

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

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THE KILKENNY CATS

Everybody knows the story of the Kilkenny cats the tails of which were tied together and the pair thrown over a clothesline in which position they scratched and tore at each other until there was nothing left but the tails.

The story is at present being reproduced spectacularly in the Provincial Legislature. The government has been similarly tied and hung up by the Guardian, the Opposition and some sinister influences within the government ranks and the bunch is now scratching and clawing after the manner of the cats aforesaid, and threatening to produce a similar extinction.

Since the defeat of the government on Friday over the Montague Incorporation bill, the party appears to have become demoralized.

Saturday morning Mr. D. C. MacDonald seconded by Mr. Methersall, moved that the report of the Private Bills Committee be referred back to the Committee for the purpose of reducing the fee on the Light, Heat and Power Company's bill from the regular fee \$490 to \$200. This started the agitation. The matter was argued out by the mover and seconder, Messrs LePage, Higgs, Arsenault, Nash, Hughes and Johnston. After thrashing the question out the point was referred to the Speaker who with cogent reasons ruled the motion out of order.

Mr. D. C. MacDonald, seconded by Attorney General Johnston, then moved that the decision of the Speaker, be not agreed to. A vote was accordingly taken when the Speaker's ruling was sustained by a very large majority. The result of the vote was received with great applause in the House thus divided against itself.

A VICIOUS PRECEDENT

The dismissal of officials in order to make room for supporters of the government is one of the vicious precedents established by the Bell government. Under all governments everything else being equal, preference has been given to supporters of the administration in the appointment of officials but it remained for the Bell government alone to set the example of dismissing an old and capable official who had served under successive governments in order to make room for a party heeler.

This was what happened in the dismissal of Mr. Michael McCormack from the position of Clerk of the County Court at Souris, a position which he had filled with the utmost satisfaction since 1834. No fault had been found with his administration of the office and no reason was given for his dismissal except the reason given on the floor of the House with brutal frankness by the Honourable R. N. Cox who admitted that he was dismissed to make room for "one of our own". Mr. McCormack has for many years been an outstanding figure in Kings County. In 1867 he was appointed Commissioner of Small Debts, a position which he held until 1871. He was for fourteen years sheriff of Kings County and was offered, but declined, the appointment for the fifteenth year. In 1884 he was appointed Clerk of the County Court, a position which he held until dismissed by the Bell government to make room "for one of our own."

We believe this incident is without parallel in the history of the province and it certainly is not to the credit of the government. It has set a precedent which may serve in the future as an excuse for similar injustice and is, from every viewpoint to be condemned as mischievous as well as very small politics. The stupid act has made no friends in Kings County

him who received.

Current Comment

There is positively no such thing as pleasing the members on the government side of the House. One section of them will be found clanging their tongues day in and day out because we report them and their actions too fully and then another turns around and moves a vote of censure because, in his own language as reported in the Patriot, "The names of all those who took part in that discussion were published, BUT NONE WAS OMITTED." And the most inconsistent part of it was that those who were complaining of being too amply reported all voted for the resolution. Now is it possible to satisfy such perversity? If there is any one who thinks he can do so we would like to see him try it.

STREET DANGERS

So far comparatively few children have been run over on the streets; so far there have been few fatalities. Considering the number of children almost continually on the streets and the recklessness shown by them in the matter of dodging, or, as is often the case during passing vehicles, the wonder is that accidents are so few. There have been narrow escapes due rather to Providence than to watchfulness on the part of the children who appear to be living on the streets. This immunity from serious accident cannot be expected to continue indefinitely nor have we any reason to expect that Providence will continue indefinitely to guard those who persist in challenging death.

Something must be done to save those children whose parents appear to care little whether they are killed or not. The city does not want a tragedy nor do drivers of autos or carriages want to have the blame of killing or maiming a child. Many drivers regard with terror the idea of traversing our streets either with auto or carriage as they say it is almost impossible to dodge the children.

The police should take charge of any children who persist in chasing autos or carriages and should sternly forbid all kinds of playing on the streets. It is no use waiting till the tragedy occurs. The time to avert the tragedy is before it occurs.

DIVIDENDS

Conceal it how we will the primary purpose in every commercial or industrial undertaking is to make dividends and to make them in cash. We may magnify in our prospectus the noble object of bettering the community, of giving employment and creating a home market but when we are honest with ourselves we admit that while we had one eye on the community advantages we had both eyes on the prospective dividend. Moreover if there is not a reasonable prospect of a cash dividend, the community interest will not bulk very largely in our decision to invest.

While common prudence demands that we "keep an eye on the main chance", that we invest our money prudently and that we seize every legitimate opportunity to make money honestly, we should not forget that there are other investments than those for industrial and commercial enterprises, that there are other than cash dividends.

Everything done for the betterment of the community, every act of kindness, every helping hand held out to a struggling soul is an investment and each yields its dividend. What a happy world this would be if more emphasis were laid on these other investments, if these other dividends could only be given precedence over the cash variety! A cleaner country because of mutual helpfulness; more men and women engaged in useful occupations because they were helped "out of the depths" by kindly hands; a more prosperous world because of the conservation of the human material, the only material which is now being wasted.

Let us not neglect these bigger investments; the dividends may not be held out as an inducement, they may not be looked for or even hoped for but the investment of even "a cup of cold water" has in many instances yielded a dividend of infinite value, "twice blessed", "blessing him who gave and him who received".

ter nor are we the "children" which he describes, whose nose must be held while he administers his medicine. We rather prefer to do the administering of the doses so badly needed to correct the ailments of the body politic. They say that bull beef is strengthening, and the application of a little of the serum of this animal might stiffen up his back bone a little and make him have a straighter appearance before the country. A certain Holstein Bull on the Falconwood farm seems to have more than one claimant to ownership. In the Falconwood Hospital Report, submitted to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, and signed by all the Trustees as follows: J. H. Bell, Chairman, C. W. Crosby, G. E. Hughes, W. M. Lea, David McDonald and J. D. McGuigan we find the following statement, page 23, "THE SCRUB BULL WAS DONE AWAY WITH, WE ARE NOW USING A THOROUGH BRED HOLSTEIN, PROPERTY OF THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT."

Likewise in the Report of the Department of Agriculture, signed by Walter M. Lea, Commissioner of Agriculture, a photo plate picture of "Artis Vale (28831) Line Bred from Court Mercena Posch, Head of Holstein Herd at Falconwood Farm." Now with these evidences before us what could the members of the House, the press or the country be expected to believe? Only, and nothing more than this, that the Bull was, as stated, the "property of the Agriculture Department." And because these facts were the subject of enquiry in the House and comment in the press. Mr. Lea works himself up into a pettish fit, denying the whole thing, and giving vent to his feelings against the press and all concerned. When pressed as to whom the Bull belonged to he declared, "To the Commissioner of Agriculture." When the entry in his Report was called to his attention, his answer was let those who made the mistake correct it. He had loaned the Bull to the Farm and that was all there was to it. He had further to add that he didn't read the report, or "I am not supposed to read the reports, even if I am a trustee," and "even so why should there be such a tattle about it in the Guardian?" Perhaps this might be as good a time as any other to tell him why.

The Guardian is a recognized adviser of the people. Reports of Public Departments signed by the responsible heads, are supposed to be correct, and are for the enlightenment of the people as to the management of their affairs, AND THEY HAVE A RIGHT TO BE OF A DEPENDABLE CHARACTER. Men holding responsible public positions are not paid to sign their name to important public documents "WITHOUT READING THEM," and such documents with all due deference to the gentleman, whether he reads them or not, IF SIGNED BY HIM, would be accepted as PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE IN ANY COURT OF LAW IN WHICH THEY MIGHT BE PRESENTED. It is therefore of the utmost importance that public servants before subscribing their names to official documents should at least know what they are signing, and what effect it will have upon both themselves and the public interests. It is because of such and kindred blunders that the Guardian has so frequently been obliged to bring to popular notice, that they have devoted so much effort to intimidate and choke of a free expression of public opinion, or in simpler words to gag the press. As to Mr. Lea's boasted philanthropy in lending the animal to the government and leaving it, not only during the breeding season, but permanently, on the Farm, it would have received a more gracious acceptance if his announcements were made with less of petulance and less of the spirit of reserve.

Budget And Estimates

Continued from Page One.

went into educational supplies. In reply to a question from Mr. Arsenault regarding the distribution of the grant in estimates for the following year, the Premier gave the following information which had been left blank on the estimates:

Principal \$2500
Vice Principal 2100
First Vice Principal 1800
Second Vice Prin. 1700
Third 1600
Fourth 1500
Fifth 1400
Teacher of Freehand drawing 900
Domestic Science 1000
Music Instruction 650
MR. ARSENAULT — Will the Premier tell us what is the substance of the proposed act with reference to Prince of Wales College and the Normal School?
PREMIER BELL — The salaries of the teachers are set down in the original act and the amounts are very much lower than what we are giving them. We have been compelled to raise their salaries and the amount of the raise must still be embodied in an amendment to the act. We are asking in addition that the salaries be fixed at plumbing. This by the Board of Education or by the government; I am not sure which.
MR. ARSENAULT — What is the objection to the legislature voting these amounts?
MR. BELL — The salaries of the teachers of the Prince of Wales College are an uncertain quantity.
MR. ARSENAULT — Are there any extraordinary repairs to be made to the college this year?
MR. BELL — The expenditure set down is pretty high.
MR. J. D. STEWART — What repairs were done last year to make the amount?

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45 BOYS TWO PIECE SUITS SIZES 2 TO 9 YEARS \$3.00
They are made of good quality wool and cotton in tweed and worsted cloth in all the most popular colors and patterns.

80 BOYS TWO PIECE SUITS SIZES 6 TO 16 YEARS \$5.00
Combining good style and serviceability at a low price made of good quality cotton and wool tweed and worsteds in an assortment of popular prices, styles, patterns, single breasted style with belt and buckle and slash pockets, bloomers are correctly cut and lined throughout.

100 BOYS TWO PIECE SUITS SIZES 7 TO 16 YEARS \$6.95
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125 BOYS TWO PIECE SUITS IN PLAIN AND FANCY COLORS \$8.49 SIZES 7 TO 16 YEARS
This lot comprises suits which sold regularly during the past season at from \$12.00 to \$15.00. They come in 2 and 3 button double and single breasted styles with and without belt and buckle patch and slit pockets in Brown, Grey, Green and Blue tweeds and worsteds in all the most popular patterns bloomers are full cut and well lined. Sizes 7 to 16 years . . . \$8.49.

Other exceptional values in boys suits at \$10.00, \$12.00, \$15.00, \$18.00, \$20.00, \$22.00.

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PREMIER BELL replying to a question from Mr. Arsenault, stated that five and a half percent of the same rate as previously, is being paid the Bank of Montreal. MR. HESSIAN said that last year \$59,000 was paid in interest. Tonight the members were asked to vote \$56,500. This was conclusive proof, he believed that the government had collected arrears of taxes and that the debt was being decreased. He defied the four representatives of the Tory regime of this country to stand up and deny it. The Guardian newspaper had come out and preached before the world that the government had not reduced the debt but tonight they would have to swallow it all. Mr. Hessian dwelt long and eloquently on this point. (Loud applause from the Liberal benches.) MR. ARSENAULT — I am sure after that, the hon. member for fifth King's should feel considerably better. (Laughter) My remarks on his oration need be very short. If he had only taken the trouble to examine the public accounts and if he could understand them there would have been no necessity for him to speak at all. He would have seen that the interest being provided this year is \$56,500 and that last year it was \$56,797.50. MR. HESSIAN — No! No! I beg to differ. MR. ARSENAULT — If the hon. member had only learned the difference between ESTIMATED expenditures and ACTUAL expenditures

HE WOULD HAVE SEEN THAT HE IS RUNNING HIS HEAD UP AGAINST A MISTAKE. In one column he will see the estimates and in the other what was actually paid in interest. The trouble is that he has taken his figures from the wrong column. Supplies for the Legislature Library was the next item.

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Daily Selections Guardian Readers

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I leave the burdens of my life, And all the weariness and strife, With Him who orders all my ways, And knows the limit of my days, And so I rest

God sent me here with purpose true, My ignorance and weakness knew, And, whether light or darkness fall, His tender love is over all, And it is best.

Full oft I stumble as I go, And tears of sorrow quickly flow, But He to whom my grief is known, Leaves me not to weep alone; He sendeth peace.

I cannot reach my life ideal; It towers far above the real; But, when I think of countless years Of future life in unknown spheres, My murmurings cease.

Sometimes I feel a helpless child, A poor weed tossed on water wild; And yet he rules the wide, dark sea, I need not fear.

The shadowy valley, at the last, Where many loved of mine have passed, Seems but a step from night to day; For all the new and shrouded way God will be near.

—Selected.