

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1920.

INDEFENSIBLE POSITION

Like a child who ceases crying when his attention is directed to a new toy the Patriot turns from its defence of the Bell taxation to find relief in an attack upon the new federal taxation imposed by "the Guardian's friends at Ottawa." The diversion is but momentary and even the Patriot will find that the two kinds of taxes are poles apart. The federal tax, onerous or not, was necessary; the Bell tax was not. We had been told months in advance that the federal tax was coming; we had been told months in advance that the Bell tax was not coming.

The war brought us many undesirable experiences, the least of which to thousands in Canada has been the new tax. We have borne the war's burdens and experiences patiently and patriotically and we shall, when necessary, buy the goods upon which the tax is levied or, when we can do without the goods, we shall go without them and so evade the tax, which is one of the purposes of the enactment.

From the Bell tax, for which no justification has been shown, which was enacted for false and spurious reasons and in the face of promises to the contrary, there is no escape. And for the Bell tax there shall be no adequate return except to the heeblers of the government who will be rewarded with well paid offices.

The federal tax is onerous, we admit; so was the war and they have both been imposed upon us through no fault of our own. We have the Kaiser and his circle of militarists to blame for both. Who is the Kaiser in Liberalism upon whom we shall lay the blame for the Bell tax? The Patriot was very close to the central organization that engineered it; it was the mouthpiece through which the anti tax propaganda was conducted before the election; it is the mouthpiece today in justifying it. Out of the same mouth have proceeded blessing and cursing and the life of the government today hangs upon the credence to be placed in the Patriot; verily a brittle thread.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURE

That agriculture is the basic industry of this province, the industry upon which all other lines of activity live, has been reiterated over and over again and it will not be questioned. Nor will it be questioned that this basic industry is entitled to all the whole some assistance that can be given it, not the charity assistance that will give it something for nothing but the strong, helpful, educative assistance which will enable it to develop on its own merits.

For many years past it has been customary to give prizes for the best animals, the best seeds, vegetables and other products. This good old custom has had the effect of bringing together in one place the best animals and the best products for inspection for emulation by others. The prizes, it is true, have generally fallen year after year to practically the same exhibitors; the ordinary rank and file of farmers are not in a position to compete successfully and it is only once in a while that a new name is added to the prize list. Nevertheless, the lectures given by the judges and their reasons for their awards have been helpful and educative and although the expenditure has been pretty heavy it has no doubt been a good investment.

We note that the Department of Agriculture is offering generous prizes with the object of boosting the Dairy Cow. The prizes are generous and well worth competing for.

The aim of this competition is laudable, yet it is doubtful if it will materially help the rank and file among our farmers and they are the ones to whom all possible assistance and encouragement should be extended. The progressive farmers and the professional prize winners will secure the bulk of the prizes as usually happens in the case of our provincial exhibitions and without the merit of the inspiration to be received from a gathering together of the prize winners.

While regular, systematic individual cow testing is the ideal method of ascertaining the actual value of the cow and should be encouraged to the utmost limit, it is doubtful if 25 per cent of the herds in the province are so tested or will compute for the prizes offered. That they should be in a position to do so would be most desirable; that they are not and can not be within the next three or four years, is what we are up against. A system that would extend to the poorest herds and build them up, to the poorest farmers and encourage them is what the province now needs most and any system which will exclude these will fail of its object.

While commending the evident intention of this competition we are of the opinion that it will very largely defeat its own object in limiting its assistance to the comparatively few who are in a position to compete, while the great majority are out of the race and cannot hope to get into it inside of three or four years. The outlay of \$1000 to better the condition of those who are already on the upward way may be justifiable but what is most needed is to reach down to the less favoured and help them up.

CURRENT COMMENT

The Hon. A. E. Arsenault's resolution that the TAXATION ACT shall not come into effect until the electors shall have approved of the same at a general election, was the most proper one to meet an admitted emergency. The Government was returned upon a distinctly no tax policy. If they had not deceived the electors they would not have succeeded in gaining power. They claim that when they entered office they discovered that they were mistaken. The people also discovered that they too had made a serious mistake. It is the people's business. It is their unquestioned right to determine their own issues. Then the only proper and honest course is to go to them, admit the errors of last year, and ask their approval of the policy, directly opposite to the one containing in their mandate of last year.

This principle would be recognized by true statesmen. You could not find a constitutional Government in the civilized world today, that would willingly cling to office under such extraordinary conditions as this. It is the fundamental law of responsible government, and nothing above the pettifogging political opportunist would hang to the flesh pots a moment longer than they could help, in defiance of the will of the people. In two constituencies, Charlottetown and St. Peter's, that will have already been openly and publicly expressed. No doubt other parts of the province will be similarly heard from. But such demands should not be necessary. It is the practice of respectable politics, the one course and the only one open to honorable men. Any other would be the climax of dishonesty and false pretense. Right and Justice calls for an election. Will right and justice prevail?

We must not be understood as believing that the increased salaries of the department heads, or the increased sessional indemnities were in fact a wrong. Compared with the higher cost of living and of man power in every detail of life and industry, the advance is only reasonable. But it is positively wrong in its inconsistency and the want of principle behind it. They told the people that salaries were already too high, and they gave them their solemn pledge to make reductions rather than increases. It's worst feature is in its selfishness. Those who labor for the public just as devotedly as they do, were not included in its benefits. Messengers and doorkeepers, courteous and the best of class, were allowed a paltry \$15 extra, just bare enough to pay their board for the added length of the session. Perhaps it was because they were returned soldiers that this shabbiness was shown.

And the School Teachers, working and labouring all the year round, in the best and most profitable to the country of all work, are not esteemed worthy of any like consideration. The members' \$500 indemnity is for six or seven weeks work, of very short hours. But how about less than \$500 to the teacher for a whole year's work and longer hours? And the educated teacher must content himself to grub out an existence on about one quarter the salary of the departmental head, and without his prerequisites, or private car, in the light of these things the

And why is it an "untruth"? Because the platform of Mr. Bell, Leader of the Opposition, "states nothing of the sort." All that precious document contained was of the innocuous brand. It was not quoted in the House on "more than one occasion" as stated by the Patriot. In fact it was never quoted, at least by the Government side, for the simple reason that it contained nothing to help them out of their difficulties. It was once referred to by Hon. Mr. Bell, not for what it contained, but with special reference to a something not found in its make up. In point of fact, this so called "platform" was not the one upon which they sought to secure their election. It was scrapped when they got before the people. It was not made to get in on, but now because of its very emptiness they imagine it a loop hole to crawl out of their flagrant perjuries. Later we will turn the microscope upon this precious document and see if it ever did contain anything in the line of a promise, which the Bell combination fulfilled.

They were challenged to lay their finger to a single dollar of money improperly expended, or to point to the smallest transaction which would reflect upon the honour of the late Government, and they were all silent, as oysters. The Opposition were not afraid of their reputation and they demanded the production of all records and accounts. Knowing that these would put them out of countenance, the Government squirmed and dodged and evaded all that they possibly could, and only submitted what was literally dragged out of them. Just imagine the spectacle of those political heroes bold as lions when the enemy was absent, but as meek and gentle as lambs when face to face with those they accused.

Tuesday's Patriot describes the most marvelous feat of high vaulting and air somersaulting yet accomplished by those expert political acrobats, the Bell Government. This latest turnover excelled all others in that the performance took place at a greater altitude, one not visible to the ordinary spectator, and at a height not usual even to the airy flights of the evening organ's imagination. It is this. Read it carefully and solemnly all ye electors, and particularly ye Patriot readers. The Bell Government were not elected "Promising no taxation." The Guardian or for that matter whoever else says so utters a palpable, wicked and "absolute untruth." And they have not set out on "a taxation measure so drastic as to fairly take away the people's breath." This too says the Bell prevaricator, "is a most glaring untruth and exaggeration." We have witnessed many feats of contortion by those double pointed stars of the loquacious gymnastic school, but this eclipses them all.

salary increases will be condemned.

Early this spring the Patriot was persistently and blatantly boastful of the horrible things which were going to confront Hon. A. E. Arsenault and his colleagues, when the damning facts which it foreshadowed were laid before the legislature. About a month prior to the meeting it became more subdued in tone, and just as the House opened, the tune changed to a whine for mercy, and to let the dead past bury its dead. Then, from the opening day to the closing, it was not the Opposition, but the Government, that was on the defensive. During the whole days of an unusually long session, when they were up against the real presence of the live Opposition, there was not a man Jack of them with courage to implement the Patriot's boast. On their own record however, like haunted rats they were dodging and running to cover.

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Expenditures Under Two Governments

The following are among the most noteworthy increases in salaries etc., made by the Bell Government at the recent session. The "useless offices" and the "overpaid officials" of the former regime are included in the list both as they were then and as they are now:

	former cost	present cost
Attorney General	\$1200	\$2000
Sheriffs, Three	900	1500
Do. Serving Jan. notices	100	300
Fees and disbursements		
Supreme Court	4000	4500
Law Courts Charlottetown.		
Keeper's salary	500	500
Fuel, light, repairs	2700	3500
County Courts	\$100	\$200
Queen's County Jail (fuel increase only)	263.	3150
Prince County Jail	2670	2870
Kings County Jail	\$1070	1570
Dept. of Agriculture		
Commissioner's salary	1200	2000
Travelling expenses	350	450
Dept. expenses etc.	1450	1500
Exhibitions and judging	9000	12000
Vital Statistics	700	1000
(Estimated receipts less by \$500 than last year)		

Coroners Inquests	150	250
Pres. Executive Coun.	1500	2000
Mileage of members	500	700
Education.		
Chief Superintendent's salary	1400	1800
Chief Superintendent's clerk	1100	1200
Chief Superintendent's stenographer	600	650
Inspectors of schools (four previously, now three)	900	1000
Travelling expenses	150	200
Prin. P. W. College	2100	2100
Vice Principal	1634	1700
1st Professor	1334	1500
2nd Professor	1167	1400
3rd Professor	1234	1300
4th Professor	1067	1200
5th Professor	1034	1200
Scholarship reduced from \$480 to \$450		

Districts Teachers' Salaries	105,000	153,000
Supplements 25 p. c. increase	22500	24,000
Grant for attendance	19,000	19,500
Bonus	200	200
Pensions	1600	1700
P. W. College, fuel, repairs etc.	5000	8000

Falconwood Hospital		
Medical Superintendent's Salary	1350	2000
Maintenance	85000	125,000
Legislation		
Members sessional allowance	6000	15000
Officials disbursements		
Journals, sessional laws	3000	3500
Legislation Library	1400	1800

Librarian	700	900
Assistant Librarian	480	600
School for the deaf, Halifax	1000	1500
School for the blind, Halifax	11250	1500
Fire Dept. Summerside		
Fire Warden	150	250
Paupers	2200	2300
Postage	1000	2000
Prov. Auditor's salary	1500	1500
Printing and stationery	300	425

Prov. Sec. Treas. part salary	600	750
Clerks	3250	5700
Printing, advertising and stationery	1200	2000
Prov. Building, light, fuel etc.	4000	5500
Public Works, Com.	1500	2000
Draughtsman and Engineer	850	1000
Stenographers	1300	1650
Printing, advertising etc.	1300	3000

Assistant Registrar of deeds	750	800
Stenographers	1300	1650
Books, stationery etc	200	600
Registrar of Deeds, Summerside	850	1000
Assistant Registrar, Summerside	700	750
Clerk Registrar, Summerside	700	750

Ferries, Queens Co.	7565	17635
Ferries Prince Co.	2200	3300
Ferries Kings Co.	6950	9050
Wharves	2000	5000
Packets	3725	5500
Roads	10000	39500
Bridges	20000	45000
Telephones	750	800

Miscellaneous Pub. Works	4500	10000
Unforeseen	500	1000
Civil Engineer's salary	2000	2400



It Will Pay You To See These High Class Suits

You will appreciate the difference between the common cheap clothes and the high quality suits shown here.

Our suits are stylish—absolutely correct in every detail—the patterns are popular the colors fast and the styles to the smallest detail are the very latest ideas of the leading manufacturers and the quality the best at their respective prices.

- Men's Suits, \$19, \$20, \$22, \$25, \$27, \$30, \$35, \$40 to \$50.
- Boys' Suits, \$4.50, \$5, \$7, \$8, \$10, \$12, \$15 to \$20
- Men's Overcoats, \$15, \$18, \$20, \$25, \$27, \$30 to \$35.
- Men's Tweed Rain Coats, \$7, \$10, \$15, \$18, \$20 to \$35.

Working Men's Shirts

For some time we have been on the lookout for men's working shirts that would not be too high priced and still give reasonable wear, as you already know materials for such shirts has been vey scarce, but we have at last located some thing worth while.

- Blue-duck medium weight, all sizes from 14 to 16 1/2 for \$1.25
- Black and White stripe heavy weight. Sizes 14 to 16 for \$1.35
- Lighter colours in Oxford cloth any size from 14 to 17 for \$1.95
- Heavy Black Duck Shirts, 14 to 16 1/2 for \$1.85
- Extra weight in Khaki duck shirts, sizes 14 to 16 for \$2.05
- Extra fine cloth in Tans and Black only \$3.25. Any size.

All these shirts are made full size. Not like the ordinary cheap shirt where a 16 1/2 neck has a body for about 14 1/2. So no matter how stout you are we can fit you. If you have not bought your Spring and Summer supply yet give us a call we want to show you that we mean it when we say we have the best at the price that can be bought in Canada today.

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THE PUBLIC FORUM

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

What He Intended to Say

Sir:—In your report of my remarks on the clause in the Tax Act dealing with exemption for soldiers, you publish a statement which conveys a different meaning to what I intended. My statement was that wealthy officers and men who could pay cash for farms were able to pay taxes, but soldiers who had to borrow to buy farms were up against it, and should be exempt. The drawing room officer has been a feature of every war, but are, happily, the exception in the Canadian breed. In justice to me, you should have published my statement that we had good officers who did their duty at the front. With the amendment exempting soldiers from taxes, I am in accord and think it only a matter of justice to our returned heroes. I am, Sir, etc., J. A. DEWAR.

LAWN GRASS

CARTER'S CHOICE EVERGREEN LAWN GRASS SEED.

To quickly secure a permanent, rich, green grassy carpet sow our Evergreen mixture. It is the purest, cleanest and healthiest Lawn Grass seed offered. No weed-seeds. A beautiful lawn can be made in six or eight weeks by sowing this mixture. Quantity required per acre (4,840 square yards) 80 lbs., or for a plot 20x20, 1 lb. 35c., postpaid 40c.

Our lawn Grass Seed is American grown. The different grasses composing the Mixture are imported separately and blended in the proportions and after the formula of a celebrated American Lawn Maker. On nearly all lawns there are unsightly bare spots under shade of trees, which have baffled all efforts to get into grass, but with this mixture there need be no further difficulty. It is a combination of lime, dwarf-growing, evergreen varieties, hardy, and will stand a long season of dry weather. The ground for a new lawn should be a rich, mellow soil, perfectly free from weeds. Sow the seeds as early in the spring as possible, roll the ground perfectly level; the grass should be cut often and never allowed to attain a length of over three inches.

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SPRING WAKING

A snowdrop lay in the sweet, dark ground. "Come out," said the Sun, "come out!" But she lay quite still and she heard no sound. "Asleep!" said the Sun, "O lie!" "You call too soon, Mr. Sun, you do!" "No, no," said the Sun, "Oh, no!" "There's something about me and I can't see through." "It's snow," said the Sun, "just snow." "But I say, Mr. Sun, are the Robins here?" "Maybe," said the Sun, "maybe;" "There wasn't a bird when you called last year." "Come out," said the Sun, "and see!" The Snowdrop sighed, for she liked her nap. And there wasn't a bird in sight. But she popped out of bed in her white nightcap. "That's right," said the Sun, "that's right!" And, soon as that small nightcap was seen, A Robin began to sing, The air grew warm, and the grass turned green. " 'Tis Spring!" laughed the Sun, " 'Tis Spring!"

