

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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CONSERVATIVE MEETING

The annual meeting of the Queens County Liberal Conservative Association, a report of which appears elsewhere in this issue, was one which inspires hope for the province and confidence in the party and its leaders.

This downward drift, the enormously increasing debt, the jobbery on the roads which, as Premier Bell has more than once expressed it, has "presented" the province with some hundreds of miles of good roads and, as Mr. J. D. Stewart, K. C., expressed it, added over half a million dollars to the debt of the province; the neglect of almost everything but the roads because these afforded opportunities to seduce and deceive the electorate—these form the text and the theme of the principal speeches and the subject of private conversation.

Mr. J. D. Stewart, K. C., Provincial leader of the Liberal Conservative party, in one of the best speeches he ever delivered, urged the need of a strengthening up of the organization. Although the Bell government, he said, has made the blackest record in the history of the province and every body knows it, the party is well organized and will put up a stiff fight for its political life.

Mr. Stewart also advised that candidates be placed in the field as early as possible, preferably before the beginning of the New Year, thus affording time for the careful selection of suitable men, as well as giving the latter an opportunity to become acquainted with their constituencies.

LETTING THE LIGHT IN

Yesterday's Patriot shows symptoms of having been thoroughly scared. The Guardian had stated that one of the objects of Liberal Conservative organization would be to "let the light in on the Bell government's record during the past three years."

Patriot's light is, as usual, darkness. The first gleam it casts is an absolute untruth. This is it: "On the 9th September, 1919, when the Liberals assumed office, what aspect did our educational system then present—a hundred of the schools vacant—all the teachers in revolt—all the schools of the province threatened, etc., etc."

In its haste with the lantern the Patriot has made a serious mistake. There were not 100 schools vacant at any time, as the Superintendent's reports show. The revolt of the teachers did not take place until the autumn of 1920 after the Liberals had been in power for over a year and after they had driven the teachers of Prince of Wales College into a revolt and a strike by repeated promises broken as often as remedy of the whole Liberal fraternity of the city to compel the Bell government to climb down and make terms with the teachers.

The next gleam of the Patriot's lantern is thrown cautiously on the roads, so cautiously as to maintain the darkness on the one thing that the people want light on, namely, the cost of the road. The lantern is then turned on the "empty treasury" and the bogus deficit of \$253,000 created by the imagination and trickery of the Bell financiers and which has already been exposed.

This is all the light shed from the Patriot's lantern, a light that only serves to intensify the darkness of the Bell government regime. But the Patriot is thoroughly scared of the threatened light, and with its little lantern and its misleading glasses it is doing what it can. But the people know all about it.

Twelve years he spent, a beggar at indifferent courts, dismissed as impracticable by the wise, ridiculed by the foolish, betrayed by cupidity, deluded by false promises. His wife died, his property was exhausted, but he was not dismayed. At length he gained the ear of Queen Isabella, got his three little ships, more cockle shells, with crews of 120 men, made up of criminals and vagabonds, who had choice of this dangerous adventure or of imprisonment for their misdeeds—as treacherous a lot of cutthroats as ever a commander shipped.

And of course they mutinied on the then unknown seas over which they sailed, but with a marvellous spirit of command, persistence and resourcefulness he held them to their course, sailing on and on in the most momentous voyage of all history. He sailed too far south, thought our globe much smaller than it is and mistook a West India Island as if it were contiguous to greater India of the East. He made four voyages in all, but not until the third of these did he reach the mainland of America, which Sebastian Cabot

GIVE THORNTON A FREE HAND

Sir Henry Thornton makes the statement—with set law—says The Financial Post,—that he has the assurance of Premier King that politics will not be allowed to interfere with the administration of the National Railways. But political influence is an insidious thing. Who would have the courage to say, for instance, that political considerations were entirely ignored in the appointment of the members of the very board over which Sir Henry will preside?

"We have misgivings too when we observe recurrences of political interference by the government and even by parliament itself under government suggestion. That timely veiled threat flung at President Hanna over his refusal to allow politicians to be members of his staff, is a case in question. Another of more recent date was the public harangue by the Premier over the shop crafts wages whether the railways could legally reduce the wages at the time they attempted to do so or not. The position taken by the Premier and his method obviously left him open to the charge of an effort to make "labor" capital out of the question, regardless of the views of his administrative railway boards, even to the point of precipitating a contest over the legality of the Lemieux Act. A third instance is the Premier's stand on the Grand Trunk strike. And a fourth was the settlement of the railway rates inquiry through handing the lion's share to Western Canada.

"We hope that the Premier will live up to whatever assurances he has given to the new head of the national railways but it would seem that it will be one of Sir Henry's little jobs to keep political fingers out of the transportation light of its own making. But the

Notes By The Way

Canada is invited by the dusky republic of San Domingo to take part in the erection of a tomb and monument to Columbus, the discoverer of America. It is fitting that the invitation should be accepted. Canada forms a large part of the continent although our ambitious cousins across the border have usurped for themselves the exclusive right to be called Americans.

The remains of Columbus, after being twice removed from Valladolid, where he died to other places in Spain were some years ago removed to San Domingo and thence moved to the cathedral at Havana, Cuba. It is proposed that the great discoverer's monument shall resemble that of General Grant as to its exterior and that of Napoleon in its interior, to have an altitude of 300 feet and be surmounted by a beacon light for the guidance of mariners. It was on the 12th of October 1492—430 years ago that Columbus first sighted land in the New World after a perilous voyage of ten weeks.

The anniversary and the proposal to erect the monument serve to recall outlines of the personal appearance and incidents in the career of the great discoverer. We are told that he was of the stature and coloring of Norse sea kings (and pirates); his eyes were as pale as blue as sea ice, his red and white skin was bronzed by 20 years exposure to wind and sun; his auburn hair, already pointed with silver, shone like a nimbus above a handsome, smooth-shaven, aquiline face.

Besides being a skilled navigator, he was a man of learning, temperate habits and speech and as strict piety as if he were of some religious order. Bred to the sea from 14 years of age, he arrived on the coast of Portugal in 1470 on a plank that was part of the wreckage of a privateer sunk in a sea fight. He was then penniless and unknown, but such were his winning ways that within a year he had married a daughter of an ex-governor of the Madeira Islands, and had protected his great scheme of a westward voyage.

He showed the way to the New World but Amerigo was honored in its name, Columbus conceived the great idea, and put it to the proof in the most obvious way. He made his knowledge as complete as was then possible, his plan was definite, his purpose undefiled by self-interest, his resourcefulness and persistence unbounded, his courage sublime. He found a path across unknown seas and charted it so others could follow.

Christopher Columbus well deserves not one monument, but many, gracing every country in the New World and honoring his memory. Carlyle in a famous passage salutes him as "the greatest of our age." "Brave sea-captain, Norse sea-king, Columbus my hero, royalist sea-king of all." Canada may well join in any meritorious tribute to the great discoverer.

Daily Selections for Guardian Readers

From the W. S. Louson collection

MY OWN SHALL COME TO ME

The calm faith in our destiny, and the poem of John Burroughs, the naturalist, "My own shall come to me."

Serene, I fold my hands and wait, Nor care for wind, nor tide, nor sea; I rave not more 'gainst time or fate, For lo! my own shall come to me.

I stay my haste, I make delays, For what avails this eager pace? I stand amid the eternal wars, And what is mine shall know my face.

Asleep, awake, by night or day, The friends I seek are seeking me; No wind can drive my bark astray Nor change the tide of destiny.

What matter if I stand alone? I wait with joy the coming years My heart shall reap when it has sown, And gather up its fruit of tears.

The stars come nightly to the sky, The tidal waves come to the sea; Nor time, nor pace, nor deep, nor high, Can keep my own away from me.

How the Finest Pipe Bowls Grow

On second thought there is no thing surprising in finding a most readable article on briar pipes in a lumber magazine, for most pipes are of wood. Perhaps three-quarters of the pipes used in Europe, the United States and the British Dominions are of wood. In parts of the United States the corn-cob is a favorite but only because it happened to be cheap and available, while good wood was scarce and dear. In Holland and Germany they are somewhat given to porcelain and meerschaum pipes, and the clay pipe is used for much the same reason that the corn-cob is favored. People who say the best smoke in the world is to be had from a clay pipe we somehow or other suspect of exaggeration, and while meerschaum is, perhaps, the most expensive material that enters into a pipe, with the exception of the true amber mouthpiece, which is extremely rare, by the way, the coloring of a meerschaum seems to be rather the work of an artist or a hobbyist than the byproduct of a true smoker. So we put good briar first among pipes.

The Best Briar.

The best briar in the world comes from France and Italy, and the very best of it is found in Mediterranean lands that have severe drouth. The pipe bowls are made from the root of the Bruyere (Erica arborea), which is a plant of the heath family, resembling a shrub insofar as what appears above the ground is concerned, and a mighty oak when one begins to examine the roots. It grows to a height of some ten feet, the branches and twigs being used by the natives for making the tough street brooms. The roots of these shrubs attain their enormous growth from the fact that in general plants that have to accommodate themselves to long recurrent dry seasons reduce in size those parts that appear above ground and increase those lying below the surface. That is why shrubs grow better than trees in such regions, and the small-leaved shrub better than others. The longer the dry season, the greater is the tendency of the roots of these plants to develop at the expense of the trunk, limbs and boughs, and authorities, therefore, hold that the nearer to the Sahara desert that the Bruyere can be found, the better is likely to be the pipe made from its roots.

How Toughness is Developed.

In another respect, too, hostile conditions of nature have helped the Bruyere to develop those qualities a valuable in a pipe bowl. The geological formation in the districts where the best wood is found is of hard crystalline rock. The roots of the shrub or tree that is to survive must thrust themselves into the crevices of the rock and force their way through search of nourishment and a foothold, and naturally it becomes toughened in the process. Now toughness and lightness are two important points in a good pipe and Amerigo Vespucci had reached before him.

He showed the way to the New World but Amerigo was honored in its name, Columbus conceived the great idea, and put it to the proof in the most obvious way. He made his knowledge as complete as was then possible, his plan was definite, his purpose undefiled by self-interest, his resourcefulness and persistence unbounded, his courage sublime. He found a path across unknown seas and charted it so others could follow.

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Industry in Few Hands. This is of special importance when it is desired to cut the bowl and part of the stem out of the same piece of wood, as is the case in the well-known bull-dog shape. French briar and the laurel, which is also popular for a cheaper kind of pipe, are distinguished by the almost total absence of growth rings, and this is one of the reasons why they are pre-eminently suitable for pipe purposes, since, as explained, the wood that shows growth rings is of uneven hardness. The briar pipe industry is in comparatively few hands. The large manufacturers own or control the land on which the Bruyere is found and maintain warehouses near their holdings, in which the roots are washed, boiled and roughly shaped. They are then sent in blocks to the finishing shops where some highly-paid workmen turn them into the finished product, which makes the Bruyere undoubtedly the most expensive wood in the world.

Necessary Qualities. The good briar is naturally of the dark mahogany color, which seems so appropriate to pipe smoking. It is tough and light, and it will not burn, though some charring around their inside of the bowl is inevitable. To be suitable for the purpose it must be more or less brittle, with a tendency to crumble under the impact of the tool. Any wood that shows the slightest disposition to split is unsuitable. In order that a smooth surface may be obtained the wood must 'cut the same' in all directions, and any soft porous wood with well-defined annual growth rings is ruled out because of the bands of pores often too little resistance of the cutting tools and an uneven surface is the result.

HENRY FORD ENACTS PROHIBITION LAW OF HIS OWN

A press despatch from Detroit says that Henry Ford is waging aggressive warfare against the use of intoxicants in his plants at Highland Park and Springwells. The enforcement by officials not being altogether satisfactory, Ford has enacted that the odor of intoxicants on a workman's breath, the possession of any form of intoxicant on his person, or in his home, will be cause for summary discharge.

THE LITERARY DIGEST VOTE

Commenting upon the recent straw vote on prohibition conducted by the Literary Digest, the "United Presbyterian" says: "Straw votes are poor revealers of the future. Before the last general election, the Literary Digest conducted a straw vote on the prospective candidates, which showed that General Wood and Mr. McAdoo would be parties by large votes. The present straw vote shows that Ohio is decidedly wet, yet the recent primaries held in that state show the opposite. The wets and dries lined up against each other, and in both parties the wets went down in disastrous defeat. The leaders of the Anti-Saloon League report that throughout the entire country, the dries carried the day with greatly increased majorities. The test of the country is the paper ballot, not the straw ballot."

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We have a number of men's heavy winter overcoats which we did not dispose of during our fire sale on account of being unseasonable, and which we are now offering at \$7.00, \$8.00, \$9.00 and \$10.00.

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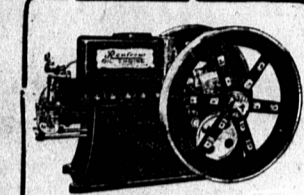
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