

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1920

A MARE'S NEST

Clinging to straws in a vain attempt to save itself and its party, the Patriot yesterday republished an extract from the speech delivered by Hon. A. E. Arsenault on the proposal to increase the sessional indemnity of the members of the legislature, and tries to make out that on this question the Guardian is pursuing a policy diametrically opposed to that of the ex-premier. What are the facts? The Bell aggregation and the Patriot, prior to the election denounced the Arsenault Government for extravagance and alleged that with the subsidies and revenue the then government enjoyed, it ought to be in a position to make ends meet without a deficit. They went further and argued that increased salaries could be given to the teachers without recourse to additional taxation such as was provided for by the Arsenault Government. The people took the Bell aggregation and the Patriot at their word and returned them to power. Almost the first thing the new government did was to increase taxation so as to tax "everything tangible and intangible." When it came to the matter of increasing their salaries, Premier Arsenault was straightforward and gave his own experience. He had come from Summerside to act as premier and attorney-general. He had to bring his family to live in the city away from their home, the consequence being that it cost him \$1,000.00 more per annum than he received as premier and attorney-general. When the government brought forward their proposal to increase their salaries Premier Arsenault stated honestly and straightforwardly that "WHILE HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO THE REASONABLE ALLOWANCE NOW DEMANDED, IT WOULD HAVE COME WITH MORE GRACE FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT IF THEY HAD NOT PURSUED THE COURSE THEY DID LAST YEAR WHEN THEIR WHOLE CRY WAS THAT THE OFFICIALS WERE OVER-PAID, AND THEIR SALARIES SHOULD BE REDUCED."

This is the gravamen of the whole matter. The Bell aggregation ran the election and were returned to power on the distinct understanding that they could make ends meet with the then revenue. Instead of doing so they imposed taxes on everything they possibly could think of, and before waiting for the returns, increased their own salaries. Nothing the opposition leader may do or say detracts from the heinousness of their offence. They sailed into power under false pretences and are still attempting to carry on in entire opposition to the will of the people, as expressed by the concerted action being brought to bear from every quarter of the province.

FALL IN PRICES

For some time the prophets have been predicting a fall in prices. The prediction is now being fulfilled, and unfortunately the slump has struck where it will be the most severely and the most generally felt, on farm products. In this exclusively farming province of ours it matters little whether merchandise is up or down so long as the source of all our prosperity, namely farm products, remain at a remunerative figure. During the war the prices of all farm products were abnormally high, away beyond what any of us could have hoped for and, because of this, business in every department, commercial and industrial, was the best the province has ever enjoyed.

This fall prices of farm products have fallen, some of them almost to pre-war prices and, because of this, commercial and industrial business will likely feel the effects. Much of the commercial stock was purchased when prices were high; they cannot without serious loss to the merchant be sold at a price proportionate to the prices of farm produce. The merchants, it is true, have lowered their prices, probably to the limit of safety, yet merchandise still stands at a higher price than the proportionate price the farmer is receiving for his produce.

There must be considerable adjustment, adjustment that presents almost insuperable difficulties. We complain of the high cost of living; we attribute this high cost to the high cost of labor which in truth is a large factor, but not the whole cause; the capitalist is not content with a small return on his investment; dividends must be paid, otherwise money would not be invested in industries. How are wages to be reduced? From the House of Commons with its staff of government officials to the smallest provincial legislature with its little army of officials, wages and salaries have been increased by almost one hundred per cent within the past five years; on Government railways eighty per cent of the earnings of the road is paid in salaries and wages to employees; the salaries of judges of the federal and provincial courts have been very greatly increased within the past three years. Shall we expect the mechanic, the ordinary farm laborer and the small wage earner in store or factory or office to consent to a reduction in his wages while these others remain as they are? Moreover, at least in the case of railway men and many of the trades, the employees are protected against a reduction in wages by their united strength and their ability to tie up the railways or the factories of a whole continent. Where is the farmer to come in on a proposition of this kind? His prices are cut down far below the cost of production; he cannot employ labor because of the unequal competition with union labor; he cannot even sell his goods because of the cost of transportation, a cost which he is obliged to

CURRENT COMMENT

Our Liberal contemporary has been troubling its oft-timed troubled soul as to what is the meaning of "tangible and intangible," those immortal words delivered by Hon. Mr. Johnston during the ceremonial launching of the various TAXATION ACTS. It has gone to the dictionaries in its distress, and in Webster, the American interpreter, found the greatest comfort. The "TANGIBLE" it finds to be anything "Palpable, Real, Evident" and candidly admits that nothing of this nature has been overlooked "EVERYTHING TANGIBLE HAS BEEN TAXED." It then walls its complaint that under Tory administration "everything tangible," including the farmers' lands were taxed. There is nothing new or strange in this, but why under "Tory" rule? It was, like almost every other tax upon the statute books, purely a Liberal tax, imposed and collected for years by a Liberal Government, and only if there was truth in the Bell Government's pre-election propaganda, "THAT TAXES SHOULD BE REDUCED," could it have been repealed. Does the Patriot now reaffirm its so oft repeated statement that these taxes were not needed by the late Government? And if not why has the present combination more than doubled, almost tripled them?

Then Webster tells our enquiring friend that the "INTANGIBLE" is "SOMETHING IMPERCEPTIBLE OR IMPALPABLE, WHICH CANNOT BE FELT OR TOUCHED." We fear that either Mr. Webster, the Patriot or the Attorney General has misconceived the meaning of the word. There is certainly a grave discrepancy between them. There is nothing of an "imperceptible" character in any of the taxation acts under review and complaint; there is no implication or charge from any source of their being "impalpable," and no one in the province, if perhaps we except the Government themselves, could truthfully declare that they "CAN NOT BE FELT OR TOUCHED." But there seems to be an "intangible" non-substance which their searching taxation schemes have reached. By recognized principles of law a double tax, or two distinct taxes upon the same object and for the same purposes, is not valid. Thus at law a second tax on the same object, for the same purpose, is plainly "INTANGIBLE" IN CHARACTER.

Daily Selections Guardian Readers

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

THE SOUL OF CHRISTMAS

By J. E. Middleton

Christmas time is awaited with such eagerness because it is the one period of the year when the spirit of Christianity gets a fair trial. Everyone thinks of the pleasure of some one else. Gifts innumerable are bought or made. True, giving has become a custom, but only the surly and ill-conditioned complain about it. The average person is content to be on the edge of financial disaster for a week so long as the people he loves best are grateful. That same average person does not "figure up" the gifts that come to him as so much property. He regards them with varying degrees of affection in proportion to the pleasure he gets from the society of the giver.

In like manner, all appeals for charitable institutions are heartily answered. The poor know the luxury of a good dinner. The children of the poor get renewed testimony supporting the story of Santa Claus. The postman toiling up the street under the burden of other folks' congratulations finds the journey mitigated by the cheery greeting and the shiny "quarter." Everyone is earnestly desirous of increasing the pleasure and comfort of some one else, and is not in the least concerned about his own. Therefore—and the logical sequence is perfect—therefore everyone regards Christmas as the happiest time in all the year.

If that same spirit were operative on the 25th of January, on the 25th of March, or on every other date in the year, there would be no talk of revolution, no class hatred, no mutual suspicions. We would have a new and greatly improved world. It is not exactly true that in this Christian land, Christianity has never been tried. It is tried once a year with such success that it is worthy of a wider application.

pay to laborers who demand more wages than he can afford to pay them.

At present the farmer has the heavy end of the burden to carry and so long as he is producing at a loss the whole business of the province suffers. Doubtless the difficulty will adjust itself eventually, but in the meantime it would appear that the adjustment must begin at the source, the high wages, official and unofficial, protected and unprotected.

I Wonder if He Would Like it

How often that question has been put to us at the Xmas season in the past and now we hear it again. But we hear also that "the Muffler I gave him last year is wearing splendid and he always liked it," or "those Ties at \$1.50 are holding their shape awfully good." This season we have one of the largest stocks we ever had the pleasure of showing you.

Our Ties range in price from \$1.00 to \$2.75, and at \$1.50 you buy something particularly nice in a heavy Swiss silk. Any one of those ties will be put in a Xmas Box with care.



Our Mufflers come in the heavy wool for extra cold weather and the fine knitted and plain silks, in all the best shades. Priced from \$2.00 to \$6.50.

Gloves in Unlined, Silk lined, Wool lined, or Fur lined. Priced from \$1.75 to \$5.50.

Fine Australian Wool Coat Sweaters at from \$10.00 to \$15.00. Cheaper grades from \$2.75 up.

Handkerchiefs in plain White and Fancy Borders. Priced from 15c up to \$1.50.

We have many other articles in Men's wear, such as Lounging Robes, Smoking Jackets, Cuff Links, Arm Bands, Garters, Silk, Cashmere and Heather Wool Hosiery, any one of which would make a suitable Xmas gift.

Don't leave your shopping until the last day. Choose now, when we have lots to show you. No luxury tax on our goods.

Patons Limited

Government went to the people upon a special and well defined program, and received their MANDATE TO WIN THE WAR AND RECONSTRUCT EVEN AT THE COST OF THE LAST MAN AND THE LAST DOLLAR, but the Bell Combination went and were returned on a TAXATION REDUCTION MANDATE. The Federal Government only taxes those with incomes of over \$2,000, the Bell aggregation makes the magnificent allowance of \$500, for the man to feed and clothe and educate his children in these days of high cost of living while our farmers are practically exempt from Dominion Income taxation.

Either the people of this province must be of a most peculiar make up, or else the local Liberal organ is exceedingly peculiar in its estimate of their disposition. Only a few days ago the Patriot told us that amongst all the other delights of Liberal rule and pleasurable feelings towards the Bell Government that "CONFIDENCE IS RESTORED." It strikes us that the people have a most peculiar method of expressing that confidence, and that the Liberal romancer has an equally peculiar way of interpreting the actions of the people. At Stanchel and nearly a dozen other places the strongest possible resolutions of condemnation, including demand after demand for the resignation of the Bell government, or for the Lieutenant Governor to dismiss the combination, and this is the evidence upon which the Patriot declares that "Confidence is Restored." Most people have thought otherwise, but our Liberal friend could always extract the brightest rays of sunshine from the greenest cucumbers, and in everything, even in the denunciations of the multitude it reads eulogy, commendation, "confidence" and "satisfaction" with the stupid combination.

The Patriot is beginning to devote a very large space to the question of taxation, nearly about half as much as it appropriated to this subject prior to the last election, but now with a complete and perfect change of tune. It is busily after those "demagogues" and "agitators" who try to convince the people that the country can be run without taxes. But who are they? Not the Conservatives, nor yet their press. But the Charlottetown Patriot, and the Liberal gang of which it was the mouthpiece, whose anti-tax propaganda, for virulence, deception, misrepresentations of the needs of the province, and exaggerations of alleged waste and extravagance of the late Government, is without a parallel in political campaigns. It is further a most remarkable fact that in this anti-tax crusade, of which the Patriot complains so bitterly, the Gov-

ernment combination and their organ have had an almost complete monopoly. Now that the stones which they fired are rebounding with most telling force against themselves they are squealing with the hurt, and trying to blame others for their own stoning flinging.

The people of this province were never of the kind to protest against fair and equitable taxation. When they hurled the Davies Government from power it was not because of tax increase, for there was practically none, but because of their changed method of collection, the "OBNOXIOUS ASSESSMENT ACT" it was called. For forty years intervening between the Davies and Bell Governments there were no indignation meetings held in the province, although during the TWENTY YEAR PERIOD OF LIBERAL RULE FROM 1891 to 1911 TAXATION WAS INCREASED FROM ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO ABOUT \$150,000 PER YEAR. Because in those days the premiers were able to give some reasons to the electors for the impositions, and the people not only refrained from protesting, but actually approved the taxation by returning the governments successively again to power. When in 1911 the Palmer Government was defeated it was not because of taxation, for there were no recent increases, but the neglect and decay in the public service. There is no voice in the country today against supplying the absolute needs of the public service, but against the deceptive platform upon which the Bell aggregation trampled into power, and the unfair treachery of fulfillment.

To illustrate this unfairness let us take the Patriot's own statement. It says, "The average land tax previous to 1920 was less than \$5.00 per farm. By the 'county' again, we presume, of Hon. Mr. Lea, it informs us that "The new assessment does not average over \$10.00 per farm, while every farmer knows that his farm HAS MORE THAN DOUBLED IN VALUE SINCE 1914." Then if this be true, and it is the Patriot's own statement, how is it that with the VALUE OF THE LAND MORE THAN DOUBLED, and with the tax increased from 20 cents to 50 cents on the \$100, the actual collections only amount to \$10 per farm, of only twice the former sum? What better proof could be asked for than this of unreliable and unfair assessments, the very groundwork and foundation of the complaints that are in evidence all over the country. Then it says, "What is called by the Guardian an excessively unjust tax is actually less than \$10.00 per farm." Why lie about the Guardian? Such never appeared in these columns, but of

A New Offering of City Of Halifax Bonds and Stock

THE issue is of \$525,000, six per cent Bonds, due January 1st, 1931 interest payable January 1st and July 1st at Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver.

COUPON BONDS

Bearers or Registered as to Principal in Denomination of \$1,000.

STOCK

Registered as to Principal and Interest. Interest payable by Cheque to owner. Certificates issued for amounts of 100 upward.

PRICE - 96.365 per cent and interest; to yield 4 1/2 per cent.

We offer these securities for immediate cash purchase, or through our Partial Payment Plan for the convenience of investors of modest income.

We will accept orders telegraphed or telephoned at a small expense.

J. C. MacIntosh & Company

171 to 173 Hollis Street, Halifax

Members of the Montreal Stock Exchange Performing an Investment Service Exclusively

J. ROWLAND PATON

130 Great George St., Charlottetown

Representative in Prince Edward Island

Best Train Service for Holiday Travel

CANADIAN NATIONAL ROUTE AFFORDS FINEST OF FACILITIES FOR MOST COMFORTABLE JOURNEY

From all Maritime Province points to Quebec, Ontario or the West, the Canadian National Railway provides the finest of travel conveniences.

Service to all parts of Canada is now the best that can be provided and those who wish to travel during the holiday season will do well to study the train schedules, consider the real excellence of the service provided, and then consult the nearest ticket agent of the Canadian National. The two through trains between Montreal and Maritime Province points, viz the Ocean Limited and the Maritime Express, are equal in regard to modern equipment to the best trains on the continent. They are solid steel trains, with the newest type of standard sleepers and stand-aid diners.

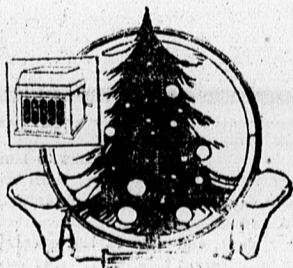
The Ocean Limited is the daily train between Halifax and Montreal. Arriving at Montreal at 9.20 a. m. this train affords immediate connection with the G. T. R. International Limited for Toronto and Chicago. Connection is also established with the "Continental Limited", the train de Luxe of the Canadian National Railway, which leaves Bonaventure station at 5.00 p. m. daily for Ottawa, North Bay, Port Arthur, Port William, Saskatoon, Edmonton and Vancouver.

The Maritime Express leaving Halifax at 3.10 p. m. (except Sundays) affords connection at Quebec with the Transcontinental train leaving Palais station at 4.30 p. m. (daily) for Winnipeg. Connection is also established at Montreal with the G. T. R. night trains for Toronto and with G. T. R. train for Ottawa.

Enquiry at the Canadian National Railway ticket offices will produce further information regarding these services, and concerning fares reservations. The finest of service is afforded by Canadian National lines.

A E Toombs

Choose Musical Gifts This Christmas



It Will be Easy to Select Your Gift This Christmas If You Visit Us

A. E. Toombs

2434-12-23-wfrl

The Popular Verdict

It is sometimes advisable to "follow the crowd"—to accept the popular verdict.

In respect to Life Insurance, for example, it is clear that very strong reasons must have influenced the numerous persons whose applications for protection have, for thirteen successive years, given the Great-West Life the largest Canadian Business of all the Canadian Companies.

Low rates—high profits—liberal policy conditions—have been the reasons.

Ask for information, and for pamphlet showing Profits the Great-West Life policy holders are receiving.

THE GREAT-WEST LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY

Branch Office

Charlottetown

Hyndman & Co. Ltd.

Managers for P. E. I.