THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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THE CIVIC CONTEST

The nature of the government which a community receives depends, in the long run, on the interest which each individual citizen takes in its policies and administration. It is to be hoped that in tomorrow's civic election, every qualified voter will conscientiously register his or her choice, both in the Mayoralty contest and in the election in the various wards for Councillor. The candidates' views have been set forth in their election cards. They are all agreed that economic administration is necessary, though in some cases there are differences of opinion as to the extent to which economy can be safely applied. The past public service, if any, which the candidate has had, as well as his reputation generally for fair dealing, business experience, integrity and ability, become important factors in considering his suitability for office. These are matters which each elector must decide for himself or herself. General information as to the method of voting, etc., will be found elsewhere in today's Guardian. The system should work effectively in obtaining the viewpoint of all qualified electors as to who shall constitute Charlottetown's municipal government for the next two years. "May the best men win" will naturally be the hope and expectation of all who have the city's interests at heart.

FAR-AWAY ECLIPSE

According to an Associated Press dispatch, the sun tomorrow will stage one of its rarest and most awe-inspiring spectacles — a total eclipse; but it will be playing to an almost empty gallery.

"It would be difficult," says the dispatch, "to trace on the globe any arc of equal length that would touch less of the habitable portion of the earth than the 6,000-mile long path of this eclipse across the heaving waters of the Pacific Ocean. It will start in the seas 200 miles east of the Malay Feninsula, where it coincides with the sunrise; and although it will be visible from many of the islands of the Celebes and part of Borneo, the morning mists will handicap any attempt there at scientific observations. Sweeping across the Pacific it will miss the Philippines, Guam and Hawaii, plunging into the sea with sunset about 200 miles off the Alaskan coast.

An expedition of 33 Japanese and United States scientists sailed from Yokohoma on Jan. 15 for Losap Island, a small coral atoll 1,875 nautical miles to the southeast, which provides the only suitable spot for successful scientific observation and picturing of the phenomenon.

WHICH PATH?

An observer prominent in Canadian life has urged that Canada should leave the League of Nations, so that in the event of a devastating war, which he anticipates within the next five years, no Canadian life need be sacrificed. Commenting on this suggestion, a writer in the Vancouver Province says it is difficult to understand how Canada is to avoid that sacrifice by quitting the League of Nations. "If you are to keep Canadians away from battlefields, the thing to quit is the British Empire, not the League. And no one would counsel quitting the Empire. So long as there is a war in which Britain is involved, Canadians will be in it. Even if the Dominion itself is not officially embroiled, her citizens as individuals will flock to the colours and at their own expense for travelling to where the armies are."

It might, says the writer above quoted, be shown with a great deal of reason that Canada's part in any war wherein Britain is involved is rather to work than to fight. It could perhaps be shown that if Canada in the last war had devoted her man power to producing the things that were needed in the war and had left it to England to find the fighting men, both these sections of the Empire would have been better off. "We could thereby have taken much of the profit that went in the early days of the war to the Americans: we could have saved a generation of young men and we could have built up a large industrial advancement. But if we had done that our losses would have been greater in the long run. There is only one thing worse than losing a generation of young men and that is keeping them alive to feel ashamed of themselves."

The choice, as thus presented, would indeed be a difficult one for Canada to make, but who can doubt that the decision would be to stand by the Empire, the more firmly if it involved further sacrifice of life as well as of material things. The hope of every Canadian is that no such choice will be made necessary, and that, despite ominous signs on the European horison, the wisdom of Empire statesmen will find safe and honourable means of keeping clear of war entanglements, and by their example give world leadership in the cause of international peace.

LIBERAL VIEWPOINTS

The plethora of Opposition speechmaking on the Draft Address in Parliament serves no other purpose than to hold up vitally urgent business of Parliament. The whole issues in debate were reviewed at great length by both Mr. Mackenzie King and the Prime Minister. Our local contemporary, however, is apparently delighted that these issues should be rehashed interminably from the Opposition standpoint, at the expense of the taxpayers, while it criticises the Conservative members for sitting in their seats "without a murmur."

This is how the Nova Scotia leading Liberal press views the same situation:

"The debate on the Speech from the Throne has long been regarded as a general free-for-all, and does serve a useful purpose when properly used, but the privilege of speech may be abused. Two leaders opened this year's discussion with speeches which were each over four hours in length. In the pages of Hansard they are not uninteresting and uninformative, but apart from the House itself, the public at large will never read them, for the press has not the space to publish such extended addresses and few have the time or would take the time to read them if published. The ordinary citizen derives far more profit from a speech on one subject which is in short compass and goes right to the point without loss of time.

"There are many things of mighty moment with which parliament will be called upon to deal during its present session. Would it not be the part of wisdom to curtail the debate on the Speech from the Throne, which after all is only a general delivery on all sorts of topics, and bring it to a speedy conclusion, and deal with topic after topic as it arises in short pithy addresses without waste of words? It would be informative to the country, less laborious to the House itself, and would save the money of the taxpayers, as well as incidentally expediting business."

Evidently there are divergent views among Liberals as to the wisdom of wasting the time of Parliament in Opposition speechmaking when there is so much important business to be done.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Island members are included as follows on the select standing committees of the present session of the House of Commons: Railways, Canals, and Telegraph lines, Hon. Mr. MacDonald, Mr. McLure; Miscellaneous Private Bills, Mr. Myers; Printing, Mr. McLure, Mr. MacLean; Agriculture and Colonization, Mr. Myers; Marine and Fisheries, Hon. Mr. MacDonald, Mr. McLure, Mr. MacLean.

The reports from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, showing improved conditions in Canada which the Hon. Mackenzie King seeks to discredit, are fully borne out by the statements of bank officials, the heads of insurance companies and various other financial, industrial and commercial organizations. Dun and Bradstreet, which can have no interest in misrepresenting conditions in Canada, in their latest report say that "retail trade is commencing to surge forward again with more decisiveness, substantial gains being recorded for boots and shoes, china, furniture, draperies, stationery, electrical goods and hardware, with merchants generally noting a relaxation of the rigid economies that have been practised by many whose financial position had not been seriously impaired during the last three years."

Figures officially quoted in the British House of Commons show that in the last eight years 50,827 persons have been killed in road accidents in Great Britain and 1,421,063 injured. This is equal to the casualty record of a fair-sized war, but compared with America's road accidents, the total does not look large. In the United States as many as 34,000 persons have been killed in motor accidents in a single year and Canada has relatively as bad a list. In England endeavors are being made to reduce the number of road tragedies during the coming summer, and it would be a wise thing if those concerned with the protection of life on this continent were to begin their safety campaign now.

Notes By The Way

Sir Josiah Stamp issued a very sensible warning that a tug-of-war between the British and United States stabilization funds could only result in difficulties, if not disaster. Addressing the United States he said: "The idea that you are getting a sort of sinking fund for a currency war from your profit on revaluation, strikes me as an attempt to control fundamental movements, and to do so in the worst way."

Just as the Sing Sing Prison football team's season closes, plans for the annual prison show are announced. In them is noted the name of the former president of the Bank of the United States, New York, who is directing rehearsals. Another former well known banker is helping to stage a musical play. A former attorney general of New York, serving a term for forgery, is the pianist. With him in the orchestra are a confidence man and a murderer. A hold-up man plays one of the parts.—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Our new Socialists object to Parliament not because it cannot work, but because they themselves cannot work it. They inspire no confidence that they can work any other system. All who dislike party dictatorships must therefore see the principal danger in the Socialist form of dictatorship, merely because it threatens to become the program of a party which is a serious competitor for office. But they will not feel inclined on that account to seek refuge in some other form of dictatorship which can only offer the same kind of poison from a different source. Those who take off their hats to Sir Oswald Mosley—the last and least of a long line of the objects of their ephemeral veneration—must realize that they are saluting not the antagonist but the spiritual brother of Sir Stafford Cripps. These two knights are charging the same dragon of democracy under the same oriflamme of their own infallibility, and the only difference between them is the length of their spears. The truth is that a dictatorship in this country is not the only answer to the demand for action, and must in any case be a disastrous answer.—The London Times.

America swaps a hobgoblin for a ghost. The hobgoblin is the gold standard which will pass into limbo when the President signs the new money bill. The ghost will appear in the shape of "gold notes"—which can't be redeemed. Gold itself will be banished from our currency—as effectively as though Congress had towed it all to sea and dumped it. It will be melted down into bars and stowed away in subterranean vaults, as remote from our daily life as was the mummy of King Tut. The gold fetish is having normal burial.—The New York Evening Post.

A study by the League of Nations based on industrial production indices, places Canada in the vanguard of the march toward recovery during 1933. From November, 1932, to November, 1933, the industrial output of that country increased 16 per cent. Next came Sweden with 15 per cent, Germany with 14, Japan with 13, the United States with 12, Russia and France with 10, and England with 2 per cent. With all our elaborate machinery for recovery, our magic formulas and our unprecedented spending of Government funds, the United States has not kept pace with Canada, where the Government is content to follow more or less orthodox economic paths.

The immediately important fact is that, beguiled by feeble arguments, the people of all countries are being rushed into feverish preparation for a new war which nobody wants but the armament makers. The arguments in all countries are substantially the same: "We want nothing so much as peace, but we are surrounded by enemies." Those who lack enthusiasm for the next war are lulled by promises of wide employment and rising prices for steel and airplane shares. Signing on the dotted line has reached epidemic proportions, a phenomenon which makes it probable that naval policy, with all its intricate consequences, will receive no more critical examination than a minor appropriation.

"Mr. Bennett's carefully considered speech," says the Montreal Daily Star, "at the opening of Parliament has clearly struck the country as the quiet, restrained and yet determined beginning of the march back to solvency. Where it was necessary to tell unpalatable truths, he told them. Where he had to plan painful measures of recovery, he planned them. He has his eye on the leaks that have been threatening in so discouraging a manner the national ship; and while he has not stopped them as yet—even as Roosevelt has not stopped his—he has outlined the action looking to that end. We have not arrived, but we are marching in the right direction."

It is satisfactory, says the London News-Chronicle, to see that the question of the administration of women into the diplomatic and consular services is to be reviewed officially. The wonder is that a career for which, on the face of it, women seem so well qualified should have been so long barred to them.

If Mr. Churchill is right, we cannot contract out of our traditional way of living. "We must be a strong, successful, scientific, commercial Empire or starve." And again: "There is no halfway house between greatness and ruin." Other nations go on running and we cannot fall out of the race. Other nations maintain their armaments and we cannot allow ours to rust and dwindle. Those formidable rivals are there, and we have the choice either to hold our own or to go under. We live dangerously in a dangerous world, and there is no other way in which we can live. Those who rail at "Nationalism" rail at destiny. Nations are the organizations in which the individual may preserve himself. If all life is a struggle for survival, then nations, being part of life, take part in that struggle. If there is no getting away from it, then it may be the higher wisdom to accept it and play in it a courageous and a manly part.

Now, more than ever, the way to judge the probabilities of war is to study realities. What nations can expect to win an advantage from war? These are the nations that will bear watching. More observers think that the most dangerous frontier today is that between Manchukuo and Russia. Russia is plainly preparing for the possibility of hostilities in this area; but it should be remembered that, with only a single track railway to carry her troops and munitions to the East, she must prepare long in advance. Japan is on the spot with good railway facilities and a highly trained and equipped army. She could win a number of initial victories before the Russians could move—if they had not previously moved enough men and supplies into the area to hold the defensive.

That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

GLAND DISTURBANCES AND DIGESTIVE DISTURBANCES

Some individuals find that the large intestine is nearly always very active and that a persistent diarrhoea is present. Others find that they are constipated practically all the time and feel heavy or sluggish.

Drs. J. Friedenwald and S. Morrison, Baltimore, point out that the ductless or endocrine glands—thyroid, adrenal, pituitary, para-thyroid and others—play an important part in causing digestive disturbances.

For instance, an increase in thyroid juice in the system makes every process work faster causing diarrhoea and digestive symptoms and a decrease in thyroid juice causes all the processes to work slower and constipation is one of the results. Thus the proper use of thyroid extract gives help in the cases due to thyroid disturbance.

The parathyroid glands, situated below the thyroid, have a controlling influence on lime in the body, so that should an insufficient amount be manufactured, spasms occur in the stomach and the upper part of small intestine into which stomach empties. In these cases parathyroid extract and lime (calcium) give relief.

Disturbances in the pituitary gland—the little gland lying on the base of the skull—cause overweight, enlargement of abdominal organs, and increased thirst. Solution of pituitary extract restores tone and many overcome obstruction, distension of intestine, and constipation.

Disturbances of the suprarenal or adrenal glands, one lying on top of each kidney, may interfere with the movements of the stomach and intestine so that food is not digested and moved downward properly. The use of adrenalin, or epinephrine as it is usually named, is of help in many of these cases in relieving spasm.

It has been definitely proven that there is a relation between various endocrine glands, and a disturbance in one frequently develops a change in the way one of the others does its work, so that the cause of digestive disturbances is at times hard to discover.

Now organic conditions—ulcer and cancer—can cause digestive disturbances, and likewise "nervousness" can cause the symptoms of organic conditions.

In addition to this it must now be recognized that "gland" conditions can also cause digestive disturbances and this must be remmbered when no other apparent cause can be found.

The Poet's Corner

THE LOYALISTS

Not drooping like poor fugitives they came
In exodus to our Canadian wild,
But full of heart and hope, with hands erect
And fearless eyes, victorious in defeat,
With thousand toils they forced their devious way
Through the great wilderness of silent woods,
The gloomed-o'er lake and stream, till higher rose
The northern star above the broad domain
Of half a continent still theirs to hold,
Defend and keep for ever as their own,
Their own and England's to the end of time.

The virgin forests carpeted with leaves
Of many Autumns fallen crisp and sear,
Put on their woodland state; while overhead
Green seas of foliage roared a welcome home
To the proud exiles, who for empire fought
And kept, though losing much, this northern land
A refuge and defence for all who love
The broader freedom of a commonwealth
That wears upon its head a kingly crown.

—William Kirby.

The cattle population of France is over 15,000,000. Work cattle are tending to be replaced by horses especially as early maturity is being developed in the breeds.

Another Mere Voice

(Sydney Post)

Another Ontario advocate of Maritime union has arrived. This time it is Mr. George H. Smith, first vice-president and general manager of the Canada Permanent Mortgage Corporation, who told the shareholders of that company when convened in annual meeting at Toronto recently that the three Prairie provinces should combine in one legislative unit, and the three Maritime provinces in another.

While there is nothing new in Mr. Smith's officiousness or failure to grasp the essential principles underlying the Canadian Confederation, there is something strikingly novel in the argument he now offers for Prairie and Maritime fusion. He appeals to history, and cites the meeting held at Charlottetown three years before Confederation. "As you know," he is reported as having said, "as long ago as 1864 the Charlottetown conference was convened with the object of merging the three provinces by the sea. That object having later been lost sight of in the greater project of Confederation, it is, however, of even greater importance now, and after its Rip Van Winkle repose for 70 years might very well be aroused to action."

The Rip Van Winkle in the case is the man who has lost sight of the purpose of the Charlottetown conference of 70 years ago, and who still fails to realize that that purpose was achieved three years later when Confederation went into effect.

It was not the kind of a union Mr. Smith is now talking about that was considered at the Charlottetown conference. At that time these three provinces had all the powers under the British Crown of three virtually sovereign states. What was considered at the Charlottetown conference was the pooling of these powers to set up on the Atlantic seaboard a British dominion as independent, as far-reaching in its legislative powers, and as complete and self-contained a national entity, as the Dominion of Canada has become. Needless to recall this function was realized in fuller measure by the establishment in 1867 of the Dominion of Canada. All that now remains to the three Maritime legislatures is a modest field of legislative and administrative authority, for the carrying on of local self-government. In England greater powers are possessed by the municipalities than are exercised by the legislatures of the three Maritime Provinces. Because the functions of these legislatures are purely local, and because intimate contacts are essential between the administrators and the people in such services as highways, schools, and police protection, it is obvious that centralization is repugnant, in the very nature of the case, to the efficiency and even economy of this class of administration. The two vital features of the Canadian Confederation are centralization of national services and localization of community services. One can hardly conceive of anything more grotesque than a government of the three Maritime Provinces sitting, say at Sackville or Charlottetown, voting road supplies for Gabarus or administering the schools of the remote rural sections of the Atlantic region. On no important subject of discussion which has appeared in the press has there been more confusion of thought than in these periodic exortations, from people living a thousand miles away, to the people of the Maritimes as to how they should carry on their affairs.

A Changed Dominion

(National Revenue Review)

In a dusty vault in Vancouver, where it had lain for forty-seven years, a copy of "Bradstreets Reports for the Dominion of Canada, July, 1886" came to light recently, showing a Canada of striking contrast with that of today. Some of the Dominion's principal cities were then mere towns or villages. Vancouver is an outstanding example. As listed in Bradstreet, less than 50 years ago, it was described as follows:—

Vancouver, on Burrard Inlet—Weekly steamer from Victoria—Daily stage from New Westminster—Population 500—One saloon, three hotels, a bar, two boot and shoe shops, a butcher, a clothier, a baker, a boat builder.

Regina, however, boasted a population of 700, and coounted a bank and a bookstore among its fifty businesses. It was listed in the old Bradstreet, nevertheless, under the heading Manitoba, etc., along with Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Rat River, etc. Winnipeg, however, was given some prominence. It had nearly 500 places of business and a population of 20,000. Steamers ran regularly to Selkirk and Grand Rapids, and like Regina it had a railway.

Every city, town and village throughout the length and breadth of Canada was listed, together with the businesses and business men thereof, beginning with Aberarder, in Lambton County, population 32, and ending with Yarm, Pontiac, P.Q. After every person's name letters were set, giving the individual rating as to business integrity, finances, etc. "Aa" for example, signified "highest credit." Less than twenty businesses and business men in the whole of Canada were rated "Aa" by Mr. Bradstreet in 1886. Four were in Toronto's list and of these two made patent medicine and one distilled whisky.

The business designation "Blksth and Wgn. Mkr." appears frequently in this nearly half-century old directory. It is feared that blacksmiths and wagon-makers have dwindled considerably in number. Sawmills were listed, especially in Ontario, in almost every town, also gristmills, flaxmills, saddlers, coopers, weavers, potters and tanners. Port Hope had its vessel-owners Port Colborne its tug-owners. Ship chandlers and ship's carpenters were to be found in every port town from Port Elgin down the three lakes.

The German wheat acreage is now slightly higher than in previous years and is tending higher.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

MODERN LIBRARY FACILITIES

Sir,—I submit the following for our citizens' consideration:

Are the patrons of our Public Library and other citizens who are interested in good literature satisfied with the books in our present library? Why are we letting Charlottetown lag behind the many other centres in this province which have already taken advantage of the wonderful assistance offered by the Carnegie Demonstration Library? Do our citizens realize that, if the facilities provided by this library service were extended to our city, everyone would have the opportunity of securing any book on any subject whatever? The town of Summerside, for example, has not failed to take advantage of this great opportunity, for it has already secured some two thousand volumes of standard literature, books of reference, periodicals, standard magazines and other material which is usually found in all up-to-date reference libraries. What is wrong with the citizens of Charlottetown regarding this important matter? Surely those interested are capable of making their wishes known in a concrete way. There are at present hundreds of books in the Carnegie depot in the Prince of Wales College basement ready to be transferred to the Public Library for the use of the reading public if our city will only co-operate in this matter. What are our City Councillor candidates prepared to do about it? What have our candidates for the mayoralty to say on the subject? Many citizens, no doubt, will want to know the attitude of these candidates towards this civic institution.

I trust that my inquiry will cause some of our interested citizens to take an active part in this matter so that in the near future all may enjoy the books that are in store for us.

I am, Sir, etc.,
J. F. MacMILLAN

UNJUST CRITICISM

Sir,—In your issue of the 24th ultimo there appears a letter signed W. S. Stewart in regard to law costs paid by the City. It might be possible if we put the position of law adviser up to tender the city might save say one hundred dollars a year. It is questionable but more than half of Mr. Stewart's letter deals with the costs incurred in appealing to the Supreme Court of Canada at Ottawa what is known as the "Foundation Company" suit. This was a most important suit in regard to the validity of a City By-law enacted in the interest of our local contractors and workers. The Foundation Company won out and of course Mr. Stewart like many another person is very wise after the event and can criticise freely.

The total cost to the City is given as $1612.39. Mr. Stewart says the Company lawyers received about $700.00; Mr. Tilley of Toronto representing the City $500.00; Stewart and Lowther for costs here $110.00. There were some other small fees so it can be easily seen that the Recorder was most moderate in his fee.

The main point to be considered is that the question of appeal to Ottawa was agreed to after Mr. Stewart was elected Mayor. He attended and took part in the caucus meetings when the matter was decided upon. The Recorder also attended. Mr. Stewart does not charge that the Recorder urged appeal or that he unduly influenced the Council one way or the other but in his letter above referred to he (Mr. Stewart) says "Mr. Kennedy will labour in vain to convince the public that I favoured continuing the appeal to Ottawa" and again "No one can with truth say that I favoured it."

The Councillors were all laymen. They must have been guided solely by the Mayor and the Recorder. I think the following memorandum which is now in my possession should settle the matter of responsibility. It corroborates Mr. Kennedy's statement and contradicts that of Mr. Stewart. Here it is:—

"We the undersigned do hereby make the following statement in connection with the suit against the Maritime Foundation Company. We beg to make known to the citizens the real facts. Immediately after our election in February 1932 this matter was brought to the attention of the Council by the City Recorder. The Council held two or three special meetings. The Recorder reported upon all the facts and gave all information including the opinion of Mr. Tilley, the great legal mind, of Toronto. The Mayor stated that he had gone over the particulars very carefully; finally one of the Councillors demanded from the Mayor an expression of his opinion on the case. Here is the reply or words to this effect. "Now that a certain amount of money has been expended on this case I would advise testing it out and it would be a guide for future action."

Dated Jan. 25, 1934.

(Signed) Samuel Kennedy
B. R. Holman
M. W. Reardon
W. E. Burke
Rowland L. Day
Fred H. Trainor

I do not find fault with the Mayor in giving the advice to proceed with the case nor do I believe that there are any just grounds for criticism but the most reprehensible part of the business is that the man who gave the advice now wishes to shirk his just share of responsibility and assumes the role of chief critic to injure if possible a fellow officer in the Civic service.

I am, Sir, etc,
JOHN F. WHEAR

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SUNDRY CRITICISMS

Sir,—In the heat of cross firing in debate an attempt was made to ridicule a $10,000 saving as an amount scarcely worthy the attention of the champions of economy and the question asked,—"How are you going to balance the rest of the budget." The querist seemed unaware that a saving of this amount, with collection of taxes due, would be ample to balance the budget, and by ceasing to funnel borrowed money into the pouches of mendicant waste, there might be a reasonable surplus to be applied to debt reduction.

In relation to the legality of tax assessment Mr. Whear asked,—"Why does His Worship persist in trying to cast doubt on the assessments, that they are not legally made." As a close reader I have so far failed to find His Worship or any one else "casting doubt" as to legality of assessments, although in as far as they are inequitable a big doubt exists.

There has been some emphatic doubts, however, upon the legality of the methods and system of collection. And graver doubts as to the expediency of these, even if they were legal. It is vicious advice to give any public officer urging him to hide his head (ostrich like) to the truth and to leave open and unguarded the doors to what may prove disastrous and expensive litigation. We had a sharp reminder of this in Nova Scotia only a few days ago.

Thirty-five years ago Mayor Dawson, in his annual report, made a strong comment upon this existing doubt, advising that means should be adopted by legislation to remedy it. Mr. Whear adds: "I say it is settled by statute." But statutes are neither final nor definite and they have been frequently overturned by the Courts. This is practically the same statute as existed with Mayor Dawson, and these have been repeatedly declared to be ultra vires, and "beyond the power of the Provincial Legislature," by several Ministers of Justice, whose dictum is almost equivalent to the highest court in Canada.

Apart from the legal aspect, the system is barbarous, a relic of savage ages, and absolutely without virtue apart from its aspired after squandering of taxpayers hard earnings, its opportunity for graft, and its irreparable damage to the credit of struggling business men. True it is "following statutory procedure," but only up to the point of wreckage. From that point the Satute is ignored, its mandates defied, and those charged with enforcement funk cowardly from the further obligations imposed.

There are, in addition to lawful collection, various sums levied upon and collected from citizens without authority of statute. If the Legislature intended us to make the impositions they would have done so in the words of legislation. In this connection it would be wise to consult the Assembly as to how many of "pocket touches" they are willing to sanction. To issue processes out of the City Police Court against persons failing to buy permits to do what they have a perfect and lawwful right to do is revolting to every sense of honesty. I am sure the average citizen does not want civic revenues replenished by qustionable means. Take as illustration the graft of building permits, the only admitted purpose of which is to implement the salary of a useless appendix. Extorting money under false pretense, or under color of law should be as punishable against corporations as it is against private individuals.

In other cities the ambition is to encourage industry, enterprise and trade expansion: here almost every aim seems to be to balk enterprise, to embargo expansion and stumbling block every avenue of industrial progress—except perchance the highways of prodical spending, borrowing and debt creation.

I am Sir, etc.
L. P. TANTON

NOTE—Since writing above I have read Mr. Whear's vitriolic and unfair attack upon Mayor Stewart. His Worship's enormous vote of two years ago is an effective answer as to the opinion of citizens, and with the best of right thinking voters uncalled for abuse will have an opposite influence to that which the intemperate writer bids for. He asks—"Is it not an amazing thing that not one candidate in the field has a word to say in support of the W. S. Stewart platform." Not at all. It would be more amazing if they so far belittled their intelligence by burying their own identity as applicants for suffrage. Neither have they said a word to the contrary, or in favor of his opponent. They have all pursued the commendable course, placing their own platforms and views upon civic issues before the electors and wisely leaving the decision with those whose right it is to decide. I am not making campaign for any candidate, but protesting against immoderate representations and ungenerous, and even unfounded assumptions.—L.P.T.

For Shorter Elections

(Exchange)

An item from Ottawa says that a change in the election machinery is contemplated to provide for shorter elections. There is no doubt this would be a welcome change. Up to the present elections have dragged from seven to ten weeks in Canada in addition to the previous intensive organization work considered necessary by all political parties. This may have been necessary in the earlier days when railway facilities were not as plentiful as they are today, and when highways were not so convenient for travel and when motors were unknown. It was also considered necessary that the leaders of the major parties should stump the whole country, including not only the larger centres, but the smaller towns and larger district places as well. It was imposing an almost impossible load upon these men, but the exigencies of party work made it necessary. A leader was usually fit for the rest cure when an election was over, whether his party was successful or not.

Today conditions for campaigning are entirely different. Fine highways stretch throughout the country and a journey that formerly took days by train or by wagon can now be made with ease in a few hours by motor. Radio has also contributed its remarkable assistance and a speaker can be heard from one part of the country to the other without lifting his voice. Apart from the pleasure or desirability of meeting workers and people face to face, political campaigning can be carried on almost entirely through the medium of the broadcast. It should be possible for political parties to plan their programs with these modern conveniences so that an election could be over within a period of a month.

There is a further consideration and it is that a long election means an expensive election, and is hard on parties and candidates. Halls and motor cars and gasoline all cost money, but the longer the campaign the more intensive use of these is considered necessary. A candidate must go here, there and everywhere, spending money for advertising, paying his share of the radio cost, and loud speakers, and by the time polling day comes he is bled white. Both parties do it and consequently a shorter election campaign would be of financial advantage to them.

At the same time these same means of educating the elector are in more constant use and there should be less necessity for stressing them at the last moment. The practical experience is that it is very difficult to keep up intensive campaigning for several weeks and that after the fourth week of a campaign, unless there is some special issue at stake, interest has to be super-induced by other processes. Certainly anything that will make the cost of elections less should be welcomed by all parties.

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