short of what is its due. Of all these agencies the home plays by far the largest part. The nation is made up of homes and as the homes are the nation is; moreover the home exercises its influence upon each of the other agencies. The home makes the school or mars it. Given a majority of real homes the school cannot fail, given a parish of real homes the church, the press and the stage must live up to the home ideals or go under.

Character is formed in the home and on that character the school, the church, the press, the stage, will each thrive or go under. If the character is what it ought to be it will support only what is worthy of support. What is not worthy, be it school or church or press or stage, will starve.

A GROSS LIBEL.

In its yesterday's issue our contemporary rises to remark:

"Surely it (The Guardian) has not forgotten the time when it advocated the generous use of aspirin and whiskey for a severe cold or influenza."

This is a gross libel. We never mentioned aspirin.

Furthermore, Scotsmen never spell whisky with an "e," they merely drink it with ease.

Notes By The Way

On the 22nd day of January the electors of this province by a majority of almost three to one voted to prohibit the further importation of liquors. This verdict is endorsed by the chief organ of the Bell Government with the frequently quoted maxim "Vox populi vox Dei." Liquor drinking is condemned in the same article. But if people will drink, it seems desirable to our contemporary to tell them just where the stuff can be obtained and the price per case. To this end copious extracts are given from an advertising circular issued by a Halifax liquor trading concern.

A parallel case would seem to be if a temperance man resided in this city where to meet an acquaintance from the country who wanted a stimulant and the citizen should advise him, "Don't drink! Well, I believe there is a place just down the street, number ——, where you can get it. At least I had a circular from them stating that they have it." Would that be the best way to promote temperance and the due observance of the prohibitory law? We hardly think so.

The point to which we wish to direct more particular attention, however, is what the liquor advertisers have to say about the time when the prohibition of importation will take effect. The rum circular as quoted says "Importation cut off within a couple of months, perhaps sooner." That would be on or before the first of April. But there are yet certain official acts to be done by the federal and provincial governments before effect can be given to the popular verdict. Past experience shows that governments in our own and other provinces have often proved to be dilatory.

In other provinces which had taken a popular vote on this same question long before the Island plebiscite the prohibition of importation has not yet taken effect. There has been an unaccountable delay and whether the provincial or the federal authorities have been most at fault, or whether both have been acting in collusion nobody seems able to decide. The liquor wholesalers have named a two months limit. Have they had private information that the temperance people have not been favored with? It is very clear that they have friends at court both in Ottawa and in Charlottetown.

The Patriot, which by force of circumstances must know the intentions of the Provincial Government, says "It is evident from this circular ((issued by a liquor dealing firm) that the company who issues it is aware that within two months the effect of the recent plebiscite will go into operation." We assume therefore that the Patriot knows this to be a fact and knows that the liquor trade has been so officially informed. Surely the delay of two months is long enough. The plebiscite was delayed beyond all reasonable limits, wholly in the interest of the liquor trade, and delayed longer here than in any other province.

That is why further delay after the plebiscite was feared by the prohibitionist majority. And their fears have been realized. The harvest time of the liquor men has been extended two months beyond the date of the plebiscite and the business has been well advertised in the meantime. Now a two month's limit appears to have been definitely set. All who believe in prohibition will do well to take note of that fact and be on their guard against possible further postponement, not on account of, but to extend the "wet spell" under which the province has so long suffered.

All the Liberal journals a short time ago rejoicingly proclaimed a big surplus for last year in the Province of Quebec. It appears by the statement of Mr. Sauve, the Opposition leader there that the surplus was accompanied by an addition of twenty million dollars to the provincial debt. We have not yet seen any contradiction of Mr. Sauve's statement. Now the same Liberal journals tell us of a like surplus in New Brunswick of over $70,000. The St. John Telegraph modestly puts it this was "Leaving out the Valley Railway bond interest and other indebtedness the auditors show a surplus of more than $70,000."

But including this bond interest the same good Liberal authority tells us there would be "a book-keeping deficit of $189,511." The province is as much bound to pay this bond interest as any other portion of its debt or interest thereon, and actually paid it. It may also be mentioned that New Brunswick paid last year $1,064,565 as interest on its public debt. Thus it is with Liberal surpluses. Too many of them are like that sort of sausages for which we lose our respect when we learn the materials with which they are stuffed!

Prefers Canadian to American Liberty

To be free and happy live in Canada. A traveled and brilliant American, Mrs. Katharine Fullerton Gerould, gives the recipe in Harper's Magazine. In Canada she felt "a very present sense of freedom and a sharp prospective nostalgia." She found that "the whole port and demeanor of men and women was that of free and sober citizens, privileged to think and speak as they chose, so long as they kept their hands clean of inquiry to others." Moreover, they looked happy. "Have you ever noticed that no one looks happy in our city?"

We haven't noticed it, comments the New York Times, but since divers native and imported sociologists have recorded it as a fact, doubtless there is something to be said for their theory. The sober citizens of most Canadain provinces are restrained in their freedom, as many of us view it. The State interferes with their liberty of private habit and seeks to make them total abstainers by law. Americans, too, are privileged to think and speak as they choose, so long as they keep their hands clean of injury to others.

Passing of American Spirit

Mrs. Gerould complains a great deal about the restraints on free speech in the United States. Legal restraints are the same in the United States as in Canada. Every citizen is free to speak, write and publish his sentiments on all subjects. He is responsible for the abuse of that right. Absolute freedom of speech or the press doesn't exist either in Great Britain or in the United States. Mrs. Gerould's hero is George Washington, "seldom quoted nowadays, except in regard to entangling alliances." That quotation is an ineradicable misquotation. Perhaps our traveler into Canada is not altogether more accurate about the "passing of the American spirit" than about the views of her hero about alliances. She says:

The basic fact of American institutions was liberty: the freedom of the individual under the law. America is not really a free country, in the old sense; and liberty, is increasingly, a rhetorical figure.

"Liberty" Has Different Meanings

Now, "liberty" means different things in different countries and ideas about it change; but even if the unconscious of conscious socialistic legislation of the modern State has shorn off some of the earlier liberty, liberty is still "the freedom of the individual under the law." The American can't "play the lottery," or—in theory—buy a drink; his curtailed liberty, like his uncurtailed liberty, is "under the law." Mrs. Gerould illustrates Dominion freedom of speech by the public statement of one of the Ministers that "they wanted no immigrants save those who were 'British, white and Christian.'" She asks us to imagine the effect if any "prominent citizen" of our own country should dare to talk in that way. The Dominion politicians talk in that way, presumably, because the majority of Canadians like it. In our own composite population a more tolerant and wider view, fortunately, prevails. Still, Mr. Henry Ford, a preter-prominent citizen, utters continually sentiments in part consistent with the Canadian freedom of speech. Does "a storm of reproach and insult" burst upon him? No, he bows his head before "Presidential lightning."

Canadian Tolerance

Mrs. Gerould's illustration shows that the Canadian notion of tolerance, a virtue she much insists upon, is not of the widest. She is indignant with coercion and the mob spirit and the boycotting of pro-Germans in the war. Apparently she supposes that Americans "of the old rock" were patterns of tolerance. A month after the beginning of the War of 1812 a Baltimore mob attacked the office of the Federal Republican, which had been bitter against the war. The editors and their friends gathered to protect them surrendered to the authorities and were taken to the city jail. The mob stormed the jail, "beat and tortured the prisoners, and on the prison steps left for dead nine mutilated bodies." General Lingan was killed. "Light Horse Harry" Lee, another veteran of the Revolution, was crippled for life. The "old stock" was at least not more tolerant of free speech and a free press nor more law-abiding than its successor. It is true, however, as Mrs. Gerould says, that:

With our increasing American tendency to write our prejudices upon the statute books and to turn personal preferences, if we can, into law, we are jeopardizing our ancient freedom more and more seriously. Legislatures can be momentarily frightened into doing almost anything.

Unclean Spirit of Coercion

This is the unclean spirit of coercion, and it ought to be exercised. Organized fanaticism, whether it make the law, like the Anti-Saloon League, or break it, like the Ku Klux Klan, is the enemy. Artistic and literary censorship is at once a joke, an imposition and a nuisance. propaganda of many sorts is at work all the time. It may be that, as the Socialist State is built up without acknowledging its origin, "liberty" will become a great congeries of prohibitions, but either the majority wants restrictions upon its liberty or isn't clever and brave enough to resist them. Action at the polls is needed, not lamentation about an imaginary throttling of free speech and about the triumph of fanatics. Let us either smash zealotry or stop whining about it.

That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

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NATURE ALWAYS AHEAD OF OUR NEEDS.

Did you ever stop to think of how Nature looks after you, keeping just a little bit ahead of your needs all the time.

The baby falls out of its carriage, landing on its head. Very little damage is done because the bones of the head are dovetailed loosely together, and thus have plenty of space to take up the jar. And later in life the brain encased in a heavy shell, a inner and an outer plate of bone with a spongy layer of bone between.

Think of how the hard plates of bone are able to withstand the shocks because they have an actual cushion between them. We thought that out? Who foresaw the jars and jolts that soft brain tissue would receive in this workaday and playaday world? The terrific blows in football and boxing illustrate this. A man is temporarily unconscious—knows nothing—because his brain has been shaken up. But because of the heavy bony structure with the cushion between as it were, no real harm has been done, and he is all right in a few minutes or possibly a few hours.

And your heart and lungs, those vital centres, what about them? Why they are so well protected by that heavy breastwork of ribs that in boxing for instance, your opponent never even thinks of striking you a blow on the chest. You are too well protected there for him to hurt you. And finally think of that precious spinal cord of yours. Any slight injury and you are paralyzed from that point down, and any severe injury causes death. How then is it protected By a majestic column of thirty three bones, having large heavy bodies in front to give your body its uprightness and carriage with a central cavity to transmit the spinal cord.

Yes, we are fearfully and wonderfully made, but Nature is always one big step ahead of our needs.

Daily Selections For Guardian Readers

From the W. S. Louson collection

OUR EMOTIONS

Do not be afraid of your generous emotions.

If you trust a friend, trust him unto death. Of course you may be deceived in him. But better be humiliated by betrayal than be incapable of perfect faith.

If you love your wife, love loyally, utterly. She may not appreciate it. But better be unappreciated than to miss the joy of perfect self-giving.

Do no be afraid to forgive. The object of your forgiveness may be unworthy, but that cannot mar the fineness of your pardon.

Do not be afraid to show yourself friendly, for only so you show yourself worth friendship.

Do not be afraid of being too kind in this world says Marivaux "one must be a little too kind to be kind enough."

It is the little things—kindnesses, words of cheer, unexpected helps—that make our days pleasant rather than any of the great things that come into them. Why cannot we turn that knowledge round and make happiness for others by the small gifts and pleasures within our power to bestow?

The Public Forum

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

John D. Still Wante

Sir,—I have been reading Mr. John D. McIntyre's epistles with great interest for the last few weeks and cannot let them fade from my memory without first having said a few words of refutation in connection with his statements.

From time to time we have heavy snow-storms from the north and north-east, but those "beautiful southwest zephyrs" which have their centre in Boston, seem to revive our spirits.

It is to be hoped that John D. will continue these epistles of his as it will afford great amusement for our "poor Island folks" this winter. We can while away the long winter evenings discussing his letters.

When the Great War was waging in Europe the people eagerly looked for the latest news from the front, and today we look just as eagerly for the papers, not for war topics, but for the sayings of the wise man of Boston.

But I must ask this question as others have asked it. "Is Mr. McIntyre really normal?" I believe he must have been at this wonderful Harvard baseball game and has been either hit with the baseball or has been imbibing "forty-over" which American athletes indulge in before a game. I would advise Mr. McIntyre to see a specialist. He need not go from his own city as some of the leading specialists of U.S. reside in Boston. It is really too bad that Mr. McIntyre is an Islander. If he were a stranger people would not mind him. But to think that a man who was born and brought up on dear old P.E.I. by kind and loving parents among a pious and God-fearing people and was nourished from the products of her fertile soil, would go abroad to a strange land and after settling down as a naturalized citizen, would attack her, his fair home province, through the public press. Can we call this man a patriot? Dear Island friends, I'm sure will all join with me in saying "decidedly not." There cannot be a drop of patriotic blood flowing through his veins. I wonder does he remember those lines:

"Breathes there the man, with soul so dead;
Who never to himself hath said:
"This is my own, my native land,"
Whose heart hath ne'er within him burned
As home his footsteps he hath turned
From wandering on a foreign strand."

Can John D. be one of those men? He expects to visit the Island this summer and receive a rousing welcome. Well if he is not one of those men I don't think he will get the welcome he expect, even Bossy, Brindle and Spotty will turn away in disgust.

Now is he trying to correct some of the evils existing in our fair province? I might say he is going a very poor way about it. He is not only filling up space in the Guardian but wasting valuable time and turning his Island friends against him who will look upon him as a source of discord.

Mr. McIntyre leaves not an inch of sail uncovered in his drive to correct those vices. I don't think he need go to the very tip of East Point, that is he could leave out the light-house keeper. I know those people sufficiently that they are good, honest folks, living up to the laws of Church and State, and furthermore they are "McIntyres."

Of course we will all admit that there are some evils existing on P.E.I. as there is everywhere, but some stronger means must be taken wherein those evils can be rooted out, but no country can be made perfect, surely, John D. knows that. And I believe he has said something concerning the crime on P.E.I. Can we compare it with the crime in Boston? Have we on the Island armed bandits going about in autos raiding banks and such buildings every day Of course crime has been committed a few times in the past. At times we occasionally read of a street fight in Charlottetown, or some dare-devil trick being performed at East Baltic or such things as those. Is this what Mr. McIntyre calls crime? What a place Boston must be! No wonder so many of our Island folks would go there to abide!

Now about the school question, the people of the Island are sending their children to untrained teachers. I challenge Mr McIntyre to prove this. Undoubtedly those who fail and come out of College at Christmas are unfit for the purpose, but those are not in the majority. The professors of either P.W.C. or S.D.U. will not allow students to teach when they are not fit if they can help it. Something radically wrong with the Colleges must be the case. He will have to try to have a new staff of professors at the beginning of the next scholastic year. Mr. McIntyre must have formed his opinions from one particular school and settlement and has judged the Island in accordance with such. We can travel from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from Hudson Bay to the Gulf of Mexico and we will find Islanders "doing good," some brilliant men amongst them. I can name some of our smart Island men who are abroad in America, men in whose footsteps we should be proud to follow, and who are proud of the fair little province from whence they came.

On the other hand Mr. McIntyre is giving the American people a poor idea of conditions on the Island, furthermore he is hindering the tourist trade. I am sure the many thousands of visitors who come to the Island during the summer months do not go away and criticise it. Instead of that they relate to others the beauties of the province and the innocence of its social life. If Mr. McIntyre wishes to have his name in the paper he goes a poor way about it.

Now just a few concluding words. Mr. McIntyre expects to visit his home next summer. He is planning to get off the "fast express at Togo." He will have ample time to apologize before then. We sincerely hope he will try and have the wide-gauge railway laid to Georgetown and Elmira so we will have more rapid railway transportation.

We all hope he will receive the reception which he expects and hope the band will afford him great pleasure, and drummers there will be in abundance at every farm-house along the way. But as he is coming on Saturday I don't think "Farmer's Wife" could forsake her household duties to head the reception committee.

Anyway we sincerely hope that Mr. John D. McIntyre will come back to his dear home-land, and to the house of his father as the "Prodigal son" did, and he will repent for what he said about the land of his birth. If I do not meet him when he arrives I hope to see him on Sundays at the dear old Church at St. Georges.

I am Sir, etc.,
OPTIMIST.

What is a Lady?

Sir,—In reply to the enquiry definition of "A Lady" I submit to you the following.

During the Plantagnent period in England the wives of the noble, lords and other nobility went from door to door distributing bread to the poor. These poor people termed them a word which when translated into English meant "carriers of bread." This word which these poor people called them, later took the meaning "lady." So the word "lady" is the same as "carriers of bread." In this modern age the word lady corresponds more to "carrying of gossip" than that of carrying bread.

I am, Sir, etc.,
PRO BONO PUBLICIO

The Elmira Braach

Sir,—In a recent issue of your paper the closing of the Elmira branch was somewhat aired by Mr J. F. Mossey of Bothwell, Kings County.

Everything in said letter was perfectly correct and even more could be added in support of our claim and rights as law abiding citizens. Not only are there six stores depending upon this line of railway for importing goods and exporting farm products but there are eight or nine large lobster factories depending upon it for the carrying of supplies and one starch factory which manufactures annually from sixty to one hundred tons of starch; and during the season of 1922 just past upwards of one hundred cars of mussel mud was transported up this branch to say nothing of other fertilizers imported by the farmers yet in the face of all this we are told by the local management that the branch does not pay and if the truth were only brought to light as it should be, it would be found that the nine miles of railway on this branch pays equally as well as any other nine miles in operation in the province.

Now, Sir, the people living in the vicinity of this branch are called upon to pay as much in taxes to the government of this country for the building and upkeep of public utilities as those living in the vicinity of Souris or Charlottetown and this railway being built by the government of Canada as a public utility the people living in this vicinity have as much right to its utility as those living on the borders of Souris or Charlottetown.

But the question naturally to be asked is why are we descriminated against in preference to other parts of the Province? The answer is swift.

In the first place the town of Souris has ever been opposed both to the building and operation of the Elmira branch because through the convenience of the railway people who lived east did their business elsewhere, and in order to regain this business that was lost, representations have been formulated by certain individuals of Souris to the local authorities both at Charlottetown and Moncton to have an auto bus service placed on the branch during the summer months and then close the branch to all communication during winter months, all this being done in order that Sour's might live, exist and thrive at the expense of its eastern brethern.

In the second place the local management here in the province has no sympathy for the east and in fact for the whole of Kings County as the rotten train service which has been handed out to the people of King's County for the past few years amply proves. To my mind this local management must be given to understand that as public servants drawing down huge salaries they must serve the public and treat us as human beings not like inanimate objects. They must be given to understand that they have both a duty and obligation to perform to the general public or some person else will perform this duty ere long.

One word more and I've done. The day is not far distant, Sir when representatives will be wanted to fill the offices in our local legislature and federal house both at Charlottetown and Ottawa this is a warning note. In a crisis of this kind we want with us not only intelligence and men who will not act the dog in the manager drama but men who will stand behind us in asserting our just rights.

I am, Sir, etc,
EASTERN KINGS.
January 27, 1923.

Conference on Labor Conventions

(Special to The Guardian.)

OTTAWA, Feb 1—It is reported in well informed quarters that arrangements are under way for a conference between the Dominion and the provinces in regard to the carrying out of the labor conventions arrived at in connection with the League of Nations. In regard to the second conventions there is divided jurisdiction between the federal parliament and the provincial legislatures, one of the chief of these being the eight hour day. These subjects came up for consideration at the provincial conference last fall in unemployment, but it was found impracticable to make progress with them at that time. In the meantime there have been further communications between the Dolnion and provincial authorities and it is now stated that a conference on the subject will be convened at an early date.

Dr. McDougald Denies Rumor

(Special to The Guardian.)

OTTAWA, Feb 1—With reference to the rumor that Dr. McDougald, chairman of the Montreal harbor board has been offered the vacant portfolio of Minister of Railways, no announcement is forthcoming from the government. Dr. McDougald when seen last night by your correspondent denied all knowledge of the offer, affirming that he had never been approached in connection with the matter'

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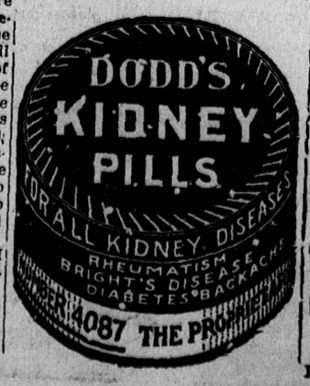
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