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THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 1921

EDUCATION REPORT

One of the government reports usually looked for with more than ordinary interest is the report of the Chief Superintendent of Education. Deep down in the hearts of all, apart altogether from the question of cost and other minor things which often form subjects of controversy, is the hope that the schools are being maintained and that the rising generation is being assured of a reasonable chance to acquire an education.

Regrettably the report of the Chief Superintendent for the year ended Dec. 31, 1920 creates the impression at the outset that it is specially pleading, that it is covering up part of the history, that it is not taking the people into its confidence. There are, according to the report, 454 schools. Of these 397 are primary schools, that is, schools of one department. Of the primary schools, the report says, 23 are vacant "at this writing", according to the report. This statement was also made by Premier Bell in the legislature a few days ago with the amendment that the number of vacant schools has been further reduced to 18. Are the remaining 57 schools, beyond the primary, all provided with teachers?

The report further states that "about a year ago 50 schools were closed" yet the report says there were 233 fewer pupils enrolled in 1920 than there were in 1919 when 50 of the schools were closed. How is this to be accounted for? There is also a considerable difference between statements made by Premier Bell in the House and statistics given by the Chief Superintendent of Education. The former stated that the government was paying the teachers \$85,000 more than was paid by the previous government. According to the figures given by the Chief Superintendent the present government paid in 1920 the sum of \$211,618.21; in 1919 the amount paid by the government was \$187,488.07, a difference of \$24,130.14. Where did Premier Bell get the \$85,000?

Premier Bell had evidently meant to leave the impression that the government had paid the full increase to teachers salaries, including the supplements given in this, his figures were away out as the 1920 supplements were only \$16,362.46 more than those of 1919 so that the whole increase to teachers amounted to only \$40,492.60. This discrepancy between the Chief Superintendent and the Premier while showing that there evidently was no collusion between them on this particular point, will naturally create a suspicion that Premier Bell had greatly exaggerated the beneficence of the government towards the teachers.

One lamentable fact brought out by this and many previous education reports is the falling off in the number of children attending school. In other words the falling off in the number of children born in the province. In 1888 there were 22478 pupils enrolled in our island schools. The number has fallen steadily until in 1920 there were only 17,354. This is the tragedy of the province. Space prevents further consideration of the Education report in this issue.

THE MEAT QUESTION

When we find, as we occasionally do, that there is a surplus of meat in the market and that prices are down as a consequence, we probably

assume that everybody has gone into the raising of meat. While in this frame of mind we would be very much surprised to learn how little meat there really is in stock in this Canada of ours. Statistics recently compiled show that for seven months in which an accurate test had been made there never was on hand, in storage or otherwise available for home consumption and export more than two and a half weeks stock of meats of all kinds.

Canada's weekly consumption of meat averages twenty-two million pounds. In February last there was in storage \$5,000,000 pounds, less than a month's requirements. This shows how closely consumption follows supply and vice versa. It shows also that normally Canada has a home market which can take care of the great bulk of its meat production provided it is not flooded by meats from outside. In the face of this close connection between supply and demand we are importing very heavily from the United States. According to a report of the Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa, we imported from the United States \$10,936,015 worth of meats. The following is a detailed statement of these imports:

Table with 3 columns: Meat Type, Pounds, Value. Includes Beef, Mutton, Pork, Bacon, Beef pickled, Pork barrelled, Pork dry salted, Lard, Lard compound.

The value of the above is \$10,936,015 a vast amount when the relative sizes of Canada and the United States is taken into consideration. A vast amount when we remember that our supply and consumption are running so closely.

What would beef, pork and lamb be worth in Canada today had that ten million dollars worth of American meats not been dumped on our markets? Beef is almost unsaleable in Canada, pork is dropping steadily and will yet go lower than it is. Eggs have dropped from 70 cents to thirty cents—all because we are allowing others to monopolize our markets. And yet the Hon. MacKenzie King and Mr. Crerar, the two leaders of the two wings of the Liberal party want to remove even the little duty that prevents our markets from being utterly swamped. Our farmers have already learned the lesson of the tariff and will have little use for the "revision downward" and the "abolition of tariff" preached by these two politicians.

WASTING TIME

It is extremely unfortunate that the government, having called the legislature together at a commendably early date, had not prepared sufficient work to keep the members employed after they had met. Nothing has been done up to the present with the exception of the passing of three private bills. The debate on the address occupied a whole week and all that was said on that occasion will be more or less repeated in the course of future debates. It would be better to give the members a recess of a week or so in order to give the government an opportunity to prepare what little legislation is to come up and to give the "princetons" who are blamed for holding up the work, an opportunity to get their work done. These things being ready the work of the session could no doubt be finished in a week.

ANOTHER MEETING

We understand that arrangements have been made for the calling of another meeting of citizens in the Market Hall for further consideration of the local government's taxation policy and for

CURRENT COMMENT

The hon member for Cardigan, and erstwhile leader of the United Farmers, has lost nothing of his former force and eloquence, and rather, if we have judged aright the experiences through which he has passed have inflamed him to a more fiery vehemence in repelling onslaughts, and to increased adroitness in explaining his way out of uncomfortable situations. In answer to some criticisms of the honorable junior member for East Point, Mr. Dewar said "My name was not mentioned, but I feel that the gentleman referred to me in regard to the indemnity matter." This incident and his explanation is already before the public and we need not repeat but if his "name was not mentioned," unless the cap fitted, why did he jump so hastily to put it on his head? Why not leave some one to whom the allegation more fittingly applied, to take it up? To him too the press seems to have been a thorn in the side. He "was tired correcting mis-statements in the press." It had not occurred to him that the press were "tired" publishing letters from him, which were not "CORRECTING MISSTATEMENTS BY THE PRESS," but more in the character of elaborations by him. self in explanations of what he did say, or meant to say, in his ambiguity of expression. If we were to express an opinion, he stultified himself by taking notice of any remarks concerning the indemnity. It was his, voted by the House, as aken and pocketed by his accusers, and it was no one's business as to whether he took it or what he did with it.

But there is a phase of it which the country are inclined to look at. He "was paying double the taxes he had paid the previous year, but he was not complaining as he knew taxes were necessary." But it so happened that he drew \$300 more out of the public treasury, for the same service, and if he did pay ten or fifteen dollars more taxes he would still be some hundreds of dollars better off, an advantage which the whole legislature have over the ordinary taxpayer. He joined in the Liberal pastime of pitching taffy balls at the Government, leaving the impression to gain strength outside, that he was feeling his way towards a permanent domicile in the Grit camp, not impossibly with the idea that in case of a shake-up which was at several times thought to be imminent, he would make a fit candidate for the Agricultural commissionership. He didn't apparently like the processes of the "both leaders charging the other with breaking faith." This was no doubt because he had observed that the weight of evidence was against his own "Biddy", when he himself, both last year and this, had gently insisted were taxing in a manner inconsistent with their promises to the people.

He appears to be shaking the dust of the United Farmers' political fad from both his feet and his

Daily Selections Guardian Readers

Furnished by W. S. Louson

BROTHERHOOD

I'd like to be the sort of friend that you have been to me. I'd like to be the help that you've been always glad to be. I'd like to mean as much to you each minute of the day. As you have meant old friends of mine, to me along the way. I'd like to do the big things and the splendid things for you. To brush the gray from out your smiles, and leave them only blue. I'd like to say the kindly things that I so oft have heard. And feel that I could rouse your soul the way that mine you've stirred.

Friendship is the only thing in the world concerning the use of which all mankind are agreed. The world would be more happy if persons gave up more time to an intercourse of friendship. But money engrosses all our defence, and we scarce enjoy a social hour, because we think it unjustly stolen from the main business of life. A man that hath friends must show himself friendly and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

Further protest against the manner in which the government's promises through their representatives, have been violated. It is understood that the government have been making some additional promises in the hope of "staving off" the meeting but those interested are not pinning their faith too strongly to the sincerity of these overtures.

Have You Tried

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garments. At the best he had no place for their national leader, Hon T. A. Crerar, whom on his own behalf and the party he repudiated absolutely. He declared that the United Farmers of this province had never accepted or endorsed the western Grain King as their leader, and he went to the still further length of denouncing Mr Crerar's attitude in claiming that the East had "no equity in the school lands and resources of the West." He also emphasized the idea that the farmers of this province were organizing for economic rather than political action, and candidly expressed his doubt of their ever concentrating into a political machine. In this he was paying a silent tribute to the Guardian which has advertised to the people the true inwardness of the Western movement, and at the same time encouraged economic organization. He too joined, with a certain amount of timidity, in nettle pitching at this paper, and Current Comment, for which we must tender him our grateful acknowledgement.

The Hon. F. J. Nash, editor of the Patriot, was evidently in poor shape when he spread his wings in an attempted flight of oratory to wards his delightful haven—the "Clear blue sky." The weight of the iniquities of the Government of which he was a tossed about member, the gloom of his party surroundings, cast upon them by the Hon. Mr. Arsenault's speech, his own unstrung nerves and frailty of health, superinduced by the strain of his former fruitless efforts at defense, all contributed to convince him that he is no, now, as of yore, gifted with lightness of wing or glibness of speech. It was not so much his fault, as these things, and the millstone of Bell Government unpopularity hanging to him with its deadly weight, that made his oratorical flights broken and uncertain, at times indicating the possibility of his making good, but finally bringing him in cruel crushing contact with the jutting rocks beneath. He commenced his course with flattery, and art in which he once excelled, and with the fullness of fawning likened to that of the flunkies who did obeisance to the proud Wolsey, he launched into the most fulsome praise of his masters, of whom, if he had spoken from the dictates of an honest heart, he would have described in word pictures approaching more nearly to scorn.

In opening, after passing the stereotyped compliments to mover and seconder, he launched into a dissertation upon the beauties, powers, liberties and prerogatives of the press, quoting extensively from the master minds of poetry and euphonic prose in laudation of this great fountain head of popular education and information. And then like the "Bill Bird" fouling his own nest," he proceeded in a tirade of slander to revile those papers on the Opposition side, which he had not the courage to face in the open, in language to which no decent newspaper would descend in reply. We regret, but more sincerely than he does, that "a portion of the press of this country had allowed liberty to degenerate into license," and under that "license" had so deluged the country with pledges, promises and fabrications that its own leader, the Hon. J. H. Bell, felt obligated to REPUDIATE HIS PARTY ORGAN, from his place in the House, and to publicly declare that statements of their press "WAS NOT BINDING UPON THE PARTY." As the next correct, ion we suggest to the Premier a calling down of his degenerating of legislative "liberty" into a license to attract what has hitherto been held as the sacred rights of the people.

G-tine down to the subject matter of the speech the Hon. Mr. Nash laboured to frame up flowery sentences from a rehashing of what has already been repeated over and over again by the other trained parrots of the combination, but, while his attempted soarings in the air of rhetoric created an atmosphere of merriment and mirth amongst the rods of the gallery, it did not dispel the gloom that had settled like the pall of fate

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.

WANTED, AN EXPLANATION

Sir,—Can you give me information on the following points? The press reports make the speakers on the Government side of the House say that there were from 50 to 100 vacant schools last year and, this year, there are from 18 to 23 according to different speakers. From the Chief Superintendent's Report for 1920, which I have before me, I find that there are 233 fewer pupils enrolled for 1920 than there were for 1919. With so many more schools in operation how is it that there are fewer pupils enrolled? Again the Premier is reported to have said that the Government paid \$86,000 more for Education last year than was paid in the previous year. From the report before me I find that the total amount paid by the Government for Education in 1920 was \$211,618.21, while the 1919 expenditure was \$189,488.07, a difference of \$24,130.14. What is the explanation of the discrepancy? Any information on these points will be thankfully received. I am, Sir, Etc.

AN ANXIOUS INQUIRER

Note: The only explanation we can think of at the moment is that the members of the government are carrying out their pre-election methods for hoodwinking the people.—Ed. G.

THE CAPE BRETON CIRCUIT

Sir,—It is with great pleasure that local horse men have learned of the formation of a short shift circuit in Cape Breton. At great expense and trouble the local tracks have been put in shape for the coming season, which is expected to be the biggest in the annals of horse-racing in Cape Breton. The Circuit comprises Sydney, North Sydney, and Glace Bay which are all in a radius of twelve miles, with flattery, and art in which he once excelled, and with the fullness of fawning likened to that of the flunkies who did obeisance to the proud Wolsey, he launched into the most fulsome praise of his masters, of whom, if he had spoken from the dictates of an honest heart, he would have described in word pictures approaching more nearly to scorn.

Amongst his colleagues on the benches of government, We fully believe his statement that "he for one—and he knew there were others with him—SHIVERED IN HIS SHOES WITH FEAR," and that he felt at times like throwing up the sponge." Had he but listened to those admonitions of his agitated conscience, rather than to the lure of office and party, he would not be mourning as he does today the penalties of public prejudice, and the cruel sensations of a usurper of the people's trust. With all his formations of poetry in words, he failed to produce an argument in answer to the indictments that stand against the Bell government or to suggest anything which the electorate of the province could accept as a plausible excuse for their maladministration.

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or told Sheriff Moon after signing his confession and would add no other explanation. He contradicted his previous statement that a man named "Guy" was with them, finally admitting he had committed the crime unaided. He denied that his transfer of his own clothing to Lovett's body had part of a plan to collect insurance totalling nearly thirty thousand dollars, payable to Fred Decker, his brother, in event of the death by accident of Verger Decker. Several times, he said, he drove across the railroad crossing nearly trying to make up his mind to leave Lovett on the crossing. "Finally I saw a train coming from the east," he confessed, "and drove down on the railroad track, unhitched the horse, leaving the buggy with Leroy lying in the seat on the track and I ran down the road south in the direction the horse went." Lovett died later from the injuries which it was at first believed he sustained only in railroad crossing. "The reason I placed my suit of overalls and shoes on Leroy was that I thought when the train struck the buggy, Leroy would be cut so badly he could not be identified and some of my clothes would be found on him and they would think it was me and I would have a chance to get away."

Lad Refuses To Explain Murder WARSAN, Ind., March 22.—Officials of Kosciusko County today continued their efforts to draw from Verger Decker 19 year old farmer boy of Atwood, Ind., the reasons for the attack upon his chum, Leroy Lovett, of Elkhart, Ind., which led to the latter's death. Early today Decker confessed he had struck his chum on the head with an iron bar in a cottage on the Tippecanoe River, near here, while Lovett was asleep and several hours later returned to the cottage with a horse and buggy, taking Lovett's unconscious form to a nearby railroad crossing where it was struck by a train. "The Devil drove me to it," Decker said. ASTHMA RAZ-MAH NO Smoking No Spraying No Snuff Just Swallow a Capsule RAZ-MAH Is Guaranteed to restore normal breathing, stop mucus pathing in the bronchial tubes, give long nights of quiet sleep; contains no habit-forming drug. \$1.00 at your drug-gist's. Trial free at our agencies or write Tompkins, 142 King W., Toronto Local Agent Reddin Bros.