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**THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN**

Charles Dalton, President, J. R. Barnett, Editor and Publisher, D. K. Currie, Associate Editor.

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**TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 1921**

**PROPOSED "WAR MEMORIAL."**

The proposal to build an annex to the Provincial Building for a library and camouflage it into a "memorial" to the sons of the province who gave up their lives in order that the rest of us might live in peace and freedom, is not only absurd but borders on the sacrilegious.

**FRUIT AND VEGETABLE REPORT.**

The Fruit and Vegetable report just issued by the Fruit Commissioner's Branch of the Department of Agriculture, predicts, with the usual reservations for climatic conditions, a larger than average fruit crop and an average, if not higher, vegetable crop for the present season.

The proposal to build an annex to the Provincial Building for a library and camouflage it into a "memorial" to the sons of the province who gave up their lives in order that the rest of us might live in peace and freedom, is not only absurd but borders on the sacrilegious.

In the first place, as our correspondent, "One Interested," points out, such a thing, if perpetrated, would permanently destroy the beauty and symmetry of the building, a building associated with the whole history of the province, and indeed of Canada, and of which this province is justly proud. With all due deference to our architects it is quite safe to say that any such addition as is proposed could only result in making the Provincial Building a laughing stock.

The government, possibly, requires more office room and the proposal to find another home for the public library may be justifiable but that the money to be donated by the people of the province for a war memorial should be utilized to provide government offices and call the product a "War Memorial" is unthinkable. Not thus should we commemorate the greatest event in the history of the world. The war memorial, whatever form it may assume, must be worthy of the occasion, worthy of our people, worthy of those who made the supreme sacrifice in the cause of Christian civilization. It must be no cheap-jack appendix to any of our existing institutions or a makeshift to combine the free-will offerings of the people with the ordinary revenues of the province. It must stand alone as the memory of our dead, the cause for which they died and the victory they won stand alone and will forever stand alone in the history of our province. This phase of the question, however, will be taken up later.

In the meantime we need more room for the library. Why not negotiate for the old Bank of Nova Scotia Building which we understand will be available shortly. This building is situated within a few yards of the Provincial Building and centrally and pleasantly located. The ground floor could be fitted up as a library and reading room, while the second and third floors could be utilized for government offices if more are needed or for professional or other offices. If the building is available no more suitable one could

be procured. In the meantime we hope we shall hear no more about the proposed desecration and defacement of our historic Provincial Building.

**ONE INTERESTED.**

**Current Comment**

The Patriot continues to grow smaller, and is becoming so infinitesimally small that at its present rate of contraction it will be so small and insignificant, if it is not that already, that it will not be able to find a hole small enough to crawl into in future when it wants to escape or hide its shame. Hon. A. E. Arsenault was the elected and recognized leader of the Conservative, local party in this province. He was also an ex-Premier. He was, to the chagrin of the Patriot and its "powers behind" but most wisely on the part of the Government, elevated to the Supreme Court bench. His first duty was to sever his political connections, and on the 3rd of June, BEFORE HE ENTERED UPON THE DUTIES OF HIS OFFICE, he wrote a letter of retirement from the leadership of the party, and that letter has driven the Liberal muckraker into mortal spasms. To write, or publish, a letter of this kind, according to the Patriot, is "Lacking in Judgment" and "in exceeding bad taste." Is it the opinion of this Liberal non-entity that Mr. Arsenault should still continue to hold his position as a party leader, or if not, that he should keep the party, in whose service he had spent the best portion of his life, tied up in uncertainty as to their course, simply because he was about to enter a sphere of higher duties to his country?

But if we read the evening car-mal, and is becoming so infinitesimally small that at its present rate of contraction it will be so small and insignificant, if it is not that already, that it will not be able to find a hole small enough to crawl into in future when it wants to escape or hide its shame. Hon. A. E. Arsenault was the elected and recognized leader of the Conservative, local party in this province. He was also an ex-Premier. He was, to the chagrin of the Patriot and its "powers behind" but most wisely on the part of the Government, elevated to the Supreme Court bench. His first duty was to sever his political connections, and on the 3rd of June, BEFORE HE ENTERED UPON THE DUTIES OF HIS OFFICE, he wrote a letter of retirement from the leadership of the party, and that letter has driven the Liberal muckraker into mortal spasms. To write, or publish, a letter of this kind, according to the Patriot, is "Lacking in Judgment" and "in exceeding bad taste." Is it the opinion of this Liberal non-entity that Mr. Arsenault should still continue to hold his position as a party leader, or if not, that he should keep the party, in whose service he had spent the best portion of his life, tied up in uncertainty as to their course, simply because he was about to enter a sphere of higher duties to his country?

To illustrate the stupidity of the "power behind" the Patriot, it states that, "The assertion contained in the correspondence that the

(Continued on page eight)

**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.

**THE WAR MEMORIAL**

Sir.—There is a suggestion being made and apparently being considered by the Government of making an extension to the Provincial Building to provide additional room, and to give it the character of a War Memorial.

The Provincial Building is the only purely artistic building we possess and should be cherished as such. It is questionable whether the Architect exists who could change its present pure and chaste lines without seriously impairing, if not destroying, its beauty.

The men who placed it there realized that there is such a thing as a sermon in stone, and that men require to be taught restraint, good taste, and a sense of proportion. We should have followed where they gave the lead, and improved upon their effort. Surely we will not sink to destroying their work.

As to the idea of seeking to make the extension Memorial in character, this savors too much of exploiting the desire which stirs in our hearts of honoring our brave boys who made the Supreme Sacrifice, to obtain public office room at its expense.

In this connection the accompanying extract may be found pertinent.

Address delivered at the recent exhibition of the Toronto Chapter of the Ontario Association of Architects.

"We have been reading in the daily press for over two years of proposed memorials to the honored dead who fell in the Great War, and it must have struck us many times that there is abroad in the land a very erroneous idea as to just what a memorial should be. On the other hand we have those who consider that the proper kind of memorial is the purely utilitarian type, that something useful should be erected, not something beautiful or suggestive, a shaming rink or a hospital, not a memorial arch or monument. This idea seems to me to be quite wrong.

"If the utilitarian is adopted we miss the very essence of the memorial idea, namely, that its structure should be distinctively commemorative and suggestive in the character of its design. That it should be a work of art, beautifully designed and executed is only too apparent. It should be the finest product of the designers art, built with painstaking and sympathetic care from the foundation to the crowning stone, a structure that would strike the imagination and point the path of duty to generations still unborn, that the youth of our City should be reminded of the sacrifices that have been made in the past so that they might walk abroad in peace and freedom.

"If the skating rink is erected it soon loses its identity as a memorial and becomes merely a building. We must not forget that many of the things that our race love, cherish and take pride in, are not what might be strictly called useful. The works of Shakespeare and Dickens, the paintings of Sir Joshua Reynolds and Turner, the carving of Grinling Gibbons, the monumental architecture of Inigo Jones and Sir Christopher Wren, the cathedrals of England, these are a heritage of the British and have helped to mould and form the soul of the people.

This is a matter of no little importance and one upon which a free discussion should be invited, so that public sentiment may be ascertained.

I am Sir, etc.,

**Others' View Points**

**A REAL CRISIS**  
(Columbia C. S., Record)

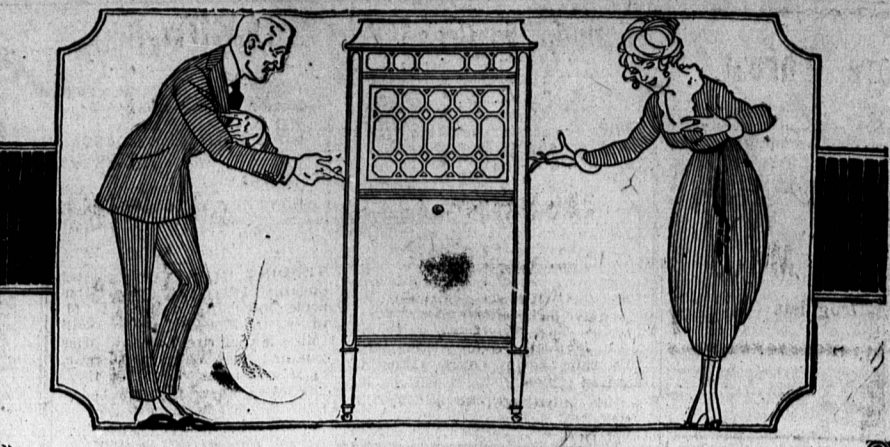
Chief Warren Stone says that organized labor "is now facing a crisis." It is, indeed; it must go to work.

**NOT EASILY HIT**  
(New York Evening Post.)

Lloyd George is the only statesman who has learned anything from the war. He has mastered the art of going in a zigzag course to avoid torpedoes.

**"MONGRELISM IN POLITICS"**  
(Kingston Standard.)

Under the circumstances it is not surprising that almost everywhere one hears the desire expressed that we should get back to real party government again and that mongrelism in politics shall be ended. Unionism, necessary in war time, has served its purpose, these people say; and they add—and many agree with them—that the day now has come for Positivism in Party—for the Positivism in Party—for the Positivism that characterized the Government of Sir John A. Macdonald, than whom Canada has never had a greater statesman, nor one with a larger and loftier vision or a surer faith in the future of his country.



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**WHEAT WATER CARRIAGE**  
(Chicago, Tribune.)

The American wheat farmers, without directly intending it, have made a strong case of the St. Lawrence waterway. With that waterway in operation, grain can be carried from lake ports to salt water at less than half the present rail charges. The saving thus effected will go almost entirely to the farmers. So long as we export grain, the price in our market is fixed by that of the surplus which goes abroad and the price abroad is regulated by world competition. Everything which enables the American farmer to reach that market more cheaply adds to his income—and there is no bigger or more needed task just now than to encourage American farming.

**Daily Selections Guardian Readers**  
Furnished by W. S. Louison.

**IF EVERYTHING WERE DONE**

If all our bills were paid  
And all our cares were done;  
If every path were made  
And every struggle won;  
If every wish came true  
And every heart were gay,  
Whatever would we do  
To pass the time away?

If every sky were fair  
And everything we tried  
Succeeded; if despair  
Came never to our side;  
Were every burden light,  
Pray tell me, if you can,  
If everything were right  
What would proclaim the man?

And no one wronged a friend;  
If no one were assailed  
By hatred, and the end  
Of everything were known,  
Each mystery unfurled,  
Oh, what a monotone  
Would be this splendid world.  
—Detroit Free Press

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