

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink.

TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 1939

Criminal Negligence

If, as the Campbell Government organ alleges, the Charlottetown-Borden highway is "cracking up badly in spots", the responsibility rests, not on the Conservatives but on the present administration...

"Would Not Be Tolerated"

One of the pledges given in the Liberal Platform and Manifesto, 1935, was to effect economies at Falconwood Hospital "by the purchasing of supplies and the letting of contracts on a proper competitive basis by the Executive Council or the Falconwood Trustees."

Speaking at the last session of the Legislature, Mr. W. F. A. Stewart, (Liberal, 1st. Queens) recalled this pledge and declared: "But we find on looking over the Public Accounts that members of the Executive who are also Falconwood Trustees—we find the firms of which these gentlemen are managing directors—selling supplies to themselves, a practice which, while it may be technically legal, is to say the least unethical and would not be tolerated in any other Parliament."

The result is strikingly shown in the Public Accounts, from which the following figures are taken of the expenditures incurred at Falconwood Hospital and infirmary under the three full years of both party governments:

Conservative years: 1932, \$82,975; 1933, \$81,972; 1934, \$96,355; Total \$261,302.

Liberal years: 1936, \$114,794; 1937, \$122,913; 1938, \$122,659; Total \$360,466.

A difference of \$98,464, representing the increased cost in three years under Liberal mismanagement—enough, as we pointed out yesterday to build a new wing to the institution.

Are the electors of this Province going to tolerate a condition which one of the Government's own supporters finds intolerable, and which is in direct violation of the binding pledges given by the Campbell Government in seeking office?

"Liberal Majorities"

The organ of the doomed Campbell Government seeks to instill some hope in the "panicky thirty" by citing the majorities with which they won the last election contest. This is adding insult to injury because, as every elector knows, they obtained office under false pretences, and on the specific pledge of reducing expenditure sufficient to balance the budget annually.

"I believe, IN FACT I AM SURE," said Mr. Acorn, "that THE ONLY PLANK which appealed to the electors in the provincial campaign was that on which we promised to make revenue and expenditure meet."

Mr. Acorn went further and said that he personally had pledged himself that if revenue and expenditure did not meet during their term of office, he for one "WOULD NEVER OFFER FOR ELECTION AGAIN."

Here are some other pre-election assurances, supplementary to the Liberal Platform and Manifesto:

"The issue is now clearly defined: the Liberal party is pledged to reduce administrative expenditures."—Final Message from Hon. W. M. Lea, Patriot, July 22, 1935.

"Premier MacMillan said in Tignish that we can't balance the budget except by increase of taxation, cutting out unemployment relief, or stopping the old age pensions. But I say to you that we CAN AND MUST balance the budget without doing any of these things."—Hon. Thane A. Campbell at Bloomfield, Patriot, July 13, 1935.

"Reviewing the Liberal platform, Mr. LePage said that they were going to have a balanced budget, despite the assertions of the Government candidates. The Government had had so much more revenue during the past four years that the Liberals KNEW they could balance the Budget."—Hon. B. W. LePage, at Afton Hall, Patriot, July 6, 1935.

"If the debt goes on increasing, the Island will lose its right of responsible government and be under a Commission form of government as in Newfoundland. He hoped to see a surplus over ordinary and capital expenditure."—Mr. George Saville, at Georgetown, Patriot, July 13, 1935.

Our local contemporary itself is in record as stating that not only would the Liberals balance the budget, but they would do so "without additional taxes, without a cutting of salaries, without even a serious curtailment of any necessary service." (Patriot, July 10, 1935). And again:

"Balance the Budget annually. So say the Liberals. We have PROMISED to do it. We have the WILL to do it and we WILL DO IT. Some of the Liberal candidates show their sincerity by declaring that IF IT IS NOT DONE THEY WILL NEVER RUN AGAIN." (Patriot, April 13, 1935.)

Now, says our contemporary, the Conservatives are "loudly boasting that they are going to win the provincial elections." Well, why shouldn't they?

Editorial Notes

Edward I presented his son to the people of Carnarvon as the first Prince of Wales, this date, 1284.

The Liberal organ parades as something new the gasoline rebates to fishermen. A comparison with other years shows that the increase in these rebates is in proportion to the increased gasoline taxes, which the Campbell Government boosted from eight to ten cents per gallon.

The Montreal Gazette presumes because the Campbell Government was returned without opposition in 1935, it will be given a second lease on the 18th prox. But our Big Interest contemporary prophesied the Taschereau government would win, whereas Duplessis went romping home. As a prophet the Gazette's reputation is at a sad discount.

This is the complimentary, appreciative reference made to our Little Theatre representatives by Mr. Hector Charlesworth in his review of the Drama Festival at London in the current issue of Toronto Saturday Night: "An attractive little comedy, 'Tis Autumn Now,' by Philip Johnson, well-known English writer for little theatre groups, was charmingly presented by the Charlottetown Little Theatre Guild, and in a character role Hazel Henry was especially effective."

In referring to the activities last year of the Fishermen's Loan Board the Liberal organ neglected to point out that the Board exceeded its administrative estimates by nearly a thousand dollars. Hon. B. W. LePage, in "salary and travelling expenses," drew \$872.22; Mr. H. H. Acorn, ditto, \$1,144.24, and Mr. Aeneas Gallant, ditto, \$798.92. Surely the Government could have found a competent independent Commission to carry on this work at no greater cost, without distributing these plums to its own members and supporters in the Legislature.

The Duplessis Government continues its exposure of the Liberal maladministration in that Province. Two Quebec physicians who have been attending Charles Lanctot, K. C., former Assistant Attorney-General, testified before the Public Accounts Committee that his arrest and appearance in court under a warrant issued last year would constitute a risk, since he is suffering from heart trouble. A copy of the warrant against Mr. Lanctot and other documents concerning the matter were filed with the committee. There were also filed copies of the warrants against Dan Lorrain, former provincial chief of police, and former Chief of Police Fitzgibbon.

"England, politically, has little of our hypocrisy," says the Ottawa Journal. "Thus we have Mr. Chamberlain taking time out from the international situation to demand 'more subscribers' and 'larger funds' for his party's war chest. This in preparation for an election. If Prime Minister King or Dr. Manion were to write such an appeal, some of our good people would swoon. Whether they think that elections are fought or won with prayers, we don't know, but many of them talk as if they did think it. More than that, and worse, they talk as though there was something of the gravest moral turpitude in a man giving (or a party receiving) campaign funds."

The Liberal organ, which in Opposition denounced the vast amount of money spent in "doles" to the unemployed, is now boasting of the distribution of similar doles to our needy fishermen. Had the half million dollars voted by Parliament to rehabilitate the industry in 1937 been expended, our fishermen might today be in a position to earn a more independent livelihood. Instead, this money was allowed to lapse unexpended in the federal treasury. This criminal negligence has been very properly denounced by Dr. MacMillan, who said that such a condition of affairs would never have been tolerated under the Conservatives. Worse than that, an attempt was made in the Liberal press to show that this money had been revoted last year—a misstatement which had subsequently to be retracted, after inquiry was made through the Canadian Press at the instance of The Guardian.

According to the Hon. G. M. Weir, M. D. Minister of Health of British Columbia, the medical profession in Canada contains many members who can get so little work of a remunerative kind that they are unable to make "a decent living." Hence he advocates a national health service which he estimates would cost \$20 per head of the population. By the same method of argument there should be a national agricultural service to provide "a decent living" for farmers. Similarly, of course, for tailors, dressmakers, bootmakers and repairers, journalists, laundress, charwomen etc., until we reach the happy stage of making "a decent living" by taking in one another's washing and letting the country run itself with what it could collect from such unusual reciprocity.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The news columns tell us that James Hamilton Lewis is dead. They tell us that those paraded-in-the-middle pink-whiskers - grown-up grey have vanished from the American scene; that no more the pastel hues of the cravat, kerchief and spats; no more shall our ears be charmed by the vibrant resonance of his polished oratory; no more shall we be fascinated by his courtly demeanor...

The Provincial Legislature, voting to boost the indemnities of its own members, has got around to recognizing the special use of the word Leaders of the Opposition. Provision is made for the "Leader of His Majesty's Loyal Opposition" in every province except Manitoba and Prince Edward Island. The Provincial Government has now provided an appropriation of \$2,000 for Opposition leaders. But the Opposition and its associates have decided what to do with the delicate matter of deciding who is leader of the Opposition in Manitoba. They propose to divide the \$2,000 between Messrs. Erick Willis, leader of the Conservative party, S. J. Farmer, C.C.F.-Labor, and S. E. Rogers, Social Credit. — Winnipeg Tribune.

President Albert Lebrun, the 68-year-old man from Lorraine who has been re-elected to a second term, did not want the honor. He was thoroughly tired of being what the late Raymond Poincare used to call himself—the prisoner of the Elysee. Lebrun was weary of opening horticultural shows, attending dinners and "wins d'honneur"—and all the other routine functions, presided over by President. A demon statistician has estimated that Lebrun, during his seven years in office, has signed 200,000 state papers, attended 1,300 inaugurations, granted 7,000 audiences, travelled 650,000 miles, been godfather to 2,200 children and visited 290 yards secure of his own life. — New York Herald Tribune.

An interesting discussion has taken place, in an epoch when the line guns and death rays are topical, as to the effective range of the old English longbow. Proude is one authority who questioned the claim that our forefathers could shoot a mile and commanded an effective range of a furlong. A furlong—fine old English word derived from "furrow"—is eight of a mile, and 220 yards secure of his own life. Yet the supporting evidence is overwhelming. It includes Shakespeare, who tells us old Doulos, of the West Country town, "would have clapped the clout at twelve score," which means 240 paces. But there is more direct evidence than this to establish the prowess of those mediaeval English bowmen. In the British Museum is a bowman's bow from Berkhamstead castle. The bow is made of three and a half inches of a man's wrist. Without training from youth, a Sandow could not have believed its missile would fall at 220 yards. — Ottawa Journal.

Of all the companies which are appearing in the Dominion Drama Festival none has aroused as much interest, as that from the little rural village of Alberta. Its company of three and a half dozen, representing the province of Alberta. The leading man, who put on an excellent performance in Checco's play, "The Bear." The total population of the hamlet is 250. It all shows that there is no reason in Ontario why the competitions in the future should be confined to the urban areas. If Olive, who met Alisa Craig, Komoka or Eyde Park, or one of the hundreds of hamlets which dot the Western Ontario? In fact, in recent years there has been a growing interest in amateur dramas through rural Ontario. In many centers throughout the winter there are performances put on by community and township halls. They help to pass the long winter evenings of the country, and make life more enjoyable. The Dominion Drama Festival officials, now that the Little Theatre is so well launched in the larger cities of Canada might well consider the possibility of encouraging the movement in rural Ontario. — London Free Press.

Favorite expression of one of Canada's very greatest men, although a punneller, is that idealism is the least used force in the world. This is more than merely saying we are materialistic. Wordsworth had a low opinion of his age when he wrote, "The world is too much with us." But to say we have no idealism, does not mean we are an expression of faith in human race. It is sincerely to be hoped that faith is well founded. As a well founded, Europe must be now have a new idealism. The stores of idealism, for little enough has been used lately. Looking nearer home, we also have been thrifty with idealism. In every place we have cited out they were fallen upon evil times, and people were bound up in getting and begetting, with no consideration for the future. The deeper aspects of an abundant life, the new thing for us to believe that our age is materialistic. That idealism we can believe in without much danger of conviction by posterity. But it is a great and courageous thing to believe that amid the cruel hatred of our time there is an idealism strong enough to mend the world. — The Printed Word.

We can recall no more pertinent comment on British democracy, at this moment, than the picture of an Englishman and his family, their picnic ruined by rain, taking refuge under a tree. Upon which the public mind of the household made the bitter comment, "Not a government!" — Hamilton Spectator.

The Dominion Government fishery patrol vessel Kitimat, launched at Coal Harbor, is a tribute to Vancouver craftsmen and to British Columbia material. Not only is her hull made throughout from yellow cedar and fir grown in our B. C. forests, but her power-

PUBLIC FORUM

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

THE TRUCK EMBARGO

Sir—No one will blame the Government for reasonable precautions to preserve our highways. They prohibit trucks of over 4,000 lbs. up to now that is reasonable. But at this season, commencement of spring hauling, when traffic facilities is urgent, and severe frost in ground modified, why continue? We don't understand their fear to open up high roads of their own construction, where veneer and shore sand foundations might easily make a bad break up. But why at least open up the MacMillan and the Highway Island of the public. They have proven that they are built to stand, and designed for traffic. I am, Sir, etc.

INCONVENIENCED.

PRACTISING TO DECEIVE Sir—What object had the Minister in view, in broadcasting his fabulous work in the matter of comparative cost of his half finished-films highways with that of the finished substantial Trans-Canada Highway? We know these roadbacks are Grit stock in trade at the last moments before election, when it is too late for opponents to burst the bubble. To commence so early in the game, when the Public Works Reports reveal the total unreliability of his statements, early enough to show their crooked character to electors, before polling day, it is a stupidity even for the characteristic Grit propagandists. I am, Sir, etc.

SANITY

HIGH-SALARIED ROAD JOBS Sir—There has been much secrecy displayed on the part of the Campbell Government. I live in Charlottetown and thought I knew what was going on here but it was not until a few days ago that I learned that we were to have Island road jobs. I have on my payroll five Nova Scotians to do our work and that these five gentlemen have been here and gone since early in the year 1938. The names of these gentlemen are Mr. E. L. Miles, Mr. C. F. H. MacDonald, Mr. F. X. Granville, Mr. Lorne Whitehead, Mr. J. F. Kelly. These men are all drawing large salaries from our very extravagant Department of Public Works, not only salaries but good fat expense accounts. I have nothing against these men, I am not acquainted with them at all, but I think the public have a right to know why there is so much secrecy about their employment, and why no questions were asked on this subject in the Legislature by our so-called representatives. I am, Sir, etc.

WORKING MAN

SUBSIDY INCREASES Sir—Not long ago Hon. T. W. L. Nowe rehearsed a boyish tale of the benefactions of Liberals to the country. True to party instinct he mixed promises with performances and drew a sorry picture. To get to the heart of the matter, the actual delivery of the goods is too dangerous to venture, and with one accord they all avoid it. Money voted and promised is one thing, but money actually paid out as promised, is a different story. Why not deal with facts, not Grit promises? Let us take actual Liberal grants from Ottawa, not word on election chimeras. Since we entered Confederation, what have local governments secured in increased subsidies from Ottawa, and to what parties have we given credit for obtaining them? The first increase was \$20,000, procured by the Sullivan (Conservative) Government from Sir John A. MacDonalid in 1867. The next addition of \$30,000, was voted by the Laurier Government to the Parquharson Government in 1901. This was not a grant, but a bargained price for the sacrifice of our ten-times greater claim for non-fulfillment of the "Terms of Union" in the B.N.A. Act, pledging to "Continuous communication, winter and summer, with the Intercolonial and railway systems of the Dominion." This great sacrifice was so strongly denounced by the Conservative party that the Borden Government set it aside to give us that inestimable boon—the Car Ferry. From this grant, however, the sum of \$37,500 is deducted for the time to come, as interest on our share of the Hillsboro Bridge cost, leaving \$30,250 as the only subsidy ever procured by a Liberal Government since we entered Confederation. It was given, as stated in Public Accounts, "in settlement of steamship service claim."

Then in 1912, immediately after coming into power, the Conservative Government (Conservative) delegation, consisting of Premier Matheson, Hon. A. E. Arsenault and Hon. John McLean, went to Ottawa to press our claims for subsidy increase. In answer to a powerful memorial presented, including voluminous correspondence, Sir Thomas White, Finance Minister, on March 19, 1912, wired the following notice of resolution for additional grant of \$100,000 without particularizing. Thus the Conservatives added another undiluted \$100,000 to our income (another many millions) for all time, without making compromise or sacrifice.

Next, the Duncan Commission, in answer to the strong protestation of our case by the Stewart Government, recommended an interim payment, on account of increased subsidy due us, of \$128,000. Because of the King Government's object to giving "Not a Nickel" to any Conservative Government, this grant was unresponsibly held down until Stewart's Government united with the Governments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, forced their hand, and just before an election they reluctantly knuckled down and paid the money. Another \$125,000 a year added to our subsidy by persistent Conservatives.

Then, in 1933, the MacMillan Government went to Ottawa after a further increase, (not the Grit picnic style) and came back with another \$150,000 increase. These totalled \$375,000 of subsidies added to our revenues, as against the \$20,250 procured by the Parquharson regime in 1901. If it were not for this vast sum, secured by Conservative ability and competence, where would the Campbell Government be today in their already large deficits, in spite of the half million dollars of extra taxation? I am, Sir, etc.

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The Poets' Corner. FROM A THANKSGIVING ODE. Have me not conquered? — by the vegetable sword? Ah no! by dint of magnanimity. That curbed the baser passions, and a loyal hand to follow their lige Lord. Clear-sighted Honor and his staid Compeers, Along a track of most unnatural In execution of heroic deeds Whose memory, spotless as the crystal beads Of morning dew upon the untrodden mead Upon the starry spheres.

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Mirror Of The Nation By "Commoner" OTTAWA, April 24—The biggest bugbear of the King Government and its followers in parliament as the election approaches is the unsolved unemployment problem. They give an unmistakable display of the "jitters" every time the subject comes up for discussion in the House of Commons. This sentiment on the subject was in evidence this week when Mr. Dunning was at particular pains to deny a newspaper report that Prime Minister Mackenzie King had told the Liberal caucus that no government could solve the problem. Mr. Mackenzie King's colleagues recognize that he is on delicate ground in connection with this issue. They recall unhappily his famous five-cent speech on the subject which contributed to the downfall of the Liberal Government in 1930. They recall also that it was largely on his condemnation of the Bennett Government for its failure to cure unemployment that Mr. King returned to office in 1935. To their further discredit Mr. King's undertaking regarding unemployment given on the night of the 1938 election has been repeatedly thrown back at the government during the present session. On that occasion Mr. King assured the country that his new government would take up the supreme task of endeavoring "to end poverty in the midst of plenty, starvation and unnecessary suffering in a land of abundance, discontent and distress in a country more blessed by Providence than any other on the face of the globe, and to gain for individual lives, and for the nation as a whole, that health and peace and sweet contentment which is the rightful heritage of all."

Nothing during the session has made the Liberals more nervous than the constant reminders of that undertaking. But unemployment is a subject on which Liberal statements reached a new high level in this week's debate on employment when J. K. Blair, Liberal Member for Wellington North, undertook to give the House his opinion of single unemployed men. At first Blair's remarks applauded him; later when he realized the political effect his statements were likely to have, they competed with one another in their haste to disassociate themselves from them.

Mr. Blair, who referred in passing to his ownership of several farms, had a number of names for the unemployed, or some of them at least. He called them, in turn,

"city bums", "yaps on the street", "spineless fellows". These descriptions of unemployed men were interspersed in an argument by the Liberal Member for Wellington North to the effect that they did not want work but desired to be "carried in an economic sedan chair" and to be spoonfed."

When Dr. Manion, the Leader of the Opposition, severely rebuked Mr. Blair for using such terms, Liberal members one after another hastened to deny that their Wellington North colleague had spoken for them or for the Liberal Party. Later, Mr. Blair attempted to retrieve his blunder somewhat by saying that he had been speaking of "men largely from the City of Toronto." Dr. Manion said he had been

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