

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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CHILD WELFARE

Probably never before has the attention of the civilized world been so persistently directed to the necessity of safeguarding the rising generation as at present. It is being more and more recognized as the years go by and as the pace of commercial industrial and social life quickens, that the child is either being left behind or is allowed to choose its own path.

The Junior Red Cross propaganda now being carried on throughout Canada, and in which a move has been made in this province, is a world wide movement for the betterment of the physical well-being of the children of all lands.

This world movement has arisen out of necessity. It was not in Canada alone that the military medical inspection revealed fearful physical weaknesses in Canada and in the United States, in Great Britain and in others of the Allied countries the proportion of young men unfit for military service was simply appalling.

This it will be admitted by all is the nation's only hope. The young of today are the men and women of tomorrow, the makers—the un-makers of the nation a few years hence. The physical defects of childhood are to be looked for and where possible arrested or healed; the pit falls that lie open before the feet of the young are to be either abolished or so guarded against as to minimize the danger.

While struggling with the high cost of living and other incidental expenses it may be of interest to compare ourselves with our sister provinces and also with some by-gone years. The current issue of the Labor Gazette gives interesting statistics relative to this matter.

showed a distinct rise over the figures of the previous year. The items totalling these figures comprise all the articles of fuel, food and lighting, and rent. The first encouraging evidence given is in the comparison between February and January, 1921, in which a slight reduction is shown. In a table showing the retail prices of staple foods, groceries, fuel and lighting in various cities throughout Canada it is interesting to note that the average price of Anthracite coal in Canada in 1921 was \$19.707; in the Maritime provinces the price ranged round \$25, and \$26 in Quebec around \$18; in Ontario from \$16 to \$18; Manitoba \$23, and Saskatchewan \$25.

The chief charges for the month in foods were in bacon, lard, flour, bread, rolled oats, rice, beans, prunes and sugar. Wood and coal oil averaged lower being down in some localities. Meats are considerably lower, for instance sirloin steak in Halifax being quoted \$4.04; Sydney \$3.03 in Prince Edward Island \$2.06.

FARMER FINANCE

London Free Press: The legislative correspondent of the Farmers' Sun gives some disquieting particulars in regard to the Drury government's financing and describes the situation as serious. The Sun says that since November 13, 1919 when the Drury government came into power, loans aggregating \$66,000,000 have been floated. The Sun describes this figure as "startling" and adds, "still more startling is the statement of terms on which the loans were floated".

"When the great province of Ontario which proudly boasted 20 odd years ago that it had no debt, has to issue 15 and 20 year bonds at six per cent, and cannot get par for them at that, the situation is indeed serious."

EDITORIAL NOTES

A story is told of an ostrich which found itself unexpectedly upon what it knew was forbidden ground but plentifully supplied with provender. It was naturally scared and after each hastily eaten meal buried its head in the deep rank grass. One day, while thus hiding its head a little rooster whose home was on the farm, saw the ostrich and warned it that the far-

Current Comment

The budget speech was originally scheduled for a Friday delivery but true to traditional superstition it turned out to be an unlucky day for the Bell Government. It was just before this that the External Auditor's report appeared on the scene, and its revelations threw a cold wet blanket over their ardor, and time must be taken to contrive some way of facing the difficulty. And so the budget, announced in the Patriot for Friday, was postponed till Tuesday. But in the meantime their search for material for defence was of no avail. The facts and figures reproduced in the Guardian were unanswerable, and even an excusable or plausible camouflage was not inventible. The truth was so plain that it would be impossible to twist it in any way to deceive the public. Moreover the Government had no record of their own, no notable action of theirs upon which they could appeal to the people for favor or sympathy. But some one, or some others outside of the combination, had been busy, some people or society's with absolutely no Government connection, were operating as it appeared in the public interest, and like the Premier conceived the happy idea of masquerading like the "Jack-daw in borrowed feathers," with the cloak of these benefactors.

Under this inspiration he branched into an eloquent dissertation on the great advantages of medical inspection in the public schools, declaring that the "health of the child was, in his opinion, of greater importance than the education itself." And then, with pronounced emphasis on the pronoun "WE," he described the splendid work being undertaken by Miss McMahon, from Ontario, and with a pomposity equal to Nebuchadnezzar boasting of the Babylon he had built, with ecstasy he declared "WE have given our SYMPATHY to this great work." The Government had about as much to do with this inspection as the man in the moon, the Patriot's friend, The Red Cross Society of Canada, AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE, have undertaken this work and without a grant of a SINGLE RED CENT from the Government, who actually REFUSED TO CONTRIBUTE towards it, they are carrying it on. It is truly a noble work deserving of the encouragement and gratitude of our people, and under excellent management. But for Premier Bell, or his Government to inflate themselves with any pride or credit for anything in connection with it, is even

Daily Selections Guardian Readers

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

A LITTLE TOO FAR

Greedy always overreaches itself, and brings its own retribution. The man who stole the sawmill would have been all right if he had let well enough alone; but his greed led him to go back after the dam, and he got caught. We heard of a man the other day who succeeded in getting an allowance on his bill for shortage, then an extra discount, and finally refused the draft on account of an old fifteen cents. It was the last straw, and the camel refused to carry the load. The paper was protested, sued, and the hog had to pay a nice little bill of costs. This he not only mourns, but the fact that the whole transaction is out will make the results of his swart rather costly. This disposition to squeeze the last cent out of others is a despicable trait. There are men who appear to be decent in every other way, but are afflicted with a strange mania for exacting concessions in settlements. In fact this evil seems so prevalent that few are free from it. It is one of those habits that few realize as being practically dishonest. Of course, as they say the wholesaler is not compelled to accede to these demands; but when a pistol is held to a man's head on the highway, it is idle to talk about his not being compelled to hand over his wad. Decent men, in thinking the matter over, will see that the practice is neither creditable nor honorable.

FROM STRAY SHOTS.

me and his man were coming and advised it to get out of the way as quickly as possible. Instead of taking this kindly meant advice the ostrich scolded the rooster most violently for disclosing its "hiding place" and again dug its head in to the grass. The farmer and his man were soon upon it and put it out of business. The story had a familiar look and might even have a local application.

Our Ottawa Letter

OTTAWA, April 5th, 1921.—Defeat in its attempt to get a snap verdict over the Government after the Easter recess, the official opposition was reverted to its old tactics of guerilla warfare on a small scale. Thus while little or no attempt is being made by Mr. King to challenge the Government on broad national issues, the House is being daily infested with carping, haphazard criticism, the only result of which is to give rise to hectic, purposeless debate and to impede the progress of business. Meanwhile—and herein lies the real weakness of the Opposition's case—no attempt has been made to call the committee on Public Accounts. The Committee on Public Accounts comprises a select list of parliamentarians from all parties who hold what is practically an audit of the public accounts. Its duty is to pass upon the report of the Auditor General, in which is given specific detailed accounts of all Government expenditures for the year, to check them, to examine them, and, if deemed necessary, to challenge their accuracy. It is the one great check which Parliament has over the Government's administration. In the old days this Committee was almost constantly in session and too often transactions were unearthed which, while serving as a deterrent upon future Governments, revealed recklessness and waste in public expenditure. Today, there is a change. While the anti-Government press and members of the two Oppositions delight to make insinuations and irresponsible statements reflecting upon the Government's integrity and efficiency they do not dare to put their charges to the test of an inquiry by the Public Accounts. During the whole of the year, when hundreds of millions of dollars were being expended, and opportunities for graft abounded, the Opposition, which death in innumerable instances doth in Government's dishonesty, never as much as once called for an audit by this Committee. And even today, when expenditure is still on a colossal scale, when the country is embarked upon all kinds of new enterprises, so confident is the Opposition that an inquiry would reveal neither dishonesty nor waste that they have not even asked the Public Accounts Committee to be called. It is much easier—and safer—to be critical without the facts.

Another shadow which he chased after for material to bring credit to his empty record was amongst those fathers of Liberal activity of other days whom the Patriot and some speakers in the house scored as most soundly for comparing them with the "spirited articles of today." Liberalism, he declared, brought to us some of the great forms of history, and the liberties we are enjoying today. But in his excitement, or perchance his ignorance of political history he mixed his Liberal performances up with Conservative ones, much in the manner that he does today claiming credit to his party for things in which they had absolutely no part. He has more than once repeated the boast that Liberalism gave us our educational free school system. UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF (SIR) LOUIS DAVIES, we have no desire to detract from the glory which this province is ever ready to ascribe to this distinguished son, but we must tell Premier Bell THAT HE IS WRONG ALIKE IN HIS FACTS AND HIS HISTORY. This Island in the first place had the free public school system before Sir Louis was born. In the movement for revision of free school laws and the betterment of the system, resulting in the "Public Schools Act 1877," IT WAS NOT A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT, BUT A COALITION composed equally of Liberals and Conservatives, of which such staunch Conservatives as Hon. D. Gordon, Hon. Senator Samuel Prowse, Hon. John I. Ferguson, and G. W. DeBols, Esq., were prominent members. The Hon. J. H. Davies was the leader of this coalition, which was supported, as Union Government was in 1917 by this strong men of both parties.

But to compare any of the giants of Liberalism of the past with the miserable substitutes of today is only a reproachful sacrifice upon such sacred memories. Those men fought for responsible government and constitutional and civil liberty. Their names were synonyms for political honor, their pride was law and their simple word their bond. Who dare compare them with the link of what we have today. AUTOCRATIC TYRANTS WHO RECOGNIZE NEITHER THEIR SACRED PLEDGE OR THEIR WRITTEN BOND (except under seal), and who, instead of standing up for the freedom of the franchise and the rights of the people, ruthlessly trample them under their feet transforming the freemen of a free country into the slaves of a defiant autocracy of government. And yet Premier Bell with cold blooded audacity dares to associate the records of these men of stature with the potroom pigmies now in power—men scarcely fitted to act as scullions to those great predecessors—and to try and put himself and his conglomerate aggregation in the class with those men to whose record and reputation their presence would be a shameful tarnish.

Another bluff of Premier Bell's was that—"The Conservatives spent considerable on the roads, WITH NO PERMANENT RESULTS." He probably expected that some few who are not acquainted with local history, and who

The Railway Situation

The railway situation still dominates the political stage. There has been no new development, outside of a great deal of friction with the Grand Trunk, but it is believed that important events are impending. The Grand Trunk directors in London have made a lot of the fact that they were compelled to default on bonds which the Government guaranteed—the London press, under the inspiration of Sir Alfred Smithers, have teamed with the matter—but there is reason for stating that when all the facts are disclosed—as they may be before long—this is in print—what ever there is will rest not with the

The Financial Situation.

The financial situation unfortunately, shows little sign of improvement. International trade is still dislocated and still on the decline; customs revenue is still falling off and exchange, the most vital of all economic problems with which the country is faced, shows no tendency towards improvement. Under the circumstances, Sir Henry Drayton's budget speech is being eagerly awaited. What new proposals it may

NEW SPRING DRESSES. A splendid selection of styles for early wear. The collection comprises simple tailored frocks for street wear and elaborate afternoon gowns, handsomely embroidered. Dress- es of satin, serge, Georgette and some combining satin and serge. The leading colors are navy and brown, but grey, taupe and black are also represented. Sizes 16 years to 40 bust. We have dresses for all sizes and styles of figures. Trim tailored styles showing effective use of the new wool embroidery, silk floss stitching and beading. Modelled on long, slim lines with tie-girdles of same material or wide silk ribbon. Round and square necks, long and three-quarter sleeves. Distinctive styles—moderately priced. Patons Ltd.

Government but with the Grand Trunk. Meanwhile called despatches from London hinting that the government may abandon its project of taking over the road, together may be dismissed as idle. The government realizes that the acquisition of the Grand Trunk is an essential step in the running out of the national railways system and has not the slightest intention of turning back on its well known and clearly defined railway course. Cabinet Reorganization. Cabinet reorganization is not The Old Garner Say That some vegetables and fruits have a great liking for lime. Among them are peas, lettuce, beans, onions, spinach and strawberries. Lime-stone is cheap and readily obtained. Put on about ten pounds to a hundred square feet, but you only need to do it once in four or five years. Don't put on lime where you are to grow potatoes, but spread it where the plants DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS. RHEUMATISM, BRIGHT'S DISEASE, DIABETES, GRAVEL, NEURALGIA, MIGRAINE, BRUISES, SWELLINGS, ALL KIDNEY DISEASES. 1087 THE PHARMACY.

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